

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 2007

07 Sunday, Jan 2007

POSTED BY BILL CARAHER IN MINUTES

≈ LEAVE A COMMENT

Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology in Greece Interest Group
Archaeological Institute of America, Annual Meetings, San Diego, CA

ATTENDING

William R. Caraher, Jack Davis, John Frey, Sandra Garvie-Lok, Phyllis Graham, Timothy E. Gregory, Kostis Kourelis, Sarah Lepinski, Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory, Camilla MacKay, Scott Moore, Mark Rose

MINUTES

I. Introduction

History of the Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology Group, how it came into being and activities to-date: discussions over ouzo at Ancient Corinth (July 2005); brain-storming meeting at AIA in Boston (January 2005); IG application submission (February 2005); IG recognition by the AIA Professional Responsibilities Committee (May 2005); meeting at the Byzantine Studies Conference, Athens, Ga. (October 2005); meeting at ASOR conference in Philadelphia (November 2005); rejection for sponsored colloquium at AIA in Montreal and inability to have an official meeting (January 2006); first sponsored colloquium at AIA in San Diego, "Abandoned Countryside: (Re)Settlement in the Archaeological Narrative of the Post-Classical Mediterranean" (January 2007).

II. Conferences

Two ideas were proposed for the 2008 AIA Meetings in Chicago: 1) Archaeology and Early Travelers; 2) Modern-Greek Diasporas and Archaeology. The latter was discussed further. It takes advantage of the meeting location in Chicago. Kourelis pitched the idea and summarized recent developments in Greek-American archaeology (Colorado Coal Field War Project, Ludlow Massacre excavation; rebuilding Eleni Gage's house in Lia, Epeiros, *North of Ithaka* memoir, etc.).

Comments and discussion: Leon Varinakos, cultural attaché of Greek Consulate in Chicago, would be supportive. Question over eighteenth-century Maniate colony in Florida (Leslie Kaplan has done some research). Example of Chinese diaspora current and exciting scholarship. Investigate material culture of Greektown, Hall House. No reason to limit this to excavated material culture. Look into Ellis Island material. Greeks in the Trans-Continental Railroad in California, Sacramento archival collection. La-Trobe Center of Hellenic Studies. Should focus on material culture and its direct contribution to historical studies of the Greek diaspora; it has not been done particularly well. Morea Project village houses built by American labor illustrates transmission of wealth and resources from U.S. to Greece. Economic diasporas in the Pacific and the flow of money. Chronological focus on post-Greek Independence. Interesting to look at older diasporas in Asia Minor. Practical concerns of gathering four-five papers and casting a wide-net of audiences. AIA is trying to think big in terms of public involvement and this would fit well. Contact Hellenic-American Museum in Chicago. Consider popular culture and the caricature of the Greek-American, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. Importance of Greek café culture in Australia (upcoming exhibition at Hellenic-American Museum). Transfer of ideas and practices between Australia and Greece studied by Tzortzopoulou-Gregory. Would be great to have a film festival. ASCSA has restored a film from the late 1940s, *Triumph over Time*, researched by Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan and upcoming article.

The Group will sponsor a session at the Byzantine Studies Conference in Toronto (October 2007) on Cypriot archaeology, organized by William R. Caraher. Sherry Fox and Sandra Garvie-Lok should have results from late-antique burials. Report on 2005 BSC, Athens, meeting.

II. Question of Name

Discussion over renaming the IG from "Greek" to "Mediterranean," "Eastern Mediterranean," or "Balkans." Extensive overview of Ottoman archaeology in Turkey, Filiz Yenişhiroğlu, *Turcica* 37 (2005), pp. 246-265. Must consider conflicts of interest with other AIA IGs covering Eastern Europe/Eurasia, Europe and Near East. Practically speaking focus will stay in Greece, but renaming would be a good symbolic gesture. Choice of "Mediterranean" would unfortunately exclude the Black Sea.

III. Byzantine Studies Conference solidus prize terminated

Summarized the history of the Constantinian graduate student coin prize. In 2005 it was awarded to one of our members, Günder Varinoğlu. We staged a concerted campaign to terminate the prize as violating the ethical codes on illegal antiquities trade prescribed by the AIA. Panel on archaeological ethics, BSC 2006, Saint Louis. Our campaign was successful, the BSC Governing Board terminated the gift. A copy of the *Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium* will be awarded instead.

IV. Governance

Election of chair. David Pettegrew was nominated and elected in absentia.

V. Future Forum Ideas

William Caraher: Coordinating teaching material, "Teaching Medieval and Post-Medieval Greece: Its Place in the Master Narrative: An Electronic Round Table." Discussing the relevance of medieval and post-medieval archaeology in the grand historical narrative, especially in high school education. *Journal of American History* on-line round-table prototype.

William Caraher: The website: <http://www.und.squinch.edu>. Basic announcements, occasional blog, member list, external links, bibliographies. The University of North Dakota contributes web infrastructure, possibly 500 gigabytes and a server. Mark Rose discussed new directions for AIA website and IG sub-groups.

Mark Rose: Tour of the Peloponnese article for *Archaeology* magazine, 20-page PDF (500 words per site and a couple of photographs). Perhaps it can be divided up among members. Guide to Domus Aurea is the only comparable example.

Camilla MacKay: Will report on CoHSL, the Consortium of Hellenic Studies Librarians. This new group has met at Princeton (April 2004), the Center of Hellenic Studies, Washington, D.C. (November 2004), Harvard (February 2006) and, most recently at the Gennadeios Library (December 2006). Deb Brown has also attended some of these meetings and will report on the group's activities.

Phyllis Graham: Lists of field projects would be great for the website. Part of our initial idea, but must do more work in creating the information infrastructure.

Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory: Interested in creating a place in the website relating to Greek cemetery studies across space and time.

Kostis Kourelis

[Blog at WordPress.com.](#)