



# The Artifact

A Publication of the Archaeological Institute of America - Milwaukee Society Vol. 19 No. 1, Fall, 2013

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## Letter from the President

*Dr. Jane C. Waldbaum,  
Professor Emerita, University  
of Wisconsin - Milwaukee*



Dear AIA-Milwaukee Society Members,

Welcome to the Fall 2013 edition of *The Artifact*, our members-only newsletter.

We have an exciting program planned for you in the next few months including three lectures *and* an International Archaeology Day event.

Dr. Virginia Miller of the University of Illinois at Chicago, kicks off the season on October 6 with a lecture on art at the Maya site of Chichén Itzá; on November 3, Dr. Lisa Pieraccini of the University of California, Berkeley will talk about the meaning of the egg in Etruscan culture; and on December 8, Dr. Nicholas Cahill of UW-Madison will tell us about his latest excavations at Sardis in western Turkey, capital of the ancient Lydians.

All lectures are held in Room G90, Sabin Hall, 3413 North Downer Ave. at the corner of Newport. Lectures are followed by discussion and refreshments and are co-sponsored by UWM's Departments of Anthropology, FLL/Classics, and Art History. All lectures are *free and open to the public*.

In the last couple of years, National Archaeology Day has been such a hit that it has been renamed *International Archaeology Day*. Last year 78 AIA local societies, including Milwaukee, organized over 100 events celebrating archaeology, as did numerous other archaeological groups in North America and 6 foreign countries. UW-Milwaukee's Archaeology Lab open house on the theme of "The Archaeology of Food and Drink" even won first place (and \$200 for our society!) in the AIA's Best Local Society Event contest held last spring. This year we hope to repeat our success with interactive presentations on "Ancient Games and

Puzzles.” The date is October 19. See below p. 4 for information on this fun event.

**No More Snail Mail:** For several reasons, mostly financial, we will no longer send out lecture announcements to members by postal mail. From now on, all regular announcements will be sent out by digital attachment to an e-mail message originating from the society’s email address: [aiamke@milwpc.com](mailto:aiamke@milwpc.com). If you are not yet on our e-mail list and are willing to receive your announcements that way please send a brief request to [aiamke@milwpc.com](mailto:aiamke@milwpc.com) with your preferred e-mail address. And if you are already on the list, please make sure we have your *up-to-date* e-mail address on file. Rest assured that we do not rent or sell this list to anyone and that individual names and e-mails do not appear on the group notices we send out. My email messages often include information updated since *Artifact* was printed and news of other archaeological events in addition to the upcoming lecture.

We will continue to print and mail *The Artifact* newsletter twice a year. Each issue will contain a complete schedule of lectures, dates, speakers, and other events, if any. If you do not use e-mail please keep your *Artifact* (especially the last page) as a handy reference to our programs.

**Ask a Friend to Join!** New members help AIA to grow and that helps everyone. Membership in AIA includes a subscription to our lively and colorful magazine *Archaeology*. Other publications, such as the scholarly *American Journal of Archaeology*, are deeply discounted to members who choose them. Students, teachers and active-duty military personnel with ID receive a big discount off regular rates.

**Please Renew and Stay up-to-date!** If your membership renewal is coming due you will notice that the rates have increased over those of previous years. This is the first rate raise in five years and was necessitated primarily by rising costs for the many programs AIA supports. Continuing members can renew for two years at a discount over the one-year rate. Information on rates is on the renewal notice you will receive from our Boston headquarters when your membership is nearing expiration, and on the AIA’s national website at [www.archaeological.org/membership](http://www.archaeological.org/membership).

Again, I welcome everyone to our fall programs and I hope to see all of you there.

*Jare C. Waldbaum*

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## Welcome New Members Joined Since March 2013

Annemarie Adsen	Erin Hastings
Richard Kimball	Marie Kerwin-Debbink
Nathan Margrett	Elizabeth Noennig
Michael Sadowski	John Shannon

We are very happy you joined us!

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## Donations Welcome!

As many of you already know, the national AIA provides our local society (and the 109 other ones) with three lecturers a year. These speakers come from all over the US and Canada and sometimes abroad, enabling us to host a truly international lecture series each year. To supplement these three lectures the Milwaukee Society also sponsors at least three additional lectures at our own expense. The speakers usually come from Wisconsin or nearby areas like Chicago. And lately we have also organized an International Archaeology Day event in October and co-sponsored the Milwaukee Archaeology Fairs held at the Milwaukee Public Museum in early March. Each “extra” lecture costs your society about \$150 (for transportation, a very modest honorarium, and dinner for the speaker). Minimal expenses for an Archaeology Day event run to about \$250 for materials and supplies, lunches for the participants, and “treats” for the visitors. The National AIA will give us \$100 towards these expenses but we need somewhat more to do it right! Similarly, our share of the Archaeology Fair for miscellaneous expenses is about \$250 to \$300. Printing *Artifact* twice a year is yet another expense. Separately, these costs are fairly modest, but taken together they add up and are becoming increasingly difficult for your local society to manage without your help.

If you would like to make a donation to help us continue our full schedule of great programs please send a check for any amount made out to *AIA-Milwaukee Society* and mail to Alice Kehoe, Treasurer, 3014 N. Shepard, Milwaukee, WI, 53211. If you would like to sponsor a local lecture for \$150 we will be happy to acknowledge your generosity in the introduction to the lecture.

All contributions to the AIA-Milwaukee Society are tax deductible and will be much appreciated.

## Skeletons, Skulls and Bones in the Art of Chichén Itzá

**A Lecture by Dr. Virginia Miller**  
**University of Illinois-Chicago**

*Sunday, October 6, 2013, 3:00 p.m.*  
*Sabin Hall, Room G90*



**Virginia Miller in Yucatán. Photo J. Waldbaum**

The Aztecs considered the bones of slain captives to be powerful, a belief probably shared by the earlier Maya: one Maya hieroglyph for “captive” translates as “bone”. Nevertheless, at southern Maya sites like Tikal and Yaxchilán during the Classic period (A.D. 300-900), war-related art focuses more on the capture and humiliation of enemies rather than on their sacrificial deaths or their post-mortem remains. In contrast, at northern Maya sites in Yucatán and at Chichén Itzá in particular, battle scenes, sacrifice, skulls, and bones are frequent themes in reliefs, murals, and other media such as jade and gold. The skullrack, a new architectural form decorated with sculpted impaled skulls, was prominently placed right next to the massive ballcourt. This may have served as a grim reminder of the potential power of Chichén’s rulers, the Itzá, even when no human heads were on display. Why this upsurge in graphic sacrificial and death imagery between about A.D. 800 and 1000? Were the Itzá militarily more successful than their predecessors? Why are both victors and defeated presented in groups and anonymously, in contrast to the southern Maya practice of naming individual captors and captives? Did the northern Maya practice human

sacrifice on a more massive scale, foreshadowing later Aztec practices? These are just some of the questions Virginia Miller will address in her lecture.

**Dr. Virginia Miller** is Chair of the Department of Art History at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Her scholarly interests focus on ancient Maya art and architecture of the northern Maya of Yucatan, particularly Chichen Itzá. She is also currently writing about monuments and buildings in the neo-Maya style in the city of Merida, Yucatán, mostly dating from the 1920s-1950s. Professor Miller is the recipient of several major fellowships, including one from the National Endowment for the Humanities, two Fulbright Fellowships to teach and conduct research in Guatemala and Mexico, and two residential fellowships at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection in Washington, D.C. She wrote *The Frieze of the Palace of the Stuccoes, Acanceh, Yucatan, Mexico*, edited *The Role of Gender in Precolumbian Art and Architecture*, and is the author of numerous articles on Maya art and architecture.

In January, 2014 she will lead an AIA tour of “Pyramids and Temples of the Yucatán” (See <http://www.archaeological.org/tours/americas/11923> and

<http://www.archaeological.org/tours/leaders/virginiamiller>



**Detail of Skullrack, Chichén Itzá. Photo: S. Morse**

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### **Milwaukee Society Member Remembered**

The Archaeological Institute of America-Milwaukee Society mourns the passing of long-time member Jackie Loohauis-Bennett. A Milwaukee native and UWM grad, Jackie had recently retired from her job as a feature writer at the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel. She often included news of AIA lectures of special interest in the **JIS** and even occasionally interviewed speakers. We will miss her.



## International Archaeology Day Offers Fun and Games!

Try your hand at Senet, game of Egyptian kings, and learn to play Mühle (Nine Men's Morris) like a Roman soldier. Find out who invented chess and when; and where the first loaded dice were found.

In honor of International Archaeology Day, local archaeologists from UWM, Marquette University, and elsewhere will engage visitors in Ancient Games and Puzzles from around the world. This is your chance to have fun playing games while you learn who invented some of the games we still play today, how old they are, where and by whom they were played in the past, and—most important for archaeology—how do we know all this?

International Archaeology Day will be celebrated here in Milwaukee on **Saturday, October 19, 2013**, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Come to UWM's Archaeology Lab, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Sabin Hall (3413 North Downer Ave) and join in the fun. **FREE and open to the public. Fun for all!**

For more on IAD around the world see:

<http://www.archaeological.org/archaeologyday/about>

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## The Ever Elusive Etruscan Egg

*A lecture by Lisa C. Pieraccini*  
*University of California, Berkeley*

*Sunday, November 3, 2013*  
*Sabin Hall Room G90, 3:00 p.m.*



**Banqueting Couple with Egg; Tomb of the Leopards,  
Tarquinia, Italy**

Representations of the egg in various media are common in Etruscan art. On bronze mirrors we frequently find large eggs referring to the birth of Helen of Troy. Rich tombs of the seventh century BC often contained imported ostrich eggs, highly prized luxury items indeed. The well-known Tragliatella vase, according to some scholars, curiously displays a couple holding eggs. At the site of Tarquinia, the painted tombs frequently depict an egg being passed from one banqueter or reveler to another, or held out for display. One brazier found in the archaic Tomba Maroi III at the site of Caere even contained eggs, which we can imagine were placed on the burning coals in the brazier during the funeral banquet. Scholars have suggested that the Etruscan egg was full of symbolic meaning. But what does it really mean? Lisa Pieraccini will discuss what exactly the egg symbolized and how it functioned in the rich realm of

Etruscan funerary ritual.

**Lisa C. Pieraccini** is a classical archaeologist who has spent years teaching and conducting research in Italy. Active at the Etruscan site of Cerveteri, north of Rome, she does research on Etruscan burial customs, ceramic workshops,



international trade, and the reception of Etruscans and Romans in the 18th century. Her book, *Around the Hearth: Caeretan Cylinder-Stamped Braziers* (2003), is the first comprehensive study of over three hundred and fifty Etruscan impasto braziers. She has published on the craft of cylinder stamping, funerary rituals at Caere, the Etruscans during the Grand Tour, and even the Etruscans in film. Her current projects include comparisons of Etruscan and Roman wall painting. Lisa Pieraccini teaches in the History of Art Department at the University of California, Berkeley. This year she holds AIA's *Cinelli lectureship* in Etruscan and Italic Archaeology endowed by the Etruscan Foundation in honor of Count Ferdinando Cinelli and Sarah Cinelli.

**For more about Lisa Pieraccini:**

[http://arthistory.berkeley.edu/Faculty\\_Pieraccini.html](http://arthistory.berkeley.edu/Faculty_Pieraccini.html)

**For Further Reading:**

"Unraveling the Etruscan Enigma," *Archaeology* 63.6, Nov/Dec 2010

(<http://archive.archaeology.org/1011/abstracts/etruscan.html>)

## Recent Excavations at Sardis, City of Croesus

**A Lecture by Dr. Nicholas Cahill  
University of Wisconsin-Madison**

**Sunday, December 8, 2013  
Sabin Hall Room G90, 3:00 p.m.**



Nick Cahill exploring a Lydian Tomb at Sardis

Recent archaeological work at Sardis in western Turkey has provided many new insights into the history and culture of this ancient city. Sardis was the capital of the Lydian empire, which conquered all of western Turkey in the seventh and sixth century BC; it was a satrapal capital under the Persians in the 54<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C., and remained an important city in Hellenistic and Roman times. Recent excavation has tentatively located the palace of the Lydian kings, legendary until today for their fabulous wealth. New discoveries and analyses of some of the world's earliest coins, invented by the Lydians in the seventh century BC, reveal unexpected results about the sources of gold, nature of the earliest coinage, and the relationships between money and empire. Excavation and research in two of Sardis' major Hellenistic and Roman temples, the temple of Artemis and a temple of the cult of the Roman emperors, help us understand the intricacies of these complex buildings and the close historical, economic, and cultic relationships between them.

**Dr. Nicholas Cahill** is Professor of Art History at UW-Madison, where he has taught since 1993. He has been Field Director of the Archaeological Exploration of Sardis since 2008. He holds his M.A. and Ph.D. in ancient history and Mediterranean Archaeology from the

University of California at Berkeley. His main research and teaching interests are Greek, Roman and Near Eastern art; Greek city planning and social organization; Archaic Greece; Anatolia; interrelations between Greece and the Near East; Achaemenid Persia; and Greek epigraphy.



Gold stater of King Croesus with lion and bull heads. 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. Metropolitan Museum of Art

**For more information on the excavations at ancient Sardis see:**

<http://athome.harvard.edu/programs/cos/index.html>.

**Read more about Nick Cahill at:**

<https://arthistory.wisc.edu/nicholas-cahill-biography.htm>

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**AIA's 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Coming to Chicago  
January 2-5, 2014**



If you've been curious about what goes on at an AIA Annual Meeting but didn't want to travel too far, now's your chance to find out! The 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the AIA will take place just down the road in Chicago in early January. Whether you want to go for one day only,

or stay for the whole 3-day meeting you will surely find something to interest you. AIA members get a discount on meeting registration rates and the Hyatt Regency Chicago hotel in downtown Chicago is offering a special conference rate of \$129 a night (plus taxes) for meeting attendees. This rate will be extended through New Year's Eve if you've a mind to celebrate in Chicago.

As always, there will be a full program of both academic papers and sessions for the interested public including a public lecture on a topic of general interest, followed by the opening night reception on the evening of January 2. There are special sessions for students—both graduate and undergraduate—and many chances to network with peers, participate in an Interest Group meeting (see <http://www.archaeological.org/interestgroups> for information on IGs), or just socialize with your fellow archaeology buffs.



**Engrossed in the book exhibit, AM 2013**

The large book exhibit always features the latest books on archaeology and ancient art history, often at substantial discounts.

At this year's Council Meeting important AIA business will be conducted, including the election of a new President and First Vice President to lead the Institute for the next three years. Delegates from the Milwaukee Society will be able to participate.

For more information on the 2014 Annual Meeting as it develops please consult: <http://aia.archaeological.org/webinfo.php?page=10096>. There will be much more there as we get closer to meeting time.

## **Drinking and Feasting in Iron Age Europe: A Brief Report from Germany**

*By Bettina Arnold, UW-Milwaukee*



Between 1999 and 2002 I and my colleague, Matthew L. Murray, (University of Mississippi) investigated two Iron Age burial mounds in southwest Germany near the Danube River in the region today known as Swabia. As part of the publication phase of the project I spent the first part of summer 2013 in Germany finalizing the excavation report. Specialist reports will include the paleobotanical examination of the contents of one of the more spectacular finds—a 17-18 liter bronze cauldron, which when restored revealed a dense lens of blackened material that extended about a quarter of the way up the sides of the vessel.

The Tübingen Branch of the State Monuments Office has been involved with the bulk of the restoration of the many finds from the two mounds under the supervision of Head Conservator, Tanja Kress. Paleobotanist Dr. Manfred Rösch is conducting the analysis of the cauldron contents, and the first round of samples confirmed that the blackened mass represents the remains of the fermented honey mead the cauldron contained when it was placed in a burial mound sometime between 450 and 400 BC.





**Paleobotanist Dr. Manfred Rösch (left) and Head Conservator Tanja Kress (right), both of the State Monuments Office Baden-Württemberg, remove additional samples from the cauldron for analysis (May 31, 2013). Photo B. Arnold.**

In addition to yeast remains, which would have caused the honey to change to alcohol, mint and meadowsweet were found in large concentrations. Both plant species are common in Iron Age European honey residues but were also used as intentional flavoring in mead. Honey was the only natural sweetener available to these populations, and the honey bee had not yet been domesticated, meaning honey had to be gathered from wild bees. With so much (dangerous) effort involved it is not surprising that such honey-sweetened beverages are mainly found in the burials of high status individuals. The cauldron grave also contained a short, machete-like sword with a horn handle, a feather-crested leather helmet, and two extremely long spear points as well as an iron belt hook, all also signs of the high status of the deceased.

Scholars believe that the inclusion of alcoholic beverages in such graves was intended to allow the dead person to host a feast upon arrival in the afterlife to re-establish a status in death comparable to that held in life. The complete pollen profile and “recipe” for the beverage that accompanied this individual to the afterlife will be contributed by Dr. Rösch to the final excavation report being prepared by Prof. Bettina Arnold and Prof. Matthew Murray for publication in 2015. Stay tuned!

**For more on Bettina Arnold and her research see:**  
<https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/barnold/www/thome.html>

**For the “Landscape of Ancestors” project:**  
<https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/barnold/www/arch/index.html>

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## Sneak Preview of Spring Programs

Spring 2014 will bring us three lectures and the FIFTH annual Milwaukee Archaeology Fair.

Kevin Cullen, Archaeology Coordinator at Discovery World, will lead off the spring season on February 9 with a lecture on how 19<sup>th</sup> century trade between Ireland and North America can be reconstructed through maritime archaeology. On March 30, Dr. Maria Liston of Waterloo University in Ontario, will present her interpretation of a mass infant burial found in a well in the Agora (market place) of ancient Athens. And finally, on April 27, Dr. Hrvoje Potrebica of the University of Zagreb will present the findings from his excavations at the Iron Age site of Kaptol in Croatia. Dr. Potrebica is the AIA’s special Kress Lecturer, one of the most prestigious lectureships, and it will be an honor for us to host him here.

The fifth annual Milwaukee Archaeology Fair will take place as usual at the Milwaukee Public Museum on Friday, March 7 and Saturday, March 8. As always, there will be hands-on demonstrations, presentations and re-enactments, designed to help bring the cultures of the past to life for the people of southeastern Wisconsin.



**Scene from the 2013 Fair. Photo J. Waldbaum**

More information on all of these programs will be sent out in our spring email notices and printed in the spring *Artifact* (sent towards the end of January for all AIA-Milwaukee Society members).

# AIA-Milwaukee Society Fall Calendar



## PLEASE KEEP

### Fall 2013

- October 6                      Sunday, October 6, 2013, 3:00 pm. *Lecture*  
**Skeletons, Skulls and Bones in the Art of Chichén Itzá**
- October 19                     Saturday, October 19, 2013, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. **UW-Milwaukee Archaeology Lab**  
**International Archaeology Day Celebration: Ancient Games and Puzzles**
- November 3                    Sunday, November 3, 2013, 3:00 pm. *Lecture*  
**The Ever Elusive Etruscan Egg**
- December 8                    Sunday, December 8, 2013, 3:00 pm. *Lecture*  
**Recent Excavations at Sardis, City of Croesus**

All lectures will take place 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. Free street parking Sundays or in Klotsche Center lot north side of Sabin Hall.



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