

# Medieval and Post Medieval Archaeology in the Mediterranean ~ an official interest group of the archaeological institute of america

## Minutes: Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting 2010

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POSTED BY BILL CARAHER IN MINUTES

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### **Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology in Greece (MAPMAG) Interest Group Archaeological Institute of America, Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA**

#### **Attending**

Leonid A. Beliaev, Nikolaj Makarov, Joey Savino, Elizabeth Barber, Glenn Bugh, Kathleen Quinn, Adam Rabinowitz, Michelle Hobart, Timothy Gregory, Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory, Mark Hammond, Anne McCabe, Amelia Brown, Guy Sanders, Tom Gallant, Kostis Kourelis

#### **I. Introduction**

Kostis, who chaired the meeting in David's place, welcomed members to the 2010 AIA IG business meeting and gave a brief overview of the group and its activities since 2005. People briefly introduced themselves and their connection to medieval and post-medieval archaeology. In addition to returning members, we had scholars join us who work in Crimea, Russia, and Italy.

#### **II. Report on the Activities of the Group**

Kostis reported on the activities of the group in 2009. The session that we decided to move forward with in January 2009 (comparative history of monasticism) was shelved for a later date.

The group did sponsor and implement two sessions this year: the "First Out: Late Levels of Early Sites," which was our session for AIA 2010, and "City, Village, Monastery," a session at the Modern Greek Studies Association biennial symposium in Vancouver. The latter represented our one foray beyond the AIA and went well enough that we would consider doing another MGSA session at the next meeting in two years (probably to be held in Athens).

Kostis also reported that the 2007 AIA session on abandonment will be published in the *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* in 2010. The papers are now in press, and going through proof stage. Look for this special issue by the end of the year.

### III. Election of Chair

The next order of business was to elect a new chair. David Pettegrew will complete his third year on March 31. After asking for nominations, the group elected Amelia Brown as the new chair of the group. The position will begin on April 1, 2010 and last through March 31, 2013.

### IV. MAPMAG Sessions for 2010-2011

The next major order of business was to make decisions on future sessions at the AIA and other conferences. Our past sessions have included Abandonment of the Post-Classical Countryside (AIA 2007); the Archaeology of Cyprus (BSC 2006); the Archaeology of the Greek-American experience (AIA 2008); City, Village, Monastery in Greece (MGSA 2009); and First Out (AIA 2010).

Kostis also reviewed ideas proposed during previous sessions of the IG business meeting that had not yet been implemented.

1. Teaching the History of the Post-Classical World, a proposal made by Bill Caraher several years ago and centering on how we teach this period to our students.
2. Post-Antique Travelers to Greece: an idea proposed last year by Jon Frey in 2009.
3. Archaeology of National Identity in Greece: a colloquium proposed by Effie Athanassopoulos.
4. The Comparative Archaeology of Monasticism, proposed by Heather Grossman at the 2009 AIA

Kostis reminded the group that the challenge of proposing an idea is to organize it by the March due date for symposia and colloquia.

After this review, the group considered two main ideas about an **Archaeological Institute of America** session for next year:

1. Several people (Adam and Guy) suggested a session centered on the peripheries of the post-classical Greek / Byzantine world as for example, the Black Sea and Italy. There are obvious problems of definition here, such as how to center and limit the topic (one idea is to focus on the peripheral Greek world beyond Greece). Some people liked the idea of also considering non-Greek speakers in post-antique Greece.

1. Kostis and Amelia suggested the colloquium on post-antique travelers to Greece.

Amelia proposed that we implement the post-antique travelers session for San Antonio 2011 and kindly agreed to help David Pettegrew and Jon Frey with organizing it. Adam suggested that we reconsider the peripheries idea at the AIA next year for implementing at the AIA 2012 in Philadelphia.

Kostis asked the group to make recommendations for speakers to Amelia for post-antique travelers to Greece, and to Adam for the peripheries of the post-Classical world. Although no one had recommendations, Kostis asked that people contact Amelia and Adam if they could think of anyone to invite.

The group also briefly considered another session at the **Byzantine Studies Conference**. Kostis proposed continuing the idea of the First Out session, and that we continue to talk about this idea in the next couple of months.

Finally, Tom Gallant suggested that we run the Archaeology of National Identity session at the **Modern Greek Studies Association** biennial symposium in 2011 (probably in Athens, San Diego, or Princeton), perhaps in conjunction with a session centered around Yannis Hamilakis' recent book, *The Nation and its Ruins: Antiquity, Archaeology, and National Imagination in Greece* (OUP 2007).

Tom also suggested we consider hosting a session some time at the American Historical Association.

## V. Promoting the Visibility and Goals of the Group

The final main issue on the agenda was promoting the visibility of the group and its goals beyond the AIA. Kostis noted that the group's first five years had been directed to promoting medieval and post-medieval archaeology both within the AIA and at other conferences. Beyond taking MAPMAG interests to other conferences (see above), how could we expand the work and mission of the group? How could we reach out to a broader public?

There was again some discussion about why we were simply an "archaeology of Greece" interest group. Kostis reviewed the history of this: the IG was formed as a group of colleagues who worked together in Greece and conducted fieldwork within a common research context (e.g., securing permits from the Greek Ministry of Culture and working under the umbrella of the American School of Classical Studies). However, after forming the group and establishing a charter the first year, there was some concern (at the BSC) that it represented a bastion for some kind of Greek nationalism. In response, we chose a more inclusive name ("archaeology of the Eastern Mediterranean") but the AIA said that we could not make the change officially unless we dissolved the original charter. So the group remains, officially, the interest group of "Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology of Greece" but has in its outlook broader interests.

There are also logistical problems with reaching out: Medievalist archaeologists interested in Turkey tend to go to ASOR; historians tend to go to the American Historical Association. Even still, there is a real need to reach beyond the AIA. Beyond the conferences noted above, some proposed sessions at **Medieval conferences in the UK and Europe**. We agreed that we would post links at the SQUINCH website dedicated to other conferences and organizations that cover similar ground. Anyone who has suggested links should contact Bill Caraher, the site manager.

Beyond conferencing, there was considerable discussion about the value of **social networking** in establishing connections between scholars working on the post-antique Greek world. Guy noted that many people are unaware of other researchers outside of their own circles. We need a means of establishing contacts. Kostis suggested that it would be easy to set up a Facebook page dedicated to the group which would at least allow different networks of scholars to contact one another.

There was also some discussion of the potential of the **SQUINCH website** to create connections. We currently use the website to post announcements, podcasts, and minutes, and we considered at one point, anyway, data sharing and the like. Anyone interested in using digital media for promoting the group can speak to Bill Caraher.

A final idea we considered was setting up a summer program in Greece through the Gennadeion and perhaps in conjunction with Dumbarton Oaks (if DO has interest). Guy, Glenn, and Anne suggested that we might lead undergraduates and grad students on tours of post-classical sites (e.g., Frankish Corinth, Monemvasia, etc...) in Greece as a way of reaching out to individuals who do not normally take place in the American School of Classical Studies' summer program. As the Medieval Greek program at the Gennadeion is every other year, Amelia suggested that we could use the alternate year for such a

program. Guy and Anne both said they would support this in Athens and Corinth. Kostis noted that should also consider an archaeological project in Greece or Cyprus for students interested in Byzantine history. Tim recommended that we be more creative in involving students in post-antique studies and noted as one example the NEH program for college teachers that he ran a number of years ago at Isthmia which created real enthusiasm among students.

Submitted by David K. Pettegrew.

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