

AIA Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology Interest Group

12:45 – 1:45 pm, Saturday, January 6, 2018

Northeastern, 3rd Floor, Marriott Copley

Boston, MA

Present

Rebecca Seifried (chair)

Betsey Robinson (AIA rep)

Deb Stewart

Adam Rabinowitz

Ian Begg

Lucie Stylianopoulos

Fotini Kondyli

Campbell Garland

Agenda and Minutes

1. General topics
2. Medieval and post-medieval archaeology at other conferences
3. Panels for the 2019 Annual Meeting in San Diego
4. Potential collaboration with the Medieval Europe Research Community (MERC)
5. Interest group email list
6. Nominations for the AIA speakers' program
7. Follow-up from the 2017 interest group meeting

1. General topics

Becky Seifried, the group's chairperson through January 2020, called the meeting to order and the members introduced themselves. We welcomed a new member, Campbell Garland. Due to adverse weather conditions, several members were unable to make it to the meeting and passed on their regards, including Glenn Bugh, Jim Newhard, Effie Athanassopoulos, Tim Gregory, and Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory. In addition, the colloquium on "The Medieval Countryside," organized by Effie Athanassopoulos, was cancelled.

2. Medieval and post-medieval archaeology at other conferences

Fotini recapped the sessions organized recently at the Byzantine Studies Conference (on Byzantine neighborhoods) and a three-year panel at the American Schools of Oriental Research meeting (on the "Archaeology of Monasticism"). She suggested that more archaeology sessions should be organized at the BSC. There were no new updates on the 24th International Byzantine Studies Congress, which will be held in Istanbul in August 2021 (see <http://aiebnet.gr/>).

Adam discussed an upcoming conference (still in the planning stage) to be held at UT Austin around 2020 on the topic of environment and land-use regimens. The conference will not be limited to time period or geographical region. If any MAPMA members are interested, they should reach out to Adam in order to stay tuned about upcoming developments.

It was also pointed out that effort should be made to publish the colloquia being organized at these events, and Betsey recommended looking into the annual series *Selected Papers on Ancient*

Art and Architecture, supported by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation (see <https://www.archaeological.org/news/aianews/20997>).

3. Panels for the 2019 Annual Meeting in San Diego

Effie Athanassopoulos is waiting to hear from the AIA Program Committee about whether the organized colloquium on “The Medieval Countryside” – cancelled this year due to weather – can be rescheduled for the 2019 Annual Meeting. It was agreed that the colloquium would retain its MAPMA sponsorship.

Ian, Fotini, and Lucie proposed an idea for a panel on medieval and post-medieval industry (e.g. dye, silk, scrap metal). They suggested an AIA colloquium could be used as a testing ground for archaeological approaches to industry, and then a follow-up panel at another conference (e.g. the BSC) could expand the conversation to include additional approaches. It was agreed that this would be an appropriate colloquium for MAPMA sponsorship at the 2019 Annual Meeting (interest groups can sponsor up to two colloquia each year).

Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory and Amelia Brown submitted a panel proposal by email on the topic of “indigenous” perspectives and local community involvement in Mediterranean archaeology. They wrote, “It would be open to fieldwork reports as well as more theoretically-inclined papers, including engagement with government agencies such as the Greek Archaeological Service, Heritage management, the Church, schools and education/outreach programs, etc., as issues that research archaeologists grapple with in various ways.” It was agreed that this would be an excellent contribution to next year's conference, and that it would attract wider interest across the AIA if it were expanded beyond the purview of MAPMA. Lita and Amelia were encouraged to submit the idea as an independent colloquium.

4. Potential collaboration with the Medieval Europe Research Community (MERC) of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAAs)

After the 2017 Annual Meeting, Sam Turner (via Effie Athanassopoulos) asked whether there is any form of collaboration between MAPMA and MERC, and what form that collaboration could take. We decided it unlikely that the groups could sponsor a joint session at the AIAs. However, the AIA may consider allowing reciprocal membership (i.e. waiving the membership fee for a MERC member who wants to attend the Annual Meeting and who would not normally join the AIA otherwise). Travel vouchers are also available; in the past, one participant could be nominated per colloquium, and the amount of the voucher was in the range of \$300. Deb suggested that the 2020 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, would be an ideal venue for attracting MERC members because of easier transportation to the city. Becky will be attending the EAA Annual Meeting in Barcelona (in September 2018) and agreed to reach out to Sam and other MERC members to explore possibilities for collaboration from the EAA side.

More information: https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA/Navigation_Communities/MERC.aspx

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/174193399395058/>

5. Interest group email list

The interest group email list is currently maintained as a Google Sheets table accessible only to the chairperson and the AIA contact person. Becky proposed moving the list to a listserv-type

mode of communication, so that others can post and share information. Adam suggested the Humanities Commons as a possible venue (<https://hcommons.org/groups/>). It was agreed that Becky would look into Humanities Commons and Google Groups and transition the email list to whichever seemed more appropriate.

6. Nominations for the AIA speakers' program

Jon Frey was nominated in 2017 but was never contacted. It was agreed that we would nominate him again for 2018, and that Becky would follow up to make sure the nomination is received.

7. Follow-up from the 2017 interest group meeting

Last year, concern was raised about the editorial scope of the American Journal of Archaeology, which is 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” (emphasis mine, <http://www.ajaonline.org/submissions/editorial-policy>, accessed 1/10/2018). Members were concerned that papers dealing with medieval and post-medieval archaeology would not be treated fairly by the AJA editorial staff, and may in fact be denied consideration solely on the basis of their temporal focus. It was felt that MAPMA members should have equal access to the AIA's flagship journal, considering the group's status within the AIA and the interest its sponsored colloquia draw each year.

It was agreed that Becky would draft a letter requesting the temporal scope of the AJA be updated to include the medieval and post-medieval periods. The letter will be circulated to the MAPMA membership for feedback before submitting it to the current Editor-in-Chief, Jane Carter. The idea of approaching the AIA Council was raised, but set aside for the time being.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Seifried, January 10, 2018.