

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA  
SAN FRANCISCO SOCIETY  
SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER**



Sunday, January 30, 2011, 2 PM  
370 Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley

Professor Ronald Stroud, Professor Emeritus, Department of Classics, UC Berkeley  
AIA Norton Lecturer

***Magic and Religion in Ancient Corinth***

Located at the narrowest part of the Greek peninsula and controlling land and sea traffic in all four directions, Corinth became famous as one of the greatest commercial centers in the ancient world. Her mighty rock fortress of Acrocorinth also made her almost impervious to attack. She was a prime player in all the important historical events of antiquity, succumbing at one point to destruction by the Roman armies in 146 BC and abandonment for roughly a century, but later revived by Julius Caesar to become a provincial capital and once again a thriving center of trade and culture.

From at least as early as legendary times Corinth also had a reputation as a center for magic and the occult. She was the venue for some of the most striking adventures of the most notorious witch in Greece, Medea. Many tales about ghosts, haunted houses, the supernatural, and monsters were set in Corinth. Excavations by the American School of Classical Studies have revealed a "cell" where black magic was practiced at night high up on the slopes of Acrocorinth in the Sanctuary of Demeter and Persephone. It was established at roughly the same time as St. Paul's famous Christian mission to Corinth in the middle of the first century after Christ.

My lecture will present some of the special magical equipment used in these secret activities, as well as the texts incised on lead tablets carrying curses that were deposited in this shrine. Named individuals are singled out for destruction and merit special attention because both writers and targets of many are women.

***SPECIAL AIA EVENT***

Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 6:30 PM (welcome) 7 PM (lecture)  
The City Club, 155 Sansome Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco

***Exiles, Emigrants and Entrepreneurs: An Archaeology of Van Diemen's Land  
(Tasmania)***

Eleanor Conlin Casella  
Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Manchester

The island of Tasmania, long renowned for its unique geology, pristine landscapes, and delicious food and wine, is also home to five Tasmanian Convict Sites which recently achieved UNESCO

World Heritage Listing. In one very special evening, you're invited to explore Tasmania's many layers of history at this event which features a lecture by distinguished archaeologist Eleanor Conlin Casella followed by a reception featuring music, a Tasmanian wine and whiskey tasting and other delicacies from Down Under.

Tickets for this fund-raiser, organized by the AIA national office, are \$25 for AIA members and \$35 for non-members. Fee includes lecture plus reception. To purchase tickets or for more information, please visit <http://www.archaeological.org> or call 617.353.8709. Space is limited; please reply before January 19! More information is available at: <http://archaeological.org/events/3447>.

Sunday, February 27, 2011, 2 PM  
370 Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley

Adrienne Mayor, Research Scholar in Classics and History of Science  
Stanford University

***The Poison King: Mithradates, Rome's Deadliest Enemy***

Mithradates VI of Pontus (134-63 BC) was one of the most colorful kings of antiquity. Hailed as a savior, feared as the Eastern Hannibal, this scientific genius and cold-blooded poisoner fascinated ancient historians and medieval chroniclers. Machivelli studied his tactics; his last hours inspired Mozart's first opera. After his death, Roman emperors and European royalty sought his famous elixir against poisons. Mithradates' amazing story is told by his biographer, Adrienne Mayor, drawing on the latest scientific and archaeological discoveries.

This lecture is co-sponsored with the Department of Classics.

Sunday, April 10, 2011, 2 PM  
370 Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley

Professor Monica Smith, Department of Anthropology, UCLA  
AIA La Follette Lecturer

***Text and Context: The Archaeology of Ancient India***

Over two hundred years of archaeological research in the Indian subcontinent has revealed a fascinating wealth of ancient civilizations. The sophisticated Bronze Age Harappan culture had trading relationships with the Arabian Gulf and with Mesopotamia, as well as an enigmatic script that remains undeciphered. The subsequent Early Historic period witnessed the development of Buddhism, urbanism and a comprehensive writing system. By the 1st century AD, the written tradition included religious texts, poetry, political analyses, and even medical treatises. In this lecture the highlights of ancient India will be explored, including recent results from the international collaborative research project at the ancient city of Sisupalgarh, India.

This lecture is co-sponsored with the Center for South Asia Studies.

Friday, May 6, 2011, 8:00 PM  
370 Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley

Jennifer Trimble, Associate Professor, Department of Classics  
Stanford University

***Recent excavations in the Horrea Agrippiana, Rome:  
Time, labor and ideology***

This talk discusses results of the collaborative excavations in the Roman Forum in Rome, Italy, recently carried out by the American Institute for Roman Culture, Oxford University and Stanford University. The talk will be about the Horrea Agrippiana, a large commercial structure built in the 20s BCE along the Vicus Tuscus, a street between the Roman Forum and the Tiber river. Excavations have illuminated the long life of this building, from its precursors in the Republican period to its destruction by fire and flood in the 7th c. CE. Throughout, it retained a commercial function, but changes over time reflect the rise and then the waning of the city's importance. In particular, the lecture will explore the impact of Augustan building projects on Rome and its inhabitants. The temples and other monuments built by the first emperor and his entourage were said to transform the city from brick into marble (Suetonius, *Augustus* 28), but modern interpretations of this building activity have focused mainly on the finished products. Excavations in the Horrea Agrippiana have provided new evidence of the time, resources and labor required by great building projects like this one. This in turn brings a new perspective to evaluating the impact of Augustus' building program at Rome. The length of time involved, the processes of labor and construction, and the physical experience of construction and transformation had an important ideological impact as well.

*Note: The Spring Reception will take place before this lecture. More information will be available in late March or early April in an email announcement.*

OTHER EVENTS AND LECTURES OF INTEREST IN SPRING 2011

**Sather Classical Lecture series:** “The War for Italia: Conflict and Collective Memory in Vergil's Aeneid” by Alessandro Barchiesi, Visiting Sather Professor of Classical Literature, University of Siena at Arezzo and G. and H. Spogli Professor of Italian Studies, Stanford University. Sponsored by the Department of Classics, UC Berkeley. All lectures are being held on the UC Berkeley campus.

- Thursday, February 24, 8 PM. “Bellum Italicum.” Maude Fife Room (Rm. 315), Wheeler Hall.
- Thursday, March 3, 5:30 PM. “Ennius and the Dark Virgin.” 370 Dwinelle Hall.
- Thursday, March 10, 5:30 PM. “The Mountains.” 370 Dwinelle Hall.
- Thursday, March 17, 5:30 PM. “The Aeneid and the Destiny of Italy.” 370 Dwinelle Hall.

**OTHER EVENTS:**

**Sunday, January 23, 2:30 PM.** “Cecil B. De Mille’s The Ten Commandments: Research and Cultural Compromise in the Making of an Epic” by Katherine Orrison, Film Historian. Room 110 Barrows Hall, UC Berkeley. Sponsored by ARCE, Northern California.

**Saturday, February 26, 2 PM.** “The Art of South Italian Vases” by Keely Heuer, Dietrich von Bothmer Fellow, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Florence Gould Theater, Legion of Honor, 100 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Lincoln Park, San Francisco. Sponsored by the Elios Charitable Foundation, as part of “The Eye of the Painter: Ancient Greek Pottery” series, put on by the Ancient Art Council. See [www.ancientartcouncil.org](http://www.ancientartcouncil.org) for more information.

**For an up-to-date listing of:**

Archaeological Research Facility Events (and related lectures of interest on campus), see: <http://events.berkeley.edu/index.php/calendar/sn/arf.html>.

ARCE-Northern California lectures, see: <http://home.comcast.net/~hebsed/lectures.htm>.

**NEWSLETTERS BY E-MAIL:** Beginning with this newsletter, AIA-SF members will receive an email announcement that the newsletter is available for download from: <http://archaeological.org/societies/sanfrancisco>. This website also lists the AIA-SF lectures.

We are taking this giant leap into cyberspace as a way of trying to save our local society some money, as postage costs continue to increase. Our local society receives annually from the national AIA a few dollars for each regular member and each student member, along with a few hundred dollars to fund lectures and events (e.g., honoraria for local speakers, receptions, housing and local transportation for visiting national lecturers, publication and mailing expenses). We think that it is important for all our members to keep in mind that our local society runs on a shoestring and on the willingness of local members to give generously of their time to help continue our long tradition of excellent public programs. Please consider lending a hand in 2011. And many, many thanks for your continued support and attendance at our local events.

**2010-2011 AIA Officers:**

Kim Shelton, President; Deborah Anderson, Vice President and Program Coordinator; Louise Chu, FAMSF Liaison. For information on spring AIA events or your membership, contact Debbie Anderson (408-255-4842, [dwanders@sonic.net](mailto:dwanders@sonic.net)) or Kim Shelton ([sheltonk@berkeley.edu](mailto:sheltonk@berkeley.edu)).