



2020 - A Year Interrupted: The Corona Virus and the AAIA

I strongly suspect that the year which we had all planned for ourselves towards the close of 2019 has not quite developed as anyone expected. I hope that everybody is safe and well and that the virus' assault has not affected you too greatly, though the sad truth is that the cost –on many different levels– for many will be significant.

The AAIA has not been immune to the changes necessitated by the virus' presence here in Australia, in Greece and, indeed, internationally. Numerous activities: field work projects, lecture tours, seminars, study programmes and the like, have had to be rescheduled. Though I would like to highlight one very positive development: the first season of the Perachora Archaeological Project, directed by Dr Susan Lupack (Macquarie University) and her colleague Mrs Panagiota Kasimi from the Corinthia Directorate of Antiquities, did take place in January 2020 before the world incrementally started entering lockdown. A good number of Australian students and academics benefited from this successful start of a very promising research project.

In retrospect it now seems inevitable that the corona virus would impact negatively on our annual Visiting Professorship for 2020 despite the hopes we harboured for a time after the appearance of the virus internationally but before a pandemic was declared. This year we were to have the great pleasure of hosting Professor Jenifer Neils, Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, in the August-September period. Professor Neils is a leading authority, of international renown, on the art and architecture sixth- and fifth-century BC Athens. She would have lectured on this core area of classical archaeology which continually rewards re-examination throughout the country. The good news is that Professor Neils will still do so, but in 2021. With the support and cooperation of the AAIA's institutional university members throughout Australia Professor Neil's tour has now been rescheduled for the first semester of 2021. Later in the year we shall welcome as planned the scheduled 2021 Visiting Professor, Professor R.R.R. Smith (Oxford University), who will tour the country in August-September. Professor Smith is a world authority on ancient Greek sculpture as well as the Director of the excavations at Aphoridias, a remarkably well



The Macquarie University team at Perachora, by the Sanctuary of Hera. Photo Susan Lupack.

preserved city in western Asia Minor (modern Turkey) which provides unique insights into a flourishing city in the Roman Greek East.

The other major postponement involves the international conference, on the topic "Mobility and Settlement in the Eastern Mediterranean, from the Early Iron Age through to the Archaic Period," which was scheduled for November 2020. The conference was initially conceived to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Institute's foundation, and after the loss of its Founding Director –Professor Alexander Cambitoglou– as a tribute to his memory as well. It is unfortunate that circumstances have led to the postponement of this major conference but it has been rescheduled for November 2021. I am in the happy position of being able to report that the international response was very positive to its announcement and it remains so for 2021. We received many offers of papers and the current list includes local participants as well as 21 speakers from overseas.

The memorial commemorating Professor Cambitoglou's life work, scheduled for March 23, also had to be postponed but we very much look forward to celebrating his great contribution in the not too distant future.

- Dr Stavros Paspalas

Professor Jenifer Neils AAIA 2020 Visiting Professor, Rescheduled to 2021



In our December Newsletter we announced Professor Jenifer Neils as our 2020 Visiting Professor. Organisation of Professor Neils schedule was well underway when the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted international travel globally. While it is not currently possible for Professor Neils to travel to Australia, we are very pleased to report that she will take up the Visiting Professorship in the first semester of 2021. The Institute has been working closely with Professor Neils, and our member institutions, who have reaffirmed their commitment to hosting the Visiting Professor when she travels to Australia next year.

Professor Neils is currently the Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and is a world renowned expert in the art and archaeology of classical Greece, especially of Athens. Professor Neils has had a rich and varied archaeological career; she has excavated in Greece (at Torone with an Australian team directed by the late Professor Alexander Cambitoglou) as well as in Italy. Professor Neils has a long publication list which testifies to her authoritative contribution to the field of classical archaeology.

- Dr Stavros Paspalas

Professor Jenifer Neils, Director, American School of Classical Studies at Athens and AAIA 2020 Visiting Professor

Paphos Theatre Archaeological Project 25th Anniversary

The AAIA-supported Paphos Theatre Archaeological Project which oversees the University of Sydney's archaeological excavations of the Hellenistic-Roman theatre of Nea Paphos in Cyprus is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the first season of excavations in 2020.

A large international conference on Paphos studies to have been held in October in Athens, including at the AAIA Hostel, has now been postponed until 2021 and will be advertised further in the new year.

In the meantime a number of features are being added to the project website including drone footage and other video recordings from the last field season in October 2019 [www.paphostheatre.org] to commemorate 25 years of Australian excavations at the site.



***Paphos Theatre, Cyprus,
Photo: Paphos Theatre project.***

AAIA Events in Athens, 2020

This year began on a positive note for us in Athens with many events scheduled throughout the year to mark the AAIA's 40-year anniversary. Meanwhile, our Hostel bookings were quite solid for the Spring and Summer, with many of our own Australian scholars as well as some international students and scholars planning to make the Hostel their home.

In the meantime, our 2019-2020 Fellow, Emlyn Dodd, had nicely settled in, with side trips to the Cyclades to work on his research. On 2 February, The Athens Friends successfully held their annual New Year lunch and vasilopita cutting event after a most informative tour of the ancient city beneath the Acropolis Museum, led by Dr. Stavros Paspalas. A tour of the Ottoman period Bath House of the Winds and the Man and Tools Museum in the Plaka led by Dr. Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory took place on 15 February. On this occasion, the Friends were excited to meet the Australian ambassador to Greece, His Excellency Mr Arthur Spyrou, who had joined the tour with his family. Due to COVID-19, subsequent tours to the Osios Loukas Monastery, Delphi, and Nafpaktos in March, and to Stymphalia and Feneos in April, were abruptly cancelled, as was our planned annual trip, this year to Samos and Ephesos, which was fully booked, and participants were so very excited to attend.



The Bathhouse of the Winds-last tour of the Athens Friends before lockdown. Photo: Timothy Gregory

The COVID-19 crisis hit Greece in mid-March, and by March 23, Greece was in lockdown.

What was certainly going to be a busy year for us in Athens all of a sudden came to a halt, and we, along with all the other foreign archaeological schools and institutes in Athens closed down, and all our scheduled events were cancelled or postponed. Emlyn was our last resident at the Hostel, departing for Australia while flights were still available. Even though Greece is now opening up for summer tourism, our Australian colleagues and scholars are yet to be allowed to travel overseas from Australia, and thus, our Hostel will remain closed until further notice.

- Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory

Wine, oil and COVID-19: The impact of a global pandemic on island life, archaeological fieldwork and international travel

*Dr Emlyn Dodd, AAIA Greece Fellow**



Lino tower (top left) with ancient press counterweight in foreground, Mykonos. Photo: Emlyn Dodd

When you begin a new fieldwork project, you expect to encounter some obstacles, but this year has been somewhat different. Not once did I expect to be abandoning half-complete island surveys, rushing back to the mainland on deserted Greek ferries, and booking emergency flights from Athens to Sydney. While I am sure that the following stories are not unique, to me they drove home the impact of a pandemic like COVID-19 in countless ways.

As the 2019-2020 AAIA Greece Fellow, I had ambitious plans for an exciting new research project. My work generally concentrates on Graeco-Roman agricultural practices and technologies; mostly oil and wine production. This new project would contribute to our knowledge of production on Cycladic islands from the Classical era through to Late Antiquity. We know these islands produced much oil and wine: we have large quantities of locally produced Aegean transport amphorae, historic, epigraphic and numismatic representation, including local coins with vine iconography – but exactly where and how were they making these commodities?

In October-December 2019, and again in February-March 2020, I began extensive research in the libraries of Athens as well as systematic field survey on a number of Cycladic islands. The data from pre-existing research, as well as exciting new finds in Cycladic museum collections and rural fields, started to piece together this puzzle. Numerous previously unknown wine/oil press counterweights and beds were identified, often in association with monumental Hellenistic stone towers in the countryside. Narratives immediately began to form in my head, with these exciting finds reaffirming hypotheses.

It was in the last few weeks of my March surveys on Amorgos, Ios and Tinos, however, that things began to change. Conversations with locals quickly turned from jokes about being the only non-local on the island, to fearful overtures about the rapid onslaught of COVID-19 and the survival of their businesses, livelihoods and the vanishing summer tourism season. By the time I reached Tinos in mid-March, all museums and archaeological sites were closed.

Despite all this rapid change and uncertainty, the beautiful hospitality of the Greeks never wavered, but given the increasing

murmurs of cancelled travel routes between Athens and the islands, I decided it was best to head back to the capital and decide my next moves.

Regulations had tightened again by the time I reached a desolate Athens, making research almost impossible and travel difficult. Airlines cancelled scheduled flights with frightening speed and announcements from the Australian consulate signalled all citizens should return home, if possible. It became clear that no archaeology was taking place in Greece and I had to make the difficult decision of returning to Australia with no known date to resume research, or to weather the storm in Athens.

The global situation accelerated. Greek regulations, as in other countries, began to restrict daily. On the 18th of March I was planning to stay for another week – by 5pm I had begrudgingly booked a one-way flight to Sydney for the next day. I collected my things and said an emotional goodbye to my research home at the AAIA hostel, hoping to return to that sunny deck looking up at the Parthenon as soon as borders reopened. I had never seen such a desolate Eleftherios Venizelos airport in Athens – the immigration line was a breeze, a rare ‘COVID perk’ and the flight home was surreal.

After flying to Abu Dhabi, I boarded the connecting flight on time, due to arrive in Sydney at 7:30pm – an hour and a half before the impending government-imposed 9pm lockout of non-residents. Our flight was delayed, waiting on passengers, held up by immigration due to COVID-19. The captain said he would report more information soon. Around me, non-Australian passengers started to speak up. Another half hour passed and we did not move. Passengers were starting to cry, complaints were made to flight attendants – pleas to pass the message on to the captain that they would be locked out of Australia and away from their loved ones. The captain announced that we were still waiting. Tears grew stronger. Tension was high in the cabin. A German lady across the aisle was consoled by a complete stranger in the seat behind; she was desperately trying to make it back to her Australian partner.

Moments later the captain announced the group had been released from immigration and he would wait 20 minutes and, should they not arrive, leave without them. Two minutes before his deadline, the group started to board the plane. We now had 13.5 hours to taxi, take off, fly to Sydney, and get people through the immigration gates before they were refused entry.

Ironically, the flight itself was one of the most peaceful I had been on with an eerie silence filling the cabin.

After landing, I made my way through a most strange Sydney airport, with what seemed like minimal prevention against a disease rapidly restricting the world and crippling economies. After collecting my bag, I turned around and saw that same German lady from across the aisle. This time with a smile on her face. It was 8:45pm – she had made it into Australia with 15 minutes to spare.

*This article is excerpted from the AAIA Blog: <https://aaia.sydney.edu.au/blog/>

Virtual Tours of Greece



The Acropolis Museum, Athens. Photo: George E. Koronaios.

Over the past few months we have all found our movements constrained by the measures taken to stem the Covid-19 pandemic. Museums, galleries and archaeological sites have all been closed. Recent relaxation of restrictions is seeing some archaeological sites and museums beginning to reopen. Travel restrictions are also beginning to ease, meaning that travellers from Australia may be able to go to Greece. However, an international travel ban from Australia remains in place and it is unclear when it will be possible to travel to Greece from Australian airports.

Despite the restrictions, and the tyranny of distance, it is still possible to engage with Greek archaeological sites and museums. In some ways the pandemic has granted remote access to collections that was not previously possible. To this end we offer a short selection of galleries and sites that can be accessed virtually:

Museum of Cycladic Art: "Cycladic Society 5000 years ago" virtual tour

<https://cycladic.gr/page/kikladiki-kinonia-5000-chronia-prin>

Acropolis Museum: Parthenon Gallery virtual tour

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/acropolis-museum>

Athenian Acropolis virtual tour

<https://www.acropolisvirtualtour.gr/>

Benaki Museum 360° Gallery tour

https://www.benaki.org/virtual/kentriko/ground_floor/index_en.html

British Museum Minoan and Mycenaean Greece (Arthur Fleischmann Gallery)

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/galleries/greece-minoans-and-mycenaeans>

B & M Theodorakis Foundation for the Fine Arts and Music

"Spyros Papaloukas: Time on Mount Athos" – Online exhibition)

<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/mount-athos/VAKCNPGZe7EIQ>

Athens Friends of the AAIA frequently undertake guided tours of archaeological sites, led by Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory and Dr Stavros Paspalas. As tours for 2020 have had to be postponed, Lita has created a virtual tour of Paliochora, Kythera, which has been posted on the AAIA Blog.

<https://aaia.sydney.edu.au/aaia-virtual-tour-paliochora-kythera/>

- Dr Yvonne Inall



View of the Paliochora Gorge (Kaki Langada-Bad Gorge).

Photo: Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory.

AAIA 40th Anniversary Conference Rescheduled to November 2021

Owing to the uncertain circumstances caused by the corona virus and their international impact the Organising Committee has decided to postpone the conference, originally scheduled for November 2020, for 12 months. The conference will now be held in November 2021. The precise dates will be announced when they are determined.

The Conference Theme is: "Mobility and Settlement in the Eastern Mediterranean, from the Early Iron Age through to the Archaic Period."

Many international and Australian researchers have confirmed their participation, and the keynote lectures will be delivered by:

- Christina Ioannou (University of Nicosia), on the Connections between Cyprus and the Near East,
- Antonis Kotsonas (New York University), on Mobility and Interaction in the Northern Aegean,
- Nicholas Stampolidis (University of Crete), on Crete's External Contacts between 1000 and 600 BC.



Main Quad, University of Sydney.

Photo: Yvonne Inall

AAIA Sicily to Tour , 2021 18 September - 1 October, 2021

"Without Sicily, Italy creates no image in the soul: here is the key to everything." J.W. Goethe, Italian Journey, 1817

Sicily's location at the crossroads of the Mediterranean has seen a stream of settlers, raiders and traders that have landed on her shores, including the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Spanish and French. The result for travellers to Sicily today is a rich cultural heritage explored on this tour with visits to archaeological sites, monuments and museums.

Palermo, where this tour begins, is home to remarkable buildings which we shall visit - La Martorana, San Cataldo, San Giovanni degli Eremitti, Cappella Palatina, the Duomo, La Zisa and the Norman cathedrals at Monreale and Cefalù - all outstanding examples of the socio-cultural syncretism between Western, Islamic, and Byzantine cultures. Before leaving Palermo we will also visit to the Archaeological Museum where important finds from throughout Sicily are displayed.

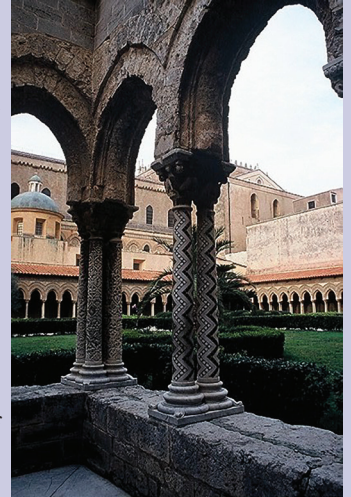
Leaving Palermo the tour visits Erice and Segesta and relocates to Marsala, ancient Lilybaeum, where the Carthaginians moved their resources during the First Punic War. Nearby Mozia was a Punic settlement and boasts remarkably well preserved remains. It is in this area where the Punic and Greek worlds meet. We shall then visit Selinunte where the excavations of Professor Clemente Marconi (the AAIA 2019 Visiting Professor) have pushed its history back before settlement by Greek colonists in the 7th century BCE.

From Marsala there is a day visiting the Valley of the Temples and Archaeological Museum in Agrigento. Leaving Agrigento we visit the UNESCO World Heritage listed Roman mosaics at the Villa Romana del Casale at Piazza Armerina and then on to Taormina, in the shadow of Mt Etna. From here we across the Straits of Messina to visit the Archaeological Museum at Reggio di Calabria where the 5th-century BCE Riace bronzes are displayed and take an afternoon stroll in Messina.

The last destination of this tour is Syracuse. There is a day trip to the late baroque towns of Modica, Noto and Ragusa as well as time to explore Syracuse's archaeological sites and the impressive Paolo Orsi Museum before the flight home.

To register your interest in this tour please email arts.aaia@sydney.edu.au

- Helen Nicholson



*Monreale Cloisters, Sicily.
Photo: Helen Nicholson.*

DAVID LEVINE: A GREAT BENEFACTOR OF THE AAIA

It is with great sadness that we note the loss of the Hon. David Levine (1944-2020). In his professional life David Levine was a leading figure in the Australian legal community who rose to the position of judge in the Supreme Court in NSW. However, his contribution to public affairs was not limited to his many years as a lawyer, barrister and judge. His very considerable reserves of energy and his broad interests found fruitful expression in his support for the Arts and scholarship, as well as in his fascination with the classical world. Furthermore, David Levine was one of the Institute's foremost supporters, one who truly believed in its mission and the possibilities it could offer Australia.

David Levine, according to his own testimony (see *AAIA Bulletin* 12 [2016]), was inspired as a first year Arts/Law student at the University of Sydney by the late Alexander Cambitoglou's lectures on classical archaeology. He was attracted by the ancient world and the intellectual rigour involved in studying it. This inspiration developed into a well-grounded fascination that he would retain throughout his life, and he would similarly maintain his links with Cambitoglou who founded the Institute in 1980 many years after their initial meeting. David Levine was an avid supporter of Cambitoglou's educational and research endeavours, and the prospect of the horizons they opened for the country, and actively showed this support by becoming a Governor of the Institute.

However, David Levine's greatest act of support of, and simultaneously, vote of confidence in, the Institute was made 36 years after its foundation. In 2016 he donated a very significant, six-figure, sum that resulted in the David Levine



David Levine (1944-2020) © The Australian.

Book Acquisition Fund which has greatly aided the Institute's activities. The purchase of bibliographical resources, both printed and digital, that the Fund allows has cemented the Institute's standing as a leading research body, indeed one which is unique in Australia. In effect, by means of this transformational gift David Levine married two of his great passions: classics, specifically classical archaeology, and books. His own library, which he had compiled over decades, is of mythical proportions. This great benefactor fully understood the importance of old-fashioned books as well as more recently devised bibliographical resources and information platforms in forming both individuals and research bodies. The David Levine Book Acquisition Fund is a legacy that is guaranteed to continue; one which will promote and expand the Institute's teaching and research goals as its creator intended.

David Levine was a true benefactor. A man who had a vision and ensured that practical steps were taken to see it come into being. The Institute, and Australian researchers in classical archaeology and related fields, will be forever truly grateful to him.

- Dr Stavros Paspalas.



The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens

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November 2019–May 2020

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