



KMA KELSEY MUSEUM OF
ARCHAEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

FALL 2010 NEWS



NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Lauren Talalay, *Associate Director*

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Elaine K. Gazda, *Hellenistic and Roman*
Sharon Herbert, *Greek and Hellenistic*
Janet Richards, *Dynastic Egypt*
Margaret Cool Root, *Greek and Near Eastern*
Lauren Talalay, *Academic Outreach*
Terry Wilfong, *Graeco-Roman Egypt*

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Alex Zwinak, *Graduate Program Coordinator*

GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday–Friday 9 am–4 pm
Saturday–Sunday 1 pm–4 pm

INFORMATION

Web site: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/kelsey/>
phone: 734-764-9304
email: kelseymuse@umich.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN REGENTS

Julia Donovan Darlow Andrea Fischer Newman
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Mary Sue Coleman, *ex officio*

Hard as it is to believe, the Upjohn Exhibit Wing has been open nearly a year. In that time we have been discovering on an almost daily basis the new ways this expanded space is enabling us to pursue our public and research missions more effectively.

You will read in this newsletter about the opening of *Vaults of Heaven* in our Edwin E. and Mary U. Meader Special Exhibition Gallery. This is a spectacular show that, thanks to the photographic artistry of Ahmet Ertug, illuminates the interiors of Byzantine churches as never before possible. The current display features metropolitan churches of Istanbul. A second installment, opening Friday, February 4, 2011, will focus on the harder to reach, but nonetheless extraordinary, churches of rural Cappadocia.

The Kelsey curators are busy brainstorming ideas for future shows in this wonderful space. Terry Wilfong is planning a Karanis exhibit to open in fall 2011. We will be consulting with staff from the Duderstadt Center about digital shows in the space for the summer after *Vaults of Heaven, Part II* comes down. Margaret Root has exciting ideas for a show for 2013 or 2014 about how digital media help us both better study and display our artifacts, particularly small items such as seals. We are still exploring a number of intriguing ideas for exhibitions in 2012–2014.

Moving all of our collections to the Upjohn Wing has opened up space in the old building, Newberry Hall, for our public and research programs. On the third floor our conservators are taking advantage of their expanded laboratory space, which has allowed them to bring an intern, LeeAnn Barnes Gordon, a final-year fellow in the University of Delaware's graduate program in art conservation. Other space freed up in the storage area is now being used for a fieldwork lab for Nic Terrenato's Gabii and Chris Ratté's Vani expeditions, while the remainder provides climate-controlled storage for our photographic and documentary archives.

When I left my second-floor office/conference room for luxurious quarters in the ground-floor north turret gallery, that vacated office was turned into fieldwork laboratory space for Janet Richards's excavations at Abydos, Laurie Talalay's project on Euboea, and my own work at Kedesh. Meanwhile, the former Greek and Roman Gallery on the ground floor serves as a public lecture space, which has at least one, and often up to three, events in a week. The former Near Eastern and Egyptian Gallery serves as public programs space. Both galleries can be opened up for large public events. An unexpected benefit of this space is that it can be hired out for other University events, which both creates a revenue source and also introduces the Kelsey and our collections to new audiences. Finally, the Kelsey Museum Associates Shop is flourishing in the old special exhibit gallery.

When we first contemplated the space that would be freed up by moving the collections into the Upjohn Wing, we wondered if we would be able to find uses for it all. Now we know we need not have worried! Personally, my greatest thrill with the new wing is having our collections accessible to students once more. I am teaching "Introduction to Greek Archaeology" this term, and it is wonderful seeing the students in the galleries doing worksheets on actual objects again.

Sharon Herbert, Director



Andrew Boos finds the coin while sweeping Administration Building walls.



A closeup of the sweeping shows the coin's relative size. Photos L. Lindorfer.

KEDESH TEAM FINDS MOST VALUABLE COIN EVER UNCOVERED IN ISRAEL

Sometimes the best things come last. This was certainly true at Tel Kedesh last summer when we found an incredible gold coin nestled between the rocks in a storeroom wall while sweeping for air photographs. This was the final day of a five-season campaign focusing on the Persian and Hellenistic Administration Building (PHAB), which dominates the south end of the tel. It is the only gold coin I have found in forty years of fieldwork. As soon as it came out of the ground, we could see that it carries the image of a Ptolemaic Egyptian queen on its face and a cornucopia and lettering on the back.

Although we knew from the start that this coin was special just from its material and size, it was only after phone calls with our numismatist and circulation of jpeg photographs to Catharine Lorber, one of the world's experts on Ptolemaic gold, that we realized what an extraordinary find we had come upon. The coin weighs in at 27.71 grams, making it a *mmaieion*, the largest denomination issued in the ancient Greek world. Our numismatist, Donald Ariel, estimates that it would have been worth a half-year's salary for a well-to-do individual of its time. In modern terms this would translate to \$100,000–150,000. It is one of only two of its type known and is the most valuable coin ever uncovered in Israel.

After careful cleaning by conservators Claudia Chemello and Suzanne Davis we were able to make out a mint mark of Kition in Cyprus and a regnal year of 14 on the back of the coin as well as the name Arsinoe Philadelphos. Here is where the real detective work begins and the backstory of the findspot of this coin comes into play. How did a coin of this value find its way to a frontier administrative center, and how did it end up inside a wall?

It was the custom of Hellenistic mon-

archs to date their coins annually with the regnal year of their rule. The first question was which Ptolemaic kings minted coins in a 14th regnal year in the time period that the dates of the PHAB and the style of the coin allow? The answer was only one, Ptolemy V, who ruled from 204 to 181 BC, making the date of the coin 191/90 BC. This date was shortly after Ptolemy's marriage to Cleopatra I, the daughter of his archrival Antiochos III, and ten years after Antiochos had stripped Ptolemy of his Palestinian possessions from Tyre south to Ashkelon in a battle not far from Kedesh. The dynastic marriage between Cleopatra and Ptolemy was an attempt to settle the bad feelings between the Ptolemies and the Seleucids and bring the northern frontier settlements, such as Kedesh, more firmly under Seleucid control. It is possible that the coin came to the administrator of Kedesh as something of a peacemaking symbol.

But what about the discovery of the coin tucked into a storeroom wall? A coin worth half a year's salary is not something you overlook losing. We know the PHAB was abandoned by its Graeco-Phoenician administration hastily after the Greeks had lost a battle to the Maccabees in the plain of Kedesh in 145/4 BC. The coin was found in a storeroom wall in the most secure corner of the building, where the archive of important documents was kept. It is not unlikely that other valuables, such as our coin, were stored in this secure corner. In the chaos of the retreat some functionary may have seen the chance to steal the coin and hidden it in the wall, expecting to return to claim it. He, or whoever tucked it in the wall, never did return, and it lay there for over 2,000 years waiting for us to discover on a hot June day in 2010.

Sharon Herbert

COIN'S DISCOVERER TELLS THE TALE Gather around, everyone. I have a story to tell! The day began as any other. Lisa [Cakmak, trench supervisor] and I selflessly volunteered to wake up before sunrise to clean the weeds and eroded soil from the walls and floors of the building in preparation for final aerial photographs. Although the sun was relentless and dust seemingly endless, Lisa and I kept our cheerful attitudes intact. After returning from a particularly delicious second breakfast, we began cleaning the walls along the northwest storeroom. Our focus was so intense we weren't even able to speak to each other as we worked. I crouched under the hot Israeli sun, brush in one hand and dustpan in the other, when suddenly there appeared a bright yellow circle in the dirt. With sweat pouring from my brow, I reached down and picked it up. My hand trembled under the weight of this glimmering object as I puzzled over what it could be. I still hadn't fully realized what it was until I handed it to my partner. We called to Andrea [Berlin, excavation co-director] from across the site, too stunned to say anything other than come here. As she gently brushed the dirt from the coin, we all shared a moment. So, while it's all worth it, the real moral of the story is always volunteer to clean walls.

Andrew Boos, U-Minnesota MA Student



Photo S. Webb



SHOW FEATURES DAZZLING PHOTOGRAPHS OF BYZANTINE CHURCHES

On October 1, nearly 200 guests packed Auditorium D in Angell Hall to hear Dr. Veronica Kalas lecture on “Byzantium in Pictures” before the opening reception for Part I of the Kelsey’s new special exhibition, *Vaults of Heaven: Visions of Byzantium*. Part II will run from February 4 to May 29, 2011. Both parts feature spectacular, ultra-large photographs of the interiors of famous Byzantine churches from the sixth to the fourteenth centuries. Ranging up to 6 feet tall, these breathtaking photographs are on loan to the Kelsey Museum from the renowned Turkish photographer Ahmet Ertug.

Complementing Mr. Ertug’s photographs are several cases of objects drawn from the Kelsey’s collections of Byzantine and Islamic material. These include objects of daily life, vividly colored textile fragments, manuscript pages (on loan from the U-M Museum of Art), ivory inlays, and pilgrim flasks. The Kelsey houses several thousand Byzantine and Islamic objects and works of art, which are rarely on display. *Vaults of Heaven* allows us the opportunity to showcase some of these wonderful pieces.

THE BYZANTINE WORLD

Unlike the Classical and Egyptian worlds, the Byzantine Empire is not well known by the general public. It was, however, one of the main powerhouses of antiquity. From its founding in the early fourth century to its final fall in 1453, the Byzantine Empire was a complex world of powerful and shifting political, social, and religious forces. Although the Byzantine Empire continued many legal and political institutions established by the Romans, several features set them apart. Most significant was the emergence and ascendancy of Christianity.

The Roman Empire had been dominated by pagan religions until the emperor Constantine the Great issued an official mandate of tolerance for Christianity through the Edict of Milan in AD 313. As the first emperor of an increasingly Christian Roman Empire, Constantine also transferred the ancient imperial Roman capital from Italy to Byzantium (modern Istanbul). Renamed Constantinople (“the city of Constantine”), this capital and its growing power effectively divided the old Roman world into two parts: a Christianized Eastern Roman Empire or Byzantium, and the Western Roman Empire. Over time the breach between the two became deeper: the Eastern Empire developed into a culture that we now refer to as Byzantine, with its unique mix of Christian faith, Greek and Roman culture, and eventually Islamic elements.

Christianity had a major impact on not only daily life but also art and architecture in the Byzantine Empire. The new religion exalted the spirit over the body, valued the idea of revelation and preparation for the afterlife, and rewarded pious behavior. These ideas were expressed artistically through a series of specific symbols and narratives. Although art continued, as it had in the Roman world, to serve the state, the state was now intimately intertwined with Christianity.

Ahmet Ertug’s photographs highlight some of the most persistent sacred narratives in Byzantine art: the Annunciation, the Nativity, the Crucifixion, Christ’s Anastasis (“the Harrowing of Hell” or Christ’s release of certain figures from the gates of Hell), and the Dēesis (the figure of Christ flanked by the entreating figures of the Virgin and John the Baptist). Often executed on a monumental scale in both frescoes and mosaics on the walls of

churches, these images served to instruct and inspire the faithful.

Several small display cases in the exhibition work in concert with Mr. Ertug’s photographs: one case highlights a series of gold and silver Byzantine coins, another focuses on the theme of saints and pilgrims, a third on various Christian themes, and the last one on the Islamic world, which became a significant force from the seventh century AD onward.

Taken together, the items on display—both the impressive, large-scale photographs and the smaller-scale objects—offer a window onto the exceptional world of ancient Byzantium.

AHMET ERTUG, PHOTOGRAPHER

A 1974 graduate of the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, Ahmet Ertug began his photographic career in 1972, taking pictures of Caribbean festivals and street life in London. Although he continued to work as an architect, his interest in photography grew throughout the 1970s. In 1979, with the help of a research grant, he traveled throughout Japan, capturing images of ancient Japanese temples, Zen gardens, and festivals.

After his year in Asia, Mr. Ertug returned to Istanbul as an architect for the city’s conservation planning. His increasingly intimate knowledge of Istanbul’s historic quarters inspired him to begin photographing its impressive Byzantine, Ottoman, and Roman remains using a large-format camera. His photographs have been internationally praised for their beauty and “deep meditative energy.” He has been hailed as one of the world’s few living photographers who is “predestined to become a part of history.”

Lauren Talalay



Opposite page:
(left) A guest at the opening examines a photo of the Last Judgment from the ceiling of the parakklesion, Church of Christ of Chora.

(right) Exhibition curator Lauren Talalay (left), speaker Veronica Kalas, and the photographer's brother, Murat Ertug, pose next to a general view of the interior of Hagia Sophia.

Photos S. Encina

This page:
(above) The Anastasis, or the Harrowing of Hell, is depicted in the parakklesion of the Church of Christ of Chora.

(below) View of the central dome of Hagia Sophia and its four supporting arches.

Photos Ahmet Ertug

PUBLIC PROGRAMS NEWS

Life has been busy and exciting for the education staff and docents in the last few months. The new wing has generated a surge of interest in the ancient world and several new initiatives on the part of the Museum. In addition to our usual scheduled tours and Family Days, we have now instituted “drop-in” tours on weekends and several special events that we are calling “activity days.” These activity days feature interactive projects and focus on various topics, ranging from mummies and toys and games to the lives of Roman soldiers and life in ancient Pompeii. All of these events have been highly successful: Family Day attracted 253 attendees, while the activity days had 463 in attendance.

Other recent events have included visits by the Exhibits Museum summer camp, Bible School days at Ann Arbor’s First Presbyterian Church, a program on the ancient world at Temple Beth Emeth, and a wonderful “Ancient Cultures Weekend” in conjunction with the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.

Finally, a special program that Todd Gerring started four years ago at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills is continuing. Todd spends approximately six months working with fifth graders, who first learn about the ancient world and then “curate” their own exhibition at the Kelsey Museum using replicas. The final exhibition is always worth seeing!

Anna Gallone and Marcello Mogetta supervise the lifting of a tufo sarcophagus found in an undisturbed fifth-century BC rock-cut tomb.



SHOPPERS, VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Start your holiday shopping now! The Kelsey Musum Associates Shop now has an abundance of new merchandise, including Egyptian-motif magnets and mirrors, elegant scarves, ties and cuff links, ancient coin reproductions, small-scale sculpture, Roman and Greek key chains, pottery, and reproduction and hand-made necklaces, earrings, and bracelets, and more.

And don't forget all the intriguing, but inexpensive, stocking stuffers we stock, such as Roman helmet-topped pencils, hieroglyph erasers, amulets, mummy bead necklaces and bracelets, volcano putty, scarabs, and arrowheads. We even have a great toddler pull-toy horse, a hand-made copy of one in the Kelsey collections.

If you like shopping and meeting new people, consider becoming a shop volunteer. You'll greet visitors, ring up sales, help price new merchandise, and be eligible for a 10 percent discount on merchandise. Volunteers work 1-4 pm on the day of their choice, Tuesdays through Sundays, once a month or more. For more information, contact Todd Gerring at 734.647.4167 or kelsey muse@umich.edu.

Marlene Goldsmith



THE GABII PROJECT

To learn more about or comment on the Gabii Project, please contact Marcello Mogetta at mogetta@umich.edu or visit the project Web site at <http://sitemaker.umich.edu/gabiiproject/home>

PEDLEY WINNER JOINS GABII TEAM

The fourth season of fieldwork at Gabii confirmed the potential of this primate urban site, located about 12 miles east of Rome, to illuminate the complex trajectory of first-millennium BC urbanism in central Italy. Thanks to the Pedley Award, I was once again able to take part in the entire excavation process, from the preparatory work conducted prior to the dig to the final packing of finds and field equipment and the preliminary planning for the 2011 campaign.

The advance team led by Anna Gallone started its activities on site during the last week of May. One of our goals at that stage was to expand the excavation limits within the U-M permit area, which encompasses one hectare of land right at the center of the walled town. Specifically, we were trying to identify the topographical boundaries of the various buildings to the east and west of the 2009 open area excavation. On the basis of the standing remains and with the aid of the magnetometry survey conducted in 2007 and 2008, we scraped off topsoil with a machine digger and succeeded in defining the exact limits of three contiguous blocks, which conform to the orthogonal master plan of the city. Thus, the dig transect came to measure a stunning 100 by 43 meters—about the size of a football field. After a week of surveying and cleaning, stratigraphic excavations were launched on June 21 and lasted for six weeks, with 65 staff members and volunteers participating.

The results have been extremely informative about the history of Gabii. In the western half of the transect, operations concentrated on two distinct domestic structures, whose occupation stretched (at least) from the mid-Republican period (fourth and third centuries BC) to the early Imperial age (late first century BC), when this sector of the city was partially abandoned for the quarrying of *lapis*

gabinius and eventually obliterated by two levels of late Imperial burials. The architectural remains brought to light in the eastern sector of the excavations belonged mainly to the late Republican period (second–first century BC). Around this time a third-century BC building was repurposed and transformed into an industrial complex, a *fullonica* (i.e., a tannery or laundry shop), which occupied the city block in its entire length. Among the archaeological evidence for earlier phases of Gabii, we discovered a late archaic (early fifth-century BC) rock-cut tomb containing a well-preserved stone sarcophagus. Its recovery and lifting figured among the most exciting moments of this year's campaign, even receiving live coverage by a television crew!

Besides the day-to-day duties on the dig, I also worked on two ongoing projects. The first, funded jointly by the Rackham School and the International Institute (RIRA 2010), deals with the overall reconstruction and dating of the urban layout of Gabii. This involved the collection—with the collaboration of Andrew Johnston (Harvard)—of the stratigraphic data from test trenches excavated across eight different streets of the grid.

The second project, conducted in collaboration with our environmental lab supervisor Laura Motta and Ivan Cangemi of IPCAA, is an experiment in sampling techniques. The aim is to elaborate a series of curves of diminishing return for pottery, faunal, and botanical remains that should help us determine the optimal sample size for artifact-level analysis on a large-scale excavation.

It was a thrilling season for me at Gabii, as I experienced first-hand how fieldwork at the site promises to contribute to substantial advancements in our discipline, both in terms of cultural history and field methodology.

Marcello Mogetta, IPCAA Student

Traianos Gagos at a Kelsey Museum reception, ca. 2007.



IN MEMORIAM

TRAIANOS GAGOS (1960–2010)

Traianos Gagos—colleague, teacher, and friend to many of us in the Kelsey Museum community—died unexpectedly of natural causes at the age of 49 on April 26, 2010. Traianos was Professor of Greek and Papyrology in the Department of Classical Studies, Archivist of the Papyrology Collection at the University Library, and Research Associate of the Kelsey Museum.

Traianos was born on July 5, 1960, in Karpi, a small village in northern Greece, where he lived until his family moved to the city of Thessaloniki in 1970 so that Traianos and his sister Eleni could continue beyond elementary school. Traianos

worked and studied hard, and in 1978 he entered the University of Ioannina, where he studied philology with an emphasis on Greek and Latin. At Ioannina, Traianos was introduced to papyrology—the study of ancient texts written on papyrus—and found the academic subject in which he was to become one of the world’s leading authorities. A merit scholarship from the Greek state allowed him to pursue a doctorate at the University of Durham in England, where he studied Papyrology with David Thomas, receiving his PhD in 1987. Traianos came to the University of Michigan in 1988, initially to work on the Duke Databank of Documentary Papyri; eventually he became archivist of the University Library’s world-class Papyrology Collection and rose through the academic ranks to become full professor in the Department of Classical Studies. Along the way, he helped found (and fundraise for) the U-M’s Modern Greek Program.

As one of the premier papyrologists of his generation, Traianos was a skillful decipherer of texts who was also able to put the texts he deciphered into their wider contexts and make his findings known in innovative ways. He published papyri from the Michigan collection and elsewhere; one of his major research projects involved publishing an archive of carbonized Byzantine-period papyri found in the ruins of a church at Petra in Jordan. Traianos’ publications included eight books (one still in press) and nearly fifty articles, many of them collaborative works written or edited with colleagues and students. He was instrumental in founding and implementing the Advanced Papyrological Information System, an international digital resource for papyri and their interpretation, and he pioneered the use of technology to understand and teach papyri. Traianos was also a skilled and beloved teacher, as well as an articulate promoter of papyrology to a

general audience and an adept fundraiser. A national and international leader in the field of papyrology, he served as president of the American Society of Papyrologists and edited its journal, hosted the International Congress of Papyrologists in Ann Arbor in 2007, and led the American Society of Papyrologists’ Summer Institute of Papyrology in 2009.

Traianos was a long-time supporter and friend to the Kelsey Museum: he generously loaned papyri for Kelsey exhibitions, contributed to our exhibition catalogues, helped with advice on exhibitions, gave tours of the Papyrology Collection to our students and docents, and worked on the Karanis excavation materials. But Traianos was also a vital part of the Kelsey community in less formal ways—as a convivial presence at Kelsey openings and other events and an active audience member at our lectures. He had a special connection to the IPCAA students at the Kelsey, many of whom he mentored and befriended; he played darts with them and DJed at their parties while working with them on their dissertations and helping launch their careers. Traianos will long be remembered for his many scholarly and academic achievements, but those of us who knew him will remember him even more for his kindness, his generosity of spirit, and his larger-than-life personality. He is missed by many colleagues, students, and friends in Ann Arbor and all over the world. We are all lucky to have known him.

Traianos is survived by his wife Gina Soter, his parents, sister, and niece. He was buried in his native village of Karpi.

The Kelsey Museum will cosponsor an event in Traianos’ honor on October 29–30. “Teaching Papyrology: The Legacy of Traianos Gagos” will bring speakers to talk about the teaching of papyrology and how best to carry on Traianos’ work.

Terry Wilfong



Traianos Gagos (left), former Kelsey Registrar Robin Meador-Woodruff, and Kelsey curator Terry Wilfong at the 1997 opening of “Women and Gender in Ancient Egypt,” an exhibition that originated in a suggestion by Traianos.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EXHIBITION

Vaults of Heaven: Visions of Byzantium

Part I: October 1–January 23

Part II: February 4–May 29

MICHIGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

Thursdays: October 21, November 18,
December 16, January 20, February 17,
March 17, April 21, May 19
Kelsey Museum room 148, 7:30 pm

SYMPOSIUM

Teaching Papyrology:

The Legacy of Traianos Gagos

Friday–Saturday, October 29–30

Keynote: Roger Bagnall, New York Univ.

Friday, 4:00 pm, Hatcher Library Gallery

LECTURES

Ashes to Ashes, Dust in the Wind: The Mt.

Lykaion Excavation and Survey Project,
2007–2010

by Dan Diffendale, IPCAA Student

Thursday, November 11, 5:30 pm

*Bloomsbury Travelers to Greece and the
Mediterranean: The Byzantine Tradition
as Counter-Discourse to the Classical*
by Martha Klironomos,
San Francisco State University
Monday, November 22, 4:00 pm

*Voluptuous Possessions: Reconstituting
the Rural Villas at Boscoreale*
by Bettina Bergmann,
Mount Holyoke College
Thursday, December 2, 4:00 pm

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