

Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology Interest Group
Archaeological Institute of America, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
January 10, 2015, 7-8AM

Attending: Deb Brown Stewart, Amelia Brown, Adam Rabinowitz, Lucie Stylianopoulos, Rebecca Seifried, Rebecca Ingram, Michael Jones (regrets from Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory, Tim Gregory, Kostis Kourelis)

After calling the meeting to order, Deb briefly explained the mission of the interest group. Attendees introduced themselves.

Deb reported on the inclusion of medieval and post-medieval archaeology in the national meetings most often attended by MAPMA members. A number of papers on MAPMA-related topics were featured at this year's AIA/SCS annual meeting, including papers by MAPMA member Rebecca Seifried in a session on peripheries and by Effie Athanassopoulos on imaging. Friday's session on "The East in Late Antiquity" and the colloquium "Byzantine Maritime Trade and Technology," co-sponsored by MAPMA and the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, were both well-attended. Colloquium organizers Rebecca Ingram and Michael Jones were congratulated for their successful panel. Members were encouraged to attend the Saturday-afternoon workshop on "Projections for the Future: Best Practices for the Preservation and Publication of Geospatial Data," to be led by Adam Rabinowitz and Jim Newhard.

Deb expressed concern that archaeological research is still not well-represented at the Byzantine Studies Conference, as evidenced by only one session "Byzantine Archaeology and Numismatics" and a few scattered papers at the most recent BSC, November 6-9, 2014, Vancouver.

ASOR annual meetings will include a 3-year panel concerned with the comparative archaeology of monasticism, a topic that had been proposed for an AIA colloquium and that found a home at ASOR thanks to the work of Asa Eger, Darlene Brooks-Hedstrom, and Fotini Kondyli. At the last ASOR annual meeting in November 2014, the panel focused on "Archaeology of Monasticism: Geographical and chronological variations" with papers based on fieldwork in Egypt, Israel, and Cyprus. In 2015, the topic will be "Interactions Between and Within Monastic Settlements" and, in 2016, "Monastic Builders, Construction Methods, Resources."

There was a brief discussion about Modern Greek Studies Association, scheduled for October in Atlanta, as another venue for MAPMA members to present individually or collectively. Amelia and Deb pointed out the short deadlines for those who are interested: January 15 for individual proposals, January 31 for panel proposals.

Having had notable successes with MAPMA colloquia at past AIA annual meetings, Deb asked for ideas for a colloquium at the 2016 meetings. Idea still on the table from previous business meetings was "Teaching the Post-Classical," but another idea that had emerged through a Facebook thread was "Deserted Villages." A number of MAPMA members have already volunteered or would be potential participants (indicating interest already: Kostis Kourelis and team, Bill Caraher and David Pettegrew, Lita and Tim Gregory, Guy Sanders and James Herbst, Dimitri Nakassis, Rebecca Seifried, Fotini Kondyli, Bob

Ousterhout) who offered papers on new fieldwork surveys, documentation, and historic preservation issues. Adam pointed out that historic preservation and cultural heritage at-risk are topics of great interest to the AIA as of late, and he recommended that the colloquium include paper(s) on sites in Syria. Because of the number of potential presenters interested, it was decided that Deb would send out a wide Call For Papers and then narrow the selection based on the best combination. Deb agreed to have CFP on “Deserted Villages” out to MAPMA membership by late January/early February. [Note: after the business meeting but while most of the participants were still present, other ideas were discussed: trade and cultural exchange between the Far East and the Mediterranean; Vikings and Byzantium; color and light in Byzantine art (something Effie had discussed with Deb at the Byz Maritime Trade session)]

At the request of Laurel Sparks (the Lecture and Fellowship Coordinator for national AIA), Deb asked for recommendations of good public speakers for the national AIA Lecture Program. Renata Holod and Fotini Kondyli were nominated, and their names will be submitted to Laurel for consideration by the Lecture Program Committee.

Lucie Stylianopoulos and Adam Rabinowitz gave an explanation and update on the metadata standard ArchaeoCore and the development of the Archaeological Resource Cataloging System (ARCS). ARCS won an NEH Digital Implementation Grant that will provide support further development and implementation during the next three years. Adam reported that data from Chersonesos will be among the three case studies supported by the grant.

Adam announced that Ece Turnator, CLIR/Mellon post-doc at UT Austin, is organizing a workshop “Linking the Middle Ages” in May.