

Medieval and Post-Medieval Interest Group

2021 Annual Meeting

Minutes

Present: Jon Frey (chair), Effie Athanassopoulos, Marica Cassis, Liza Davis, Eric Driscoll, P. Nick Kardulias, Fotini Kondyli, Georgios Makris, Justin Mann, Stefan Moffat, Jim Newhard, Mark Pawlowski, David Pettegrew, James Razumoff, Rebecca Seifried, Kim Shelton (AIA Rep), Deborah Brown Stewart, Emily Swett, Gnder Varinliođlu

1. Meeting began at 12:15 pm.
2. Frey opened meeting with a congratulations to Georgios Makris for organizing a successful panel at the 2021 AIA Annual meeting. The speakers, (Darlene L. Brooks Hedstrom, Effie Athanassopoulos, Amy Papalexandrou, Marica Cassis, Gnder Varinliođlu, and P. Nick Kardulias) as well as the respondent, Dimitri Nakassis were thanked for their participation in this year's MAPMA panel.
3. Frey mentioned his recent effort to begin to archive the work of this interest group. It has been 15 years since the group was founded and in that time, many conference panels and publications associated with this group have been successfully completed. Frey noted that the documentation handed down from chair to chair is incomplete and in order to preserve the history of this group, it is worthwhile to create a common repository. Frey suggested the creation of a group on Humanities Commons, which may effectively serve as an alternative to the use of other commercial utilities such as Facebook or Academia.edu. There were no objections to this proposal. There was discussion of the need to increase the membership of this interest group, which according to the email list, stands at close to 80 members.
4. Seifried raised issue of the name of this interest group. As chair of this group, she had attempted to revise the name of the group to "Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology" in the hope that the removal of "in Greece" would encourage a greater participation from others working in this period, but not this location. Seifried reported that such a name change would require the dissolution and reformation of the group. As AIA representative in this meeting, Shelton offered to inquire about a less complex process.
5. Frey opened discussion of proposals for a panel at the 2022 AIA Annual Meeting. After reviewing a list of panel ideas that had previously been suggested, Kondyli proposed a panel focused on the Byzantine House, but from more perspectives than simply archaeological reports on recent excavations. Papers in this panel would focus on social, economic, and artistic elements of houses in the Byzantine period with an eye toward a diversity of theoretical and methodological approaches. The goal is to engage in more collaborations within and outside the field of Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology. This panel would be proposed not only at next year's AIA, but also at BSANA and possibly other conferences as well and the end result would be a publication that could remedy the near complete absence of published work that focuses on the Byzantine House. Athanassopoulos suggested possible participation in the International

Byzantine Congress, which is in Venice in 2022. Athanassopoulos will collaborate with Kondyli on the organization of this MAPMA session.

6. Varinlioglu noted that whatever the next panel, MAPMA should make an effort to retain the virtual aspect of conference participation, as there are many colleagues in other parts of the world who cannot travel to North America, but would like to continue to be part of this interest group's activities.
7. Further discussion focused on the possibility of proposing panels at other conferences, such as the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), European Association of Archaeologists (EAA), and the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA). Kardulias noted that if there is enough interest and participation, it is possible to request an entire morning of sessions at the SHA conference.
8. Additional discussion turned to the possibility of an additional panel that offers a more diachronic approach to houses in antiquity. Seifried suggested that MAPMA also consider circulating this second panel proposal to other interest groups in the AIA in order to encourage a collaboration around shared interests. Pawlowski noted that a global perspective may be an interesting approach, as there are others (e.g. Andean archaeologists) who may be able to make contributions to the discussion. Frey volunteered to draft a proposal to be shared with MAPMA and if approved, to other interest groups.
9. Athanassopoulos mentioned that there was an interesting discussion at the close of the MAPMA panel about object biographies and "things forgotten" that would be interesting to pursue in the future. She noted that one of the goals of this interest group was to raise awareness about the contribution of archaeology among Byzantinists. Moffatt also suggested a future panel on northern Europe, the British Isles and North Sea-Baltic Seas trade networks. (Note: responses to a question in an associated Google form yielded the following responses: State authority in the countryside; Byzantine mortuary practices; the archaeology of Byzantine industries; How does "archaeology of contemporary past" conversations relate to Mediterranean archaeology?; Historical archaeology of Medieval Greece.)
10. Frey raised the ongoing issue of the chronologically restrictive editorial policy of the American Journal of Archaeology. Seifried had written to the AJA to voice the opinion of MAPMA that the journal expand its acceptance policy to allow submissions of articles on topics that post-date late antiquity. She summarized the main points of the letter written by the editor of the AJA in response and noted that it was communicated to her that this matter was debated at length and there were many on the editorial board who sided with MAPMA. Frey noted that the most recent decision of MAPMA was to wait until a new editor in chief was appointed. According to the AJA website, a call for applications in a search opened in November 2020, but no due date for applications was listed. Members of MAPMA collectively recommended that the group continue to pressure the AJA to reconsider its editorial policy. Frey informed the group that Amelia Brown had offered to continue these efforts and the group agreed that she do so.
11. Frey noted that each interest group has the right to nominate a member to participate in the AIA Lecture Program. A request for (self) nominations did not receive any

response. Seifried suggested that Frey consider emailing the group later in the year for nominations at a time closer to the AIA's deadline for the program.

12. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon M. Frey