

Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology Interest Group
Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada
January 6, 2017

In attendance: Deb Brown Stewart (chair), Gunder Varinlioglu, Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory, Tim Gregory, Natalie Chamitz, Angelo Vivona, Grant Schrama, Glenn Bugh, Rebecca Seifried, Wayne Lee, Lucie Wall Stylianopoulos, Mark D. Hammond, Jon Frey

After Deb called the meeting to order, attendees introduced themselves. The group welcomed a number of first-time attendees.

Members reported on the inclusion of medieval and post-medieval archaeology in the national meetings most often attended by MAPMA members: ASOR hosted a number of sessions including Archaeology of the Byzantine Near East, Archaeology of Islamic Society, Archaeology of Monasticism, and Archaeology of the Crusaders. Still very few sessions or papers offered at the Byzantine Studies Association of North America conference. Members are encouraged to organize panels at these conferences. Gunder highlighted two conferences that will be held in Istanbul in coming years: the Sevgi Gönül Byzantine Studies Symposium (2019, by invitation only) and the International Congress of Byzantine Studies (2021). She raised the possibility of encouraging MAPMA members to participate in these events.

Because of the lively discussion that concluded the morning's MAPMA-sponsored colloquium, Interwoven Lives, it was quickly decided that the proposal for the 2018 AIA annual meetings would be something on the Venetians, possible title "The Venetians Abroad." New member Grant Schrama volunteered to be colloquiarch, and Deb offered to assist or serve as co-colloquiarch. The call for papers will be circulated to membership for wider distribution in early February. The topic of "Ottomans" was added to the list of panel ideas discussed in previous MAPMA meetings.

The group nominated Jon Frey from Michigan State University for the national AIA Lecture Program. Jon Frey later joined the meeting and thanked the group for the nomination.

The group nominated and elected unanimously Rebecca Seifried as new chairperson, who will serve through the AIA Annual Meeting, January 2020.

Deb reported that a MAPMA member submitted a manuscript to the American Journal of Archaeology but received a rejection without the manuscript going to peer review, because the editors considered the content on Byzantine material in the Aegean "out of the scope." When the author questioned a member of the editorial board, the response was that the AJA was concerned that articles about post-classical materials would not be of interest to its membership. The AJA editorial policy states: "The scope of the AJA is defined by the Governing Board of the AIA as 'the art and archaeology of ancient Europe and the Mediterranean world, including the Near East and Egypt, from prehistoric to Late Antique times.'"

(<http://www.ajaonline.org/submissions/editorial-policy>, accessed online 2/12/2017) Despite this

statement, the AJA has published many articles about post-classical material since its founding, even as recently as April 2016. The group was concerned that some AIA members object to AIA's activities going beyond "classical archaeology," and Wayne suggested that the scope of the AIA's mission might be a topic of conversation at the AIA Council meeting. It was agreed that Deb and Rebecca would draft a letter requesting that the scope of the AJA be expanded to include medieval and post-medieval archaeology for circulation to the MAPMA membership.