Letter from the President

**Dr. Derek B. Counts, Assistant Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee**

Happy New Year and Greetings from the Milwaukee Society of the AIA. They say that in life few things are guaranteed; while that may be true for credit card interest rates and a Packers victory over New York, you can always count on a full and diverse annual lecture program from the Milwaukee Society! On Sunday, February 10 we welcome Professor Jason Sherman from UWM’s Anthropology Department (local talent!), who will speak to us on recent archaeological work in the Oaxaca Valley (Mexico) and what it can tell us about the emergence of the Zapotec state in the later first millennium B.C.E. In March and April, we will host Professors Thomas Finan (Saint Louis University) and Alison Futrell (University of Arizona). On Sunday March 2, Professor Finan will highlight the latest discoveries at Kilteasheen, Co. Roscommon (Ireland), where archaeological material has illuminated a broad chronological spectrum for the region from the Irish Neolithic to the ecclesiastical settlements of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries C.E. Finally, on Sunday, April 6, Professor Futrell will introduce us to the spectacle of the Roman amphitheater, where political and social relations of the Roman Empire and its subjects were played out in contests of blood and sport. Finan and Futrell are both being sent to us by our national AIA
office and thus represent the tangible benefits of your membership and support of the organization.

Our latest Artifact 13.2 is a hefty tome and I hope you will enjoy browsing through it. Inside you will find information about our upcoming lectures, a special article revisiting the Milwaukee Society’s past in honor of our 40th anniversary, as well as an interesting interview with the Director of the Department of Antiquities of the Republic of Cyprus that discusses the latest developments in the fight to curb the illicit, global trade in antiquities. We also have reports about our fall trip to the Oriental Institute Museum in Chicago and the AIA’s national meeting, also held in Chicago.

On a final note, I would like to express my thanks to all those who have supported the AIA through membership and other activities this year. I am especially grateful to Bettina Arnold (Vice-President), Alice Kehoe (Secretary-Treasurer), Homer Hruby (Webmaster), and Jane Waldbaum (‘consigliere’ in perpetuum) for their constant work on behalf of the AIA. The Society also thanks Sara Rich (Editor, The Artifact) and Lindsey King (Refreshments Coordinator) for their efforts, as well as all those who have pitched in along the way for lectures and other events.

Yours in archaeology,
Derek B. Counts

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AIA - Milwaukee Society Email List

As we advance into the high-tech 21st century, we would like to start compiling an email list of our members and friends. This will allow us to reach you more quickly with important news or last-minute information about lectures and events. If you would like to be added to this list please return this form to:

Sara Rich, UWM-Dept. of Art History, PO Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201
Or send your name and email address to: sararich@uwm.edu

Name ______________________________________________________________
Current Address _______________________________________________________
Member of AIA? Yes / No
Email address: _______________________________________________________

I would like to receive notices of upcoming events by email: Yes / No

Archaeological Institute of America - Milwaukee Society www.uwm.edu/Dept/ArchLab/AIA Page 2
Power, Ideology, and the Emergence of the State in the Oaxaca Valley, Mexico

By Jason Sherman, UW-Milwaukee
3:00 Sunday, February 10, 2008
Sabin Hall G90, U-W Milwaukee

The Zapotec state, one of the "classic" civilizations of ancient Mesoamerica, emerged in the southern highlands of Mexico between 300 and 100 B.C. This transformation--like the formation of all states--involved profound changes in the sociopolitical relationships between individuals and groups comprising Zapotec society. This lecture will examine recent archaeological investigations in and around the Oaxaca Valley that have illuminated key factors in the emergence of the Zapotec state, including intercity conflict; the foundation of one of Mesoamerica's first urban centers at Monte Albán; territorial expansion of the Monte Albán-centered polity; and the development of an ideology that legitimized social stratification in Zapotec society.

Jason Sherman earned his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in 2005, and is now Assistant Professor of Anthropology at UW-Milwaukee. His research interests include the formation and development of archaic states; political and economic organization; relationships between the various groups comprising state societies (e.g., elite subgroups, commoners, etc.); and ceramic analyses. Since 2001, his research has focused on the Zapotec state in the Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico, where he directed excavations at the site of Yaasuchi. He also has fieldwork experience in the Maya lowlands (Quintana Roo, Mexico), the United States, Israel, and France.
The Archaeological Excavations at Kilteasheen, Ireland

By Thomas J. Finan, St. Louis University
3:00 Sunday, March 2, 2008
Sabin Hall G90, UW-Milwaukee

This lecture will feature the most recent information about the archaeological excavations at Kilteasheen, Co. Roscommon, Ireland, one of the most important excavations in Ireland in recent years. In the process of exploring a high status ecclesiastical settlement dating to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, a number of other artifacts from other periods have been discovered, suggesting an occupation record dating back to the Irish Neolithic. In addition, a medieval cemetery was discovered at the site that appears to be a mass burial, possibly dating to the arrival of the Black Death in Gaelic Ireland. Scientific analyses of the human remains include typical osteoarchaeological studies of the bones and new, cutting-edge DNA analysis of dental pulp to ascertain whether the people were subjected to some sort of pathogen.

Geophysical survey and satellite imagery has revealed a much more massive complex of settlement at the site that will require nearly a decade of excavation. The excavations are funded by a generous grant from the Royal Irish Academy.

Pottery sherd from the excavations at Kilteasheen

Thomas Finan is Assistant Professor of Medieval Studies at the University of St. Louis, St. Louis MO. He is responsible for bringing international programs to the home campus of Webster University, and acts as a resource for faculty and students who participate in study abroad opportunities. He also directs the International Studies BA and Certificate programs. Thomas Finan is also Visiting Research Scholar in the Department of History at St. Louis University. His primary research interests include the history and archaeology of Gaelic Ireland, thirteenth and fourteenth century bardic poetry, the history and theology of the Gaelic church in medieval Ireland and the ideology of nationalism in medieval Ireland. Dr. Finan is director of the Settlement in the Medieval Diocese of Elphin research project. The goals of this long-term project are to identify the local parish churches in the medieval diocese of Elphin, Co. Roscommon, Ireland, to survey the extant remains, and to establish the form and function of those individual churches with the diocese and wider medieval Irish church.

Dr. Thomas J. Finan
The popular image of Rome puts the arena at center stage. From Ben-Hur to Gladiator, our mental images of Rome center on the arena and the violent spectacles it housed; like the luxurious bath-houses, the banquets and the orgies, the blood games are central to the popular perception of Rome as devoted to sophisticated luxury, to personal pleasures, and as doomed by its decadence. The Roman world devoted an overwhelming amount of time, energy, money and attention to the arena: politicians bankrupted themselves to provide games, towns gave over huge amounts of public space and public funds for the construction of amphitheatres. The legions of Rome built amphitheatres alongside their basic barracks, while Romano-Celtic villagers constructed lavish arena complexes out in the middle of rural Gaul. The arena was central to ancient Rome, not because it was entertainment, but because in many ways the arena replicated the essence of the Roman Empire, providing a venue for the establishment of power relations, a sanctuary where ritualized combat resolved cosmic tensions, and a stage for blood-drenched demonstrations of Roman moral strength. This talk explores monuments of the arena and their meanings, with special concentration on the amphitheatres of the western provinces.

Alison Futrell earned her doctorate in Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology from the University of California, Berkeley and is currently an Associate Professor of Roman History at the University of Arizona. Her research focuses on the symbols and rituals of power in the Roman Empire, with particular interest in the deployment of gender and material culture in imperial politics. Her first book, Blood in the Arena, looks at how the institution of the gladiatorial games functioned in the negotiation of power among different groups in the Roman Imperial West. In 2006, Blackwell published Roman Games: A Sourcebook, which considers spectacle in the Roman world more broadly. She is currently working on another monograph with the working title Barbarian Queens, which will focus on how this archetype, formed originally in the historical tradition of the ancient world, shaped later Western images of gender, power and identity in text and the visual arts.
Milwaukee AIA celebrates its 40th anniversary this year—as the saying goes, bigger and better than ever. We began as a gleam in the eye of Dr. Stephan F. Borhegyi, an energetic Mayan archaeologist who was Director of Milwaukee Public Museum during the 1960s. With assistance from the Friends of the Museum, itself organized not long earlier, Borhegyi pitched the value of affiliation with AIA to Friends who had expressed interest in archaeology, and to area professionals. Moving Milwaukee Public Museum from its quarters in Central Public Library to its present building occupied much of Borhegyi’s time in 1964 and 1965. Once settled, he contacted Dr. Emmett L. Bennett, Jr. of UW-Madison about reconstituting a Wisconsin Society of the AIA, one of the first affiliates (1889) of the AIA after its founding in 1879. Dr. Bennett proposed Milwaukee become a branch of the already existing Madison chapter, but secondary status was never Borhegyi’s preference. By 1967, Borhegyi had recruited nearly double the minimum 25 members to start an AIA chapter, and the National AIA granted us official chapter status at its December meeting. Tragically, Borhegyi died in an automobile accident on I-43 downtown in September, 1969.

Our first president was Mrs. Thomas F. Fifield, a civic-minded River Hills resident who remained a member until her death in 2003. Vice-Presidents were two academics, art patron Dr. John Pick, a professor in Marquette’s English Department, and Dr. Robert Ross of UWM’s Classics Department. Dr. Ross and his wife, Miriam Ross, carried out much of the business of the chapter into the 1970s. Dr. Sydney Goldstein of UWM’s Art History Department served as chapter secretary in the early 1970s, until he became Curator of Ancient Glass at the Corning Museum of Glass in upstate New York. Membership in the Milwaukee Society has always been a mix of professional archaeologists, students and avocational members—members of the community interested in learning about archaeology and interacting with professionals. Both academics and avocational have been leaders of Milwaukee AIA. Among the former were Dr. Rudolph Dornemann, curator of Near and Middle Eastern archaeology at Milwaukee Public Museum in the 1970s, and his successor the present curator Carter Lupton. Among our avocational leaders were Virginia Read, John Ebersol, Teresa Weber, and most outstandingly, the late George Morse. George Morse was a founding member, treasurer, publicity officer, president 1971-1973 and a donor ($60, for example, in 1973), always a regular in the audience, and by coincidence (really!), father-in-law of Jane Waldbaum. In recent years, AIA-Milwaukee has been led by academic archaeologists including Jane Waldbaum, professor emerita of Art History UWM, who went on to become national AIA president (2003-2007), Bettina Arnold of the UWM Anthropology Department, Derek Counts and Andrea Stone of UWM Art History, and Jane Peterson and Alice Kehoe (professor emerita) from Marquette’s...
Anthropology Department. The varied interests and academic disciplines of our presidents, ranging from Germany to Jordan, Cyprus to Central America, reflect the broad interests of our membership and of the AIA lectures we host every year. In the past, lectures were held at Milwaukee Public Museum, Concordia College, and Marquette as well as at UWM. Now UWM, in partnership with the Art History and Anthropology Departments, provides space in Sabin Hall for our lectures and receptions.

Back in 1967, AIA dues were $15 and included a subscription to *Archaeology* Magazine. The National AIA office sent us $50 to start us off, and in our first year, 1968, we received $64.50 from them, including rebates for our members. Altogether, our income that year was $179.75, our expenses $140.80, and we have operated in the black ever since! Each year most of our operating budget comes from rebates on national membership dues, but occasionally, we happily receive modest donations from members to supplement this income or to cover special projects (gifts to AIA are tax-deductible). Our most delicious donation came in 2004 when we received a bequest from one of our faithful and enthusiastic members, Helen Bernstein, to cover expenses for refreshments for twenty years! Helen regularly brought carefully themed refreshments to our meetings—olives and pistachios for Middle East lectures, corn chips and chocolate for Maya—and among her last wishes was that her family create a fund to perpetuate her generosity. We sorely miss Helen’s insightful and stimulating questions after lectures, even as we enjoy her legacy at our informal receptions. Some other regulars who have passed away include Tula Erskine, George and Renata Morse, Gene Erasmus, and Otto Heimler. Larry and Pat Wagner, who retired to assisted-living in a Chicago suburb, send greetings every holiday season. We miss them.

We grew to 75 members in 1978 and to slightly over 100 last year and a few years before. We have had field trips, most often to Chicago museums for special exhibits, such as Pompeii and Tut last year, and the Oriental Institute this year, but occasionally to see Wisconsin sites. Sometimes we had membership parties to relieve winter doldrums. Our main activity has always been our lectures, each year bringing three archaeologists on tours organized by the national office, and three or four additional archaeologists that we recruit ourselves. Among the most famous have been Marija Gimbutas speaking on “Earliest Deities of Old Europe,” Lanny Bell and Mark Lehner on ancient Egypt, Stuart Struever (founder of Kampsville and Crow Canyon archaeological projects for avocationals), Mayanist Linda Schele, Paul Bahn on Palaeolithic cave painting and on Easter Island, and Lloyd Cotsen, who had been trained as a classical archaeologist but got an MBA, became CEO of Neutrogena Corporation, and endowed the Cotsen Institute for Archaeology at UCLA. Members of the Milwaukee Society have contributed to the national organization as well. Over the years we have produced several national lecturers including Andrea Stone, Derek Counts and Jane Waldbaum; Bettina Arnold, Jane Waldbaum, and Derek Counts have served on national AIA committees; student members Jocelyn Boor and Kevin Cullen have presented activities at the annual Archaeology Family Fair; and of course, Waldbaum was recently president.
Our avocational and student members equally deserve recognition. 1995 saw the kick-off of our local newsletter The Artifact, with Al and Amy Sellers, graduate students in Art History at UWM, as founding editors. Since then Jocelyn Boor (Anthropology), Katherine Murrell (Art History), Ricky Kubicek (Anthropology), and Sara Rich (Art History) in turn have assumed the task of newsletter editor. Long-term members will remember Pat Wagner and then Mary Kohli, who each organized a feast of mostly home-made goodies for our refreshment; Dorothy Zess (our oldest active member? 85 this year) still brings baked treats. In recent years UWM students have taken over as refreshments coordinators—Ricky Kubicek even baked coffee-cakes on Sunday mornings before lectures!

“Participating in AIA activities has been important during my graduate studies at UWM,” says Ricky. “AIA’s many service and volunteer opportunities have allowed me to give my time to the local society while meeting and networking with international scholars and members.”

In the “olden days” the local secretary and helpers spent afternoons sorting mailings by zipcode; now, in the digital age, UWM Web Master Homer Hruby created a handsome website for us (http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/ArchLab/AIA/index.html), and we are building an e-mail list of members who would like to be notified quickly about our programs. In the near future you can help us save mailing costs by agreeing to receive lecture notices via e-mail instead of snail mail.

As we enter our second 40 years, the AIA-Milwaukee Society remains healthy and vibrant. As always, our strength comes from our members. We welcome your participation and suggestions for improvement. We look forward to many more years of bringing the latest information about archaeology to our members and to the Milwaukee community through the AIA-Milwaukee Society.

Cyprus & the Antiquities Trade:
An Interview with
Dr. Pavlos Flourentzos

By Jessica Dietzler, Art History & Anthropology, U-W Milwaukee

In light of the recent decision to include ancient coins on the list of import restrictions, Jessica Dietzler conducted the following interview with Dr. Pavlos Flourentzos, Director of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, about the significance of the decision and why it is important to safeguarding the cultural heritage of Cyprus.

The Government of Cyprus has ratified several international binding treaties in order to safeguard its cultural heritage. In 2002 (Federal Register Vol. 67; 139), the Governments of the United States and Cyprus entered into a bilateral agreement concerning Import Restrictions Imposed on Pre-Classical and Classical Archaeological Material Originating in Cyprus. As recently as July 16, 2007 (Federal Register Vol. 72; 134), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was extended another five years and includes an amendment for the addition of ancient coins to the list of import restrictions.

It should be noted that the inclusion of coins on the list is the first of its kind in the history of bilateral agreements between the United States and a foreign government. The State Department’s decision has met with heated reactions; some leaders of the coin dealer lobby believe that it heralds the eventual end of dealing and collecting activities. Recently, the American Coin Collector's Guild (ACCG) filed suit against the US State Department.
Coins from antiquity are graded on internet sites and available for purchase from sites such as Ebay

JD: Dr. Flourentzos, thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to participate in this interview. The recent renewal of the MOU between the United States and Cyprus is a significant development for both countries. The inclusion of ancient coins figures prominently in the renewal, and has been the subject of intense debate. Clearly, coins occupy an important space in the corpus of scientific archaeological data. When scientifically excavated, they have the potential to help us reconstruct ancient political, economic and social environments. Why are Cypriot coins so important, to include them on the list of import restrictions? Is it because textual evidence regarding the island’s history is so rare, or are there other reasons?

PF: First of all, allow me to thank you warmly for the opportunity you are giving me to communicate with your readers. We deeply appreciate the decision of the Department of State to include ancient Cypriot coins in the MOU. This act shows sensitivity to the importance of preserving world cultural heritage, a principle highly esteemed by the international scientific community.

You have very rightly pointed out that coins are an essential part of the corpus of the archaeological data. Actually, there is no scientific reason to set coins apart from the rest of archaeological finds. And it is important to understand that there is no way of retrieving coins without destroying the stratigraphy of a site.

You would be surprised, but the truth is that coins are of much greater historical importance for Cyprus, than maybe other countries like Greece and Italy. The reason for this is that Cyprus lacks the abundance of rich ancient written sources other areas of the Mediterranean and the Near East enjoy. The plethora of texts of Classical Greece, for example, that have come down to us range from philosophy and science to everyday life problems. These are valuable sources for the history of this area. Cyprus is not that rich in such texts, so the Cypriot coins are especially important for the attempts of reconstructing the history of ancient Cyprus.

JD: The collecting of ancient coins is a very popular hobby; ancient coins are also incredibly valuable, monetarily, in the worldwide antiquities market. Some supporters of coin collecting have proposed "responsible" collecting. Do you think it might be possible for coin collectors to collect ancient coins "responsibly" without contributing to the irreversible and destructive process of looting?

PF: There is no way for non-professionals to excavate coins at a site without destroying the archaeological context and the stratigraphy of the site. In the Antiquities Law of the Republic of Cyprus there is a special article for the protection of the stratigraphy of every archaeological site. In contemporary archaeology the ultimate value is context and not any isolated artifact. Thus, destroying stratigraphy to retrieve a coin is equal to destroying archaeology.
I am afraid that arguments about “responsible” collecting are based on the nineteenth century—and thus completely out of date—tradition when it was thought that archaeology is a pleasant pastime that anyone could “enjoy”. In the decades that have elapsed, the gradual transformation of archaeology from a pastime to a science has proved the essential difference between looting and scientific excavation.

**JD:** What, in your opinion, are the biggest problems currently facing academic archaeologists and scientists working in Cyprus?

**PF:** The most serious problem and obstacle against a healthy development of Cypriot archaeology is the occupation of the northern part of the island by the Turkish military forces. The archaeological investigation on the northern part of the island has paused since 1974. The Department of Antiquities of the Republic of Cyprus right from its early days has kept an open policy towards foreign archaeological missions which wished to excavate on the island. After the invasion of 1974, the foreign missions which had been working on the north part of the island were forced to abandon their excavations. Many of them lost even their written archives and scientific notes. Since then, they have not been able to go back and resume their work because any archaeological work on the occupied part of the island is illegal according to international law, treaties and scientific ethics. Greek Cypriot archaeologists cannot go and work in the north, either. Turkish Cypriot archaeologists remain isolated from the international archaeological community for the same reasons.

**JD:** What are your hopes for the future of archaeology, either on the island or in general?

**PF:** My deepest hope is that the two communities of the island could soon reach a political agreement for the re-unification of the island. Cyprus is too small to be divided. The archaeologists who work on the history of this island know very well that the cultural history of the island has been one and the same for its inhabitants throughout the millennia. In our days, when Europe is tending to unite under one entity, it would be a historical anachronism to have two separate states in Cyprus. Cypriot archaeology would be a major victim of such a development.

**JD:** Dr. Flourentzos, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of SAFE and the international community, for answering these questions.

**PF:** Please accept my sincere thanks for the opportunity you have given me.

For the complete interview, please see “Feature Stories” at SAFE’s website savingantiquities.org

For those who are interested in learning more about why coins are important in the archaeological record, please see Archaeology Watch: Coins and Archaeology (archaeological.org) and Why Coins Matter, a recent SAFE feature article by Nathan Elkins (savingantiquities.org).
109th Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting

By Kevin Cullen, Anthropology, UW-Milwaukee; Archaeology Assistant, Discovery World

The 109th Annual AIA Meeting was held in downtown Chicago at the Hyatt-Regency, January 3-6, 2008. The conference was both well attended and proficiently organized, owing to the AIA’s longevity and international fame as a beacon of scholarship for archaeology throughout the ancient world. A total of 55 sessions over the three-day conference covered a wide range of topics in archaeological research, with AIA’s conscious effort of moving beyond the Institute’s historical emphasis on Greco-Roman research. Sessions included research in Europe (“Iron Age Europe and Rome”), (“Frontier Iberia:...”), Eurasia (“New Excavations in the Vicinity of the Black and Caspian Seas”), Near East (“The Ancient Near East”), and China (“East Meets West: China and the Outside World”). Roundtable events addressed important issues particularly in protecting archaeological property during military conflict; meanwhile, a Teachers’ Workshop was organized to equip educators with activities for integrating archaeological content into their classrooms. The 8th Annual Archaeology Fair was held on the final day of the conference, which included a variety of hands-on activities for all ages. Only at an AIA Fair can you expect to see the unexpected, like a Roman soldier standing guard against an attack using a North American atlatl. Participation in the Fair by two Milwaukee museums added great excitement and discussion: “Obelisks and Rulers” (Milwaukee Public Museum) and, “Timelines in Tree Rings & Underwater Mosaics” (Discovery World). If the 109th AIA meeting was a sign of things to come, then the 110th meeting in Philadelphia next year will surely bring even greater diversity in research topics, while bringing back to life more of the unexpected in fun and innovative ways. (Note: abstracts from the 109th AIA Meeting are available at www.archaeological.org)

AIA-Milwaukee’s Field Trip to the Oriental Institute Museum

By Sara Rich, Art History, UW-Milwaukee

Through snowy skies and slippery highways, AIA-Milwaukee members and friends traveled south to Chicago to the Oriental Institute Museum. In addition to the good fortune of having a highly capable bus driver who got us there safe and sound, we also enjoyed having guest lectures by two specialists, Bruce Williams and Eleanor Guralnick. Dr. Williams discussed the archaeological work currently underway in the region of ancient Nubia and provided the group with details regarding items on display in the collection. Dr. Guralnick led us through the Assyrian gallery, answering questions along the way. After the lectures, the group members explored the museum collection independently. The museum’s astounding array of artifacts from western Asia, Sudan, and Egypt left the group awestruck. The pieces ranged from the 40-ton lamassu from ancient Assyria (see below) to Nubian leather sandals preserved in the Saharan sand for thousands of years. Just a few of the other treasures found behind glass were delicate Phoenician ivory carvings, exquisitely painted wooden sarcophagi containing Egyptian mummies, and Persian column capitals from Persepolis. We hope to see you for the next big excursion in 2008 – adventure awaits!

Ancient Assyrian lamassu under discussion by Dr. Guralnick
**Spring 2008**

February 10
Sunday, February 10, 2008, 3:00 pm  
Dr. Jason Sherman, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
*Power, Ideology, and the Emergence of the State in the Oaxaca Valley, Mexico*

March 2
Sunday, March 2, 2008, 3:00 pm  
Dr. Thomas J. Finan, Saint Louis University  
*The Archaeological Excavations at Kilteasheen, Ireland*

April 6
Sunday, April 6, 2008, 3:00 pm  
Dr. Alison Futrell, University of Arizona  
*Blood and Power: Arena Spectacle and the Roman Empire*

All lectures will take place at 3:00 pm in room G90 of Sabin Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus unless otherwise noted. Sabin Hall is located at 3413 N. Downer Ave.