

CONTEXT



Students Dan Titus (left) and Ty Pennypack of the Salve Regina University 2003 field school recording the early-eighteenth-century house foundation on the Wood Lot (photo by Christina J. Hodge). (See article on p. 8.)

A Mesolithic Landscape in Southern Greece

by Curtis Runnels

The Mesolithic period (ca. 9000–10,500 Before Present) in Greece is poorly known, with perhaps no more than a dozen sites on record, of which only about four have been excavated. The Mesolithic spans the transition from the Palaeolithic cultures of the last Ice Age in the Pleistocene to the Holocene (epoch of modern climate), and in Greece preceded the emergence of the first Neolithic farming villages. The Mesolithic shared some cultural characteristics (e.g., an interest in using barley and oats for food) with the Neolithic, but the relationship between the two periods is an open question. The scarcity of Mesolithic sites is responsible for this. Is the small number of sites evidence for a small and widely scattered population? Were their settlements concentrated in a few areas or widely distributed throughout the country? Is the small number only an artifact of the lack of research?

To address some of these questions, a team from Boston University's Department of Archaeology carried out a survey for Mesolithic sites in the Kandia region of southern Greece in 2003 to test a model of Mesolithic site preferences (Fig. 1). The Boston University team was directed by the author, who was joined by a team from the Greek Antiquities Service led by Dr. Eleni Panagopoulou. Our site location model was based on research in other regions, particularly research by Runnels and Professor Tjeerd H. van Andel of the University of Cambridge (and a Research Fellow in

the Department of Archaeology at Boston University) in southern Epirus as part of the Nikopolis Project co-directed by James Wiseman and Kostas Zachos (Runnels and van Andel 2003). That research suggested that Mesolithic people preferred to occupy sites in a coastal zone where rivers and streams flowing into the sea created wetlands with a great variety of aquatic resources such as fish, shellfish, seals, turtles, and birds.

Assuming that Mesolithic foragers were immigrants to Greece (probably from south-central Turkey) who arrived by sea in the beginning of the Holocene; they must have been attracted by the rich flora and fauna of the sparsely inhabited islands and the coastal mainland. Without competition from an indigenous population, the Mesolithic newcomers were free to choose the best locations (from their point of view) for occupation sites. These preferred habitats had perennial sources of fresh water available in the form of springs, rivers, and streams feeding coastal wetlands (swamps, marshes, and deep, narrow estuaries in the river valleys called "rias") created by the rapid rise of the sea as the ice caps melted at the end of the last Ice Age (Fig. 2).

The coastal region between the towns of Nafplion and Kandia in the Argolid in southern Greece was selected to test our site-location model because the environment here in the early Holocene was ideal for

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Faculty/Research Fellow News	5
Beaudry/McAnany Promoted	6
Visiting Professor Michael Danti	7
Student/Alum News	7
Eighteenth-Century Lives and Lots	8
Creighton Gabel Honored	10
Archaeology Commencement	11
"Larnen de Tar-Baby," Another Year in and around Iraq	12
On Air: Exciting Archaeology	14
Archaeological Investigations Mersa Gawasis	15

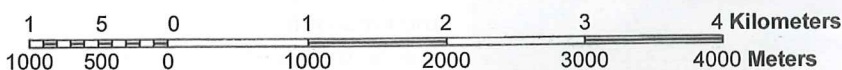


Figure 1. Map of the Kandia area with the Holocene shorelines and the sites mentioned in the text. The present shoreline is a heavy black line with a light blue pattern. The late Mesolithic shoreline at 9000 B.P. is indicated by a medium blue pattern, and the early Mesolithic shoreline at 10,500 B.P. is indicated by a dark blue pattern. To the left is an outline map of Greece with an arrow indicating location of the Kandia region.

continued from page 1

Mesolithic settlement. Another reason for choosing this region is that two nearby Mesolithic sites (Klisoura Cave and Franchthi Cave) have been excavated and we could use the evidence from them to identify and date artifacts from our survey. We also had marine geophysical data from the Argolic Gulf that permitted us to reconstruct the position of the early Mesolithic shoreline in Kandia. In addition, pollen cores from a nearby lake permitted us to reconstruct the early Holocene environment in more detail.

The coastal zone between the modern towns of Nafplion and Kandia is a good place to look for Mesolithic sites because the shoreline in the early Holocene was close to the present coastline owing to the limestone

bedrock that slopes steeply down to the sea. Perennial streams created rias and extensive wetlands, not unlike the area seen in Figure 3 where a spring-fed landscape with small ponds, marshes, and swamps is preserved by a beachrock barrier. The coastal zone also has many limestone escarpments created by local faulting, with many small caves and shallow rockshelters carved in them by water percolating through cracks (Fig. 4). The lack of intensive modern development helped to preserve archaeological sites, and the small effects of erosion in the lightly settled, narrow limestone valleys around Kandia were unlikely to have buried large numbers of sites. Finally, the relatively small changes in the shoreline over the last ten thousand years ensured that the effects of submergence by marine transgression on the visibility of Mesolithic sites were also minimal.

Our research design was novel. No

Mesolithic sites were known to exist here, nor had there been any previous archaeological survey. Based entirely on an *a priori* site location model, we predicted exactly where we expected to find Mesolithic sites before we began our work, and the fieldwork was intended only to confirm or refute our model. By inspecting the caves and rockshelters for Mesolithic remains, we could focus on the evidence for a single hypothesis. This is different than the practice in diachronic surveys where large topographic areas are investigated for empirical evidence of human land-use in all periods.

To aid our environmental reconstructions, we used a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) model to refine the variables that determined the best places in the landscape for Mesolithic site location. We assumed that the important variables were proximity to fresh water and the sea,



Figure 2. View of the mouth of the Bay of Drepanon (looking west). During the Mesolithic this bay was a narrow estuary, or ria, fringed with extensive wetlands and lakes.

Figure 3. View of Kondili beach near the mouth of the Bay of Drepanon. This area of brackish spring-fed lakes and marshes behind a beach-rock barrier gives an impression of an early Holocene wetland.



availability of suitable caves, visibility of landscape features from sites, wind direction, and the distribution of solar radiation, topographic relief, and bedrock. We also assumed that the position of a site in relationship to other sites and to landscape features, such as topographic relief and sources of water, was controlled by relief and visibility. Was the sea visible from a particular site? Could other sites be seen from other sites? An evaluation of solar radiation was used, along with relief and viewshed (what could be seen from the site), as a way to measure the suitability of a cave for habitation in different seasons. Wind direction in the warmest (July) and coldest (January) months of the year was used to measure the protection from the prevailing winds in a particular season. Based on solar radiation and windchill, we determined whether sites were suitable for winter or summer use.

The distribution of bedrock was also useful. The topographic relief in Kandia is the result of the folded and faulted karstic limestone bedrock, and the limestone contains caves.

The bedrock also determined the location and characteristics of the dominant plant communities. The reconstruction of early Holocene plant communities uses the pollen records from the Argolid and the evidence of plant remains from nearby Franchthi Cave, the most important Mesolithic site yet excavated. The plant communities in this period were highly varied, with deciduous oaks and pines in an open forest with meadows rich in grasses. These plants were sources of nuts, fruit, seeds, wood for tools and fuel, and supported deer and boar that were hunted.

The reconstruction of the prehistoric shoreline was critical. Following the end of the Pleistocene, sea level rose rapidly from a depth of ca. -52 m below present sea level about 10,500 Before Present (B.P.), to -6 m around 6000 B.P., -2 m in Roman times, and still edging up today. Assuming that the sea reached a depth between -20 and -22 m below present sea level by the end of the Mesolithic period around 9000 B.P., it is clear that the Kandia coast in the early Holocene was near to the present shoreline. The

shoreline was dynamic, however, and moved steadily landward during the one and a half millennia of the Mesolithic, flooding low-lying coastal zones and creating extensive wetlands.

One problem posed for survey by the rapid flooding of the coastal plain is the submergence of early sites. This potential "masking effect" would be compounded if soil erosion and alluviation in historical times contributed to the progradation of the coastline and buried sites along the lower slopes of the river valleys. Our study of the available geomorphologic and marine geophysical data, however, suggests that these effects are not great. The caves in the steep limestone escarpments around Kandia are safely above the river floodplains and the advancing shoreline, although close enough to allow for easy exploitation by Mesolithic foragers.

Our fieldwork required three weeks with a team of six specialists in order to examine as many caves as possible, as well as a few areas where we thought we might find open-air sites. Our method was simple. We inspected the surface inside and in front of caves looking for artifacts exposed by erosion or other disturbance (Fig. 5). We were limited by the terms of our permit to the inspection of the surface and could not excavate, and for practical reasons it was also necessary to confine our examination to areas accessible from roads. As a consequence, we might have overlooked some sites, but we believe that our efforts resulted in the recognition of most of the Mesolithic sites in Kandia. When we found lithic artifacts (mostly flaked flint, or radiolarite, implements) we attempted to collect every artifact. The only important exceptions were made at two rich sites where artifacts were very numerous. At one site (Adami 2) there were more than 1000 artifacts visible on the surface, and we decided to restrict ourselves to a sample of 536 artifacts, leaving only the undiagnostic bits. At a second site (Adami 3) 100 m to the NW from Adami 2, we encountered an unprecedented scatter of lithics on a slope below an outcrop of flint

continued on page 4

Figure 4.
View of a
typical cave
in the lime-
stone escarp-
ment.



continued from page 3

where we estimated that there were 10,000 or more Mesolithic artifacts on the surface. Here we collected eight sub-random samples at 20-meter intervals across the surface to obtain a representative sample of about 512 artifacts.

Curiously, although all of the team members were experienced specialists in this kind of research, we found few artifacts from other periods, amounting to only a handful of lithics from periods other than the Mesolithic: a few ancient or medieval potsherds, and a single Ottoman coin. This result suggests that our sites were used almost exclusively in the Mesolithic period.

In the end we discovered 15 Mesolithic sites and collected a total of 1,713 artifacts for study. The majority of the lithics are typologically and technologically Mesolithic, and we believe that the distribution of sites in the Kandia survey preserves a "fossil" pattern of Mesolithic land-use. Our results have confirmed the site location model and we have even been able to refine the model. Based on our preliminary analysis, it is clear that caves were selected for occupation because they faced the winter sun and were shielded from winter storms by topographic barriers. There is also a distinct pattern of occupied shelters falling at points in the landscape that overlook more than one river valley, gorge, or coastal narrow between limestone escarpments and the sea. It is equally clear that locations were selected also for their proximity to rivers and springs, insuring access to fresh water, and narrow valleys that provided opportunities for ambushing animals. The steep topographic relief

found in the valley bottoms and the rugged limestone ridges between valleys supported plant communities more varied than those found in flat open areas like the Argive Plain to the northwest. These plant communities potentially provided firewood and food, including fruit (pears), nuts (almonds, acorns), barley, oats, vetch, mushrooms, and greens. The coastal hinterland was equally attractive as a place to hunt red deer, boar, and wild goat. Several sites are located near sources of good quality raw material for flintknapping, especially a reddish-brown flint (or radiolarite) that occurs as tabular deposits in limestone outcrops.

It is notable that the Kandia Mesolithic sites are spaced about one kilometer apart, and all of the sites could have been visited in a single day. Assuming that they were in use more or less contemporaneously (a shaky assumption, but the only one we have to go on), they could have been used by a single small group of foragers, either permanently or seasonally. As predicted, the sites are all close to the sea, with the most distant site no more than six kilometers away from the coast at 10,500 B.P., or about one or two hours by foot. On the assumption that the smaller assemblages in our sample come from special-purpose sites, the majority of our sites can be interpreted as outposts, way stations, hunting stands, or extraction sites for raw material that were part of a logistical network of sites centered on a single base camp. Adami 2, with its dense concentration of artifacts (five to 10 times greater than that found on any other site in the area), is a good candidate for a base camp. Nearby Adami 3 is an

open-air site associated with a flint outcrop that we interpret as a specialized-raw-material extraction site. It may have been one of the reasons, apart from the choice location at the juncture of two valleys, with a clear view of the sea, for choosing Adami 2 as the base camp.

The Kandia survey finds consist of microlithic artifacts, typically less than one centimeter in length, with a few retouched tools such as end scrapers, sidescrapers, notches, denticulates, combination tools (with two or more retouched edges), and geometric microliths. Our finds are hard to date, but by comparison with finds from excavated sites (e.g., Franchthi Cave), the Kandia Mesolithic sites may span the Mesolithic period (ca. 9000 to 10,500 B.P.). It is difficult to reach conclusions about the duration of the Mesolithic occupation at our sites, or even the possibility that they were occupied at the same times (as opposed, for instance, to each site being the result of an isolated episode of occupation by groups visiting the area at different, and widely separated, times). Likewise, without excavation we have no direct information concerning subsistence. The scanty data available from excavations elsewhere in Greece, however, suggest that resources from marine, riverine, and near-coastal terrestrial environments were indeed important for early Holocene foraging economies. Details are sketchy, but the few sites for which we have any data suggest that fish, shellfish, birds, and terrestrial mammals such as red deer, boar, wild goat, and hare contributed to a broad spectrum of hunting and foraging with an emphasis on coastal resources.

For many years discussion of the transition from the Mesolithic period to the Neolithic in Greece has been complicated by the lack of evidence for Mesolithic sites. Up to 2003 when we undertook our survey, there were only about 12 Mesolithic sites known for all of Greece. We have now more than doubled the number of known sites in a single stroke. This gives us confidence that our model of Mesolithic site location is a good one, and that future surveys in similar

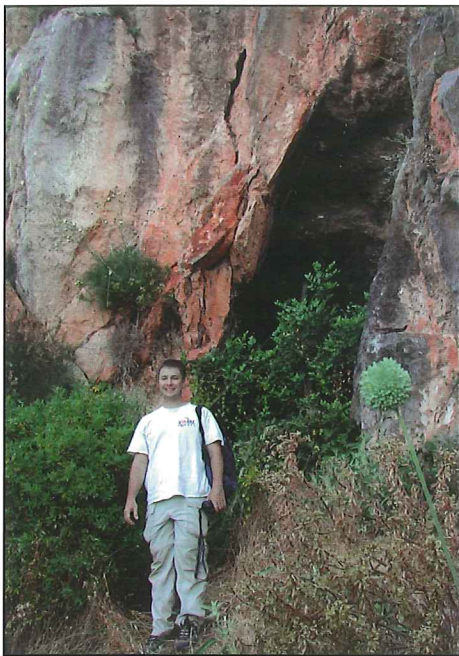


Figure 5. View of a Mesolithic site. An artifact-bearing breccia (rock fragments cemented by calcium-rich groundwater), the remains of the site's occupation floor, is found where Kevin Mullen is standing.

regions will provide a more accurate picture of the distribution of sites in this period. We believe that our results have shown that a properly designed surface reconnaissance can locate Mesolithic sites in selected areas, but our model also predicts that the preferred environments that attracted Mesolithic settlers were relatively rare and largely confined to the near-coastal zone.

Our site-preference model, which has been successively tested in Kandia, will be useful for constructing research designs for the detection of Mesolithic sites in those parts of Greece where similar environmental conditions were found in the early Holocene.

Acknowledgements

The Kandia Mesolithic Survey is a joint project of Boston University under the aegis of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and the Ephoreia of Palaeoanthropology and Speleology (EPS) in the Ministry of Culture of Greece. The co-directors are Curtis Runnels (Boston University) and Eleni Panagopoulou (EPS). Priscilla Murray (Research Fellow) and graduate stu-

Faculty/Research Fellow News

Kathryn Bard is vice-president of the recently established New England chapter of The American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), which will hold regularly scheduled lectures in the College of Arts and Science Building at Boston University. The first lecture will be given on February 8, 2005, by Professor Rodolfo Fattovich of the Oriental Institute, Naples, Italy, entitled "The Land of Punt: Archaeological Evidence from Kassala, Sudan." The lecture will be sponsored by Boston University, Harvard and Northeastern University.

In mid-April 2004, **Paul Goldberg** presented an invited paper on "Micromorphology and Cave Sediments" at the annual meeting of the Hugo Obermaier-Gesellschaft in Greifswald. In May 2004, at a conference on Geoarchaeology of the Eastern Mediterranean, sponsored by the University of Tübingen, he was co-author on two posters, one with L. Meignen, "Reading Sediments from Prehistoric Caves in Israel," and the other with S. Schiegl and B. Ligouis, "Mineralogy, Micromorphology, Phytolith Analysis and Organic Petrology of Middle Palaeolithic And MSA Cave Sites: Comparison between Sibudu (South Africa) and

the Levant." In July and August, Professor Goldberg spent two weeks at the fascinating site of Dmanisi, Georgian Republic, investigating the micromorphology of the complex deposits with C. Reid Ferring (Univ. of N. Texas). He also participated for two weeks in July 2004 in the Boston University Archaeological Field School in Menorca, Spain.

Patricia McAnany delivered a lecture for the Archaeological Institute of America in New York City (Institute of Fine Arts, 1 E. 78th St.) on October 14, 2004: "Ancient Maya Chocolate Farmers in the Sibun Valley of Belize." She also lectured on "Chocolate in Pre-Columbian Meso-America" at the Chocolate Culture Symposium on October 24, 2004, at Boston University. At the 70th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, Eleanor Harrison-Buck and McAnany will deliver a paper: "Empowered and Disempowered: Terminal Classic Maya Burial and Sacrificial Rituals in the Sibun Valley." The Alaskan Anthropological Association has invited Professor McAnany to give the plenary address at their March 2005 meetings in Anchorage, Alaska. As an

continued on page 6

dents Susan Allen and Kevin Mullen in the Department of Archaeology at BU, Vangelis Tourloukis (University of Leiden), and Georgia Tsartsidou (EPS), participated in the field and are working together on the final publication of the results. Our research was supported by a permit from the Greek Ministry of Culture and financial assistance was provided by the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (U.S.) and the EPS.

Curtis Runnels is a Professor of Archaeology in the Department of Archaeology at Boston University. He is interested in the early prehistory of the Aegean world, and has done fieldwork in Greece, Turkey, and Albania.

Further Reading

2003 Galanidou, Nena and Catherine Perlès, eds. *The*

Greek Mesolithic: Problems and Perspectives. London: British School at Athens Studies.

2001 Runnels, C., "Stone Age of Greece from the Palaeolithic to the Advent of the Neolithic with an addendum," in T. Cullen, ed., *Aegean Prehistory: A Review*.

Boston: Archaeological Institute of America, 225-258.
2003 Runnels, C. and Tjeerd H. van Andel. "The Early Stone Age of the Nomos of Preveza: Landscape and Settlement," in James Wiseman and Kostas Zachos, eds., *Landscape Archaeology in Southern Epirus, Greece I*. Princeton: American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 47-134.

continued from page 5

undergraduate alumna of the University of Alaska, Anchorage, she will also deliver a popular lecture to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the university. The 23rd Annual Maya Weekend to be held April 8-10, 2005, at the University of Pennsylvania focuses on "Maya Chocolate and Precious Delights." As one of the featured speakers, Patricia McAnany will deliver a lecture on ancient chocolate production in the Sibun River valley.

Research Fellow Anna Marguerite McCann is co-author with John Peter Oleson of *Deep-Water Shipwrecks off Skerki Bank: The 1997 Survey*, which was published in fall 2004 as Supplementary Volume 58 of the *Journal of Roman Archaeology*.

During March 6-7, 2004, **Rafique Mughal** attended "The South Asian Legacy of Sir Aurel Stein" conference held at de Montfort University, Leicester, U.K. As an international expert on heritage preservation, Mughal traveled as a representative of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) to Iran to examine and evaluate sites and monuments in Pasargadae. In August 2004, at the invitation of the ICOMOS Secretariat, Professor Mughal also went to Kunya-Urgench, Turkmenistan, to examine the sites there. He also attended the International Conference on Central Asian Architecture at Ashgabad, Turkmenistan, on November 17-18, 2004. A detailed report on Professor Mughal's trips will appear in *Context*, 18.2 in spring 2005.

Robert Murowchick, Director of the International Center for East Asian Archaeology and Cultural History (ICEAACH), lectured on "Making Silent Sentinels Speak: the Archaeology of China's Buried Armies of Clay," held at Boston University on October 13, 2004. The lecture, one of a series of presentations during Massachusetts Archaeology Month, was sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America, American Schools of Oriental Research, and ICEAACH. Other activities included an open house at the AIA, ASOR, ICEAACH, and Department of Archaeology.

Beaudry and McAnany Promoted

Mary C. Beaudry, a founding member of the Department of Archaeology in 1982, has been promoted to Professor of Archaeology, effective September 1, 2004. She is a specialist in American historical archaeology, and has directed numerous excavations in New England, while also advising on many Master's theses and Ph.D. dissertations. A prolific author of field reports and journal articles, Mary Beaudry also edited the journal, *Northeast Historical Archaeology*, from 1984 to 2001. The Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology honored her with its Outstanding Service Award when she relinquished the editorship. In recent years her publications have included the co-edited *The Art and Mystery of Historical Archaeology* (CRC Press: Boca, Raton, FL, 1992), and the co-authored "Living on the Boott": *Historical Archaeology at the Boott Mills Boardinghouses in Lowell, Massachusetts* (University of Massachusetts Press: Amherst, MA, 1996). Her new book, *Findings: The Material Culture of Needlework and Sewing*, is forthcoming from Yale University Press. Current projects include co-editing with Dan Hicks (University of Bristol) *The Cambridge Companion to Historical Archaeology* and writing a book on the archaeology of Boston for Yale University Press's series on the archaeology of the world's major cities.

Professor Beaudry served as President of the Society for Historical Archaeology in 1989 and currently chairs its Awards Committee. Her research interests in historical and industrial archaeology include comparative colonialism, archaeology of households, farms, and landscapes, and contextual analysis of small finds. In the Department of Archaeology she has served as Director of Graduate Studies, and directed Boston University's Archaeological Field School in the Outer Hebrides, investigating the background from which many Scottish families emigrated to the New World.

Patricia A. McAnany, Associate Professor of Archaeology since 1994, has been promoted to full Professor, effective September 1, 2004. Her area of research focuses on the Maya Lowlands where she has been directing archaeological research since 1990. Her book, *K'axob: Ritual, Work, and Family in an Ancient Maya Village* (2004), has just been published by the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA and has been nominated for the 2005 Best Book Prize awarded by the Society for American Archaeology. The edited volume includes chapters by many past and present Boston University students who worked on the project, for which Professor McAnany was the recipient of a fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University (1999-2000).

Professor McAnany's current project, the Xibun Archaeological Research Project, is funded by the National Science Foundation and is concerned with the political economy of cacao (chocolate) production in Classic Maya society. Field seasons combine joint research and teaching seasons funded through Boston University's International Programs; they have provided field training for over a hundred undergraduate students as well as advanced training and masters/dissertation material for a dozen graduate students.

Research at K'axob included an investigation into the agricultural uses of wetlands, and into the significance of ancestor veneration within domestic contexts, resulting in an earlier book by McAnany, *Living with the Ancestors: Kinship and Kingship in Ancient Maya Society* (University of Texas Press: Austin, TX, 1995). McAnany is also co-editor of *Prehistoric Maya Economies of Belize*, (1989), editor of *Sacred Landscape and Settlement in the Sibun River Valley: XARP* (JAI Press: Greenwich, CT, 1999), and *Survey and Excavation* (SUNY: Albany, NY, 2002), and has authored or co-authored numerous articles.

McAnany served as Secretary of the

Visiting Professor Michael D. Danti

by Evelyn LaBree

The Department of Archaeology is pleased to have Visiting Assistant Professor Michael Danti to teach Mesopotamian and Near Eastern archaeology courses during Professor Paul Zimansky's leave-of-absence in 2004-05.

Dr. Danti is a Research Specialist at the University of Pennsylvania Museum's Near East Section. He also directs archaeological field projects in northern Syria on the Euphrates and in western Iran.

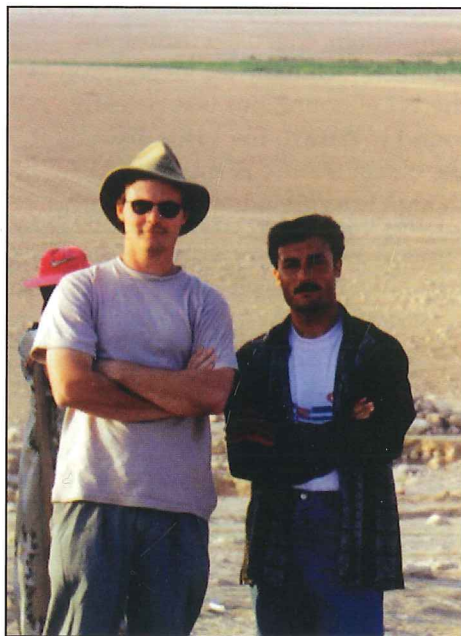
Danti received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania in 2000. In his dissertation, *Early Bronze Age Settlement and Land Use in the Tell es-Sweyhat Region, Syria*, he investigates the role of pastoral economies in the emergence of early states in the Balikh-Euphrates uplands of northern Mesopotamia, especially in the arid upland steppe surrounding the site of Tell es-Sweyhat, probably the ancient city of Burman, in the Early Bronze Age (3100-2000 B.C.). This project involved an archaeological survey and the excavation of Tell Hajji Ibrahim, a small (0.25 ha) site of the late fourth and early third millennia B.C. Before attending the University of Pennsylvania, he earned a B.A. in Anthropology (with a minor in history) from Purdue University where he studied ancient Mediterranean, Near Eastern, and Egyptian history, as well as Middle Egyptian.

Professor Danti's research interests center on the study of the prehistoric and early historical societies of

Archaeology Division of the American Anthropological Association [AD-AAA] (1994-1996), and on the Board of Directors of the Society for American Archaeology (2000-2003). She was recently elected to the Board of the AD-AAA and also Treasurer of the Brooklyn Historical Society in her hometown of Brooklyn, Connecticut. She is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*.

Mesopotamia, Egypt, southern Anatolia and western Iran, especially the agropastoral economies that support them. Professor Danti has proficiency in the methodological techniques of ethnoarchaeology, near-surface and aerial remote sensing, GIS, off-site archaeological survey, landscape studies, and excavation, particularly of small sites such as pastoral stations and small, isolated agropastoral settlements.

At the Museum, Danti undertakes specific analytical tasks related to reassessing, integrating, and publication of field data from excavations at Hasanlu, Iran (1956-1977). This material covers the periods from 6000 B.C. to 285 B.C., plus an Islamic thirteenth-fourteenth century A.D. level. During its occupational history the site changed from a Neolithic village to a Bronze Age town to an Iron Age temple center, to an Achaemenid/Seleucid fortified manor house. This complex analysis involves the study of maps, plans, sections, field notes, reports, photographs, air photographs, and drawings in the project archives. These require cross-correla-



Michael Danti, Field Director of excavations at Tell es-Sweyhat (Syria), and the son of the site guard, Mahmoud il-Hilayf, survey work at the top of the tell in 2001.

tion, evaluation, correction, and interpretation. His monograph on the Islamic Ilkhanid period entitled *The Ilkhanid Heartland: Hasanlu Tepe (Iran) Period 1* was published in 2004 by the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Danti is currently working toward a volume on *Hasanlu IV B: Burned Building 1* of the ninth century B.C. Recently he, Dr. Mary Voigt, and Robert Dyson completed an analysis of a deep sounding which links Hasanlu to the Mesopotamian Chalcolithic.

Evelyn LaBree is the Administrator in the Department of Archaeology at Boston University.

Student/Alum News

Undergraduate Awards

Terresa Davis: \$15,000 Mortimer Hays-Brandeis Travelling Fellowship for 2004-05; Alice M. Brennan Humanities Foundation Award 2003; Ada Draper Award 2004; Department Prize for Excellence.

Maeve Skidmore: Archaeology Trowel Award.

Lacey Wallace: Phi Beta Kappa, College Prize for Excellence.

Donna Yates: Archaeology Trowel Award.

Graduate Student Awards

Ilean Isaza Alzpuru: Boston University Women's Guild Clara Ellis Graham Award.

Christina J. Hodge: Sara Bradley Tyson Memorial Fellowship 2003.

Jessica MacLean: *Journal of Field Archaeology* Fellowship.

Satoru Murata: Excellence as Teaching Fellow Award 2003-2004.

Alexia Smith: Best Essay Prize in The Lawrence G. Blackmon Student Book Collection Contest; a Cora du Bois writing fellowship.

A book by **Michelle M. Terrell** (Boston University Ph.D. 2001) has been recently published by the University Press of Florida: *The Jewish Community of Early Colonial Nevis: a Historical Archaeology Study*. The book is based on her dissertation, for which she received the Society for Historical Archaeology Dissertation Prize.

Eighteenth-Century Lives and Lots: the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard Site in Newport, Rhode Island

by Christina J. Hodge

Site and Excavation History

Some of the earliest settlements in Newport, Rhode Island, occurred around the Town Spring, near present-day lower Broadway. At 17 Broadway, the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard (WLH) house is the oldest structure in this old neighborhood; dendrochronology dates its core to 1696. The significance of the site as a whole, however, goes far beyond architecture or antiquity: the house is an emblem of its neighborhood and city. From its earliest days, the neighborhood saw mixed residential and commercial use; was sometimes more, sometimes less fashionable; and was at its most dynamic and successful during the eighteenth century. Despite all this, the house's stories, like the city's, are only partially told. Colonial histories focus on great and colorful men and deeds, while the daily lives of non-elites are less often explored. Recent archaeology at the WLH site promises to illuminate some of these more common lives, along with those of their "greater" fellows. Material culture recovered from the site will expand our understanding of the property, its city, and colonial New England.

The Baptist missionary Stephen Mumford, Sr. was the first English owner of the WLH property. He built a house there ca. 1696 and his son, Stephen, Jr., inherited it in 1707. The property's eighteenth-century owners were a varied lot, including a tailor, a tanner, a future governor, an Anglican lawyer/rabid Tory, a Quaker merchant/Naval stores officer, and a lawyer/future Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court. It was the last, Daniel Lyman, who gave the property its current bounds in the late eighteenth century when he purchased neighboring land to develop a small urban compound. The WLH site remained in the hands of Lyman's descendants until 1920, when they

sold it to the Newport Historical Society (NHS). The Society immediately began preservation efforts. They have owned and maintained the property as a house museum to this day.

The NHS supported the first archaeology at the WLH site in 1998, a survey directed by Dr. James Garman of Salve Regina University. Dr. Garman has led Salve's summer field schools at the site since 2000, and I joined them as a Project Archaeologist in 2003 and 2004. The summer field campaigns have made the WLH project the longest-running archaeological excavation in Newport's history. The site is not large (roughly a 0.25 acre lot), but has yielded well over 15,000 artifacts dating from the late seventeenth through the twentieth centuries. The quantity, quality, and cohesiveness of the eighteenth-century deposits are outstanding. Besides scattered yard debris, features from this period include two filled privies, multiple middens, a large cobbled yard, a possible glazing yard, and two buried house foundations. One of the foundations was used during the eighteenth century for an addition to the WLH house, but was recently found to date to the 1640s, making it the oldest feature at the site. Although interpretation of this find is

still tentative, it underscores the richness and complexity of the WLH property's history.

Aside from a few student papers, there has been no systematic analysis of WLH artifact collections. With the close of the 2004 season, however, excavation was put on hiatus. Resources are now being devoted to a backlog of processing, analysis, and interpretation, and my dissertation research is part of this project. I am focusing on a "vanished" property within the WLH site, identified as the "Wood Lot" after its first documented owner. It is one of the lots purchased by Lyman in the late eighteenth century, its bounds subsequently obscured by construction and gardening. As Dr. Garman has discovered, the NHS's early landscaping of the WLH yard aspired to the picturesque, further effacing the property's past as fragmented, crowded, and utilitarian. In a sense, by re-identifying the original lots and households, archaeology has re-populated the WLH site.

The Wood Lot has yielded artifacts from the first half of the eighteenth century, when the land was owned first by glazier William Wood, then by widow/shopkeeper Elizabeth Pratt and her family. Their house alone took up almost half of the tiny (0.07 acre) lot, which was at times further crowded by a privy, fences, and a gate, further cluttered by glazing debris and shallow trash middens. The excavated builder's trench, foundation, cellar, privy, trash pit, and work yard, however, rival the grander neighbors' material remnants (at least



Front elevation of the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House (photo by Christina J. Hodge).



Salve Regina University field-school students excavating a late-eighteenth-century cobbled yard feature in the summer of 2000 (photo by James C. Garman).

from an archaeological standpoint). Thousands of recovered artifacts and food remains provide direct evidence of quotidian activities. I am currently cataloguing this evidence and will use it to construct an historical ethnography of Wood Lot households. My analysis of 660 probate inventories and 270 newspapers, undertaken in the summer of 2003, further contextualizes consumption, status, and occupation in colonial Newport. Although I ultimately expect to include William Wood in my dissertation project, to date, documentary evidence has led me to focus on the widow Elizabeth Pratt and her kin.

The Widow Pratt's Possessions

Material culture is at the heart of American historical developments. The eighteenth-century transition from home-produced goods to store-bought English imports chronicles changes in colonial tastes, which became increasingly standardized and "colonized" by English fashions. During this period, middling homes were transformed into social spaces where material culture communicated individual values and aspirations. In this context, I will compare Pratt's material goods with those from select eighteenth-century households in colonial New England ports (for example, Salem, Massachusetts and Portsmouth, New Hampshire). Are Pratt's material choices predictable? That is, can we assume (as archaeologists so often do) that social status and consumption are directly related? I am considering several material cate-

gories via artifacts and primary documents, including ceramics, glassware, textiles, faunal remains, foodstuffs, clothing/personal adornment, and space/architecture.

Widow Pratt's material choices will be interpreted in the context of her social and economic roles as matriarch, widow, consumer, retailer, benefactor, and dependant. She supported herself as a shopkeeper, selling a wide range of fabrics and clothing accessories, as well as refined comestibles like sugar and chocolate. For sons-in-law John Morris and John Lawrence, Pratt's shop was simultaneously desirable and problematic. They initially provided financial support for her purchases, both personal and professional. Something in 1733 precipitated a financial crisis, however, prompting Morris to take legal action against his mother-in-law. Soon the Pratt, Morris, and Lawrence families were deeply involved in multiple suits against each other. The core issue seems to have been control of Pratt's merchandise, with its promise of economic and social empowerment. Ultimately, our understanding Pratt's consumerism and her place in colonial Newport society depends on our understanding of how different family members defined appropriate and inappropriate consumption, for both themselves and others.

I have found little to indicate that Pratt's primary motivation for purchasing goods was blind emulation of New England's merchant elite. I expect her consumerism was strategic and, ultimately, had more to do with the fact that she was a shopkeeper

than with her income *per se*. Historical studies of colonial women retailers emphasize their role as embodied advertisements. Pratt was a purveyor of taste during a period of socially transformative consumption. This interpretive layer must be considered when discussing material remains from her home. Archaeological interpretations typically rely on correlations between material goods, social position, and wealth. The Pratt site cautions that wealth and status are not the whole story: biography and household history are crucial to interpretation.

Archaeologists have found the lure of New England's merchant elite nearly irresistible, rarely investigating middling individuals like the Pratts and Woods. In contrast, several document-based studies of Anglo consumerism (on both sides of the Atlantic) actually *focus* on the middling sorts, suggesting that middling household practices are at the core of eighteenth-century culture change. These studies, too, have their limitations. A few cite the theoretical contributions of archaeology in an introductory chapter, but I have found none that integrates archaeological findings. Yet, all acknowledge that probate inventories and other documents do not adequately reflect mundane goods and activities. The Wood Lot provides direct evidence of these very practices, and in a way that documentary sources cannot replicate. Archaeology does more than illustrate the WLH site's history. Although finds are situated within a particular context, they illuminate how material culture itself actively transformed behavior and society at multiple scales. My dissertation project links these individual material remains and choices with larger social processes such as market capitalism, the consumer revolution, kin relations, and gender roles.

Christina J. Hodge is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Archaeology at Boston University. She is writing her dissertation under the direction of Dr. Mary Beaudry (advisor), Dr. Ricardo Elia, both of Boston University, and Dr. James C. Garman of Salve Regina University.

Endowed Scholarship Fund and the Archaeological Museum Named in Honor of Creighton Gabel

Archaeology Student Prize Fund Also Established

The Center for Archaeological Studies and the Department of Archaeology are pleased to announce the endowment of the Creighton Gabel Memorial Scholarship Fund, named in honor of our beloved former colleague who died on February 22, 2004. The Archaeology faculty have also voted to name the archaeological museum, established two years ago in Room 253 of the Stone Science Building, the Creighton Gabel Archaeological Museum. In addition, an Archaeology Student Prize Fund has been established as a restricted fund.

Creighton Gabel, who joined Boston University in 1963, was a co-founder of the Department of Archaeology in 1982 and served as the Director of Graduate Studies until his retirement in 1995. He was also Editor of the *Journal of Field Archaeology*, 1986–1995. Following the announcement last spring of our intention to create the Gabel Scholarship Fund, Archaeology faculty, alumni/ae, staff, and research fellows, as well as members of the Center and other friends, responded generously with contributions, which in December reached a total of \$12,505. The Gabel Scholarship Fund, the first endowed fund for the Department of Archaeology, will make possible an annual award to an archaeology graduate student, beginning in May 2005.

Jane Gabel, who shared fifty-one years of marriage with Creighton, was a major contributor to the fund, along with her daughters, Anne Gabel and Molly Ben-Menachem. She expressed her sincere thanks on behalf of the family to the many other contributors to the fund.

The museum will be dedicated with its new name at a ceremony in spring 2005 (date to be announced). The museum houses artifacts from various parts of the world, including the Creighton Gabel collection of prehistoric stone tools, metal artifacts, and Iron Age pottery from Africa, where he did most of his field work. Other principal groups of artifacts are the Charlie Mitchell Collection of stone tools from North America and the James Wiseman study collection of artifacts from Greece, ranging in date from prehistoric to Ottoman Turkish times. Curators of the museum are Professor Curtis Runnels and Research Fellow Priscilla Murray. (See Priscilla Murray, "The Archaeology Museum," *Context* 17.1 Fall/Winter 2002/2003] 8.)

We are also pleased to report that gifts to the Archaeology Student Prize Fund totaled \$700 in December, and that the first awards from this restricted fund will be made in May 2005, one to a graduate student and one to an undergraduate. To create an endowment, the University requires a minimum of \$10,000. Our current plan, therefore, is to award most or all of the funds in the Student Prize Fund this year, and seek contributions again next year both for that fund and to increase the endowment of the Gabel Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Creighton Gabel Memorial Scholarship Fund

\$10–49

Rodolfo Fattovich
James Schryver
Jessica Spier
Thomas F. Tartaron
Howard Wellman
Jacqueline Zak

\$50–99

Mary C. Beaudry
Michael and Karen Hamilton
Evelyn LaBree
Curtis Runnels and Priscilla Murray

\$100

Julie Hansen
Gerald M. Macomber

\$200

Kathryn Bard
Rafique and Zarina Mughal

\$250

Fred S. Kleiner
Norman Hammond and Jean Wilson

\$300

Peter D. Joyce and Patricia A. McAnany
Paul Zimansky

\$500

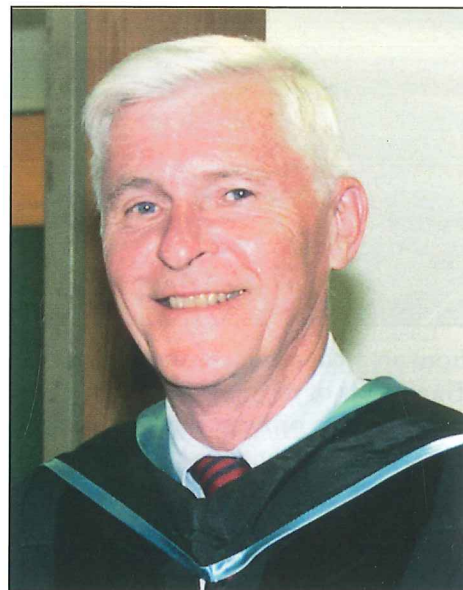
William K. and Teresa Barnett

\$1,000

Clemency Coggins
Ricardo and Casey Elia
Jim and Lucy Wiseman

\$2000

Anna Marguerite McCann and Robert Taggart



Creighton Gabel, 1931–2004

(Photo at Archaeology Commencement Ceremony, 1995, by Michael Hamilton.)

\$5,000

Gabel Family: Jane Gabel, Anne Gabel, and Molly Ben-Menachem

Archaeology Student Prize Fund

\$5–49

Rodolfo Fattovich
Sara Mascia
William and Elizabeth Ruf
James Schryver
Jessica Spier
Howard Wellman
Jacqueline Zak

\$50–99

Mary C. Beaudry
Ricardo and Casey Elia
Conrad Goodwin
Michael and Karen Hamilton
Norman Hammond and Jean Wilson
Curtis Runnels and Priscilla Murray

\$100

Jim and Lucy Wiseman

\$200

Clemency Coggins

*Tax-deductible contributions to the Creighton Gabel Scholarship Fund and the Archaeology Student Prize Fund may be made by check to the Center for Archaeological Studies, 675 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215. Copies of James Wiseman, "An Appreciation of an Archaeological Life: Creighton Gabel, 1931–2004," *Journal of Field Archaeology* 29 (2002–2004) 1–5, are available upon request to the Center.*

Archaeology Commencement 2004

Bachelor of Arts

Lars Andresen
 Robert R. Atkins Jr.
 Michael Joshua Bernheisel, *cum laude*
 Amanda Burns
 Aaron Michael Camire, *magna cum laude*
 Krystal J. Chan, *cum laude*
 Terresa Davis, *magna cum laude*
 Department Prize for Excellence
 Independent Work for Distinction
 Elizabeth Johnson Drolet
 Kathryn Grace Etre, *magna cum laude*
 Brandon Jacob Gonia
 Alexander Donald Keim, *cum laude*
 Penny Michelle King, *cum laude*
 Kelly Krause
 Nicholas J. Limerick, *magna cum laude*
 Keith McIntosh
 Christopher E. Miller, *cum laude*
 Independent Work for Distinction
 Elizabeth Maureen Peterson
 Kate Ramey, *cum laude*
 Jane Lyden Rousseau, *cum laude*
 Maeve Skidmore, *summa cum laude*
 Archaeology Trowel Award
 Tracy Spurrier
 Maria Tennyson, *cum laude*
 Lacey Mayo Wallace, *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa
 College Prize for Excellence
 Independent Work for Distinction
 Amanda Christian Watts
 Donna Elizabeth Yates, *cum laude*
 Archaeology Trowel Award
 Independent Work for Distinction



Faculty and students pose for a group photograph after the graduation ceremonies.



Maeve Skidmore, *summa cum laude*, receives her diploma from Professor Patricia McAnany.



Chair Julie Hansen presents Lacey Wallace, *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa, her College Prize for Excellence Award.



Julie Hansen presents the Archaeology Trowel Award to Donna Yates, *cum laude*, for her dedication and outstanding service to the Department, and her tireless support for the Archaeology Club.

Master of Arts

Stacy McClintock
 Taryn Michele Ortoli
 Ellen Spensley

Doctor of Philosophy

Trina Arpin
 Christopher Dixon
 Julie Ernstein
 Todd Reck



Julie Ernstein (top) and Todd Reck in full doctoral dress after receiving their Ph.D.s.



All photos on this page by Michael Hamilton.

“Larnen de Tar-Baby,” Another Year in and around Iraq

by Paul Zimansky

It is neither surprising nor inappropriate that a land so rich in petroleum as Iraq, where bitumen has been used as a glue since the Neolithic, would produce a tar-baby. In my case, it is a creature of academic stickiness, binding me with concerns for a people and a past with increasing desperation and urgency while leaving me with very little time for anything else. My most recent entanglements have come about in the cause of education, and perhaps it is fitting to recall that in Joel Chandler Harris's "The Wonderful Tar-Baby Story," it was the desire to teach that prompted Brer Rabbit to get involved in the first place: "I'm gwinter larn you howter talk ter 'spetubble fokes ef hit's de las' ack'." I wrote about the first act in the last issue of *Context*. In late June and July of 2003, Elizabeth Stone, Zainab Bahrani, and I traveled to Baghdad to bring in supplies to help the Iraq Museum recover from its looting in April of that year. Elizabeth and I had an additional mission, which was to sound out authorities in Iraqi universities and medical schools about their willingness to participate in a cooperative program sponsored by USAID. A few weeks previously the U.S. Government had put out a request for proposals for projects to help Iraqi universities get back on their feet, citing archaeology specifically as a priority. That concern was probably a direct consequence of the shellacking that coalition forces had taken in the world press for their negligence in protecting the Museum.

Perhaps because we went to Baghdad and knew people there, Elizabeth's institution, SUNY, Stony Brook, won the award. It was, by our standards, a staggering amount of money: \$4.1 million for the first year and a likely renewal for two more years to take the total up to nearly \$11 million. I had helped draft the proposal, and two aspects of the program involved me directly. First, we

were going to bring a group of students to the United States for an MA program in Near Eastern archaeology. In order to help teach the first round, Stony Brook hired me as a visiting professor for the academic year of 2004-05. Second, we proposed to have several cooperative summer programs in Iraq with the faculty and graduate students of Baghdad and Mosul Universities. The first of these, designed to bring Iraqi archaeologists up to speed on what they had missed in the years they had been cut off, both materially and intellectually, from the rest of the world, was planned for the summer of 2004.

In March, over Spring break, we set out for Iraq to select the graduate students and make arrangements for the summer workshop. For the first time in many years I was able to fly into Baghdad from Amman instead of taking the brutal overland drive. The plane was operated by AirServe, which specializes in going to places regarded as dangerous. As we approached Baghdad, the co-pilot stood up from his seat and shouted over the engines that we would begin our descent from directly over the airport in order to avoid hand-launched surface to air missiles. This was real flying: we went into a spiraling dive with the runway rotating around the lower wingtip. We were to have several more of these rides in the coming days.



Flying to Baghdad from Amman. Falujah and the Euphrates can be seen below.

The stay in Baghdad was not terribly exciting because the people who were looking after our security insisted that we spend most of our time indoors. We visited Baghdad University and the Museum, but most of our time was spent interviewing candidates for the MA program. The interviews were in English and we tried to keep the questions as simple as possible, but the students found them painfully challenging. Most had never encountered a native speaker of English before. We then flew to Erbil, in the Kurdish zone of Iraq, from which we had planned to drive to Mosul for another round of interviews, but our security people intervened again. A number of foreigners had just been shot and shot at, so we were urged to bring the candidates to Erbil for their interview. While we were there, we considered using a secure compound in Erbil as the locus of the summer workshops. Neither Baghdad nor Mosul seemed safe enough. We conducted our interviews, selected four candidates, flew back to Baghdad, and chose four more from the group there. In the end, none of the Mosul students was able to get visas to the United States, but the four from Baghdad are currently enrolled at Stony Brook.

While we were in Baghdad, the filmmaker Micah Garen looked us up. He was making a film on the looting of sites in Iraq and wanted us to go with him to Mashkan-shapir, an Old Babylonian city we had put on the map with our excavations in years before the Gulf War. Photographs taken from a helicopter in January by John Russell showed that this formerly pristine site is now thoroughly



Journalist Micah Garen and Elizabeth Stone in a Baghdad hotel. Micah failed to persuade us to visit Mashkan-shapir and was himself later kidnapped.

plundered leaving almost nothing to dig. Since the looters are well armed and foreigners were being shot with some regularity on the road that led south from Baghdad, we decided it wasn't worth the risk just to give Micah some footage of us looking dismayed. In early August, Micah himself was kidnaped and became international news. After ten days he was released, fortunately, but his plight gave us all a scare.

The idea of having the summer workshop in Erbil fell apart almost as soon as we put it together. Most of the Iraqis we talked to said they wouldn't be able to attend. Some were politely vague, but others made it clear that any association with the compound would put them in danger. We certainly would have felt like prisoners there ourselves; with no recreational facilities and fine scotch selling for only \$6.00 a liter in the one-room grocery store, it might not have been the healthiest of summers. After putting up some resistance initially, USAID permitted us to offer the workshop in Amman, Jordan, where the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) enthusiastically offered us logistical support. For the Iraqis, this made all the difference. Instead of ten or twenty participants, we soon had more than fifty, including both senior and junior scholars.

We returned from the Middle East in April and spent the following weeks preparing for the workshop. The original faculty had been from Stony Brook, Boston University, Oxford, Columbia, and the Sorbonne, but only the Stony Brook and Boston University components were left at the beginning of the summer. Zainab Bahrani, from Columbia, was appoint-

ed Senior Cultural Advisor to the new US Embassy in Baghdad. The Sorbonne participant dropped out because he was worried about "collaborating" with an American project. Jeremy Black, Oxford University's young and energetic cuneiformist, was a most painful loss. He had helped plan the workshops from the beginning and came to Stony Brook in April for an organizational meeting full of ideas, authority, and enthusiasm. A week later, back in Oxford, he died in his sleep. His death was a devastating blow to the entire community of those who study Mesopotamia.

Others soon rallied around, and the workshop started on schedule in late June. The faculty lived in a spacious apartment a stone's throw from ACOR, with its excellent library and newly installed computer lab, the latter paid for by the overhead from our grant. A few blocks away the Iraqis had room and board in the Hillside Hotel, where we set up another com-

puter lab and a teaching facility.

The workshop went exactly according to plan, and perhaps for that reason it is a little hard to convey how exciting it actually was. We met every morning for three hours of lectures. I taught a historically oriented archaeological sequence from the Neolithic and through the Iron Age. Elizabeth lectured on archaeological methods, including such innovations as remote sensing and GIS. For the first five weeks, Professor Daniel Snell of the University of Oklahoma lectured on Mesopotamian history and Professor Alan Wamsley of Copenhagen gave an overview of Islamic archaeology. In the second five weeks, Snell and Wamsley were replaced by Prof. Marion Feldman of the University of California, Berkeley, who taught art history, and two Assyriologists from Yale, Eckhardt Frahm and Kathy Slanski, who reviewed Mesopotamian literature and history from the standpoint of textual evidence. The faculty attended all lectures and the Iraqis contributed their knowledge of recent developments in Iraq, so we all learned a great deal from each other. In the afternoons, we broke up into smaller groups for hands-on sessions with technologies that are new to the Iraqis, including tools such as digital cameras and total stations, as well as computer applications like Photoshop, Powerpoint, Excel, and use of the internet. We also had a weekly session of lectures by

continued on page 14



Participants in the Amman Workshop, June-August 2004. Scattered among the Iraqis from Baghdad, Mosul, and Qadasiyah are the faculty: Paul Zimansky, Boston University (front row left); Elizabeth Stone, SUNY Stony Brook (front row center); Marion Feldman, University of California, Berkeley, and Kathy Slanski, Yale (at right end of first row, respectively); Eckart Frahm, Yale (back row right, beside window, in blue shirt); Daniel Snell, Oklahoma (in blue-green shirt, near center in gap below back row); and Alan Wamsley, Copenhagen (arms folded, in white shirt, beside Snell).

On the Air with Exciting Archaeology

by Norman Hammond

One of the Department's more recent graduates had a great deal of transatlantic TV coverage this past summer: Meg Watters (Boston University M.A. 1998) was a core member of the Extreme Archaeology team in a series of programs shown on Britain's Channel 4. *Extreme Archaeology*, which aired from May through August of 2004, put its team into hair-raising situations and tight corners in pursuit of otherwise impossible-to-obtain archaeological data. One episode involved hanging from a rope over the fast-flowing River Wye in Wales to investigate a rubble feature which might well have been the only surviving remnant of a Roman bridge, another the penetration of a deep and partly-flooded Bronze Age mine. Meg was the resident geophysicist, and was teamed with osteologist Alice Roberts and archaeologist Katie Hirst, who discussed each episode's details under a white geodesic dome, a portable project base erected each program near the focus of operations. A review in *British Archaeology*, the Council for British Archaeology's monthly journal, said that "Visualization was spot on, using Watters' imaging technologies to generate graphics directly related to the archaeology, not a post-production gimmick. EXA also allowed the viewer to engage with the subject through helmet-mounted cameras, alluding to science-fiction films such as *Alien*, and to computer game interfaces." Unfortunately, while the technical team were praised, the presenter, Mark Davies, was said to be "clumsy" and "boring", and the review ended by asking "Why did qualified women report to a far-less-qualified male leader?" While a second domestic series is thought unlikely, the journal reports rumors of a future *Extreme Archaeology: International*: so we may be seeing Meg Watters on WGBH after all.

continued from page 13

Jordanian and Iraqi archaeologists, and weekly field trips to sites around Jordan.

At the end of August the workshop ended and the Iraqi participants departed in convoys to their respective cities, leaving a day earlier than the announced departure to elude anyone who might be planning to ambush them on the way home. Elizabeth and I took a week of vacation in Cyprus to let everyone get settled back in, after which we had planned to fly to Baghdad to see how the summer's material was being implemented. Once again, security confounded our plans. This time everyone—USAID, our own security people in Baghdad, our new Iraqi friends, and everyone else we talked to—told us not to come. We put the trip off to the end of November, but in

early November we got the same message—don't come, it's too dangerous.

So this is where things stand: we will go to the Middle East in early December to set up a field program for next summer, training Iraqi archaeologists in Turkey, we hope. We have just enough money to do this. The second and third year funding of the grant has been cancelled or at least put on hold—all money for higher education has been taken out of the USAID budget and put into security, which seems to deteriorate by the day. We are scrambling around trying to find the funds for continuing the MA program so the students we have brought to the United States won't have to go back home empty handed.

Security and educational needs are not the only problems for those who concern themselves with Iraq's past and future. The looting of sites has

reached epidemic proportions and nobody seems capable of doing anything about it. In contrast to the fuss that the press made about the plight of the Iraq Museum in April 2003, this story has gone almost unnoticed, although the damage to our potential for understanding one of the most important chapters in the human past is infinitely greater.

At the end of Joel Chandler Harris's story, Uncle Remus pauses at the point where Brer Rabbit is hopelessly stuck and Brer Fox approaches him.

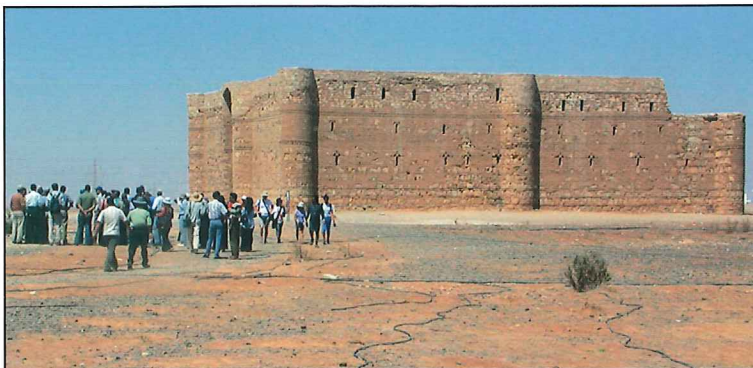
"Did the fox eat the rabbit?" asked the little boy to whom the story had been told.

"Dat's all de fur de tale goes," replied the old man. "He mout, en den again he mountent. Some say Jedge B'ar come long en loosed 'm—some say he didn't. I hear Miss Sally callin'. You better run 'long."

We are certainly stuck in this task of trying to get Iraq back on its feet. The more effort we put in, the more things we realize we still need to do. And despite local victories, the whole enterprise seems to be sliding downhill. Anybody seen Jedge B'ar?

Paul Zimansky is a Professor in the Department of Archaeology at Boston University.

Workshop participants visiting the eighth-century Umayyad castle of Qasr al-Karaneh in the desert east of Amman.



Archaeological Investigations at Mersa Gawasis, Egypt, 2003–04

by Kathryn Bard and Rodolfo Fattovich

In the mid-1970s A. M. Sayed (University of Alexandria, Egypt) discovered a pharaonic harbor on the Red Sea at Mersa Gawasis, Egypt, about 25 km south of the modern port of Safaga and 50 km north of Quseir, a Roman/Byzantine sea port. Sayed identified this site as the port of *S3w* from where ancient Egyptian sea-faring expeditions were sent to Punt, a region most likely located in eastern Sudan and/or Eritrea. At Mersa Gawasis Sayed found evidence of inscribed stelae, potsherds with painted hieratic inscriptions, well preserved wood, and limestone anchors. Structures associated with the stelae were identified as small votive shrines. The inscriptions date the port to the Twelfth Dynasty (ca. 1985–1773 B.C.).

Beginning in 2001 archaeological investigations were resumed at Mersa Gawasis by Boston University (BU) and the University of Naples "L'Orientale" (UNO), Naples, in collaboration with the Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente (IsIAO), Rome, under the direction of the authors. Geologist Abdelmoneim Mahmud of Ain Shams University, Cairo, also participated in the fieldwork.

The pharaonic site is located at the northern end of the Wadi Gawasis, with surface remains found in an area of ca. 14 ha. Although archaeological

remains are visible both on the top and at the bottom of a coral terrace, much of the settlement is buried under sand and collapsed parts of the terrace. Some parts of the site have also been destroyed by construction of the modern coastal road and a railroad track, but there is still much surface evidence that Sayed did not record.

Mapping and excavations in 2001–02 and 2002–03 demonstrated the general spatial organization of the site. Several structures were recorded and partly investigated, including circular structures made with coral blocks, stone cairns on top of the coral terrace, stone tool workshops, a wall made with coral blocks at least 10–15 m long, work and storage areas with evidence of shelters and mud-brick features, and concentrations of tuyères, potsherds, and copper slag next to an inland playa.

Many fragments of cedar (from boat planks?) were also found on the surface and in excavated strata, mainly at the bottom of the southern side of the coral terrace, along the Wadi Gawasis. Most of the ceramics collected in the 2001–02 and 2002–03 field seasons date to the Middle Kingdom. A few potsherds from a large circular structure range in date from the Middle to New Kingdom (second millennium B.C.), suggesting a later use of the site.

A few Middle Nubian potsherds, dating to the mid-second millennium B.C., were also found. Two obsidian flakes found on the surface of the coral terrace, and two potsherds similar to Malayba Ware (from the Aden region, dating to the late third-second millennia B.C.), provide evidence of imports from the southern Red Sea region. Lithics with a dark patina and of a different industry from those associated with the Egyptian settlement were also scattered on the top of the coral terrace. Possibly the site was frequented by indigenous Eastern



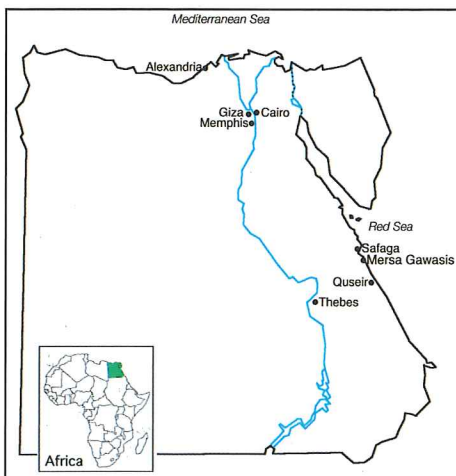
Pharaonic pot sherd (Dyn. 12) with a hieroglyphic boat sign.

Desert peoples (?) before the Middle Kingdom, most likely in the early to mid-Holocene.

In 2003-04 the fieldwork focused on three sites: 1) the western slope of the coral terrace, where an industrial area was recorded in 2001; 2) the base of the southern side of the terrace, where evidence of an early occupation was recorded in 2002-03; and 3) structures along the eastern edge of the terrace near the sea. Members of the expedition were, in addition to the authors, Abdelmoneim Mahmud, Trina Arpin (BU), Terry Childs (US National Park Service), Andrea Manzo (UNO), Cinzia Perlingieri (UNO), and Chiara Zazzaro (UNO). Moamen Saad was the representative of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Qena Office. Fieldwork was supported by a generous private donation of Mr. Wallace Sellers, Solebury, Pennsylvania, and a grant from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome.

The 2003-04 excavations provided more evidence of different phases of occupation of the site, which indicated that the harbor was used from the end of the Old Kingdom and/or First Intermediate Period to the end of the Middle Kingdom and/or beginning of the New Kingdom. Most of the excavated evidence dates to the twelfth Dynasty (ca. 1985–1773 B.C.). At the base of the stratigraphic sequence along the southwestern slope of the coral terrace some "Nubian-like" potsherds were found in association with a few sherds of a pharaonic ware that dates from the late Old Kingdom/First Intermediate Period to the early Middle Kingdom. Also in this context were many shells and

continued on page 16



Outline map of Egypt locating Mersa Gawasis.

continued from page 15

stone perforators made from flakes similar to Nubian ones of the late third-early second millennia B.C., thereby suggesting that the site was frequented by people with Nubian cultural traditions.

Two major wet intervals were identified in the stratigraphic sequence at the southwestern base of the coral terrace. They represent different phases of wadi activity under wet/moist climatic conditions with alternating episodes of abundant floods and dry oscillations.

Many fragments of ceramic tuyères, usually associated with copper ore and slag, were found in all strata dating to Twelfth Dynasty, pointing to an industrial use of the site. Furnaces were located along the shore of the wadi and the western playa, with a concentration at the base of the western slope of the coral terrace. The exact use of the tuyères, however, is uncertain, as none showed evidence of vitrification or slagging. Possibly the tuyères were used for melting copper in crucibles, but no crucibles or



Tuyères for copper production excavated by Terry Childs (Boston University Ph.D. 1988).

molds have been found at Mersa Gawasis so far.

Two clay ovens were found on the western slope of the coral terrace and were possibly used to make bread molds. A similar oven stacked with ceramic bread molds is represented in the Theban tomb of Antefoker (ca. 1956–1911 B.C.).

Maritime use of the site is supported by numerous limestone anchors and anchor fragments from the settlement area and the ceremonial area along the seashore, as well as shaped fragments of timber (cedar) from



Clay oven for making bread molds.

boats excavated in the settlement area.

In 2003-04 two ceremonial structures were excavated on the eastern edge of the coral terrace. A roughly oval structure associated with anchors was probably used as a kind of shrine, similar to a small shrine for the goddess Hathor in the village for galena miners at Jebel Zeit in the Eastern Desert. This structure consisted of a roughly oval enclosure and a small inner horseshoe-shaped stone arrangement, which was built later. Both the enclosure and the stone arrangement opened to the east.

The main east-west axis of the Wadi Gawasis enclosure is about 10-12 m long. Some post-holes were found inside the enclosure. Pieces of limestone, most likely from an anchor, found in a hole near the entrance of the enclosure suggest that the structure was related to maritime activity. A few potsherds, dating to Middle Kingdom, were collected inside this structure.

The other ceremonial structure consisted of two small chambers built with vertical slabs of conglomerate stone inside a structure made with blocks of coral and conglomerate stone. Within this structure were *Pteroceras* shells and fragments of wood and limestone. A few potsherds which date to the Middle Kingdom were found within and around this structure.

Excavations at Mersa Gawasis will be resumed by the team in late December 2004 and January 2005.

Kathryn Bard is an Associate Professor of Archaeology in the Department of Archaeology at Boston University and Rodolfo Fattovich is a Professor at the University of Naples "L'Orientale" (UNO), Naples.



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