



KMA KELSEY MUSEUM OF
ARCHAEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

FALL 2011 NEWS

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I read over the newsletter each term in preparation for writing these notes, I am always amazed and gratified at the scope and variety of activities sponsored by the Kelsey Museum as well as the variety of audiences we reach with them—from Boy Scouts earning merit badges in the museum to scholarly partners in Tbilisi, Rome, and Calabria. This issue is no exception, with reports on Kelsey-sponsored fieldwork from Rome to former Soviet Georgia and exhibitions that demonstrate the power of seemingly mundane artifacts to illuminate the lives of past peoples. These bring us to reflect on how our own and past societies invent and reveal themselves through their material cultures. As one prominent twentieth-century archaeologist put it: it is through the “small things forgotten” that we can reconstruct the past and reflect on our own place in the continuum.

The articles on the two special exhibitions currently on display—“Karais Revealed” by Terry Wilfong and “Dominated and Demeaned” by Margaret Root—both demonstrate the power of these “small things forgotten.” The magical bones on display in the Karais exhibit show how the rural farmers of the village struggled to find ways to control their environment as farmers still do today, albeit through different means. In “Dominated and Demeaned” the similarities between artifacts created more than two millennia apart to manipulate views of society’s “others” can lead us to believe “some things never change.” But recognition of such patterns might give us the power to change them. Both exhibitions show how constant reassessment of our collections can bring new insights that are powerful tools in the education of our Michigan students, undergraduate and graduate.

Lauren Talalay’s piece on excavation vehicles brought a smile of recognition and some envy to my lips as I recalled my own and Henry Wright’s vehicular adventures in our survey of the Eastern Desert of Egypt in the 1990s. Trying to save money, we rented a series of increasingly dilapidated Toyota pickups, which had a habit of stranding us on remote desert tracks as the sun set and hope of dinner at camp faded. It also brought to mind the extraordinary vision of Professor Francis W. Kelsey, who started the excavations at Karais and amassed more than 50 percent of the Kelsey Museum’s collections. Our former director, Professor John Pedley, has recently completed a book with the University of Michigan Press on Francis Kelsey. We will be celebrating the publication of the book and the success of Kelsey’s vision with a book signing party on Thursday, December 1, 5:00–7:00 pm. I hope to see many of you there. You Associates are another important element in the Kelsey’s continuing vitality. Thank you for all you do.

Sharon Herbert, Director

STAFF

Sharon Herbert, *Director*
Lauren Talalay, *Associate Director*

Curators

Suzanne Davis, *Conservation*
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*

Research Scientist

Geoffrey Emberling

Research Associates/Affiliates

Gary Beckman	Christopher Ratté
Artemis Leontis	Ann van Rosevelt
Despina Margomenou	Carola Stearns
Laura Motta	Nicola Terrenato
Lisa Nevett	

Support Staff

Carl Abrego, *Administrative Specialist*
Wade Beitelshies, *Security Officer*
Claudia Chemello, *Conservator*
Sebastián Encina, *Coordinator of Museum Collections*
Michelle Fontenot, *Collections Manager*
Todd Gerring, *Community Outreach Supervisor*
Margaret Lourie, *Editor*
Sandra Malveaux, *Secretary*
Scott Meier, *Museum Exhibition Coordinator*
Lorene Sterner, *Graphic Artist, Gifts Manager*
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: kelsey@umich.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN REGENTS

Julia Donovan Darlow	Andrea Fischer Newman
Laurence B. Deitch	Andrew C. Richner
Denise Ilitch	S. Martin Taylor
Olivia P. Maynard	Katherine E. White
Mary Sue Coleman, <i>ex officio</i>	





PEDLEY WINNER HELPS EXCAVATE THE SANCTUARY OF S. OMOBONO IN ROME

As the 2011 recipient of the Pedley Award, I spent ten weeks in Rome excavating the sanctuary of S. Omobono. Although I have been working in Italy for several years, this summer was particularly productive and formative.

The S. Omobono Project, run jointly by the University of Michigan and Università della Calabria, began investigating this complex multi-period site in 2008. Work in the precinct (which is named after the modern church of Sant'Omobono), however, has been going on for much longer. After its discovery in the 1930s, S. Omobono was excavated intermittently by a number of teams up to the 1970s, with some limited research on post-Imperial phases of the site continuing until recent years within the church.

These efforts brought to light a succession of remains that includes, among other things, the oldest monumental temple in Rome (early sixth century BC), which was replaced in the Republican period by a large platform supporting twin temples, as well as a series of Imperial shops (*tabernae*), an early Christian cult within the inner room (*cella*) of the eastern temple (corresponding to the modern church), and substantial evidence for medieval and later residential and productive activity. Unfortunately, the soundings that offered a glimpse of this important sequence were very limited in extent, and the results of the research have never been fully published.

For these reasons, the first two seasons of the S. Omobono Project, in which I also participated, were largely spent sorting and analyzing the wealth of archival materials and artifacts from previous

fieldwork at the site. This organizational work remains an important component of the Project; currently, we are working to integrate all available data concerning the development of the area in an easily accessible database. In 2009, moreover, we excavated a limited number of strategically placed soundings in order to get a more systematic sense of the stratigraphy of the site, which was not adequately documented during previous fieldwork efforts.

Owing largely to the success of this preparatory work, in the 2011 season we were able to launch the first campaign of systematic and extensive excavations to be conducted at S. Omobono in decades. Under the direction of Nicola Terrenato (IPCAA) and Paolo Brocato (Università della Calabria), I had the pleasure of working with a varied team of undergraduate and graduate students from American and Italian universities, including IPCAA's Dan Diffendale and Andrea Summers. From late May to the end of July, we excavated within the *cella* of the western temple and in other areas of the site.

In the *cella*, we began by emptying trenches excavated in the 1930s and later. We were then able to document a complex sequence ranging from nineteenth-century middens (refuse heaps) and brick structures to archaic levels of activity (late sixth century BC). Elsewhere in the site, we excavated soundings designed to elucidate the construction history of the temple platform, whose substantial perimeter walls and superimposed pavements suggest a series of reconstructions spanning nearly eight centuries. While

in all cases our efforts to obtain good horizontal coverage down to early levels of activity were constrained by the presence of later structural features, we were nevertheless able to recover more than enough evidence to reevaluate earlier interpretations of the site and determine an effective research strategy for upcoming seasons.

In addition to work in the field, we have been taking important steps to disclose information concerning this poorly understood archaeological context. Since 2009, members of the Project have been collaborating to produce a thorough summary and evaluation of the evidence from previous fieldwork at S. Omobono, to be published shortly in *Internet Archaeology*. This article will provide the first account of the site in English and the most comprehensive in any language. An exciting aspect of this project is that, owing to the innovative format of the journal, we will be able to include more media and significantly more detail than would be possible in a conventional publication. Additionally, we are currently working on two other contributions (one in Italian and one in English) covering more specific aspects of the site and the ongoing research.

I owe my involvement in these activities largely to the support of Professor Pedley, whom I thank for his continued sponsorship of archaeology at Michigan.

Ivan Cangemi, IPCAA Student

Top left: Excavation of a medieval jug.

Top right: General view of the site from the south.

Photos: S. Omobono Project



BEHIND THE SCENES OF “KARANIS REVEALED”

Curating our recently opened “Karaniis Revealed” exhibition was a fascinating research project for me, an ongoing accumulation of making small discoveries and wider connections to form a comprehensive whole. This work doesn’t get done in isolation but is instead a very enjoyable collaboration with Kelsey Museum staff and students. The challenges of working in a small museum like the Kelsey—limited staff, space, and resources—can also be catalysts to promote ingenuity and teamwork, and one of the pleasures of curating this exhibition was working with our team.

With “Karaniis Revealed” I tried to document the processes of putting together an exhibition. Even supplemented by photographs from Sebastián Encina and Suzanne Davis, though, this record is incomplete. Eluding the camera but instrumental in the preparation and installation of the exhibition are: Conservator Suzanne Davis, Collections Manager Michelle Fontenot, Community Outreach Supervisor Todd Gerring, and Editor Peg Lourie. Go, Team Karaniis!

*Terry Wilfong
Exhibition Curator*

Top row of photos (left to right):

Preparator Scott Meier constructing the Karaniis house in the Kelsey Museum workshop. Scott’s visual sense and taste shaped the design of the exhibition, while his building skills and hard work put it into place (photo T. Wilfong).

IPCAA PhD student Tom Landvatter arranging a skeleton for the exhibition while pointing out some interesting features to me. Tom’s ongoing research on human skeletal material from the Michigan Karaniis excavation has already revealed much about the lives of the inhabitants of Karaniis (photo S. Davis).

Curatorial Assistant Andrew Ferrara working in collection storage with an artifact he is researching for Part II of the exhibition: a piece of Roman military armor excavated at Karaniis (photo T. Wilfong).

Sometimes installation involves careful lifting of ancient and fragile but unwieldy things: Andrew Ferrara, Claudia Chemello, and Scott Meier put an amphora into place (photo T. Wilfong).

Scott Meier’s hands creating wire mounts for objects from Terenouthis. Installation is a complex and delicate process, often involving the construction of mounts for objects in place (photo T. Wilfong).

Sebastián Encina, Scott Meier, and Claudia Chemello install the “Lost and Found” case in the Karaniis house. Here we see representatives of the three major divisions in exhibition installation: Registry (Sebastián), Design and Preparation (Scott), and Conservation (Claudia) (photo T. Wilfong).

At left: Andrew Ferrara and University Library Senior Conservator Leyla Lau-Lamb discuss the conservation of a papyrus for the exhibition. Under Leyla’s supervision, Andrew conserved and mounted three of the papyri to appear in Part II of the exhibition (photo T. Wilfong).





Left: As a visual motif in the exhibition, we used a graphic designed by artist and Michigan Art and Design MFA student John Kammerberg, based on a photo he took on a 2010 trip to Karanis (photo S. Encina).

Left below: Drew Wilburn giving the opening lecture on the archaeology of magic at Karanis, in which he spoke about the magical bones that appear in the projected image to his left. It was a special pleasure to bring back Drew, my former student, now Assistant Professor at Oberlin College, to open the exhibition (photo S. Encina).





Figure 1. Map of Georgia and surrounding countries showing location of Vani.

Figure 2. IPCAA student Ryan Hughes at work on the survey.

Figure 3. Vani Regional Survey Director Christopher Ratté and IPCAA student Angela Commito wield equipment for the geophysical survey.

Figure 4. IPCAA student Jana Mokrsova at work at the excavations at Shuamta.

VANI PROJECT USES MODERN SURVEY METHODS

Colchis in modern Georgia was famously the farthest shore in Greek mythology, the land of the Golden Fleece and the home of Medea. In 2009, a team of archaeologists from the University of Michigan began a new archaeological field project in the region of Vani in Colchis (fig. 1), a well-known archaeological site near the river Phasis (after which the pheasant takes its name). Our project is sponsored by the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University and the Kelsey Museum.

Vani lies approximately 50 miles inland from the Black Sea coast of Georgia, in the foothills of the lesser Caucasus. It is a beautiful place, and a land of extremes. It has a subtropical climate, with temperatures often exceeding 100 degrees in midsummer; but when the sky is clear, even on the hottest days, the glaciers that crown the mountains of the Greater Caucasus are visible to the north, only 70 miles away.

Archaeological research at Vani has a long history, and major excavations have been carried out at the site since the 1940s, most notably under the direction of the famous Georgian archaeologist Otar Lordkipanidze from 1966 until 2002. Vani is especially well known for a series of rich graves of the sixth to fourth centuries BC, replete with gold and silver treasures, as well as evidence for both horse and human sacrifice.

In spite of the richness of the site, however, important questions about its purpose and function over time remain unresolved. How extensive was the ancient settlement? Was Vani a regional population center, a sanctuary, or both? How does it compare with other sites in Colchis? In addition to ongoing research at Vani itself, directed by Darejan Kacharava, regional survey provides an obvious

approach to some of these questions. In previous years, examination of a number of outlying sites had already yielded remains extending in date from the Early Bronze Age to the medieval period.

The purpose of the regional survey project begun in 2009 is to integrate existing knowledge about Vani and environs into the kind of technological and conceptual framework characteristic of contemporary American survey archaeology. Of particular importance is the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) as an organizational and analytical tool, and of geophysical prospection both in the immediate environs of Vani and at regional sites.

Like all regional surveys, our project records evidence of all periods, from prehistory to the present day, but we are particularly interested in questions having to do with the increasing social complexity of Colchis in the mid- and later first millennium BC—when Greek explorers began to establish colonies on the Black Sea coast of Georgia, and the Persian empire pushed up against the mountains of the Caucasus. What was the nature of Colchian society in this period? How was it affected by interaction with the larger Greek, Persian, and Pontic worlds? And how can regional survey at Vani and throughout Colchis help us to address these questions?

In 2009, an American-Georgian team of four archaeologists, four archaeology students, and a geophysicist carried out a four-week season of “extensive” survey of known archaeological sites, together with geophysical prospection at selected locations. Our principal Georgian partner is Guram Kvirkvelia of the Center for Archaeological Research in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital. In 2010, with the additions of a geologist and an archaeo-



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botanist, we continued our program of documentation of known sites and of exploratory geophysical prospection, and we also carried out limited test excavations at a number of sites. We returned for a shorter study season in 2011, focusing on archival research both in the Vani Museum and in the Center for Archaeological Research in Tbilisi.

The area covered by our survey extends 15 km both east and west of Vani, and as far as 10 km south of Vani, from the Phasis River plain at approximately 50 m above sea level to the lower slopes of the lesser Caucasus, at approximately 1,000 m above sea level. In the first season, we visited twenty-five modern settlements and recorded seventy-five archaeological points of interest (fig. 2). Of the sites recorded, we observed evidence for Bronze Age occupation at only one, while eleven sites exhibited evidence of Iron Age occupation

(eighth–seventh century BC), twenty-seven of occupation in the Classical period (sixth–fourth century BC), twenty-one of occupation in the Hellenistic period (fourth–first century BC), and eleven of indeterminate first-millennium BC occupation. Six sites exhibited evidence of Roman and late Roman occupation, and twenty-five sites were occupied in the medieval and late medieval periods. Many sites were of course occupied in multiple periods.

We also carried out geophysical prospection at a number of sites (fig. 3), which were targeted for limited excavation in 2010. Of particular interest is the site of Shuamta, a village just a few kilometers west of Vani. Here, a series of four trenches revealed significant concentrations of pottery and burnt daub from wattle-and-daub structures, in three cases associated with Iron Age pit features—storage pits and dugout houses (fig. 4).

The character of these structures is not surprising, but this is in fact the first time that excavation in the Vani region has succeeded in revealing pit features of this kind, as opposed to graves or simple “cultural layers.” These results suggest that geophysical prospection, especially magnetic surveying, may be a useful tool in the preliminary exploration and mapping of archaeological sites throughout the region, provided that there is good surface evidence in the form of lumps of burnt daub for architecture of the type detected at Shuamta and that modern disturbance is not too great.

None of the other sites in the environs of Vani is comparable to Vani itself in terms of size, monumentality, or wealth as represented by grave goods. Thus Vani does indeed seem to have been a place of unusual importance within the surrounding region, perhaps the stronghold of a leading elite family. We hope that comparable survey projects at other sites in Georgia will help us to determine whether Vani exercised some form of administrative or economic control over lesser sites, perhaps as the center of a local “chiefdom,” and whether Vani was itself incorporated into a larger social unit, such as the kingdom of Colchis imagined by Greek authors (on present evidence, this does not seem to have been the case).

Although our project is now largely finished, IPCAA student Ryan Hughes will be returning to Vani in 2012 to work on his dissertation, based on independent research he is carrying out in the region directly east of Vani. Ryan is using techniques of intensive survey that are new to Georgian archaeology and that promise to add new richness and detail to the picture we are reconstructing of ancient Colchian society.

Christopher Ratté



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FROM THE ARCHIVES: MOTOWN AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

Between 1919 and 1926, Francis W. Kelsey and George R. Swain undertook four trips together to Europe, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean. Eight years younger than Professor Kelsey and a strapping 6'3", George Swain served as the official expedition photographer, ultimately producing more than 12,000 photographs. Their travels varied in length, ranging from five months to nearly a year. Although the individuals who participated in their journeys changed with each trip, two "companions" remained constant: the intrepid automobiles that, starting in 1924, carried them from the paved roads of Europe to tracks "frightful with gullies, rocks, and sand" in the hinterlands.

The two vehicles were gifts to the University of Michigan. According to Swain's archived notes, "in December, 1923, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bloomer gave to the University a Dodge Bros. Type B Sedan. At about the same time and for the same purpose [to facilitate work and travel abroad], the three brothers Graham presented to the University a Graham Bros. . . . Truck with panel body." The truck weighed an impressive 2,250 kilos, the sedan 1,350 kilos.

These indispensable vehicles not only served as the major forms of transportation for the Kelsey-Swain research trips but were chock-full with necessary equipment, including "500 kilos of photographic apparatus and supplies, books, baggage, etc." These basic stock cars were furnished with an array of "extras" and a formidable list of spare parts in case of emergency. Every contingency seems to have been anticipated, although the remarkable sturdiness and dependability of the cars rarely required the use

of these parts. After two seasons, when both automobiles had been tested to their limits, Swain wrote, "I may say that the only use of these . . . spare parts has been to intrigue custom officials."

Swain's letters and photos, some of which are reproduced here, vividly evoke travel in the region during the early 1900s. One can easily visualize the following scenarios (both in the interior of Turkey) as described by Swain:

When we were three miles of the end of the trip one side of the road slumped under the weight of the truck and it narrowly missed tipping over into the mud and water below. It took a dozen men with planks, poles, and our two jacks, accompanied with yells and cuss words, four hours to get it safely back on the road.

We had to drive through sticky mud, ford streams, cross shaky bridges (one settled a foot as the truck went over), do "switch back act" on side hills, follow barely discernable cart tracks under the guidance of natives, feel our way along roads hidden with reddish flood water. . . . One rear wheel of the truck crushed through the rotten top of a hidden culvert and had to be pried out with a telegraph pole.

During one of the trips through Tunisia and Algeria, the group was joined by a French team and two French Renault (?) cars. The four vehicles endured several thousand miles of difficult terrain, but as Swain happily reports:

The four cars came through with

no mishaps to speak of. Naturally radiators all boiled while the cars were running in second up sandy grades into the desert under the scorching sun, and the same thing happened when the cars were chased by a violent dust storm travelling some ten miles an hour faster than the cars. The truck pulled the sedan out of a sand hole at the end of a fifty foot tow line, and all the cars were raced across the bottom of dry rivers and creeks to avoid getting stuck in the deep dry sand. And they sturdily climbed out of gulches up short grades looking impossibly steep. The reserve of power possessed by the two American cars was especially noticeable.

On occasion, the cars had to be hoisted onto steamers or several small Mediterranean seacraft, ingeniously connected, in order to help transport them across short distances. At one point, the cars were ferried to the island of Djerba in Tunisia, the fabled land of the "Lotus Eaters" of Homer's *Odyssey*. As Swain described it:

To make the crossing, heavy planks were placed across a pair of fishing boats lashed together and the cars were gingerly driven on and later off again. The crossing is about five miles wide but most of the way the water is barely three feet deep. As the cars had not partaken of the fruit of the lotus, we had no difficulty in persuading them to leave the island.

Ever the entertaining writer, Swain reports an encounter between a goose and the sedan in northern Africa:



One always has a few mental pictures of minor things . . . [One] of my pet recollections is that of a gander who started to waddle hurriedly across the road in front of the sedan; six feet away he evidently decided he'd be darned if he, an African gander, would hurry out of the way of any car made in Detroit, so he turned and came directly at us hissing like a small steam boiler. Three seconds later he was staggering out of a nimbus of flying feathers, wondering if "is dis heah me or not me or had de dabble got me" and metaphorically feeling of his neck with both hands to see if it still functioned—some way it had made no impression on our front axle.

Swain's pride in these two cars is aptly

summarized by one of his notes in the Kelsey Museum's archives:

In twenty three days over the best and worst of roads, the Dodge sedan has been driven nineteen hundred and seventy five miles, and the Graham Truck despite its load has cheerfully trundled along on good roads at thirty miles an hour, nor had it, on bad roads, ever lain down on the job.

As anyone who has ever worked on an archaeological field project knows, "dig cars" are one of the most important members of the team. Swain's notes and photographs vividly underscore an early chapter of that dependence, where "Motown" meets the Mediterranean.

Lauren Talalay



Original captions for top row of photos (left to right):

"Men working to right the truck. Partly fogged, but usable. Side view." Chaussée to Yalvaç, Turkey, June 29, 1924. Photo: G. R. Swain. Kelsey Museum archival photo KS276.08.

"The sedan coming down the road from the dig." Antioch, Turkey, August 1924. Photo: G. R. Swain. Kelsey Museum archival photo 7.1625.

"The sedan at the right side of the Tiberia Platea [Plaza], two natives by it. Pavement in foreground, architectural fragments beyond." Antioch, Turkey, August 1924. Photo: G. R. Swain. Kelsey Museum archival photo 7.1627.

"Truck straddling the gullied road coming down to Alta Kapu from Ak Shebir. Easton Kelsey and [Horace] Colby by truck. Rather a close-up." Yalvaç, Turkey, 1924. Photo: G. R. Swain. Kelsey Museum archival photo 5.0163.



Original caption for photo at left:
"Truck just on the ferry, leaving Djerba on return ship. Natives on dock. Morris looking at [George F.] French, who is driving." Djerba, Tunisia, April 12, 1925. Photo: G. R. Swain. Kelsey Museum archival photo 7.1922.

CONSERVATION BOOK DONATION

When Amy Rosenberg, the Kelsey Museum's first professional conservator, decided to downsize her library, she thought the Kelsey Museum conservation lab might be interested. We were! This September, Carrie and I spent a happy morning at her home in Ann Arbor and came back with a number of treasures. Thanks to Amy for her continuing support of conservation at the Kelsey.

Suzanne Davis

SHOP TALK



Plan ahead this year to give your family the most interesting holiday gifts ever. Just a few ideas from the KMA shop:

- A distinctive Kelsey mug hand-thrown by master potters from Sunset Hill Stoneware; four different styles in five different colors, a drawing of the original Kelsey Museum building on each;
- Inexpensive stocking stuffers such as hieroglyph pencils, volcano putty, mummy beads and bracelets, replica ancient coins, arrowheads;
- Jewelry evoking the ancient Mediterranean world;
- Exquisite silk scarves, ties, and cuff links;
- Hand-blown glass from Egypt; and
- A new selection of ancient history DVDs.

Consider also giving a Kelsey Museum Associates membership (Individual \$35, Family \$50), a gift that will keep giving all year long with free events, lectures, and a KMA discount.



Kress Conservation Fellow Carrie Roberts examines one of the deteriorating funeral stelae from Terenouthis, Egypt, for which she is spending this year designing a treatment protocol.

SUMMER OUTREACH

Summer at the Kelsey has been anything but lazy and relaxing. The museum hosted numerous events, from a birthday party to a marriage proposal, as well as off-site programs at libraries in Lansing and South Lyon. Boy Scout Troop 1222, from the Black Swamp Area Council of Northwest Ohio, spent a day at the Kelsey earning their archaeology merit badge. Although the variety of hands-on activities kept them occupied, trying on the replica suit of Roman armor turned out to be the highlight of the program.

The Kelsey is also becoming a popular field trip destination for summer camps and daycare facilities. After the summer camp kids at the Exhibit Museum had their fill of dinosaurs, they made their way across campus—and the Art Fair—for programs on Egyptian mummies, Greek mythology, and writing in the ancient world. The Creativity Camp from the Ann Arbor Art Center made several trips to the Kelsey to learn about Greek pottery and Egyptian hieroglyphs.

Throughout the summer our volunteers were busily working on a variety of projects. Pioneer High School student Claudia Lahr spent much of her time at the museum recreating the elaborate headdress of Queen Puabi of Ur, one of the prized finds from early excavations of the Royal tombs of Ur in Mesopotamia. Brass has taken the place of gold, and glass and ceramic beads substitute for carnelian and lapis. Despite more mundane materials, the headdress, once complete, will undoubtedly be pronounced “awesome” by younger visitors to the museum.

Susanna Miesel from Greenhills High School undertook rather different projects for her work, researching Roman board games and the correct way to wear a Greek toga. She will continue to work at the Kelsey and is currently recreating an Egyptian perfumed cone. These cones sat atop wigs during various social gatherings and exuded an aroma as they melted. Get out your party wigs!

Suzanne Davis

Todd Gerring

KRESS FELLOWSHIP

The Kelsey Museum is pleased to welcome Caroline (Carrie) Roberts, who will be working with us for one year as a conservation fellow funded by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. The Kress Foundation supports training and research in art conservation and this year awarded nine conservation fellowships nationwide. The Kelsey was one of the fortunate recipients.

Carrie is a recent graduate of the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation and spent her final year of graduate study at the Worcester Art Museum in Worcester, Massachusetts. In addition to her year at Worcester, she has conducted internships at the Kaman-Kalehöyük excavation in Turkey, English Heritage in London, The Cloisters in New York, and The Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley.

Carrie has a special interest in the conservation of archaeological materials, particularly stone, which makes her a good fit for the Kelsey Museum. Her primary fellowship project will be to design a treatment plan for the Kelsey's collection of limestone funerary stelae from Terenouthis. She will also assist with conservation of objects for Part II of the “Karais Revealed” exhibition and contribute to planning for the “Conserving Antiquity” exhibition, which will open in fall 2012.



“DOMINATED AND DEMEANED” EXHIBITION TO OPEN OCTOBER 21

How do images mold our thoughts? How do images attached to material objects within our personal spaces work on our imaginations? How does the saturation of a social environment with imagery depicting a category of humanity as a dominated, controlled, demeaned Other affect our perceptions?

These are some of the questions posed in my new course, History of Art 286. “Art and Empire in Antiquity” asks students to compare ancient uses of visual representation to perpetuate stereotypes of Otherness with related phenomena closer to their own life experiences.

For a special project, the class has designed a temporary exhibition titled “Dominated and Demeaned: Representations of the Other.” Visual tropes of the enemy Other in New Kingdom Egypt (studied by means of photographic images of famous artifacts primarily from the Tomb of Tutankhamun) are placed in dialogue with a display of household artifacts produced for and marketed to White America in the early to mid-20th century.

These 20th-century objects legitimized demeaning characterizations of African-Americans. Some of them evoke nostalgia for the house slave cooking and serving meals on the old plantation. Others depict African-Americans as carefree smiling or lazy boys eating watermelon

or fishing. Some have layers of sexual innuendo. Many use disembodied human forms to convey the impotence of the subject. Some express through visual cues the idea of the Black man as perpetual child or subhuman. By juxtaposing these recent items with ancient images, the installation suggests varying ways in which image saturation and the deployment of images of Otherness on objects of “daily life” may operate.

This project is possible only through the generosity of Professor Kenneth W. Goings, a scholar of African-American history at Ohio State University. He lent the artifacts on display from his personal collection so that students in HA 286 could handle them in small discussion sections—grappling with their tactile and functional force as well as with the visual messages they convey. All the objects are discussed in Professor Goings’ 1994 book, *Mammy and Uncle Mose: Black Collectibles and American Stereotyping*.

I gratefully acknowledge support for this installation from the Kelsey Museum as well as from the Department of the History of Art and the College of LS&A. Colleagues in the Department of Afro-american and African Studies and the Museum Studies Program offered meaningful consultations.

Margaret Root

Above left: Salt and pepper shaker/grease pot set, “painted in Japan,” 1950s. This color-coordinated set sat on the kitchen stove. Bacon fat or other cooking grease was poured into the miniature stove. A vent on one side let off the heat; the removable lid enabled the cook to spoon up congealed fat for reuse.

Above right: Students in History of Art 286, “Art and Empire in Antiquity,” examine objects from the Goings Collection. Left to right: Se Hoon Kim, Tuan Minb Doan, Ellen Elizabeth Busch, Ramses Dukes.

The two items below demonstrate the historical longevity of one particular representation of the Other: the naked Other as impotent fodder for hungry wild beasts.

Below left: Letter-opener and pencil set, alligator devouring a Black man (whose head forms the end of the removable pencil), Collection of Kenneth W. Goings, “Biloxi, Mississippi,” 1930s–1940s.

Below right: Handle from a royal furnishing (front and side views), lion devouring a Nubian, provenance unknown, Norbert Schimmel Collection, New Kingdom Egypt.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Karanis Revealed: Discovering the Past and Present of a Michigan Excavation in Egypt

Part I: September 16–December 8

Part II: January 27–May 6

Dominated and Demeaned: Representations of the Other

October 21, 2011–January 16, 2012

FAMILY DAY

Life in Roman Egypt

Saturday, November 12, 1:00–3:00 pm

F.A.S.T. LECTURES (Field Archaeology Series on Tuesdays/Thursdays)

Cosponsored by IPCAA

Looking beyond Medea's Garden: A Preliminary Report on the First Season of the Eastern Vani Intensive Survey

by Ryan Hughes, PhD Candidate, IPCAA

Thursday, November 10, 5:30–7:00 pm

Ancient Ceramics in Modern Afghanistan: Some Problems and Results

by Charlotte Maxwell-Jones, PhD Candidate, IPCAA

Thursday, December 8, 5:30–7:00 pm

BOOK SIGNING

The Life and Work of Francis Willey Kelsey

by John Griffiths Pedley

Published by University of Michigan Press

Thursday, December 1, 5:00–7:00 pm

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