



# The Artifact

A Publication of the Archaeological Institute of America - Milwaukee Society Vol. 27 No. 1, Fall 2021

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## 2021-2022 Milwaukee Society Officers and Volunteers

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## Letter from the President

**Jane Peterson, Professor  
Marquette University**

Dear AIA-Milwaukee Society Members,

With this Fall 2021 edition of *The Artifact*, I welcome everyone to the 126<sup>th</sup> lecture season of the Archaeological Institute of America. This year the AIA is providing 209 free, public lectures presented by 97 different experts to local societies across the US, Canada, and Europe. In 2022, the AIA is also scheduled to hold its 123<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting in San Francisco. All of this serves as a reminder that the AIA is the oldest and largest non-profit, archaeological organization in the US. I'm so pleased to be part of our community that shares in the AIA's goals both to promote archaeological inquiry and a public understanding of the past, and also to foster an appreciation of diverse cultures and our shared humanity. Your continued membership and interest are critical pieces to the success of this mission.

In Spring 2021, we resumed our Milwaukee Society lecture series with three wonderful and well-attended, on-line lectures. Dr. Andrew Koh (MIT) spoke to us in February about path-breaking archaeologist Harriet Boyd Hawes and the Cretan Collections Project. In March, Joshua Driscoll (doctoral candidate at UWM) shared the exciting

results of his experimental archaeology work examining the storage potential of prehistoric-style beers. Cheers! Dr. Darian Marie Totten (McGill University) spoke to us in April about the Adriatic coastal town of Salapia and its role as a major salt producer. Two of these lectures



were recorded and you can watch them by clicking on their titles on our AIA-Milwaukee Lectures page: <https://aia-milwaukee.uwm.edu/lectures/>

In this issue, we share information with you about the exciting lectures lined up for Fall 2021 to be presented by Dr. Lesley Gregoricka (University of South Alabama) and Dr. Nicholas Cahill (UW-Madison). A report from the field, by Timmis Maddox (UWM), discusses on-going research at Sorte Muld, a Danish site rich in artifacts and architecture, that spans the Iron Age through the Viking era. Katherine Santell (UWM) and Brian McConnell (UWM) discuss how archaeological information provides an important cultural resource that we should all actively seek to protect. You can also learn about a pathbreaking, recent book that confronts gender stereotypes in archaeological interpretations. Long-time AIA Milwaukee members Bettina Arnold and Alice Kehoe both contributed to the publication and describe it here.

The continuing COVID-19 pandemic and current surge of the delta variant provide good reasons to proceed cautiously with planning events. As a result, our lectures will be held virtually again this Fall. The decision was made using the health and safety of members, participants, and speakers as our top priority. Just like last Spring, you will receive a flyer and link to each lecture via email. We are hoping to switch to a ZOOM webinar platform to make participation easier for more folks and to improve the presenter's experience as well. The details will be communicated to you when we email about our first lecture. If you have any concerns or technical questions, please always feel free to contact me ([jane.peterson@marquette.edu](mailto:jane.peterson@marquette.edu)).

A 'silver lining' to virtual lectures is the vastly expanded content that you can access through the AIA website. ALL of the lectures at over 100 local societies and many other virtual events are open to you. All you need do is go to the Main Page for the AIA ([www.archaeological.org](http://www.archaeological.org)) and select the tab for Programs and Services in the upper right. Under the For the Public heading, simply click to access Events Calendar. By clicking on an Event you will be directed to a page where you can register or be provided an email contact for a registration link. Not all of the lectures have been added to the calendar yet, but AIA staff are currently adding those links.

Like me, I know some of you have also been taking advantage of the 30-minute Archaeology Abridged lectures sponsored by the AIA. If you missed any of the live, virtual presentations, you can still watch them at your convenience. Discovering Sutton Hoo anyone?

How about A Toast to Ancient Wine Drinking or Otzi's Prehistoric Medical Kit? The Archaeology Abridged link is currently front and center on the AIA's landing page. But here's the link, just in case: <https://www.archaeological.org/archaeology-abridged-webinars/>. The new season will bring new lectures to this series. Stay tuned!

I appreciate your patience and support of the AIA as we work out ways to stay connected and share our interest in archaeology. I'm always happy to hear your feedback and ideas about how we can improve. As you are able, I encourage you to keep an active membership in the AIA to support these efforts going forward.

Best,

*Jane Peterson*

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### **Welcome New Members Joined Since January 2021**

Valerie Davis  
Sharon Hacker  
Laura Kaelber  
Christopher Rowe

Katherine Santell  
Tracey Starck  
Bozena Tieszen

We are very happy you joined us!

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## **Archaeology Online! Virtual International Archaeology Day 2021**

*By Emily R. Stanton*



Once again, International Archaeology Day is going virtual! The AIA National Office has several events open

to members, including an Archaeodoodle contest, as well as a number of lectures in the week leading up to International Archaeology Day on October 16th. Other highlights of this year's online IAD program include a virtual film festival from October 11-17, the "Arkhaio Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Film Festival!" This online event is free and open to the public and showcases documentary films covering the discovery of past cultures. More information on the film festival can be found here:

<https://www.archaeological.org/event/arkhaio-cultural-heritage-and-archaeology-film-festival-3/>.

We encourage the members and friends of AIA-Milwaukee to explore this fascinating and engaging variety of online archaeology events! Check out the full line-up of events, trivia, games and more at: <https://www.archaeological.org/programs/public/archaeologyday/>.

The AIA-Milwaukee Society has submitted an entry to the National Office's "Artifact of the Day" social media program, as there are many interesting objects lurking in the UWM Collections! Kate Santell and Brian McConnell, both PhD students who work in the UWM Anthropology Collections and Archaeology Lab, selected a beautiful example of an Adena point ("arrowhead") as the AIA-Milwaukee Society's submission. Using the records available on this artifact, they were able to construct narratives about object conservation and repair, as well as cooperation with avocational archaeologists. It is vital that professional and amateur archaeologists collaborate with one another, as much information on an object's context can be lost in a casual afternoon search for pieces of the past. More information on the "Artifact of the Day" social media program (on several social media platforms, including Instagram and Twitter) can be found here: <https://www.archaeological.org/programs/public/archaeologyday/artifact-of-the-day-submissions/>.

## **Aridity and Adaptation among Arabian Bronze Age Communities: Investigating Mobility and Climate Change Using Isotope Analysis**

**A Lecture by Lesley A. Gregoricka**  
**University of South Alabama**

**Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Virtual Lecture, 3:00 p.m.**

The rapid aridification of southeastern Arabia at the end of the Umm an-Nar period (2700-2000 BCE) coincided

with major changes in material culture and social organization demarcating the subsequent Wadi Suq period (2000-1600 BCE). However, climate change has rarely been directly observed in the tissues of the people who themselves experienced it. Here, stable oxygen isotopes from the dental enamel of those interred in monumental third and second millennia BCE tombs at the Shimal Necropolis in the United Arab Emirates were used to evaluate shifts in climate. Strontium and carbon isotope values were similarly investigated to assess the impact of an increasingly arid climate on mobility patterns and dietary intake. These isotopes reveal regional aridification over time, but also continuity in lifestyle, suggestive of a resilient community that sought to maintain their way of life in the face of environmental change.

**Dr. Lesley A. Gregoricka** is an Associate Professor at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. She holds degrees in anthropology from Ohio State University (M.A. and Ph.D.) and the University of Notre Dame (B.A.). Her areas of specialization include bioarchaeology, forensic science,



Bronze and Iron Ages, and isotopic analyses of mobility, climate change, and diet in Arabia and the southern Levant. Professor Gregoricka's has recently co-edited several volumes including *Mortuary and Biological Perspectives on the Bronze Age in Arabia* (University Press of Florida) and *Purposeful Pain: The Bioarchaeology of Intentional Suffering* (Springer). She currently co-directs a multi-year National Science Foundation project focusing on the bioarchaeology of Bronze Age social systems.

**For more about Lesley A. Gregoricka:**  
<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/artsandsci/syansw/anthropology/lgregoricka.html>

**For Lesley A. Gregoricka's articles:**  
<https://southalabama.academia.edu/LesleyGregoricka>



## **Sardis: Recent Discoveries from the Bronze Age until the End of Antiquity**

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

**Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Virtual Lecture, 3:00 p.m.**

The Archaeological Exploration of Sardis expedition has carried out large-scale, scientific excavations at the site in western Turkey since 1958. Over these 5+ decades, archaeologists have documented the emergence and development of Sardis, capitol of the Lydian Empire of the 7th and 6th centuries BCE, and of one of the great cities of the ancient world. Utilizing spectacular aerial imagery, Dr. Nicholas Cahill, Director of the Sardis Expedition since 2008, will discuss the geography, history and challenges of excavating such a large and complex site and will provide a backdrop for understanding recent discoveries and research. He will address current archaeological questions including: Who were the Lydians that built Sardis as the capitol of their ancient kingdom? What does the early development of the city look like? What cultural transformations are evident when the native capitol becomes a Greek polis? What can the collapse of Sardis tell us about the “End of Antiquity” in the 7th c AD? On-going site conservation efforts will also be featured.

**Dr. Nicholas Cahill** is Professor of Greek and Roman Art and Archaeology in the Department of Art History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Since 2008 he has directed the Archaeological Exploration of Sardis expedition,



overseeing fieldwork and serving as the series editor of the Sardis Reports, Monographs, and Studies series. He holds advanced degrees from the University of California-Berkeley (M.A. and Ph.D.) and has areas of specialization in Greek & Roman art and archaeology, Anatolian art and archaeology, Greek city planning,

interrelationships between Greece and the Near East, Achaemenid Persia, and Greek epigraphy. Professor Cahill's publication projects include *Household and City Organization at Olynthus* (Yale University Press, 2002), co-authorship of *The City of Sardis: Approaches in Graphic Recording* (Harvard University Art Museums, 2003), and editor of *Love for Lydia. A Sardis Anniversary Volume Presented to Crawford H. Greenewalt, Jr.* (Sardis Report 4, 2008).

**For more about Nicholas D. Cahill:**

<https://arthistory.wisc.edu/staff/nicholas-d-cahill/>

**For more about the Sardis Expedition:**

<https://www.sardisexpedition.org>

## **AIA's 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA January 5-8, 2022**



- For more information on the 2022 Annual Meeting as it develops please consult: <https://www.archaeological.org/programs/professionals/annual-meeting/>
- ALL members of AIA are welcome to attend this annual conference at a discount registration.

## **Through the Eyes of Sól: Studying Sorte Muld with the Power of the Sun**

**By Timmis Maddox  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

Since 2019, the prehistoric site known as “Sorte Muld” in Denmark has been undergoing intensive archaeological excavation. Led by the Bornholms Museum and the EU-funded ArchaeoBalt project, progress has been made in uncovering one of the jewels

of the ancient Baltic. The following article presents the preliminary results of this work, including a survey in which aerial thermography was used to analyze a potential ritual structure found on-site.

Located in Ibsker Parish on Bornholm, Denmark, the Sorte Muld site was occupied between 150 BC and AD 1000, serving as an important ritual center and kingly residence. Consisting of a central site surrounded by 24 satellite sites spread over 200 hectares, Sorte Muld is thought to have housed a population of up to 1,000 people (Bornholms Museum 2009). As a result, Sorte Muld is considered an early urban site for the Baltic region.

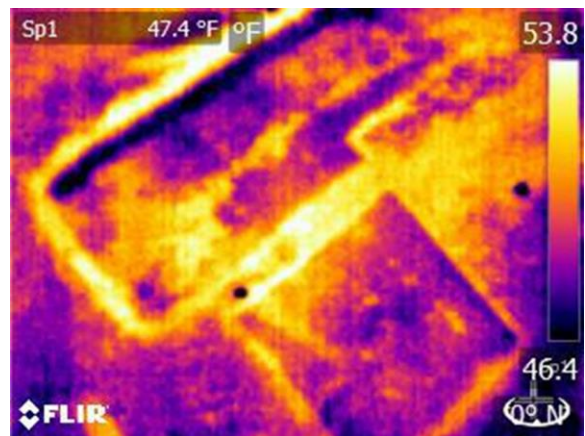
In cooperation with the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute in Vienna, Austria, the Bornholms Museum performed an extensive survey of Sorte Muld using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). When the resulting data were analyzed, a large, centrally located, enclosed structure was revealed at the precise location where over 2,000 gold-foil (also known as *guldgubber*) ritual figures were recovered by archaeologist Margrethe Watt in the 1980s (Bornholms Museum 2009). The structure was named the “temple” of Sorte Muld based on this find.

Yet while the GPR provided a rough outline of possible structures at Sorte Muld—including the temple—further investigation was required to analyze and understand the site’s layout more definitively. Therefore, other survey techniques were considered, including aerial thermography, as a means of investigation. An increasingly popular form of archaeological survey due to its speed and low cost, aerial thermography is being increasingly used as an archaeological imaging tool throughout the world. The question we wanted to test this past summer was how effective would it be at Sorte Muld?

Aerial thermography is based on the principle that, in comparison to the soil around them, certain buried features absorb and dissipate heat at different rates. Therefore, archaeological features should theoretically be visible underground with the use of a thermal camera. Thermography measures ambient thermal radiation. Carrying out thermal imaging using a drone-mounted camera between sunset and sunrise produces the most accurate thermal images of archaeological features including walls, ditches, structural remains, and roadways (Casana et al. 2017). During this time, heat from the ground dissipates over time, revealing more features. Therefore, multiple flights are required throughout any individual night.

Using two Anafi Thermal Parrot drones equipped with both FLIR Lepton 3.5 microbolometer sensors as well as 4K HD cameras, several thermal imaging flights were performed at Sorte Muld. These flights were planned on a weekly basis based on weather conditions including wind speed, temperature, and humidity. Each flight took place at 10-meter elevation and was automated using the Pix4DCapture app. A series of scans were carried out at 11:30 pm, 1:30 am, and 3:30 am each night scanning was done. Each scan was designed to provide 90% overlap, with photos taken every two seconds. Seventeen geo-located control points in the form of aluminum X’s were placed throughout the site to provide additional accuracy for later processing. The images gathered were processed using FLIR Tools and Agisoft Metashape.

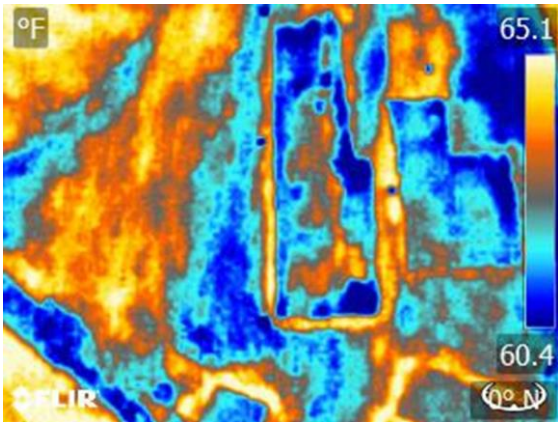
Scanning revealed several archaeological features in addition to those already revealed by the GPR. Taken at 11:30 pm, Figure 1 captures the uncovered northeastern corner of the temple’s enclosing palisade, the yellow color representing residual heat left in the rocks and soil of the feature. The amount of residual heat compared to the surrounding area shows that the feature was constructed multiple times, with the soil being shifted repeatedly—likely from posts being ripped out of the ground. This suggests that the palisade may have started out small but was expanded over time.



**Figure 1**

Taken at 1:30 pm, Figure 2 shows a wider view of the palisade. Several pits and posts can be seen in this image, following the enclosure. What is most impressive, however, is the diagonal orange line depicted in the lower right corner. Following the path of the enclosure, this feature likely represents the buried continuation of the wall—revealed by heat remaining in the ground. Due to the preliminary findings presented above, it is clear that aerial thermography has potential as a tool for archaeological survey at Sorte Muld. Use of

this methodology will likely be an aspect of future projects.



**Figure 2**

#### **Citations:**

Casana, J., Wiewel, A., Cool, A., Hill, A.C, Fisher, K. D., and Laugier, E. L.  
2017 Archaeological Aerial Thermography in Theory and Practice. *Advances in Archaeological Practice* 5(4), 310-327

Bornholms Museum  
2009 *Sorte Muld: Wealth, Power and Religion at an Iron Age Central Settlement on Bornholm*.  
Bornholm: Bornholms Museum.

### **Proactive Preservation: The Importance of Collective Stewardship**

**By Katherine Santell, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Brian McConnell, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

It takes a village to protect the past. Not exactly an idiom in spoken conversation, but a necessary statement when analyzing the history and future of archaeology. Managing cultural resources is an essential aspect of the field. “Cultural resource” refers to prehistoric and historic remains or evidence of human activities that have value for tradition, religion, or research (United States Department of Agriculture 2021). The term originates from professionals looking to encapsulate the kind of value archaeological sites and objects hold for descendent communities and for the general public. “Resource” also has additional connotations, one of which is monetary. Not all profits associated with the past are inherently negative. Entry fees to a site may contribute to the upkeep of structures and conservation

of an area. Artifacts or notable sites from human history may generate interest in the form of archaeotourism. Patrons are therefore voting with their currency. Visitation shows that the historic material is still relevant and deserves governmental recognition.

Unfortunately, some resources are also subject to exploitation. The antiquities trade is a billion-dollar market second only to illicit arms in terms of revenue. Even within the field, archaeological history is entwined with looting. Antiquarians in Europe and the United States dug into mounds to unearth human remains and artifacts such as pottery, metals, weapons, and jewelry. Materials were commodified, rather than recognized for their intellectual merit. Though systematic approaches have since been mandated by various institutions, damage is still occurring. For example, in 2009, the FBI conducted a sting operation in Blanding Utah that involved 256 stolen Navajo and other Indigenous artifacts. The estimated monetary value of materials totaled around \$336,000 (Brossy 2009). The FBI charged 24 individuals for stealing and trafficking these pieces. Residents protested, stating the arrested individuals were simply participating in a hobby (Brossy 2009). To the Navajo, the destruction was devastating and dehumanizing. Blatant disrespect was shown to their past and traditions. Archaeologists also decried the loss of knowledge and research.

Where does this place archaeology in the public sphere? Academic archaeologists, especially those who work in Cultural Resource Management, receive training in site identification, survey, and excavation. There is a permit system enforced by governments and historical societies for contracted archaeologists to operate lawfully. Excavations proceed systematically, allowing for proper documentation and research to occur. Purposes of excavation include acquiring knowledge, or rescuing sites threatened by infrastructure expansion. The information gleaned may then be shared through publications, speeches, or museums.

As demonstrated with cases such as Blanding Utah, academic presence alone is not enough to preserve historic sites and materials. It is in the interest of archaeological preservation that all stakeholders be engaged. A shared stewardship between the public and professionals allows for a better distribution of effort. The model entails joint responsibility for cultural resources through monitoring and study. The professional community can also create multiple access points in which the public and academy can interact. Artifact identification days, site tours, and public archaeological events invite participation. An active pursuit of relationships allows for deeper connections to



be made by reminding the public of their role in preserving heritage. Speaking directly with individuals may also deconstruct the perception of academia as an “ivory tower.”

Public involvement is especially key in land ownership, as most sites in the US are located on private property. Reporting locations of diagnostic artifact concentrations to state agencies is one way that landowners can contribute to the field. Another avenue of public stewardship is keeping informed about legislation that impacts historic resources. Contacting representatives and voting in local elections aids the legal fight for preservation. Knowledge of these concepts is aided by the active efforts of professionals engaged in public education.

Strengthening connections with avocational archaeologists is another access point for a shared stewardship model. What defines an avocational archaeologist is their relationship to professional spaces. Sharing information with academics regarding site locations and artifacts rather than collecting privately separates these individuals from looting hobbyists. Avocational archaeologists can assist with excavations and act as frontline monitors of historic sites. Some states offer amateur certification of non-professionals with field and laboratory training programs (Davis 1990). Other forms of engagement can include volunteering through State and academic programs. Unless these types of avenues are widely publicized, enthusiasts may not be aware of their existence.



Adena Point donated to the UWM Archaeological Research Laboratory Center by avocational turned professional archaeologist James Clark (Photo: Brian McConnell).

The Archaeological Research Laboratory Center housed at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has long fostered relationships with avocational archaeologists. Staff have proactively hosted site tours and public archaeology days, as well as entering community gathering spaces to speak with landowners. Stating the

importance of recording location and context allows for information to be gathered systematically. Objects and sites take on knowledge rather than monetary value. The willingness to listen to and recognize avocational archaeologists' contributions has allowed the center to gather information and store artifacts, demonstrating a joint stewardship.

Gatekeeping archaeology is not a sustainable practice as the future of the field depends upon public interest, engagement, and care. Expertise has its place: formally trained archaeologists are essential to minimizing destruction and acquiring knowledge systematically. Piquing community attention is better accomplished through the invitation to act. Making the past relatable can be done through conversation (both in person and online) and holding events, as well as establishing a dialogue with stakeholders and enthusiasts. Without taking the time to explain the reason behind careful notation and excavation, there will be confusion as to the difference between hobby collecting and professional methods. Malicious intent to commodify artifacts will still exist. By actively educating and engaging the public, we can invoke a stronger sense of collective stewardship.

#### Citations:

Davis, Hester A.

1990 *Training and Using Volunteers in Archaeology: A Case Study from Arkansas*. National Parks Service: US Department of the Interior.

Brossy, Chee

2009 FBI too Harsh in Artifacts Sting, Probe? *Navajo Times*:  
<http://www.navajotimes.com/news/2009/0709/070909sting.php>

United States Department of Agriculture

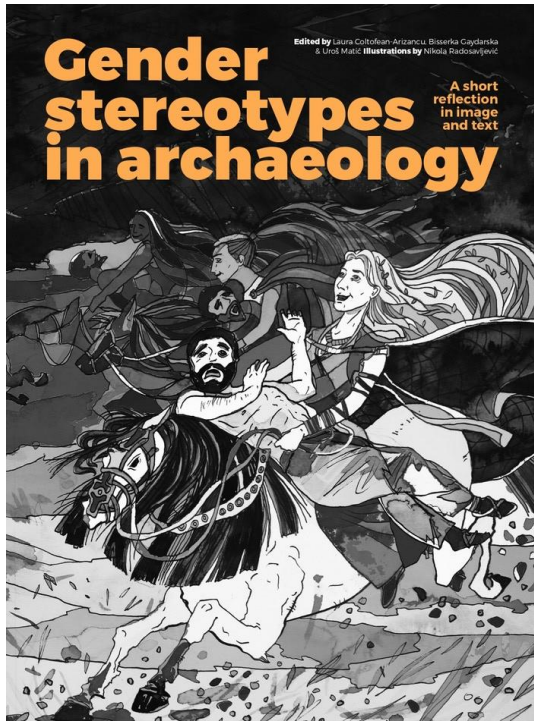
2021 Natural Resources Conservation Service. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/ecoscience/cultural>

## Announcing the Publication of Gender Stereotypes in Archaeology by Sidestone Press this Fall!

**By Bettina Arnold, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Alice Kehoe, Marquette University**

Two long-time AIA Milwaukee chapter members, Bettina Arnold and Secretary-Treasurer Alice Kehoe, contributed to an exciting and innovative publishing

project, edited by Laura Coltofean-Arizancu, Bisserka Gaydarska and Uroš Matić and illustrated by award-winning Serbian illustrator Nikola Radosavljević. To defray printing costs, the editors launched a Kickstarter campaign that exceeded its funding goal in just six days, thanks to a truly awesome response by archaeologists and interested members of the public alike.



The book is a short but informative and critical response by 17 archaeologists from 10 countries to 24 gender stereotypes that continue to impact archaeological explanations of the past. Gender and feminist archaeologists have fought for decades against gender stereotypes through academic writing, museum exhibitions, and popular literature. Despite their efforts, many of these stereotypes continue to thrive and flourish, both in academic and popular settings, especially in countries where gender questions in archaeology are barely discussed. Given this situation and the rise of far right and ultraconservative ideologies and beliefs across the globe, this booklet is a timely and thought-provoking contribution that openly addresses often uncomfortable topics. In order to raise awareness among both the professionals and fans of archaeology, each stereotype is explained and deconstructed in 250 words by archaeologists with expertise on gender in the past and in contemporary archaeology. Most are members of the Archaeology and Gender in Europe (AGE) Community of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA). The book was designed to be used in a range of educational settings, but the whimsical

ink-wash graphics and thought-provoking entries can be enjoyed by anyone interested in issues of social justice and human cultural evolution.

The Web link to the volume will be posted on our Web site and sent to AIA Milwaukee members as soon as it is available this fall.

## Sneak Preview of Spring Programs

We have several outstanding lectures lined up for the upcoming Spring program. First up, on February 6th, long-time Milwaukee AIA member and officer, Professor Emeritus at Marquette University, Dr. Alice Kehoe, will presents a lecture entitled: Traveling Prehistoric Seas: Boats, the Ocean and Archaeological Evidence for Precolumbian Voyages. Dr. Kehoe will present the history of seafaring people crossing large expanses of open ocean to colonize Indonesia and Australia as a background for discussing the evidence for Polynesian explorers reaching the Americas. On March 6th, Dr. Chris Fisher will present The Application of LiDAR Scanning for the Documentation of Ancient Cities and Regions. He will discuss how LiDAR results provide evidence of site organization at Angamuco in Michoacán and reveal regional settlement patterns within the Mosquitia tropical wilderness in Honduras. LiDAR is a type of remote sensing that uses pulses of laser light to measure distances and uncover hidden landscape and architectural features.

We are very much hoping that in-person lectures will be possible in the Spring.

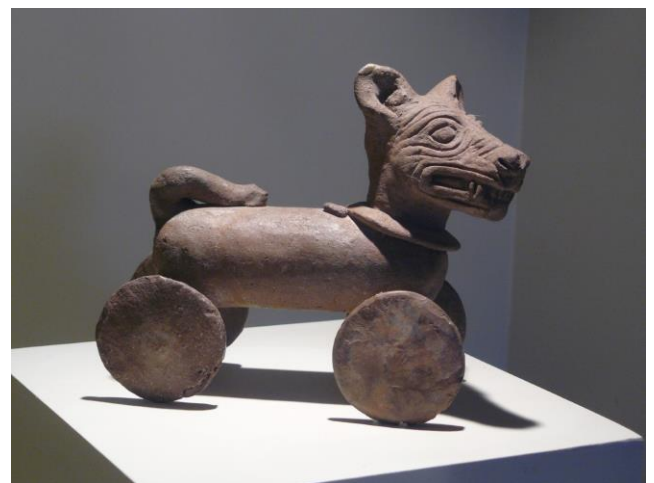


Image from Dr. Kehoe's upcoming lecture - Wheeled dog, found in Central America, dated c. 1200 CE (Photo: Paul Amaroli).



# AIA-Milwaukee Society

## Fall Calendar

PLEASE KEEP

Fall 2021



- October 16      Saturday, October 16, 2021. *Virtual Events*  
*International Archaeology Day: Online Archaeology*
- October 17      Sunday, October 17, 2021, 3:00 pm. *Lecture*  
**Lesley A. Gregoricka, *Aridity and Adaptation among Arabian Bronze Age Communities: Investigating Mobility and Climate Change Using Isotope Analysis***
- November 14      Sunday, November 14, 2021, 3:00 pm. *Lecture*  
**Nicholas D. Cahill, *Sardis: Recent Discoveries from the Bronze Age until the End of Antiquity***

All events this Fall will be virtual to ensure the health and safety of our community. We will send further information about these events through our email list. You can also check out our website updates:

<https://aia-milwaukee.uwm.edu/>