



The Artifact

A publication of the Archaeological Institute of America - Milwaukee Society Vol. 11 No. 1

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Letter from the President

Dr. Derek B. Counts, Assistant Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Welcome to the 2005-2006 season of the Milwaukee Society of the Archaeological Institute of America and Volume 11.1 of the Society's bi-annual newsletter, *The Artifact*. In this edition, you will find all the necessary information regarding the upcoming program of lectures this fall, as well as other articles and announcements on 'things archaeological'. One additional announcement of special interest to our members is the return of a 3rd lecture sponsored by the national office of the AIA. Beginning this year, the AIA will now send 3 (instead of 2 as in the past few years) national lecturers to Milwaukee; this is of course fabulous news for our Society. This fall we welcome Prof. Kathleen Lynch of the University of Cincinnati and in the spring we will host Professors Jodi Magness (University of North-Carolina-Chapel Hill) and Yasar Ersoy (Bilkent University, Turkey).

From Syria to South Dakota, the Fall 2005 lecture program engages archaeological fieldwork around the globe. We kick off the season with a lecture by Geoff Emberling, Director of the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago. Dr. Emberling will discuss his excavations in Syria in the context of urbanism and the search for the earliest cities of Mesopotamia. In October, Professor Kathleen Lynch of the University of Cincinnati will examine the meaning and context of ancient *erotica* on Greek vases. Finally,

Milwaukee's own Linea Sundstrom will guide us on a tour of the multidimensional world of North American rock art in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming.

It is my pleasure once again to serve as president of our local society; however, I am most pleased to welcome back the other officers who have so graciously agreed to continue their service to the society by offering time, energy, and expertise to our endeavors.

Bettina Arnold, Vice-President
Alice Kehoe, Secretary-Treasurer
Katherine Murrell, Public Relations / Outreach Coordinator, Editor (*The Artifact*)
Thomas H. Hruby, Webmaster
Ricky Kubicek, Refreshments Coordinator, Assistant Editor (*The Artifact*)

To this list can also be added Jane Waldbaum, President of the AIA but most importantly a local Milwaukee Society member and past officer, who actively takes part in our planning and staging of local events. Our local society is entirely dependent upon the volunteer efforts of these and other members and thus it is

important that we recognize the work being done behind the scenes to help maintain the society's active agenda. This includes hosting visiting speakers, balancing the budget, maintaining the Society's web page, organizing local lectures and events, as well as producing *The Artifact* and monthly flyers. Membership serves as the foundation upon which the AIA and its mission rest. Your membership not only makes it possible for us to offer an exciting program of lectures each year at the local level, but on a global stage it also enables the AIA to advocate publicly and with a stronger voice in support of sound ethic practice in archaeology and the preservation of world culture. Thus, as your local president, but also as an active field archaeologist, I would also like to thank all of our members—from the old faithful to the new recruits—for your continued membership and support of the AIA.

Yours in archaeology,
Derek B. Counts

AIA - Milwaukee Society Email List

As we advance into the high-tech 21st century, we would like to start compiling an email list of our members and friends. This will allow us to reach you more quickly with important news or last-minute information about lectures and events. If you would like to be added to this list please return this form to:

Katherine Murrell, UWM-Dept. of Art History, PO Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201
Or send your name and email address to: minerath@uwm.edu

Name _____

Current Address _____

Member of AIA? Yes / No

Email address: _____

I would like to receive notices of upcoming events by email: Yes / No

On the Origin of Cities in Mesopotamia: Recent Excavations at Tell Brak, Northeastern Syria

By Dr. Geoff Emberling

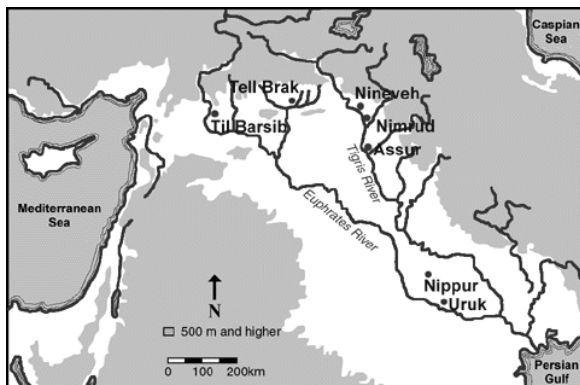
7:45 pm, Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Room G90, Sabin Hall, UW-Milwaukee

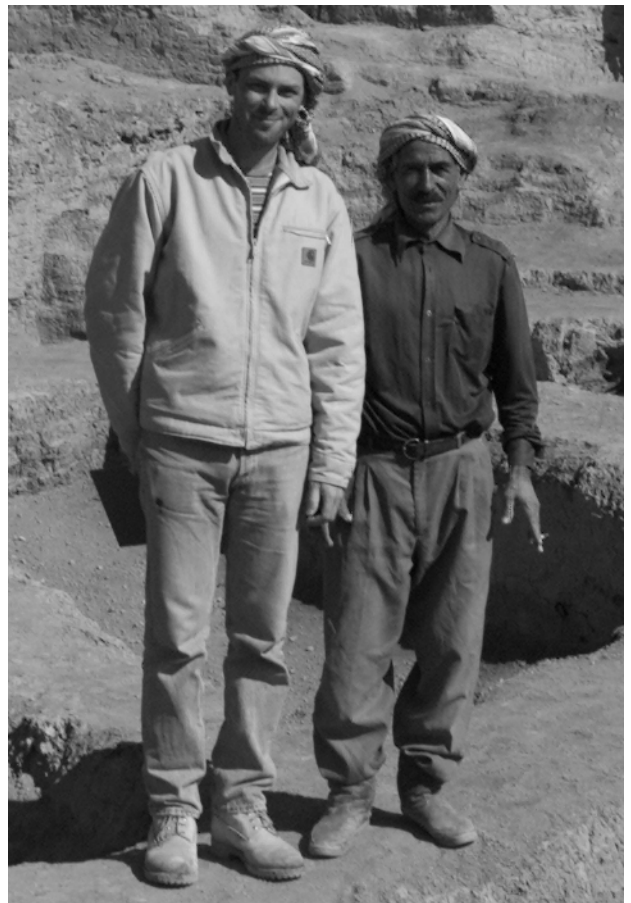
Please note this lecture will take place on a Wednesday evening in our usual lecture hall.

Although it has long been thought that the first Mesopotamian cities were those of Sumer (now southern Iraq), recent excavations and surveys in northern Mesopotamia have shown that large, differentiated urban centers were developing in the north by 3500 BC. This talk will present recent finds from Tell Brak, the largest of these cities, including a feasting hall, a hoard of precious jewelry, and a specialized ceramic production area, as well as the long-known but enigmatic Eye Temple, shown by recent excavations to belong to this period. These finds force us to think in new ways about the rise of cities.

Dr. Geoff Emberling is Director of the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago. From 1998 to 2004, he directed excavations at Tell Brak in northeastern Syria.



Tell Brak and surrounding region



Dr. Geoff Emberling (left)



Alabaster 'Eye Idol' from
Tell Brak, north-eastern Syria,
c. 3500-3300 BC

Sex Sells but Who's Buying? Erotic Imagery on Attic Vases

by Dr. Kathleen Lynch
3 pm, Sunday, October 23, 2005
Room G90, Sabin Hall, UW-Milwaukee

Erotic imagery appears in early Attic black-figure but becomes quite popular in red-figure pottery from about 520-475 B.C. The setting of these often graphic images of heterosexual and homosexual encounters is usually the symposium, the all-male drinking party. From special gentleman's cabinets to special collections, the study of erotic vase images has been encumbered by cultural prudishness. Now that scholarship has experienced a sexual revolution, the images are being used to explore questions of sexuality, morality, and gender roles among other topics. However, nearly all studies assume that because the images are for and about Athenians, they must represent *Athenian* views on sexuality, morality, etc.

A closer look at archaeological evidence shows that very few vases with graphic sexual images come from Athens itself. In fact, evidence from the houses of Athens shows that these homeowners were not choosing such images for their sympotic ware. Instead, vases with erotic images were sold on the export market, more specifically, to Etruria, the present-day region of Tuscany and part of Umbria in Italy. Once we recognize that erotic images did not appeal to the Athenians, we must re-evaluate the use of these images in assessing Athenian values. Instead, what we find is an Athenian pottery industry with an astute marketing sense that distorts their own cultural identity to appeal to foreign perceptions of Greek culture. Parallels can be found in Asian export pottery destined for Europe in the 18th-19th Centuries.



Dr. Kathleen Lynch

Dr. Kathleen Lynch is Assistant Professor of Classics at the University of Cincinnati, who has also taught at Washington University in St. Louis, Southern Illinois University, and the University of Missouri. Dr. Lynch is a specialist in Greek pottery, especially the aspect of vase-painting, and has carried out fieldwork in Albania, Greece, and Turkey. Dr. Lynch earned her Ph.D. and her M.A. at the University of Virginia, after completing her undergraduate work at Boston University.

This lecture will contain images of vase paintings of explicit sexual scenes.



Every Picture Tells a Story: Rock Art and the Archaeology of the Black Hills and Northern Great Plains

by Dr. Linea Sundstrom
3 pm, Sunday, December 4, 2005
Room G90, Sabin Hall, UW-Milwaukee

From Paleoindian hunting techniques and social practices to the upheavals of the contact era, petroglyphs and pictographs provide important insight into the human history of the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming.



Dr. Linea Sundstrom

This quick tour of Black Hills rock art shows how “dirt” archaeology, mythology, ethnography, geomorphology, art history and landscape studies come together to tease out the information contained in this eclectic body of rock art. It is now possible to recognize Lakota, Cheyenne, Crow, and Kiowa rock art in the Black Hills and to assign Archaic period rock art to general eastern (Siouan and Algonkian) and western cultural traditions. The various groups who created rock art in the Black Hills over a period of perhaps 8,000 years differed greatly in their origins, languages, and ways of life, but shared an essentially religious world view expressed in the images and designs they left behind.

Dr. Linea Sundstrom of Day Star Research based in Shorewood, Wisconsin, is Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

AIA: An Important Internet Resource

The official website of the AIA (www.archaeological.org) has a wealth of information on national activities, local societies, and items of interest for both the professional and armchair archaeologist. The site is frequently updated with news about international sites, resources, archaeological issues and concerns in the political sphere, and information on leisure and learning activities.

Highlights include pages about AIA sponsored tours, such as a twenty-two day tour of India in early 2006. Have you ever wondered about the archaeological veracity of some of today's blockbuster movies? There is a section on the AIA-national website with reviews of *Alexander*, *Troy*, and *The Passion of the Christ*. In addition, there are ongoing updates about current events and publications. This is also the best place to find information on the upcoming Annual Meeting, to be held in Montréal, Quebec, January 5-8, 2006. Be sure to visit the AIA national website to see these and many other items of interest.

AIA national website: www.archaeological.org
AIA Milwaukee Society website:
www.uwm.edu/Dept/ArchLab/AIA



The Generation Gap in Archaeological Fieldwork

By R. Kubicek

I spent a portion of this past summer doing fieldwork in Eastern Europe. I have been working on a hillfort excavation there for the past two years. One of the more interesting aspects of fieldwork that I noticed this year was the conflict between generations pertaining to the correct way to conduct an excavation. Any resemblance to Flannery's famous article on generational conflict may not be coincidental (Flannery 1982: 265-278)

It will be useful to divide the antagonists into two camps: let's say 'old school' and 'new school' (usually graduate students). Here is a basic profile of the two characters: Old school archaeologist's favorite tool is the pickaxe. The favorite method of excavation is to chunk out the floor of the unit, and leave students to sift through the debris, while every once in a while placing a sherd from the chunked up material back into the floor in approximately the area where it came from. Such archaeologists have a feel for features. They are adept at directing the students to remove inconspicuous areas of rock, while leaving others in place, thereby revealing/creating a previously hidden feature (hence interpretation). Archaeologists of this school will get the job done by the deadline- weather, nature, or lazy students be damned.

New school archy's favorite tool is the trowel and brush. The favorite method of excavation is to cram the units tight with undergrads equipped with the chosen tools, and to proceed slowly in a downward direction, while chanting the mantra 'in situ, in situ.' These archaeologists often doubt the features that old school archaeologists have found. They have a chance to finish the job by the deadline, as long

as the deadline is on Friday, and they can sneak out to the site over the weekend and put in an extra couple 14 hour days.

On a more serious note, the main conflict had to do with speed, which usually echoes the "time is money" mantra in archaeology the world over. It reflects more than just a generational difference, including a vast imbalance in experience, and the different goals of university sponsored and non-university sponsored work. While initially I found myself firmly in the new school archaeologist's camp, I came to a more balanced appreciation of each style. Old school archaeologist was very talented at recognizing properties in the subsoil that were familiar from previous experience, and dealing with them in the most expedient manner. Based on prior publications, the final reports by old school archaeologist were always well done, which is probably the reason these archaeologists have been able to persist in the field for so long. Of course, one must also appreciate the questioning of accepted methods, and the pushing for refined technique, which the grad student archaeologists brought to the table. Without this attitude, newer methods of data extraction would never evolve.

Inspiration provided by: Flannery, Kent, 1982. The Golden Marshalltown: A Parable for the Archeology of the 1980s. *American Anthropologist*, (84):2, 265-278.



German and Czech archaeobotanists conducting a wet-site excavation in Bohemia.

“Pompeii: Stories from an Eruption” at the Field Museum

On August 24, 79 AD, a great catastrophe struck the Italian countryside near Naples. The massive eruption of Mount Vesuvius unleashed burning lava, ash, and poisonous gas on the cities and towns below, ultimately burying many of the inhabitants with their homes and possessions for centuries.

Pliny the Younger, recorded his eyewitness account:

“A fearful black cloud was rent by forked and quivering bursts of flame, and parted to reveal great tongues of fire.... Darkness fell, not the dark of a moonless or cloudy night, but as if the lamp had been put out in a dark room.”

The Field Museum in Chicago will host *Pompeii: Stories from an Eruption* (October 22, 2005-March 26, 2006), a traveling exhibition of art and artifacts permanently housed in Italian museums. This exhibition focuses on Pompeii, the best known of the cities in the region, and the surrounding towns of Herculaneum and Oplontis. Visitors will see numerous artifacts used by people in their daily lives; household goods such as jewelry and sculpture, and exquisite frescos that decorated the walls of homes revealing fashion and culture in the domestic sphere. Casts of inhabitants will also be displayed, their remains preserved as they succumbed to the volcano. More information is available on the Field Museum's website.

www.fieldmuseum.org/pompeii.



60 and Over can Audit at UWM

Do you enjoy coming to your local AIA society lectures, but are longing for even more discussion of archeological topics? Love watching the Discovery Channel, but yearn for an extended study of a subject? The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has a great opportunity for you to satisfy further your intellectual curiosity. Adults of any age can audit classes, and if you are sixty years or over, you may qualify to audit classes for free at UWM.

There is a large selection of classes to choose from in a variety of disciplines. Of special interest to our AIA-Milwaukee Society members are classes in the Anthropology, Art History, Classics, and History departments. Offerings for the Fall 2005 semester include courses such as “American Indian Peoples of Wisconsin” (Anthropology 213), “Ancient and Medieval Art and Architecture” (Art History 101), and “African, New World and Oceanic Art and Architecture” (Art history 104).

You can see the entire class schedule by visiting the UWM home page (www.uwm.edu), and clicking on “Course Listing” in the left hand column. Please note that many advanced courses may require consent of the instructor or are not open to auditors.

Registration information can be found online through the Department of Enrollment Services, which posts a page specifically for adult and returning students: (<http://www3.uwm.edu/des/web/admissions/nontraditional.cfm>) This site will help you get started and will answer many of the questions you may have about enrolling. You can call DES directly at 414-229-6732, or visit their homepage at <http://www3.uwm.edu/des>.



AIA-Milwaukee Society Lecture Calendar

Fall 2005

- September 21 Dr. Geoff Emberling, *On the Origin of Cities in Mesopotamia: Recent Excavations at Tell Brak, Northeastern Syria*. 7:45 pm, Sabin Hall, Room G90 (3413 N. Downer Ave.) *Please note this lecture will take place on a Wednesday evening in our usual lecture hall on the UWM campus.*
- October 23 Dr. Kathleen Lynch, *Sex Sells but Who's Buying? Erotic Imagery on Attic Vases*
- December 4 Dr. Linea Sundstrom, *Every Picture Tells a Story: Rock Art and the Archaeology of the Black Hills and Northern Great Plains*

All lectures will take place at 3pm in room G90 of Sabin Hall on the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee campus unless otherwise noted. Sabin Hall is located at 3413 N. Downer Ave.

AIA-MILWAUKEE SOCIETY
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