



The Artifact

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Letter from the President,

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring 2024 program of the Milwaukee Society of the Archaeological Institute of America. With the new year comes a new edition of our local newsletter, *The Artifact*, expertly edited by Lydia McDermott. As you can imagine, steering the ship of a semiannual newsletter is no easy task and I take this time to thank Lydia for all her hard work. This edition is full of interesting content from notices of our upcoming events to a feature article penned by UWM Art History graduate student, Katie Batagianis, who traveled to Turkey this summer as part of her research on the cylinder seals recovered from the Late Bronze age shipwreck at the site of Uluburun. Katie shares an update on her research and previews some of her findings, along with some awesome pictures from her trip. You will also find information about both local and national events. On the local side, we are excited to welcome Prof. Catherine Kearns from the University of Chicago who will deliver the Barbara Tsakirgis Memorial Lecture on February 25th in Sabin Hall on UWM's campus. I am especially excited to hear Prof. Kearns as she is a colleague and friend working on the island of Cyprus, where I direct excavations. We will also be hosting another Archaeology Watch Party at St. John's on the Lake: this spring's event will feature a lecture by Prof. Nam Kim (UW-Madison, Anthropology) on ancient Vietnam, hosted by AIA-Milwaukee member and Associate Professor of Art History at UWM, Dr. Ying Wang.

AIA-Milwaukee enjoyed an active fall program in 2023 and we were pleased to see so many members and friends attending lectures and events. Our field trip to The Field Museum in Chicago was a resounding success. The chartered bus was full and everyone seemed to enjoy our visit to see *The First Kings of Europe*, which showcased objects drawn from the collections of more than two dozen museums and archaeological institutes in the Balkan Peninsula. We hope to find similar opportunities in the future so stay tuned! Your membership keeps AIA-Milwaukee afloat so please remember to renew or if your membership has lapsed, rejoin. And tell your friends! All are welcome. For now, sit back and enjoy this latest edition of *The Artifact* and we look forward to seeing you this spring at one of our events.

Yours in archaeology,
Derek B. Counts, President
AIA-Milwaukee Society



If you are a continuing member and/or if your membership is about to expire, please remember to renew promptly. It only takes a few minutes to renew online on AIA's website:

<https://www.archaeological.org/join/>

Login with your AIA login ID and password where it says "Member Login" and follow the prompts. All memberships last for one year and include a subscription to *Archaeology* magazine as well as membership in our local society.

To register for

ARCHAEOLOGY HOUR

programs, Click

<https://www.archaeological.org/programs/public/lectures/archaeologyhour/>

Or look for on-line lectures from other local societies on the month-by-month **EVENTS CALENDAR**

<https://www.archaeological.org/events/>

Environmental Histories of the Ancient Mediterranean in Ten Objects

The AIA Barbara Tsakirgis Memorial Lecture by Dr. Catherine Kearns

The last decade has seen a flourishing of collaborative research on ancient environments, combining natural archives, scientific analyses, archaeological evidence, as well as texts and documents to reconstruct the interactions between humans, environments, and climates, and to understand their histories. In this talk, we will look at ten objects recovered from societies of the ancient Mediterranean that reveal and illustrate some of these discoveries. From sediment cores, to wood charcoal, to cisterns and storage jars, these ten things highlight the ways that physical materials shape human engagements with and perceptions of shifting and changing climates and ecologies. The selections introduce the social and political dimensions of these relationships, from the tools and spaces of working farmers to the worldviews and institutional control of elite statesmen, as well as the techniques scientists and archaeologists use to discern environmental change at multiple scales. These examples raise important questions on new research methods, concepts of heritage and conservation, as well as how archaeologists can contribute to broader discussions on the present and futures of human-environment relationships.

Catherine Kearns is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Classics at the University of Chicago. Dr. Kearns' research examines the intersections between social and environmental change in Mediterranean landscapes during the Iron Age period. In her first book, *The Rural Landscapes of Archaic Cyprus: An Archaeology of Environmental and Social Change* (Cambridge, 2022), she analyzes the emergence of Iron Age communities on the island of Cyprus through their land-use practices, rural economies, and experiences with changing climates. In addition to her work in landscape archaeology, she also studies environmental history, urbanism and hinterlands, and concepts of space and place in antiquity. In recent years she has co-directed fieldwork on Cyprus through the Kalavastos and Maroni Built Environments Project, using geophysics, field survey, excavation, and geospatial analysis to identify Iron Age rural settlements, for which she has been awarded ACLS, Loeb Classical Library Foundation and university grants.



Join us for this **FREE** lecture
Sunday, February 25th 3:00 pm

UWM Sabin Hall, Room G90, 3413
North Downer Ave, Milwaukee, WI



Fragment of charred pine,
recovered from an ancient kiln

For more information, see:

Kearns, C. (2022) The Rural Landscapes of Archaic Cyprus: An Archaeology of Environmental and Social Change. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kearns, C. and S.W. Manning, eds. (2019) New Directions in Cypriot Archaeology. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.



Pine forest at the location of
Dr. Kearns' research in Cyprus

AIA-Milwaukee Society and Saint John's on the Lake

Archaeology Hour Watch Party

On Sunday, April 14, 2024 the AIA-Milwaukee Society and Saint John's on the Lake are teaming up to present an archaeological "watch party." The watch party will give us an opportunity to watch the video of the April Archaeology Hour presentation. Following that, engage in live discussion and Q&A led by Ying Wang, Associate Professor, Department of Art History at UWM.

We will meet at 3:00 p.m. in the North Cultural Arts Center (AKA North CAC or NCAC) at Saint John's on the Lake. The room is equipped with comfortable chairs, a large screen and good sound system for viewing. Light refreshments will add to our enjoyment of the program. (See below for directions to St. John's). We hope to see you at this event!

The April 14th watch party will feature the virtual lecture "Barbarians, Bronzes, and the Legendary Capital of Ancient Vietnam" presented by Dr. Nam C. Kim from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Anthropology.



Vietnamese lore tells us that over two thousand years ago the Red River Valley of northern Vietnam was home to powerful indigenous kingdoms, fortified capitals, and exquisite bronze craftsmanship. In contrast, the neighboring Chinese Han Empire claimed the region was inhabited by unsophisticated "barbarians" in need of "civilizing", prompting imperial annexation of the region. This lecture explores the region's archaeological record and what it means for scholarly debates, as well as for Vietnam's national imagination, cultural heritage, and descendant identities.

Nam C. Kim is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the current Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies on its campus. He holds degrees in anthropology (PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago), political science (MA, New York University) and international relations (BA, University of Pennsylvania). As an anthropological archaeologist, his research deals with early complex societies and the significance of the material past for modern-day stakeholders. He is especially interested in humanity's global history of organized violence and warfare. Since 2005 he has been conducting archaeological fieldwork in Vietnam at the Co Loa settlement in the Red River Delta. A heavily fortified site located near modern-day Hanoi, Co Loa is connected to Vietnamese legendary accounts and is viewed as an important foundation for Vietnamese culture. He has published widely and, most recently, co-edited *The Oxford Handbook of Early Southeast Asia* (Oxford University Press, 2022).



April Watch Party

"Barbarians," Bronzes, and the
Legendary Capital of Ancient Vietnam"

Sunday, April 14th 3:00 pm
Discussion to follow

Masks are optional at Saint John's on the Lake

Discussant: Yin Wang



Professor Ying Wang is Associate Professor in the Department of Art History at UWM. She received her PhD from the University of Pittsburgh. Her training is in Bronze Age China and her current research interest concerns pilgrimages to the snow mountains of Tibet. She teaches the art and architecture of China, Japan and India, including the arts and cultures of the ethnic peoples of these regions.

Getting to Saint John's on the Lake:

Saint John's on the Lake is a large high-rise complex on the East side of Prospect Avenue between Royall (south) and Kane Place (north). St John's may be entered from any of three main entrances: 1800 North Prospect, 1840 North Prospect or 1858 North Prospect Ave, Milwaukee. Check in as a visitor at any front desk and tell the assistant you are here for the archaeology program. They will direct you to the NCAC meeting room. Masks are optional. Please RSVP to: jcw@uwm.edu



By Bus: From the South the #30 bus stops at Royall or Kane Place and Prospect in front of 1800 and 1858 N Prospect respectively.

From the North the #30 buses stop along Farwell at Kane and Royall. Walk one block east to SJOL.

Parking: Saint John's has free, off-street, visitor parking just south of 1800 N. Prospect. Turn right (east) off Prospect at Royall into the visitor lot.

AIA-Milwaukee Congratulates Dr. Jocelyn Boor on her Retirement



Please join us in wishing our very best to longtime AIA-Milwaukee member (and former *Artifact* editor!), Jocelyn Boor, who will be retiring from UWM this spring after more than a decade of teaching in the Departments of Art History and Ancient and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Jocelyn is known as a dynamic, popular teacher who brings innovative projects and hands-on learning into the classroom. Jocelyn has been teaching courses in Egyptian art, archaeology, myth, and history, the art and archaeology of the ancient near east, as well as Africa, the Americas, and Oceania, drawing her on expertise in these areas gained through MS and PhD degrees from UWM's Department of Anthropology. Enjoy retirement, Jocelyn!



Virtual Lectures and Speakers, Spring 2024

March 2024, Kisha Supernant:

Finding the Children: Using Archaeology to Search for Unmarked Graves at Indian Residential School Sites in Canada.



In May 2021, the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation in British Columbia, Canada, announced that 215 potential unmarked graves were located near the Kamloops Indian Residential School using ground-penetrating radar conducted by archaeologists. While this was not the first announcement of unmarked graves associated with Indian Residential Schools, it garnered national and international attention. The subsequent months saw significant commitments of funding from the government to support Indigenous communities who wanted to conduct their own searches. Many Indigenous communities turned to

archaeologists to assist them in designing an approach to finding potential unmarked graves of their relatives. In this paper, Kisha Supernant provides an overview of how archaeologists have been working with Indigenous communities in Canada to locate potential grave sites and discuss the opportunities and challenges in this highly sensitive, deeply emotional work.

April 2024, Deborah Carlson:

Excavating a Shipwrecked Marble Column Destined for the Temple of Apollo at Claros

Deborah Carlson studied Greco-Roman antiquity at the University of Arizona. After finishing her M.A. in 1995, Carlson taught Roman art and archaeology at Arizona for one year and then pursued a degree in nautical archaeology at Texas A&M University. There, she earned the opportunity to work with George Bass as assistant director of a Greek shipwreck excavation off the coast of Turkey at Tektaş Burnu. Her 2003 appointment as the first female of A&M's nautical archaeology faculty has given her the chance to train and advise the next generation of students, including a community of vibrant young women. She has assisted in the direction of both terrestrial and underwater excavations in Italy, Greece, and Turkey, and served as the Archaeological Director of Institute of Nautical Archaeology's excavation of an early-first century B.C. Roman shipwreck at Kızılburun, Turkey, and as the Assistant Director of INA's work on a Classical Greek ship at Tektaş Burnu, Turkey. She has received various awards for her work, was the 2003/2004 recipient of the AIA's Olivia James Traveling Fellowship, and a 2010/2011 AIA Joukowsky Lecturer.



MARCH

**Archaeology Hour Virtual Lecture
Zoom only**

“Finding the Children: Using Archaeology to Search for Unmarked Graves at Indian Residential School Sites in Canada.”

**Wednesday, March 27th @ 7pm CT
Register Today**

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dp5zhsyHTaidUiNh5lnFgg#/registration

These lectures are free and open to all who are interested, but you must register for *each* of them separately

APRIL

**Archaeology Hour Virtual Lecture,
Zoom only**

“Excavating a Shipwrecked Marble Column Destined for the Temple of Apollo at Claros”

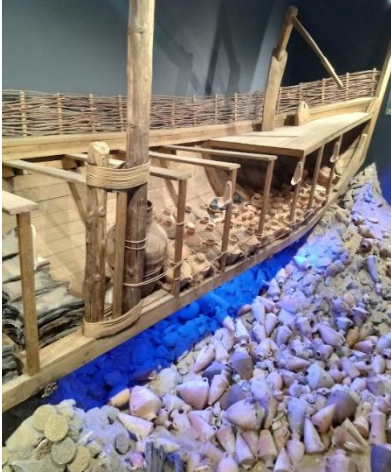
**Wednesday, April 17th 7:00 pm CT
Register Today**

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Emw27BLTRsqvyVheRqFMTA#/registration

These lectures will be recorded, so you may watch them later through the AIA's YouTube channel. The AIA will announce when they are available, and the links will be on their website.

Fit for a King? Cylinder Seals of the Uluburun Shipwreck

Katie Batagianis, MA candidate, Art History, UWM



Reconstruction of the Uluburun ship at the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology

In the waning years of the fourteenth century BCE, a Late Bronze Age ship likely sailing from the Levantine coast to a destination in the Aegean sank off the Uluburun cape in southwestern Turkey. Due to the depth of the wreckage (up to 60 m), the ship and its cargo remained undisturbed until they were discovered by a sponge diver in 1982. The site was subsequently excavated by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) at Texas A&M University, and over the course of eleven seasons (1984-1994), an astonishing amount of artifacts – some seventeen tons in total – were recovered from the Uluburun shipwreck.

I had the opportunity to study firsthand some of these artifacts, on display at the Bodrum Museum of

Underwater Archaeology, when, thanks to the generous support of a UWM Art History Jeffrey R. Hayes Graduate Research Award, I traveled to Turkey to conduct research for my MA thesis in the summer of 2023. Of particular significance to my research are the cylinder seals recovered from the wreckage. Even smaller in person than I had imagined – the largest is a mere 3 cm in height and 1.3 cm in diameter – the six displayed cylinder seals (a total of nine were found, but three are in such poor condition that they are not on display) are Near Eastern in origin and are made of hematite, faience, or rock crystal. Two were outfitted with gold caps, and all are decorated with figural scenes rendered in intaglio.

A Near Eastern innovation that first appeared around 3500 BCE, cylinder seals were originally developed as an administrative tool. The impression created by rolling a decorated cylinder seal over a malleable surface, such as a clump of wet clay, worked much like a signature and could indicate an individual's participation in an economic transaction or their ownership of certain goods. Over time, cylinder seals came to be used in myriad other ways, including amulets, votive offerings, and pieces of jewelry.

Scholarly interest in the Uluburun cylinder seals has been limited primarily to their decoration and the decipherment of their iconography in order to determine provenance and date of manufacture. My interest in the cylinder seals is quite different, as I believe they have the potential to contribute to our overall understanding of the shipwreck. As revealed through analysis of the excavated artifacts, the Uluburun ship carried a tremendously wealthy cargo. It consisted



Hematite cylinder seal with modern impression

primarily of raw materials, including nearly 200 ingots of glass; about a ton of terebinth resin, a fragrant substance used in incense and perfume; and sufficient amounts of copper and tin to produce eleven tons of bronze. Other goods, both raw and manufactured, were of a decidedly luxurious nature: logs of African blackwood (what the Egyptians referred to as “ebony”), elephant and hippopotamus ivory, ivory cosmetic boxes, shell rings, and ostrich eggshells – one of which, quite incredibly, survived the shipwreck intact.

The Uluburun cargo was so wealthy, in fact, that some scholars have hypothesized that it was royal, a gift sent from one king to another in the manner described in the mid-fourteenth century BCE Amarna letters. These letters record the diplomatic exchange of gifts between the Egyptian pharaoh and the kings of the great Near Eastern powers of the time, including Babylonia and Assyria. The Amarna letters seemingly support this royal interpretation of the Uluburun cargo, as many



Glass Ingots

of the goods enumerated in the Amarna gift lists were likewise found aboard the Uluburun ship. If correct, this theory about the royal nature of the cargo could have tremendous implications, particularly regarding our understanding of the Late Bronze Age relations between the eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean, the Uluburun ship’s likely destination. We know that, at the very least, these regions shared commercial ties, as Egyptian and Near Eastern objects have been discovered in Aegean contexts, and vice versa. But a royal shipment would indicate heretofore unknown diplomatic and political ties between the two areas.



Ivory cosmetic box in the shape of a duck

The Uluburun cylinder seals have the potential to offer even further evidence for this interpretation of the ship’s cargo, as the Amarna letters record that cylinder seals were also exchanged as gifts between kings. And yet, the Uluburun cylinder seals have never been studied from this perspective. Did some or all of them constitute a gift fit for a king? Such is the question I hope to answer in my thesis and in this way contribute to our understanding of the extraordinary archaeological find that is the Uluburun shipwreck.

Further Reading:

Aruz, Joan, Kim Bense, and Jean M. Evans, eds. *Beyond Babylon: Art, Trade, and Diplomacy in the Second Millennium BC*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2008.

Moran, William L., trans. and ed. *The Amarna Letters*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992.

Pulak, Cemal. “The Uluburun Shipwreck: An Overview.” *The International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 27, no. 3 (August 1998): 188-224.

AIA-Milwaukee Society Fall Calendar

Spring 2024



February 2024:

AIA-Milwaukee In-person Lecture:

Sunday, February 25, 3:00 pm CT, UWM Sabin Hall, Room G90, 3413 North Downer Ave.

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