

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE *of* AMERICA

SITE PRESERVATION

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The ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE of AMERICA's Site Preservation Program works to safeguard the world's archaeological heritage through direct preservation; through outreach and education that raises awareness of the threats to cultural heritage; by facilitating the spread of the best practices employed to combat the destruction of archaeological sites; and through advocacy for the protection and preservation of our past.

WHY THE AIA?

Initiated in 2007, the AIA's Site Preservation Program is an important component of the Institute's commitment to protecting the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations. The program's main tenet is that site preservation is achieved not only through direct preservation, consolidation, and conservation of archaeological remains but also through raising local and global public awareness of the issues surrounding the destruction of archaeological sites. The program actively encourages and educates local communities to get involved in the preservation of their cultural heritage and supports endeavors that benefit both the site and the local community.

The program's unique and innovative approach to site preservation combines direct funding for preservation with outreach, education, and advocacy. The AIA promotes site preservation through its important and well-established outreach tools:

- A **membership** of over 200,000 individuals comprised of both professionals and interested members of the public
- Popular **programs**, including a **National Lecture Program** and an **Annual Meeting** for professionals and scholars, that reach tens of thousands of people every year
- **Websites** that currently reach over 1 million unique users annually
- The Institute's award winning **publications**, including *Archaeology* magazine with an annual readership of over 750,000 and the *American Journal of Archaeology*, the leading scholarly journal dealing with the archaeology of the Classical world;
- Over one hundred **local societies** that reach out to their communities through lectures, field trips, local tours, symposia, film festivals, study groups, and more throughout the United States, Canada and abroad;
- **Advocacy** of behalf of issues supporting the preservation of archaeological sites and cultural heritage;
- The creation and dissemination of **educational materials** for people of all ages, including K-12 students.



Did you know?

The AIA was chartered by Congress in 1906 in recognition of its work in fostering the *Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities*, a legal cornerstone in the protection of archaeological sites in the United States. Today, the AIA has moved beyond national boundaries and advocates for the protection of archaeological sites worldwide.

PAUL RISSMAN, Archaeologist, Site Preservation Committee Chairman, AIA Trustee

Dear friends of archaeology,

I am pleased to present for your examination the first annual report of the AIA Site Preservation Program. The AIA has always been an advocate for site preservation; indeed we received our congressional charter in 1906 in recognition of our efforts to help pass the Antiquities Act. Site preservation at the AIA was given renewed impetus in 2007 when an anonymous challenge grant helped the Institute raise a half million dollars for site preservation. Since then, the AIA has helped protect, reconstruct and sustain sites ranging from a temple in Turkey associated with the goddess Athena, to the statues of Easter Island, to a site in Texas that has produced 60% of all known Clovis period artifacts.



“The number of sites needing preservation may seem daunting, but with the AIA’s approach of preserving sites through not only conservation but also outreach, we can educate millions of people to care for their heritage sites.”

Direct grants for preservation are only one part of the AIA’s program. Using our outreach capabilities such as our websites, *Archaeology* magazine that reaches more than 750,000 readers annually, and 107 grass-roots local societies, we uniquely spread the message about the need to save the world’s vanishing heritage. Working with tour operators, we have formulated a code for responsible archaeological tourism. We provide cultural training for soldiers going overseas to archaeologically sensitive areas. We sponsor awards for best practices in site preservation as well as workshops and seminars at our Annual Meetings.

My passion for protecting archaeological sites goes beyond my personal interest in them to an overarching need to preserve the past for humanity in general. Long after a group of people has passed on, their memory remains in the things they left behind, many of them cherished. Once these memories are gone forever, recalling that archaeological sites do not regenerate themselves, an individual, a family, a village or a city is truly and completely obliterated. Without cultural heritage, without a history to show us how far (or not) we have come, can we really judge that the direction in which we are progressing is correct? I would rather not have to find out.

The number of sites needing preservation may seem daunting, but with the AIA’s approach of preserving sites through not only conservation but also through outreach, we can educate millions of people to care for their heritage sites. By widely disseminating a preservation model that integrates state of the art technical methods with local cooperation and appreciation for heritage, we believe we can enlist far larger numbers to provide help. But we can only do so with further support. I invite you to join us in this endeavor, by volunteering and assisting philanthropically, so that you will not have to stand with so many others, muttering “what a shame,” as daily more of what our ancestors would teach us about themselves and ourselves is lost without a trace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Paul Rissman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

GRANTS

A major initiative of the Site Preservation Program provides grants of up to \$25,000 to innovative projects that preserve archaeological sites through conservation efforts and also emphasize outreach, education and community involvement. Grant winners work to preserve sites and create a positive impact on the local community, students and the discipline of archaeology as a whole. The AIA also works with grant recipients to raise public awareness of the significance of their archaeological sites and the threats they face, to implement and disseminate best practices, and encourage increased support for preservation efforts. The AIA currently supports six projects around the world.

GAULT



Awarded in April 2010

Continuously occupied by humans for 14,000 years, the Gault Site in central Texas is regarded as one of the premier archaeological sites for helping us to understand the arrival of native peoples to the Americas. The site, however, is threatened by looting and vandalism.

A \$16,000 grant from the AIA will support the Gault School of Archaeological Research's exceptional public outreach and education programs that reach thousands of people annually to inform them about the archaeological and historical significance of Gault and the importance of site preservation. Gault's emphasis on site preservation through outreach programs will instill a sense of stewardship within visitors and will be instrumental in curbing looting at this artifact-rich site (over 2.6 million artifacts have been excavated at the site in the last decade).

Project Director: D. Clarke Wernecke

KISSONERGA

A \$7,000 award from the AIA will be used in Kissonerga, Cyprus, to create physical and virtual 3-D models of architectural components and artifacts associated with a prehistoric roundhouse. Funds will also be used to film the construction of a replica of the roundhouse. Through this project, the prehistoric archaeological sites in Cyprus will become a more tangible component of the island's prehistoric narrative.



A unique aspect of this project is that a portion of our grant will pay for a traditional Cypriot barbecue for local residents who spend a day helping at the site—Project Director Lindy Crewe states that the local villagers will lend much needed muscle power to raise the roof on the reconstructed roundhouse. She hopes that the day spent at the site will help area residents connect with the site on a personal level and in turn become better stewards of their heritage.

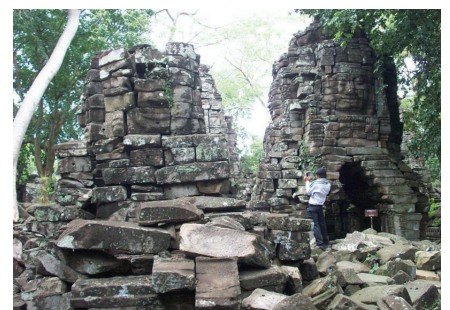
Project Director: Lindy Crewe

BANTEAY CHHMAR

With \$23,100 in grant funding from the AIA, Heritage Watch, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Southeast Asia's cultural heritage, will provide community development and educational programming for local residents and encourage their participation in promoting and preserving the 12th century temple site of Banteay Chhmar.

One of the goals of the program is to ensure that the benefits of tourism are filtered back into the local community. Local residents will receive English language instruction and be trained as tour guides. Outreach programs open to the entire community will increase awareness of the significance of the site both as a part of the regional cultural heritage and as a source of economic opportunity. Educating people about the benefits of protecting the site will secure the long term protection of Banteay Chhmar.

Project Director: Dougal O'Reilly



EASTER ISLAND

The Easter Island (Rapa Nui) National Park is the world's largest archaeological sculpture garden and a World Heritage Site famous for its nearly one thousand giant head sculptures, known as *moai*. The AIA awarded the Easter Island Statue Project \$94,000 in conservation funding to be used for the maintenance and cleaning of the ancient monoliths as well as excavation, documentation and conservation of the site.

The Easter Island Statue Project was the first project to receive a permit directly from the indigenous population of Rapa Nui.

Project Director: Jo Anne Van Tilburg



ASSOS

In Assos, Turkey, where Aristotle lived from 346-344 BC, the AIA is funding the preservation of the 2,500-year-old temple of Athena. The AIA awarded \$112,000 for the survey and restoration of the ancient site. The funding will also be used for the re-creation of temple reliefs to be displayed at the site. The original reliefs are currently housed in the Archaeological Museum of Istanbul.

The project's main goals are to preserve the temple's original remains and to make this important archaeological site more intelligible for visitors.

Project Director: Nurettin Arslan



SAN JOSÉ DE MORO



The AIA's Site Preservation Program financially supports the Sustainable Preservation Initiative (SPI).

SPI awarded its first grant in

March 2010 for artisanal and touristic development around the Moche cemetery site of San José de Moro, on the north coast of Peru ("Moro"). The Moro development plan includes a crafts workshop, store and exhibition area.

Project Director: Luis Jaime

Current AIA Site Preservation Projects



AWARDS FOR BEST PRACTICES IN SITE PRESERVATION

AIA's *Awards for Best Practices in Site Preservation* are presented to groups or projects recognized by their peers for doing outstanding work in the field of site preservation and conservation. Each year the Institute selects projects that exemplify the mission of AIA's Site Preservation Program and present them with awards of \$5,000 for furthering their activities and programs. Nominations for the awards are submitted by professionals in the field and winners are selected by a committee of archaeologists, conservators, and heritage specialists. Our first award will be given in 2011 at the 112th AIA Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The AIA strongly believes that the future of our archaeological heritage rests with an informed public. To achieve this we create and present outreach and education programs for people of all ages and interest levels.

Children and Families

The AIA designs site preservation themed activities appropriate for children and families. In 2009 and 2010 these activities were presented to thousands of children and adults at three archaeology fairs organized by the AIA and its local societies. Young advocates for the protection of archaeological sites made bumper stickers with slogans such as, "Give a Hoot—Don't Loot" and "Save Our Sites," while learning about different threats to archaeological sites. Attendees also learned about the importance of proper archaeological excavation by participating in hands-on activities in the AIA's Context Corner.

K-12 Education

The Institute is reaching tens of thousands of students through lesson plans created to accompany the exhibit, "Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs" at the Discovery Times Square Exposition in New York City and at the de Young Museum in San Francisco. The lesson plans conform to California and New York State curriculum standards and are available on the AIA website.

Troop Lectures

An important initiative of the Site Preservation Program, established by current AIA President, Dr. C. Brian Rose, sends lecturers to U.S. bases that deploy troops overseas, especially to Iraq and Afghanistan. The lecturers discuss the civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia and Afghanistan and provide overviews of the sites and archaeological discoveries in these areas. To date the program has reached 10,000 troops, fostering in them a deeper understanding of the ancient cultures with which they will come into contact.

Workshops

The AIA organizes and sponsors site preservation related workshops. A recent one in Anaheim, California, discussed the effects of globalization, increased tourism, climate change and warfare on archaeological sites. Panelists addressed the evolution of concepts like sustainability, tourism, shared stewardship and conservation amidst almost constant social and environmental change and the effects of fundamentalism and globalization on sites. Panelists described how archaeologists and site managers could best respond to these changes and commented on current practices in the field of site preservation.

In 2009, the AIA also supported an independent workshop on "Heritage in Conflict and Consensus" organized by Drs. Neil Silberman and Elizabeth Chilton and held at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The workshop endeavored to go beyond identifying contemporary heritage issues to finding solutions on how to present multifaceted perspectives of the past to modern audiences.

Our next workshop, at the 2012 AIA Annual Meeting will highlight our grant supported projects.



ADVOCACY

The AIA utilizes its membership of over 200,000 individuals to advocate for the preservation of sites at a national and international level. In the last year, AIA advocacy efforts included: sending members to testify in Washington D.C. to the U.S. Cultural Property Advisory Committee, letter writing campaigns, joining the Cultural Resources Preservation Coalition (which brings together groups with similar interests to share information and maximize advocacy efforts), and creating website materials to explain many preservation related legislative issues to general audiences.

In April 2010, the AIA led an initiative to send hundreds of letters to the Cultural Property Advisory Committee in support of renewing the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Italy that restricts the import of archaeological materials from Italy into the U.S.

MORE RESOURCES

The Site Preservation Program creates and distributes resources to diverse groups from tourists to professionals who encounter site preservation issues in a wide variety of circumstances. All of these materials are available on our website at archaeological.org/sitepreservation.

Tourism Guidelines

The AIA and the Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA)—a membership organization of over 500 tour operators—teamed up to create a set of basic guidelines for visiting archaeological sites and for leading tours to these destinations. The recent expansion of global tourism and increasing interest in out-of-the-ordinary travel experiences have resulted in more visits to archaeological sites and historical places. Many archaeological sites, however, have not made the changes needed to counteract the effects of increased traffic through fragile and irreplaceable archaeological sites. The guidelines were created to address this situation and to inform tour operators, tour guides and tourists about the steps they could take to minimize their impact on archaeological sites.

For Landowners

Archaeological sites located on private property in the

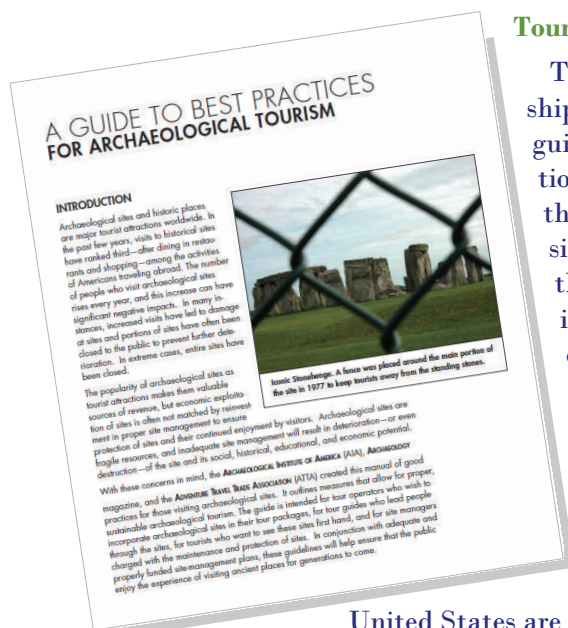
United States are under the authority of the landowner. The AIA provides preservation information for owners with archaeological sites on their land and encourages them to protect and preserve the sites.

Heritage, Conservation & Archaeology

An original series of essays published on the AIA's Site Preservation website, *Heritage, Conservation, and Archaeology* brings together preservation specialists across many disciplines in a forum for professional discussion. This unique series gives authors the opportunity to write critical pieces, raise concerns, share experiences, and provide readers with the opportunity to comment and discuss.

Outside Funding Sources

The AIA maintains a list of outside preservation related grants as a resource for people involved in site preservation at archaeological sites.



Every Donation Matters—Where the Money Goes

\$25 Daily vehicle rental for conservators in Kissonerga, Cyprus

\$50 Daily wage for a restorer in Assos, Turkey

\$75 Weekly wage for an English teacher providing language training for tour guides in Cambodia

\$100 Accommodation for a lecturer speaking to US Troops prior to their deployment

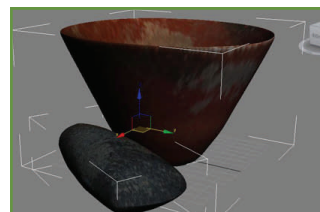
\$250 Site Preservation activity at an Archaeology Fair

\$500 Workshop for local community members on stewardship

\$1000 Expenses for a 3-day teacher conference in Texas

\$2000 Graphic design for creating a virtual 3-D roundhouse and associated artifacts in Cyprus

\$5000 One AIA Best Practices in Site Preservation Award (see p. 6)



\$25,000 **One Site Preservation Grant** (see p. 4)

THE AIA SITE PRESERVATION PROGRAM WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Founder's Circle (100,000+)

Anonymous

President's Council (25,000+)

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