

AIA Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology Interest Group

12:45–1:45 pm, Saturday, January 5, 2019

Torrey Pines 3 Room, Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina
San Diego, CA

Members Present

Ian Begg, Trent University
Deb Brown Stewart, University of Pennsylvania
Anthony Cutler, Penn State University
Elizabeth Davis, Independent scholar
Tom Gallant, University of California, San Diego
Fotini Kondyli, University of Virginia
Nikos Kontogiannis, Koç University
Florence Liard, University of Bordeaux / British School at Athens
Michalis Lychounas, Ministry of Culture of Greece, Kavala
Georgios Makris, Metropolitan Museum of Art
Justin Mann, University of Virginia
Dimitri Nakassis, University of Colorado, Boulder
Rebecca Seifried, Institute for Mediterranean Studies–FORTH
Lucie Stylianopoulos, University of Virginia

Agenda and Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Report on member activities in the past year
3. Letter to the *American Journal of Archaeology*
4. Panel ideas for the 2020 Annual Meeting
5. Nominations for the AIA speakers' program

1. Welcome and introductions

Seifried (chair, 2018–2020) called the meeting to order at 12:45. We welcomed several new members: Anthony Cutler, Elizabeth Davis, Nikos Kontogiannis, Florence Liard, Michalis Lychounas, Georgios Makris, and Justin Mann.

2. Report on member activities in the past year

Kondyli opened the discussion by addressing how her colloquium had been formed (“Craft Production,” organized with Stylianopoulos). They had issued an open call for papers, and all submitted abstracts were accepted. To accommodate the number of speakers, they had requested a double panel (note that this is a precedent MAPMA set in 2016 with double panels on “Deserted Villages,” organized by Brown Stewart and Kostis Kourelis). However, as part of its review process, the AIA Program Committee (PC) decided to reject several individual papers and/or request abstract revision, consolidating the papers into a single panel. No information was provided about why these specific decisions were made. It was pointed out that a similar situation had taken place during the 2017 Annual Meeting, when the PC rejected a single paper from the colloquium on “Interwoven Lives” (organized by Seifried and Stylianopoulos). The takeaway point is that individual paper rejections are not made by the colloquia organizer(s), but rather by the PC.

Moving to the topic of member activities, Seifried reported on the recent activities of the Medieval Europe Research Community (MERC), which held their annual forum at the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) meeting in September 2018. The organization is sponsoring the 1st MERC Postgraduate and Early Career conference in Pula, Croatia, 26–28 April 2019 (<https://ffpu.unipu.hr/cirila/novosti?@=2eq6v>). MERC members are also organizing two panels at the April 2019 meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA). For anyone attending the SAAs, those panels are:

- The State of the Art in Medieval European Archaeology: New Discoveries, Future Directions (Chair: K. Patrick Fazioli)
- Mind the Gap: Exploring Uncharted Territories in Medieval European Archaeology (Chair: Robin Fleming)

On the topic of international collaboration, Lychounas requested that MAPMA members increase communication with archaeologists in the Greek Ministry of Culture by sending calls for papers directly to ephorate directors. He underscored the need to provide travel funds for Greek archaeologists to attend the meeting. Gallant encouraged MAPMA members to organize sessions at the Modern Greek Studies Association Symposium, which will provide substantial travel subsidies of \$1,000 each for up to 15 people, and \$500 each thereafter. The deadline for panels is coming up quickly – January 31 (see <https://mgsasymposium.org/cfp.html>).

Kontogiannis gave us an update on the 24th International Byzantine Studies Congress. A location has been decided, and panels will be determined within the next months. The conference will be held 23-28 August 2021 (see <http://aiebnet.gr/>). No updates on the 2018 Byzantine Studies Conference. The next will be held in Madison, WI, 17-20 October 2019 (see <http://www.bsana.net/conference/>). No updates on the conference at UT Austin which Adam Rabinowitz mentioned last year, to be held around 2020 on the topic of environment and land-use regimens.

Last year we agreed to shift to a listserv mode of communication, but we haven't yet made the move. Seifried asked whether members still supported this change, and it was agreed that the current format (email list) is fine for now.

Finally, Seifried passed around a list of panels that MAPMA members have organized at the AIAs and other conferences since the group started in 2005 (attached). Interested members might also want to check out the group's original Pendentive blog: <https://pendentive.wordpress.com/>.

3. Letter to the *American Journal of Archaeology*

The letter to the AJA was the main topic for the meeting (letters attached separately to email). In March 2018, Seifried sent a letter on behalf of MAPMA to Jane Carter, Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Archaeology* (AJA). The letter requested “that the temporal scope of the journal’s editorial policy be expanded to include the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods.” Carter shared the letter with the AJA Advisory Board, the AIA Committee for Research and Academic Affairs, and, at the AIA, Jodi Magness, Ann Benbow, and Kevin Quinlan. A summary

of the letter was also included in Carter's report to the Governing Board of the AIA in April 2018 (personal communication, June 2018).

Carter emailed a response letter on January 2, 2019, and paper copies were passed around at our meeting. In short, she decided that the AJA will retain its current scope, defined as "the art and archaeology of ancient Europe and the Mediterranean world, including the Near East and Egypt, from prehistoric to Late Antique times" (<https://www.ajaonline.org/submissions/editorial-policy>). Among other points made, the letter states that the AJA will consider "material from periods outside its scope in field reports or when pertinent in interpretative articles as long as the primary focus of a given report or article is within the AJA's parameters. This flexibility, however, does not include the publication of articles that are primarily concerned with periods outside the AJA's scope."

Nakassis, a current member of the AJA Advisory Board, shared his insight into the conversation that took place between board members in response to our letter. Specifically, people on the "margins" of the discipline (e.g. people working in prehistoric periods or in areas outside Greece) were more favorable toward including material focused on medieval and post-medieval periods, while those working in the core areas of Classical Greece were less so. He also explained that the AJA Advisory Board is convened by the Editor-in-Chief, and it will likely be dissolved and reformed when a new editor takes charge.

After a lively discussion, the group decided to respond to Carter's letter in two forms: (1) Kondyli, Brown Stewart, and Gallant agreed to help Seifried draft a response letter, which will be circulated to MAPMA members for feedback before sending to Carter and members of the AIA administration; (2) MAPMA will sponsor a workshop at next year's Annual Meeting on the topic of "Medieval Archaeology at the AIAs," ideally bringing in members of the AJA and AIA administrations as participants. Seifried volunteered to organize this workshop, and Bill Caraher has since agreed to serve as co-organizer.

Many MAPMA members have emailed their feedback about this issue, ranging from statements of support to advice about how to respond to Carter's letter. One idea was to wait for the next editor-in-chief and try again (Carter's term will end in December 2019). Overall, there has been overwhelming support from across MAPMA's membership to pursue the effort to gain inclusion in the AJA.

4. Panel ideas for the 2020 Annual Meeting

MAPMA members were encouraged to elicit panel participation from members of MERC and staff of the Greek Ministry of Culture. We can definitely take advantage of next year's Annual Meeting location (Washington, DC) to get wider involvement from the European community.

Seifried reported on communication with Kevin Mullen, confirming that interest groups (IGs) can sponsor up to two panels at the Annual Meeting. Mullen stressed that the IG information must be included on the session submission form or else it will be omitted from the program. He also pointed out that "the Program Committee does not see that the sessions are sponsored by an IG. Each session is evaluated anonymously with any authoring and sponsorship information omitted. IG sponsored sessions aren't given any preferential treatment."

It was agreed that one of the MAPMA sponsorships for next year's Annual Meeting will go to the workshop on "Medieval Archaeology at the AIAs" (Seifried and Caraher). Mann will organize the second MAPMA-sponsored panel on the topic of "Sacred Space in Archaeology," attracting papers dealing with monasteries, sanctuaries, churches, etc.

Other panel contributions are always welcome, even if MAPMA can only sponsor two each year. If you would also like to organize a panel at next year's Annual Meeting on the topic of medieval or post-medieval archaeology, please get in touch with Seifried (rmseifried@gmail.com) to ensure that the call is distributed widely among MAPMA members.

5. Nominations for the AIA speakers' program

Seifried reported on her communication with Laurel Sparks (Lecture & Fellowship Coordinator) about nominating speakers for the AIA Lecture Program. Laurel wrote that "All nominations go to the Lecture Program Committee for consideration, and are voted on—but the list each year is over 500 nominations, of which about 100 get voted in and receive invitations." Anyone who is not invited will remain in the pool for the next round of votes. Nominations for the 2020/2021 season are due in November 2019, so Seifried will email a request for nominations at the end of this summer.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Seifried, January 18, 2019.

Panels sponsored by MAPMA members, 2005–2019

Archaeological Institute of America			
Year	Sessions	Title	Publication
2019	2	The Medieval Countryside: An Archaeological Perspective; Craft Production in the Medieval and Post-Medieval Mediterranean	
2018	1	The Medieval Countryside: An Archaeological Perspective [cancelled due to weather]; Venetians Abroad: The Archaeology of Venice in the Medieval Eastern Mediterranean	
2017	1	Interwoven Lives: The Eastern Mediterranean in the 13th to 17th Centuries	
2016	2	Deserted Villages, I: Before Abandonment; Deserted Villages, II: During and After Abandonment	<i>Deserted Villages: Perspectives from the Eastern Mediterranean</i> (UND Digital Press, in preparation)
2015	1	Byzantine Maritime Trade and Technology	
2014	–		
2013	–		
2012	1	Sailing away from Byzantium: People, goods and ideas at the edges of empire	
2011	1	Travel to Greece between Antiquity and the Grand Tour	
2010	1	First Out: Late Levels of Early Sites	
2009	–		
2008	1	The Archaeology of Xenitia: Greek Immigration and Material Culture	
2007	1	Abandoned Countryside: (Re)Settlement in the Archaeological Narrative of the Post-Classical Mediterranean	<i>International Journal of Historical Archaeology</i> (2010)
2006	–	[submission not accepted]	
2005	–	[first informal meeting and interest group application/acceptance]	

Other Conferences			
Year	Sessions	Title	Venue
2019	–		
2018	–		
2017	–		
2016	1	Archaeology of Monasticism: Monastic Builders, Construction Methods, Resources	American Schools of Oriental Research
2015	2	Archaeology of Byzantine Neighborhoods; Archaeology of Monasticism: Interactions between and within Monastic Settlements	Byzantine Studies Conference; American Schools of Oriental Research
2014	1	Archaeology of Monasticism: Why and where did monastic settlements emerge?	American Schools of Oriental Research
2013	–		
2012	–		
2011	–		
2010	–		
2009	1	City, Village, and Monastery: The Archaeology of Modern Greek Landscapes	Modern Greek Studies Association
2008	–		
2007	1	Cyprus: Archaeology, Architecture and History	Byzantine Studies Conference
2006	–		
2005	–		