

CONTEXT



A late 17th-century figurine of tin-glazed earthenware of a young couple in an embrace inspired by betrothal poses commonly depicted in Classical art was found in a fill layer. See "Beneath the Blackstone Block," page 8.

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Editorial

Greece and the Elgin Marbles

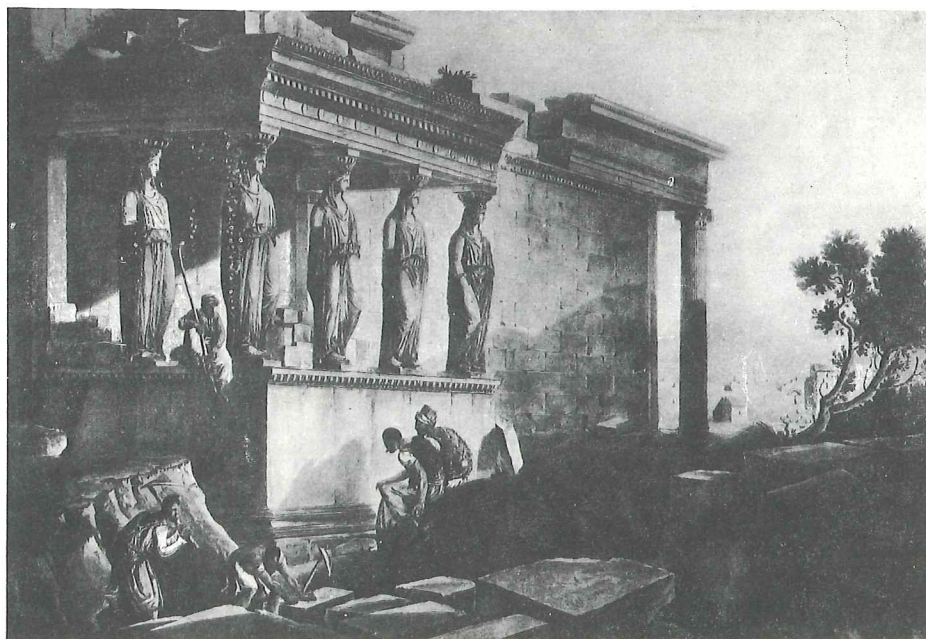
by James Wiseman

Melina Mercouri, the motion picture actress and currently the Greek Minister of Culture, has revived the long-standing demand of her country that the British Museum return the Elgin marbles to Greece. She is especially concerned with the recovery of marble sculpture from the Parthenon and the Erechtheum on the Athenian Acropolis. Officials of the British Museum have responded by asserting, once again, the right of the museum to possession of the antiquities.

This latest call for the return of the marbles, which has already received considerable attention in the news media of many countries, has renewed a debate that is not likely to subside as quickly

now as it has on some earlier occasions. For one thing, the new Greek advocate is of such renown that merely her name or presence will command the attention of the press; she will have access to the world public for the presentation of the Greek view. For another, the Greek position may be expected to appeal to many of those who have become newly aware of the concerns of the UNESCO "Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of the Ownership of Cultural Property." (See the editorial in *Context* 2:4 [1983] 2-3.) The increasingly positive responses to the UNESCO Convention by the peoples of many nations constitute at least an indication that the ethical and legal issues involved in the old controversy over the Elgin marbles may be viewed as present-day social concerns.

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The Porch of the Maidens of the Erechtheum during the period of Turkish domination.

The controversy surrounding the Elgin marbles is as old as the acts of plunder their acquisition represents. The story of Lord Elgin's activities in Greece and Turkey, and their melancholy aftermath in France and England, is a fascinating romance, peopled with some of the most renowned figures of the early 19th century, ranging from the heads of governments to military figures like Lord Nelson to the poet Lord Byron. It is a tale of adventure with elements that insure permanent popular appeal: political intrigue, high risks, sex scandal, great discoveries, and ultimately personal disaster for the leading figure. In this essay, however, we shall touch only on the events most relevant to the dispute between England and Greece over the possession of the Elgin marbles. Some background will be helpful.

Thomas Bruce, the Seventh Earl of Elgin, was appointed Ambassador to Turkey by King George III in 1799. Even before leaving England Elgin resolved to undertake in Greece, then a part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, extensive copying of ancient works of art by having casts, drawings, and paintings made, especially in Athens. En route to his post in Istanbul Lord Elgin hired in Sicily Giovanni Batista Lusieri, a painter, to oversee that program for him. Once Lord Elgin had actually seen the architectural and sculptural mas-

terpieces on the Acropolis in Athens, and in competition with the French Consul, Louis François-Sebastian Fauvel, he obtained in 1801 permission from the Turkish Sultan not only to record and copy those monuments, but even to remove whatever he chose. The order from the Sultan was explicit and repetitive.

Under the penalty of death, no interruption shall be given His Excellence, Lord Elgin, nor to his painters who are engaged in fixing scaffolds around the ancient Temple of the Idols (sc. the Parthenon). And in modelling the said ornaments, or in measuring the ruins of fallen temples, no obstacle shall be thrown in their way by the Voivode, the Cadi, or any other officer of the Turkish army. No one shall meddle with the scaffolding or implements, and if the said painters wish to take away any pieces of stone with inscriptions or sculptures therein, no opposition shall be made. In the above-mentioned manner, see that ye demean and comport yourselves. (Signed with a signet, Seged Abdullah Kaimmacam)

This *firman* of the Sultan in Istanbul required obedience in Greece. The fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453 had been the culminating event in the occupation and domination of Greece by the Ottoman Turks; that domination continued in some parts of Greece

until the early 20th century. The Greek War of Independence (1821-1832) brought freedom to southern and part of central Greece, but at the time of Lord Elgin's Ambassadorship, Greece was still subject to Turkish rule. There was, therefore, no Greek government to which Lord Elgin might have presented his request. By the same token, of course, there was no Greek government that might have protested his actions.

Now in possession of written authorization from the Sultan, Lusieri, Lord Elgin's chief agent in Athens, proceeded to strip the Acropolis of its finest sculptural adornment. A Caryatid was removed from the Porch of the Maidens on the south side of the Erechtheum. Architectural pieces were crated up and carted off. Sculptured metopes and pieces of the continuous Ionic frieze of the Parthenon were removed without regard to the damage done to that magnificent structure.

Not wishing to transport unnecessary bulk, Lusieri had his men saw through the enormous marble blocks of the Ionic frieze so that only the portion sculpted with the Panathenaic procession need be sent to the docks at Piraeus for shipment to England. (The remaining portions of the frieze blocks still lie on the Acropolis and are identifiable by the ridge on one face that resulted from the workers' practice of sawing half-way through the block, then turning the block upside down and cutting from the other direction. These blocks are known today to students of Athenian architecture as "Lusieri marbles.")

Witnesses to the despoliation of the Parthenon were revolted to see marble cornice blocks knocked loose so that they fell to the ground and were shattered into bits as workers pried and lifted metopes from their places above the outer colonnade. One of the eyewitnesses, Edward Daniel Clarke, records that even a Turkish official shed a tear and cried out *Telos* ("The end") at the destruction of one of the cornice blocks.

Lusieri recovered other pieces of sculpture and architecture by digging holes near the Parthenon.



The west façade of the Parthenon. Photograph by the author in 1959.

Among the latter treasures were pieces of pedimental sculpture that had fallen to the ground when the Venetians under Francesco Morosini attempted to remove them after capturing the Acropolis in 1687.

Lord Elgin and his agents extended their search for antiquities to other buildings in and around Athens, and then to sites at greater distances: to Eleusis, Delphi, Mycenae, Olympia, the island of Delos, and others. The removal of entire buildings and monuments was contemplated (but fortunately not carried out): the Monument of Lysikrates, even the Erechtheum. And case after case of antiquities found its way to British warships and merchant vessels, bound for Malta and England.

Lord Byron, a witness to the extravagant plundering of a Greece that was not able to protect itself, was only the most famous (eventually) of Elgin's critics. In *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (especially Canto II) and other poems Byron vilified Elgin and others for their depredations.

Come then, ye classic Thieves of
each degree,
Dark Hamilton and sullen
Aberdeen,
Come pilfer all the Pilgrim loves
to see.
All that yet consecrates the
fading scene.

In Byron's view, Lord Elgin was "The last, the worst, dull spoiler" of a Greece that was no longer free: "What right had he to remove the precious stones of a weak nation? What right had he to raise his hand against a building that had stood for two thousand years?" The shame was attached even to England herself:

Tell not the deed to blushing
Europe's ears;
The ocean queen, the free
Brittannia, bears
The last poor plunder from a
bleeding land . . .

Others joined Byron in the denunciation of Elgin, and on the same grounds. For example: "It appears to me a very flagrant piece of injustice to deprive a helpless and friendly nation of any possession of value to them..." (F.S.N. Douglas); Elgin's



Gordon Lord Byron, one of the principal opponents of Lord Elgin's depredations in Greece.

acts were "insensate barbarism and devastating outrage which will never cease to be deplored." (Edward Dodwell, who himself collected antiquities in Greece.)

Lord Elgin's attitude seems to have been that the modern Greeks had nothing in common with ancient Greeks and did not deserve the masterpieces of their earlier age. He felt that "It was his divine calling to preserve these treasures unto all ages." On the other hand, as Wilhelm Treue and others have pointed out, Elgin also claimed that he took the marbles away to prevent Turks and others from mutilating or destroying them. And in a letter to the Society of Dilettanti in 1831 he articulated a rather different reason. "The motives which induced me to carry out this operation in Greece proceeded entirely from the wish to secure for Great Britain, and hence for Europe as a whole, the best possible knowledge, and the means of improving it, through the most outstanding works of Greek art in sculpture and architecture."

Lord Elgin, en route to England in 1803, was detained on the order of Napoleon and was interned in France until 1806, when he at last was able to return to England to

organize his collection, divorce his wife, and try to put his financial house in order. In the meantime, Lusieri kept men at work in Greece, collecting, crating, and shipping antiquities to add to Elgin's collection. Only in 1812, when he had exhausted his financial resources, did Elgin have Lusieri stop acquiring antiquities.

After extended negotiations with the British Parliament, including highly publicized debate and testimony before a select committee, the British government agreed to pay Elgin £35,000 for the principal pieces in his collection that had survived the voyages from Greece. The purchase price was only a fraction of what Elgin had expended to collect and transport the antiquities, and was insufficient to meet the demands of his creditors. Even that sum was never received by Elgin, but was disbursed by the government to some of his creditors. The marbles were transferred to the British Museum in 1816.

To round out this sketchy outline of a part of Lord Elgin's career, we note that following a long series of financial and other per-

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sonal disasters, Elgin remarried, and then immediately moved to France to avoid his creditors. He died in Paris in 1841.

On Elgin's side, and that of the museum, it has been pointed out often that others (including some of Elgin's critics) were despoiling Greece at the same time; that if Elgin had not been successful, then someone else, perhaps the French, would have carted off whatever was possible from the Acropolis. Worse still, had Elgin not removed the sculptures, they might have been destroyed by wanton vandalism or in the War of Independence. What is more, the museum may claim that the *museum* was not involved in any act of plunder (however one might judge Elgin), but that it possesses the marbles as the result of a legal sale by Elgin to the British government. Besides, another argument runs, Elgin did have a permit from the legal government of Greece.

The first two arguments, in my opinion, are weak. The fact that others committed similar depredations, or might have done so had they been able, does not mitigate Elgin's acts. And how the monuments might have fared had they been left on the Acropolis, we cannot know. The second argument is worthy only if the museum believes, or we can believe, that Elgin had a legal right to possession of the marbles. Otherwise

the purchaser was merely the recipient of stolen goods. (The case is not a close analogy to my hypothetical example of the Concord Bridge in *Context* 2:4 [1983] 3, but there is a similarity.)

The third argument is based on long precedent regarding the fortunes of war; that is, that the conqueror may dispose as he sees fit of the property of the conquered. And there is no question but that Greece was under the domination of the Ottoman Turks at that time. But there is also long precedent for rescinding the acts of fallen conquerors, for returning exiles, and for restoring their property, even at the expense of others who had innocently come into possession of that property. In the case at hand, it is the marbles that are in exile, and it is an independent Greece that is calling for their return.

That observation leads to consideration of another aspect of the issue that is relevant to the third argument. The support that England gave to Greece in its War of Independence from Turkey is some evidence that England came to the conclusion, even within the lifetime of Elgin, that the Ottoman Empire had no right to the domination of Greece. There is, therefore, a self-contradiction in the argument that Elgin received a legal permit for activities in Greece from a government that England evidently concluded had no legal

rule in Greece.

The question of legality, then, is a sticky issue, and one that will not be resolved by appeal only to the laws of one nation. Perhaps an international court of arbitration would be useful. Or perhaps the British government on its own will become convinced that it is right and proper to return the marbles to Greece.

The British Museum might even look upon itself as the protector of an important part of the cultural heritage of Greece (and of the world) during a time when the Greeks were not able to provide protection. For that kindness the museum would deserve the thanks of us all. But Greece has been an independent nation for more than a century and a half, and Athens long ago ceased to be the small village that Elgin, Byron, and their contemporaries knew; it is now a modern metropolis. And anyone who has visited the Acropolis Museum and the National Museum in Athens should have no worry about whether or not the marbles would now be well tended in their homeland.

In closing we might note the admonition of a contemporary of Elgin, "a learned Greek of Ioannina," according to John Cam Hobhouse, who said, "You English are carrying off the works of the Greeks, our forefathers. Preserve them well because we Greeks will someday come and redeem them."

The "someday" may be near at hand; the Greeks, in any case, are trying once again to redeem at least part of the Elgin marbles. We wish them, in their language, καλή τύχη! ("Good luck!").

Further Reading

See especially Theodore Vrettos, *A Shadow of Magnitude: The Acquisition of the Elgin Marbles*, G.P. Putman's Sons: New York, 1974, which contains many of the 19th-century citations, including the firman, quoted above, and an extensive bibliography. See also Wilhelm Treue, *Art Plunder*, trans. by Basil Creighton, John Day: New York, 1961, and Terence Spencer, *Fair Greece, Sad Relic*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson: London, 1954. The two engravings are reproduced from Palia Athina (Ekdhosi Asyλου Technis: Athens, 1931).



The Erechtheum, view from the southwest. Photo by the author in 1959.

Urban Archaeology at the Paul Revere House

by Ricardo Elia

During the past few months, Boston University archaeologists, students, and Center members have discovered exciting evidence of Boston's early history at the Paul Revere House in the North End. Digging in the tiny back yard of the oldest surviving wood frame house in the city, excavators have uncovered an abundance of archaeological remains, including an 18th-century cobblestone paving, a 19th-century wood-lined privy, and thousands of domestic artifacts spanning three centuries of occupation.

Mary Beaudry, Assistant Professor of Archaeology, and Ricardo Elia, Director of the Office of Public Archaeology, directed the archaeological testing in coordination with Richard Ping Hsu, archaeologist for the National Park Service. Archaeology graduate student Tamara Wamsley supervised the daily fieldwork for the project, and is currently conducting laboratory analysis on the excavated material. A large number of other graduate and undergraduate students in Archaeology volunteered their time and effort during the excavation. We were also assisted by students from the Center's summer school in urban archaeology, who were concentrating their efforts on the Wilkinson Backlot site, as well as by participants in the weekend excavation workshops sponsored by the Center.

Owned and operated by the Paul Revere Memorial Association, the Revere House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is maintained through a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service. Archaeological excavations at the site were initiated because a number of modifications to the property, including the replacement of the exterior stairway of the house, might have resulted in the disturbance or destruction of significant archaeological remains. Because fed-



A selection of 19th-century bottles, probably for soda or mineral water, from the privy pit behind the Paul Revere House.

eral funds are being used to pay for these modifications, an archaeological investigation was required by archaeological and preservation legislation.

Our excavation at the Paul Revere House site is a good example of urban archaeology, a branch of historical archaeology that has been receiving increasing attention in recent years. Like many urban sites, the Revere House presented a number of special conditions, including deep, complex archaeological deposits, limited work space, and massive quantities of artifacts. In addition, our digging was conducted in full view of a steady stream of visitors to the house, who passed by our excavation every day.

The Paul Revere House is unusual in many ways. Although most people who visit the site come to see the home of the famous Revolutionary patriot, craftsman, and hero of the legendary "Midnight Ride," few are aware that Paul Revere himself would probably not recognize the house as his own if he walked by it today. The exterior of the house, in its present restored form, reflects how the house looked when it was built ca. 1681. By the time Revere purchased the property, the structure was already 90 years old, and had been thoroughly remodelled.

At least one other house stood on this lot facing North Street prior to the gabled, two-story structure of 1681. This earlier house may have been standing as early as 1651; at any rate, by 1670, it was owned by the Trustees of the Second (North) Church. The house was occupied, at this time, by the famous Puritan theologian, Increase Mather, who lived there

until November 27, 1676, when a major fire destroyed this area of the city. Along with this building, the Meeting House and about 45 other residences of the North End were consumed by the flames.

The present house, of 1681, was originally owned by Robert Howard, one of Boston's wealthiest citizens of the period. It was probably Howard who modernized the structure by adding a third floor and a two-story addition to the rear of the house. Paul Revere owned the house from 1770 until 1800. During the 19th century, the house was occupied by a succession of individuals who allowed the structure gradually to fall into disrepair. The Paul Revere Memorial Association rescued the house in 1906 and sponsored its restoration, which was undertaken by Joseph Chandler between 1906 and 1909.

The immediate goal of our excavation was to investigate the areas that were to be disturbed by the proposed modifications behind the house. A second objective was to determine the general archaeological potential of the site by identifying the nature and integrity of the archaeological deposits. We were particularly interested in learning if any archaeological remains of the 17th century had survived the continuous occupation of the area. It was also hoped that some remains dating to Increase Mather's occupancy had remained, perhaps in the form of destruction debris from the fire of 1676.

Although we knew before we began to dig that our project area originally comprised two 17th-century houselots, we had little spe-

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cific information about the history of land use and building activities that would help us to anticipate the kinds of remains and disturbance we might find on the site. In order to remedy this situation Nancy Seasholes, an Archaeology graduate student, conducted preliminary documentary research on the historical development of the project area. Her study confirmed what we had already suspected: that most of the open plaza next to the Paul Revere House had been occupied by a late-19th-century brick structure whose foundations and basement had probably destroyed any evidence of earlier remains. This information was subsequently confirmed by archaeological tests.

The documentary research also indicated that the likeliest place where we might encounter early archaeological deposits was in the small area directly behind the house. This area, covered with a modern brick paving, and measuring a mere 15 x 20 feet, had apparently never been built upon, and formed part of the original 17th-century yard behind the Revere House. Replacement of the exterior stairway of the house meant that this area was to be disturbed, so we eagerly opened a test pit here.

Our test pit was located where the base of the new stairway would be placed, about 2-3 feet beyond the last step of the existing stairway. This location meant that everyone leaving the Revere House, hundreds of visitors per day, had a bird's eye view of our excavations. Although the constant stream of questions directed at the excavators became rather repetitive and distracting as the hours and then days passed ("What are you digging? A garden? A well? A grave?"), we were pleased to be able to give so many people a close-up view of urban archaeology.

Digging behind the house produced a great quantity of domestic artifacts dating to the 18th and 19th century, including ceramics, window and bottle glass, clay pipes, animal bones, cuff links, and buttons. The abundance of fine imported ceramics, including German stoneware, British ear-

thenware, and Chinese porcelain, probably reflects the important status of the individual who owned the property during the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

After digging to a depth of two feet we hit upon an intact feature that covered most of the pit. This feature, dated to the 18th century on the basis of contextual finds, consisted of a cobblestone walkway extending behind the house towards the yard, which, during most of the 17th and 18th centuries, including the time of Revere's occupancy, was much larger than it is today, and is known to have contained a variety

of outbuildings. In general, comparatively few 17th-century artifacts were found, although some manganese-decorated Westerwald stoneware and early delftware testify to occupancy of the site during the late 1600s.

Two other test pits were excavated by field-school students and Center workshop participants in the narrow yard behind the house. One of these proved to have been laid out almost precisely on top of a 19th-century privy pit that extended to a depth of about 6 feet below the surface. The privy pit, measuring roughly 3 by 4 feet, had side walls and a



View of the excavations behind the Paul Revere House. From left to right: James Wiseman, Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies, Leslie Quinn, Tamara Wamsley, Project Archaeologist, Ricardo Elia, Director of the Office of Public Archaeology, and Alan Tafapolski; in the foreground: Charles Lambiotte.

floor of wooden planks. The pit fill contained remarkable quantities of artifacts dating to the second half of the 19th century, especially the lowest layer, which contained numerous intact and nearly complete objects in a matrix of clamshells. Visitors to the house looked on in amazement as Tamara Wamsley removed dozens of soda bottles, cups, plates, stemmed glasses, pipes, buttons, dominoes, and scissors. This material, apparently deposited at one time in the freshly cleaned out privy pit, suggests a rather successful party to which most of the residents of the North End must have been invited.

Although analysis of the excavated remains from the Paul Revere House has only just begun, and will continue for several months, our excavations should shed valuable light on many aspects of life in early Boston, including land use, dietary habits, rubbish disposal patterns, and social status. In addition to our funding from the National Park Service, we have received a generous contribution from the Paul Revere Memorial Association that will help defray the costs of laboratory analysis and report preparation.

Our excavations at the Paul Revere House were conducted under rigorous and trying field conditions. Unlike excavations at remote sites where providing basic housing and provisions are major logistical problems, we were faced with a number of field problems peculiar to the urban environment. Our primary concerns included getting to the parking lot before the rates went up, keeping the tourists from falling into the test pits, and ignoring the constant aromas of Italian pasta and pastry wafting across the site. Fortunately, most of these obstacles were overcome by our dedicated excavators, who quickly learned a fundamental principle of surviving an excavation in the North End - leave the bag lunch at home.

Ricardo Elia is the Director of the Office of Public Archaeology at Boston University, and co-director of the excavations at the Paul Revere House.

Center Workshops

Discovering Boston

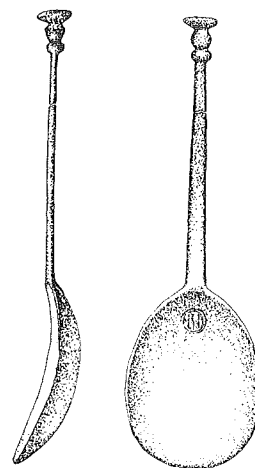
The city of Boston is an archaeological and historical treasure; everyone knows that. But how much do you really know about it? This is your chance to discover your own hometown. Nancy Seasholes will be teaching a seminar entitled *Discovering Boston* in September and October. Participants will utilize various academic disciplines, including geography, architecture, history, and archaeology; they will go on field trips, see films and material remains, and join in discussions; and they will explore Boston from prehistoric through industrial times.

There will be five 2½-hour sessions, held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Classes will be held September 10, 24, October 1, 15, and 22. There is no class on Yom Kippur nor on Columbus Day weekend. The registration fee of \$100 (\$120 for non-members) is due by September 1. A minimum enrollment of 6 must be met to hold the seminar; maximum enrollment, however, is 12. Acceptance is on a first-come basis, so apply early.

The Illustration of Archaeological Artifacts

How does the archaeologist relay what he has found to his colleagues? The answer is obvious: words and pictures. Much information is encoded in an archaeological illustration. To accurately describe an artifact pictorially, there are certain conventions to be followed, as well as artistic considerations to maximize the visual impact for each piece. Caroline Hemans will teach the fundamentals of drawing artifacts, from work done in the field to illustration appropriate for publication. Participants will study the techniques of illustration, the selection and use of scales, drawing in plan and in section, the reconstruction on paper of artifacts from fragments, and the proper use and care of drafting materials.

The workshop will meet on Saturdays from 1-5:00 p.m., on October 22, 29, and November 5. Registration and a fee of \$95 (\$115



for non-members) must be received by October 12. Minimum enrollment is 6, maximum is 10. Acceptance will be on a first-come basis.

Bones for Beginners

"It's a bone all right, might be human...I don't know." Have you ever found yourself making that statement when confronted with a part of a skeleton? *Bones for Beginners* is a seminar presented by Al Wesolowsky and designed to introduce you to your own skeletal frame and enable you to make basic osteological identifications of human skeletal remains.

There are no prerequisites and the course will touch upon the physiology of bone as a living tissue, anatomical nomenclature, and systematic, intensive drills in the handling and identification of individual bones. As we go along, we will examine certain myths and misconceptions about skeletal analysis that will prepare the way for you to make informed assessments of the sex of skeletons and gain some impressions of the age at the time of death of the individual. Non-human bones will be available so that you may see how much you learn about the human skeleton applies to non-human specimens.

There will be four sessions over two weekends on November 12 and 13, and 19 and 20, from 1-4:00 p.m. The registration and a fee of \$95 (\$115 for non-members) is due by November 1. We must limit enrollment to six individuals on a first-come, first-served basis.

Beneath the Blackstone Block

by Mary C. Beaudry

This summer, in May and June, the Center for Archaeological Studies sponsored a field school and workshops in urban archaeology at the site known as the Wilkinson Backlot, near Faneuil Hall in downtown Boston. The course was directed by Drs. Mary Beaudry and Ricardo Elia, with the aid of teaching assistants William K. Barnett and Tamara B. Wamsley. Nine students enrolled in the program, and almost two dozen Center members participated in the excavations through workshops or as volunteers. A grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy made it possible for Judy Dolan, an M.A. student in the Department of Archaeology, to serve as an on-site tour guide for the hundreds of tourists who found their way to the site. The Polaroid Foundation most generously donated funds for a project photographer and draftsman. The site, nestled in the heart of one of the most historic areas of history-rich Boston, is slated to be developed into an office condominium complex beginning August 31, 1983. The chance to excavate before construction took place made this field school an especially important project for the Center and for the Department of Archaeology at Boston University, both of which are committed to the preservation of Boston's buried past through responsible archaeological research and through public interpretation programs.



These fragments of a blue transfer-painted saucer with the "Wild Rose" border pattern were among several hundred sherds from a matched set of tableware found in one of the Wilkinson Backlot privies.



Among the hundreds of ceramic vessels found in an early 19th-century privy at the Wilkinson Backlot site was this stoneware bottle on which the legend "2" "Boston" had been impressed with printer's type.

The footpaths and lanes that segment Boston's historic Blackstone Block evoke much of the ambiance of the early town's "crooked and narrow streets" and bustling commercial activity that revolved around waterfront docks and warehouses. Salt Lane, Marsh Lane, and Creek Square are all original 17th-century streets, but the buildings that crowd the block now were built in the 18th century or later. It is below these structures that the 17th century, where it has survived, is to be found. Apart from a paved-over parking lot behind the Union Oyster House, the only open space on the Block, the only area at all likely to yield undisturbed evidence for three centuries of life on the Blackstone Block, is on Scott Alley, behind the Wilkinson Hardware Company and Newworld Bank buildings. This summer, students enrolled in the archaeological field school of the Center for Archaeological Studies, had the opportunity to learn what lay beneath the modern refuse and weedy growth on this urban backlot.

At first glance the Wilkinson Backlot site seemed unprepossessing by any standards, but it

proved to be an archaeological mother lode. Students and Center members soon discovered that understanding everything that the soil layers and features on the site have to tell us is no easy matter, and much of what was found seems to contradict the findings of historical research. Thought to have been an open lot throughout the late 19th and 20th centuries, the Wilkinson Backlot was actually graced by a kitchen ell, an addition attached to a structure facing onto Salt Lane, at sometime in the mid-19th century.

The presumed kitchen structure had a two-brick-wide foundation pierced by drains, also constructed of brick, on its east and west sides. The drains flowed into a large cistern in the center of the building; the circular brick cistern was installed in a pit that had been excavated ca. 1.5m. below modern grade. The "kitchen" therefore had no actual cellar.

As this 19th-century structure was carefully recorded and its bricks removed, earlier levels and features, including more drains, began to appear. The eastern wall and drain complex overlay what at first appeared to be a late 18th- or

early 19th-century trash pit, packed with ceramics (such as pearlware, creamware, and porcelain) as well as with food remains, fragments of glass bottles and tumblers, and personal items. Only after the excavations reached a depth of nearly 2 m. did the true nature of the feature come to light: wood planks lining the lower reaches of the deposit provided unmistakable evidence that this was once a privy. Such features were commonly used as repositories for refuse after they were abandoned. It seems likely that this privy was filled before 1821, when all of the structures surrounding the lot were razed to make way for new development. Hence this privy, and a second discovered nearby just as excavations were slated to end, may yield clues to the social status and domestic life of the families who occupied the houses facing on Salt Lane during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the site, apart from features *per se*, is a stratigraphic sequence that reveals the manner in which the land was filled in and used over time. Initially a marsh, the area was filled in by the mid-17th century, first with dredging spoil from the nearby tidal inlet that was the location of Scotto's Dock (see *Context* 1:2 [1982] 1,3), then with gravels and clay, and eventually with increasing amounts of domestic and commercial waste. It was upon and into these distinct 17th- and early 18th-century fill levels that later features were placed. The privies, for instance, plunged well below all fill levels through ca. 30 cm. of fibrous peat and into the blue marine clay that underlies the entire area.

An interesting technique was employed to seal the two privies as well as the 19th-century cistern: each feature was "puddled" with a thick casing of stiff clay. In the case of the cistern, the clay puddle prevented loss of stored water; the privies were encased in a clay seal to ensure that their contents would not filter into the ground water. It was the job of Boston's



The Wilkinson Backlot crew pauses for a group photo. From left to right, crew members are: Judy Dolan, site tour guide, Mary Beaudry, project director, Betty DeVeuve, James Wiseman, Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies, Jeff Trani, Brenda Derro, Bill Barnett, field school teaching assistant, Margo Poduska, Matt Oldale, Tricie Power, and Michael Gotkin.

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"honeypot men" to remove their offensive contents occasionally and to transport them to agricultural fields outside of the city.

Such care in the removal of "swill and offal", however, did not deflect most people from disposing of trash at will. Almost every soil level at the Wilkinson Backlot turned up cultural debris of some sort: ceramics, bone, leather, wood, copper, glass, iron, seeds, and so on. Analysis of these varied finds as well as of the soil and pollen samples carefully collected from each level will take place over the next few months at the Center's research laboratories. The processing of finds has been facilitated by the Center receiving an intern, Alan Tafapolsky, through the National Trust/Yankee Magazine Intern program as well as a position for Leslie Quinn, an undergraduate archaeology major, provided by the Boston University Work Study Program. Their work in the lab, supervised by Tamara Wamsley, will enable us to process the hundreds of bags of artifacts and samples before the summer has ended.

Final conclusions about the site will have to await all phases of analysis, yet everyone involved in the project has found it to be a highly rewarding excursion into the history of early Boston. We expect to be able to contribute quite a lot of new information to what we already know about trade, commercial and domestic life, and land use in early Boston.

Further Reading

Persons interested in reading about the results of the nearby Bostonian Hotel Site excavation in which several Boston University faculty members and graduate students participated may obtain a copy of the final report from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The full citation is Archaeology of the Bostonian Hotel Site, by James W. Bradley, Neill Depaoli, Nancy Seasholes, Patricia McDowell, Gerald Kelso, and Johanna Schoss, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Occasional Publications in Archaeology and History, no.2, April, 1983. The address of the Massachusetts Historical Commission is 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108.

The MAS

by J. Cooper Wamsley

Widespread collecting of Native American artifacts has been going on in Massachusetts since the 19th century. Collecting indulges the antiquarian penchant for owning exotic artifacts of great beauty and age, but does not satisfy the desire of some to learn more about the cultures that created the objects of their attention. The Massachusetts Archaeological Society, formed in 1939, was originally a small group predominantly composed of relic hunters who procured prehistorical artifacts at a time when archaeology in Massachusetts was in its infancy. The Society has since grown into a statewide organization of amateur and professional archaeologists dedicated to the proper archaeological recovery of cultural material.

Dr. Maurice Robbins, the first president of the MAS, was largely responsible for changing the emphasis of the Society in its early years from one of collecting to one of proper archaeology. Dr. Robbins says that as early as 1925 he "wasn't satisfied with just relic hunting" and enrolled in archaeol-

ogy and geology classes at Brown University. Soon afterwards, Dr. Robbins began meeting in Attleboro with a local group of collectors who formed the nucleus of what was to become the MAS. In 1939 this group, and a few other individuals from across the state who were interested in the prehistory of Massachusetts, met in Andover and decided to form a state society with chapters like the local Attleboro group. Dr. Robbins was elected the first president of the new Massachusetts Archaeological Society, boasting then a membership of 29 individuals.

Today the MAS has a total membership of 1,050, including 350 institutions. The society's seven chapters are headquartered in Harwich, Attleboro, Chester, Greenfield, Plymouth, Milton, and Worcester. Each chapter meets monthly to discuss the archaeological projects with which it is involved and to listen to a lecture given by someone chosen from the archaeological community. The Society itself is based at the Bronson Museum in Attleboro and meets bi-annually. Seminars, where papers are read and information dealing with the projects of local chapters is exchanged, are an important part of these



At the Wapanucket 8 site in Middleboro, Clovis and Archaic cultural material was unearthed. Here a fire pit from this site is being excavated by a member of the Cohannet chapter of the MAS.

meetings.

In addition to disseminating information within the chapter and Society meetings, the MAS publishes a newsletter and a bi-annual bulletin (*Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society*) that contains quality reports solicited from the state archaeological community. Both amateurs and professionals publish in the bulletin, sharing a common desire to do scholarly archaeological work.

The MAS is a member of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation, the organization comprising all state archaeological societies east of the Mississippi. In November of this year the MAS will sponsor the 50th anniversary of this interstate archaeological group, which will hold its annual meeting in Salem at the Peabody museum. The MAS is the second largest state archaeological society within this group and is one of its most active members.

Almost every chapter of the MAS is currently, or soon will be, involved with an archaeological excavation. The chapter based at Milton is busily at work examining a site in the Neponset drainage that has yielded Archaic and Woodland elements. These activities, conducted by both amateur and professional archaeologists who comprise the chapter membership, are governed by a written archaeological code of ethics, promulgated by the Board of Trustees of the MAS. This code is dedicated to discouraging illicit dealing and collecting and to recognizing a commitment to the public in terms of conserving archaeological resources and disseminating research results. A current issue of debate within the Society concerns the formation of an ethics committee to help maintain the high standards of the code.

The Bronson Museum in Attleboro, the headquarters of the MAS since 1941, houses one of the largest collections of prehistoric material found in Massachusetts. The more than 30,000 pieces have come from private donors and from excavations involving chapter members. More than 10,000 years of Massachusetts prehistory is represented by this collection, which contains projectile



While the features at Wapanucket 8 are being photographed, two members of the project shade the feature to avoid sharp contrast between sun and shade.



Mrs. Earl S. Hillman, 92, watches her husband excavate at Wapanucket 8. Both are longtime members of the Cohannet chapter of the MAS.

points from the Clovis culture of the Paleo-Indian period to artifacts dating to the time of contact between Native Americans and Europeans. The Museum is open to the public but its hours are flexible and one is encouraged to call in advance to arrange an appointment to view the displays. In addition to its collections, the Bronson museum houses an interesting interpretive diorama of Wapanucket 8, a site in Middleboro excavated by Society members. This site yielded Clovis to Archaic cultural material. Dr. Maurice Robbins, considered by most to be the founder of the MAS, is the Museum Director Emeritus.

Although chiefly dealing with the prehistory of Massachusetts, the MAS is open to those interested in historical and industrial archaeology. A report on the excavation of a glass furnace in Quincy, for example, was published in a recent bi-annual bulletin.

The MAS today is a group of in-

dividuals dedicated to proper archaeological method and technique and has contributed significantly to the interpretation of Massachusetts prehistory. Collecting antiquities is actively discouraged within the MAS, and the Society seeks to prevent this destructive force from continuing among nonmembers through public education. Anyone with an interest in Massachusetts prehistory is urged to attend chapter and Society meetings. For membership information write to: Membership Secretary, Bronson Museum, 8 North Main St., Attleboro, MA 02703. Through the thoughtful efforts of organizations like the MAS, vital information relating to the native cultures of Massachusetts will not disappear because of the carelessness of relic hunters.

J. Cooper Wamsley is a graduate student in the Department of Archaeology at Boston University studying historical archaeology. He is currently conducting research at the site of an early Huguenot settlement in Oxford, Massachusetts.

Figure 1: Excavation at Stobi reveals fresco fragments from the ceiling of a 4th-century A.C. basilica.



Figure 2: Ceiling fresco fragments in one of three trench location diagrams; shaded fragments are face-down, showing reed impressions.

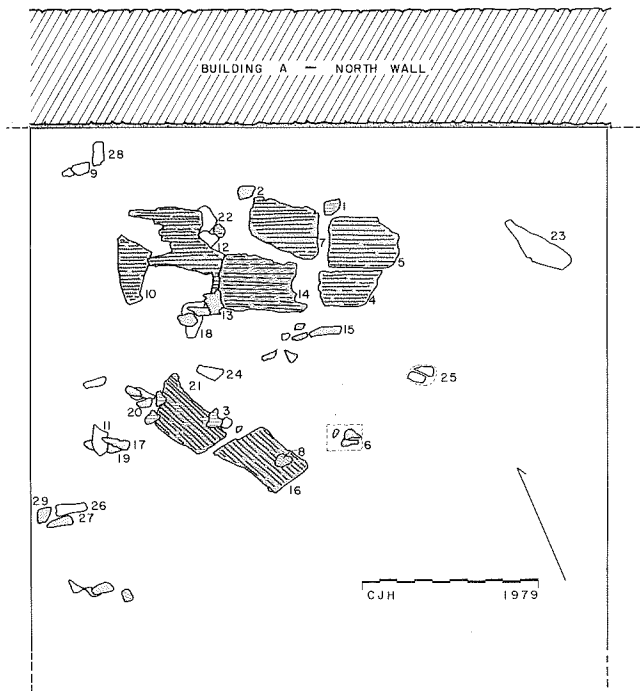
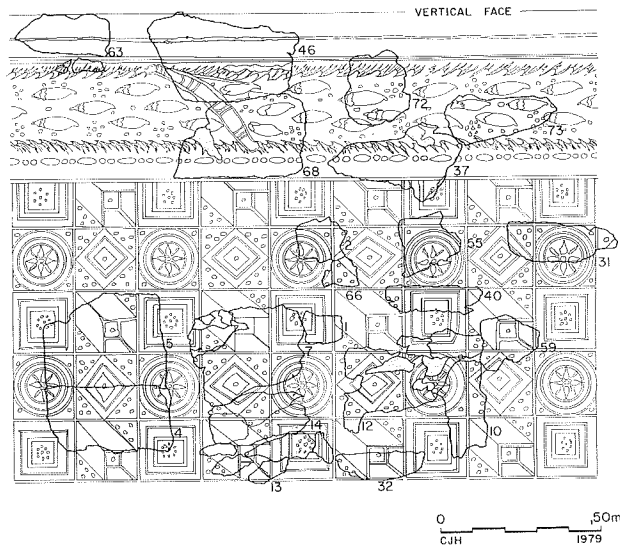


Figure 3: Ceiling fresco reconstruction, showing location of numbered fragments.



Fresco Reconstruction at Ancient Stobi

by Caroline J. Hemans

Uncovering ancient paintings can be more of a problem than a delight for archaeologists. When fresco fragments are discovered during the excavation they create a host of removal, documentation, and storage problems. In the past, excavations have not always adequately documented each step in the process, resulting in irretrievable loss of information. When careful (and, it must be admitted, time-consuming) recording is instituted, the results can be exciting and rewarding.

The ancient city of Stobi, in Yugoslav Macedonia, has been excavated since 1970 by a joint American-Yugoslav project under the direction of James Wiseman, chairman of the Department of Archaeology at Boston University, and Blaga Aleksova, of the University of Cyril and Methodius, in Skopje, Yugoslavia. Remains at the site range from prehistoric stone tools to magnificent churches of the 4th and 5th centuries A.C., but it is the Late Antique period, from the 3rd to the 6th centuries A.C., that is best represented.

Stobi's Late Antique buildings were richly decorated with elaborately carved architectural pieces, mosaic pavements, and colorful frescoes, that is, painting on plaster. The Stobi Archaeological Project, during its 10 years of excavation, has recovered an astonishing amount of the frescoes. Many of the paintings are still *in situ* on the walls, and require conservation, protection from the elements, and a certain amount of maintenance over the years. A great deal of the fresco painting at Stobi, however, as at many other sites, is found during excavation not on the walls but scattered in thousands of fragments in the earth. The method of recovery, documentation, and reconstruction of these fragments is the theme of this article.

This procedure of recovery and reconstruction is not highly complicated; it is, however, not often practiced because of its time-con-

suming nature. I believe, however, our efforts at Stobi have demonstrated that the rewards of such work far outweigh their cost in time and labor.

In the summer of 1978, it became my responsibility to record and interpret the frescoes at Stobi. At that time excavation was already in progress in the Episcopal Basilica, a large ecclesiastical complex whose building history extended from the mid-5th century to the end of the 6th century A.C. Excavation in the complex prior to 1978 had revealed that 4 m. beneath this basilica lay the remains of an earlier, 4th-century structure. Beneath the south aisle of the basilica, a well-preserved wall was discovered, covered with plaster painted in imitation of varicolored marble revetment. Adjacent to the wall hundreds of fresco fragments had been unearthed, but it had not been possible, with the methodology used at that time, to determine the decorative scheme of the painted ceiling or of the destroyed upper portion of the wall. Even the function of this earlier building was not yet known, although

we had strong reasons to suppose that we had discovered a portion of an earlier church.

In 1978 the excavators hoped to find more of the remains of this earlier structure and to determine, with certainty, its function. It was also my hope that, with a system of careful spatial recording, we could reconstruct the decorative patterns of the destroyed portions of the building. The season's work resulted in the discovery of a chancel screen foundation and presbyterium, conclusively demonstrating that the structure was a Christian church.

Soon after digging had begun, fragments of fresco began to appear in the soil, and I made scale drawings of their positions in the trench, thus recording how each piece had fallen and its relationship to the other fallen pieces (see Figs. 1 and 2). This recording was done for each fragment with any dimension greater than 5 cm. since it was logical to assume that pieces that had fallen in close proximity were from the same section of fallen fresco. No amount of verbal descriptive recording could have conveyed the spatial infor-

mation needed to reconstruct these fragments. By mapping the pieces as they had fallen we created a complete visual record of our scattered and fragile jigsaw puzzle. At the same time, our fresco conservator, Djoko Georgievski, skillfully prepared fragmented sections so that they could be removed from the trench in groups, when possible, instead of as several small pieces. It was also fortunate that ceiling and wall fragments could be easily distinguished. The ceiling fragments had had a backing of reeds to attach them firmly, and these reed-marks were still visible.

After the pieces were removed from the trench they were drawn individually at a larger scale, and then the process of reconstruction began. Using the numbered find-spot drawings I had made, I was able to reconstruct on paper a large area of the ceiling fresco from the early basilica. When the inked drawing (Fig. 3) was complete, I made a watercolor reconstruction of the ceiling fresco (Fig. 4), matching as closely as possible both the colors used by the fresco painter and the order in which the

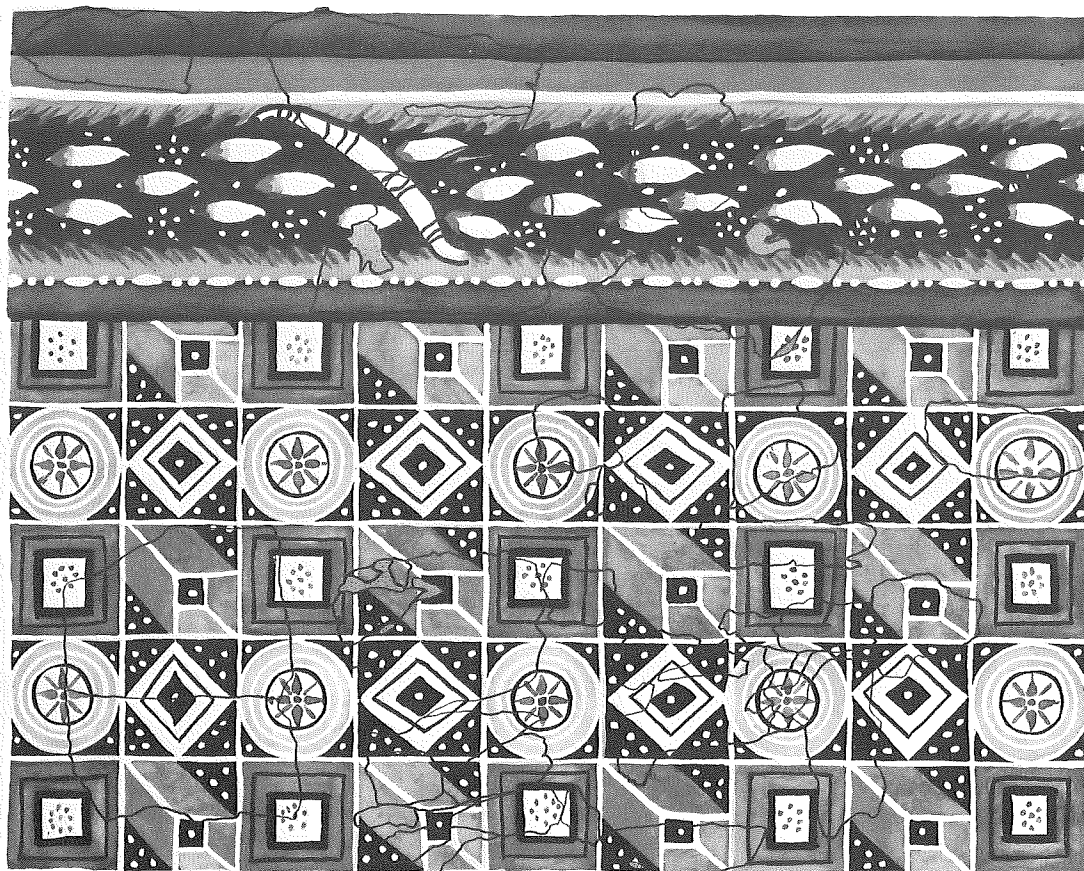


Figure 4: Watercolor reconstruction of the ceiling of the 4th-century basilica.

colors were applied. Many effects, such as the opacity of the colors are results of the order in which they were applied. The ceiling was painted in imitation of coffers, including an illusionistic three-dimensional design in one of the coffers. A decorative border imitating a floral garland ran along the edge next to the wall. The ceiling was brightly colored in red, green, yellow, and purple, accented by black and white. Such a brilliance was probably necessary in a building whose lighting would have been rather dim.

Reconstruction on paper, as Mark Cameron has pointed out in his studies of the Minoan frescoes from Knossos, has several advantages over physical reconstruction. First, in a physical reconstruction fragments are set in plaster to keep them together. If subsequently fragments are found to join with the reconstructed area, they cannot be inserted without a great deal of work, and this can result in damage. Second, faulty reconstructions can be much more easily corrected on paper than in a plaster restoration. A famous example of such a faulty reconstruction is the *Blue Monkey Fresco*, from Knossos, in which a monkey, shown picking flowers, was originally restored as a boy. Finally, storage space for large sections can be a problem. Should physical reconstruction prove de-

sireable in the future, perhaps for a museum display, this can be easily accomplished with the use of the numbered drawings.

In some rare cases, physical reconstruction is imperative, although the fragments should not be set in a permanent hard material, like plaster. Such is the case with the fresco material excavated from the baptistery of the Episcopal Basilica, uncovered in 1971. Large amounts of fresco had fallen from the baptistery walls and conches, and all of the fragments were painted with two layers of fresco (Fig. 5). Because we needed to remove the outer layer of fresco to view the inner layer, it was necessary to physically reconstruct the fragments and document each phase separately. This process, an arduous task, has been in progress since 1974. After years of joining, a large section of the wall was put together; then the top layer of painting was fully documented in drawings, both ink and watercolor, as in the frescoes described above. Then, working with scalpels, the top painted layer was carefully stripped away, to reveal the picture beneath.

After cleaning, a scene with the evangelist Matthew, his name painted in Greek letters above his head, was revealed (Fig. 6). He appears to be preaching to the people from his gospel, which he holds in his hands. The quality

and detail of this painting contrast sharply with those of its successor, a painting consisting of a rather crudely painted cross, lighted torches, and some small faces. Why the original fresco was overpainted is unknown, but it was during the 5th century that many religious leaders became increasingly hostile to painted representation of saints. This feeling led in the 7th century to the banning of such representations for a time.

Large areas of the walls of this beautifully decorated little building have now been reconstructed using this process of joining, documenting, and cleaning. The success of the recovery and reconstruction program at Stobi should encourage anyone who has doubts about the feasibility of such a program. This work has salvaged information that could easily have been lost forever. Now we have preserved a major new group of frescoes that is of paramount importance for the study of the Late Antique period, from which so little wall painting has survived.

Caroline J. Hemans has been a member of the Stobi Excavation Project since 1977. She is a doctoral candidate in Classical Archaeology at Indiana University and a Research Fellow of the Center for Archaeological Studies at Boston University while preparing her dissertation on the frescoes of Stobi.

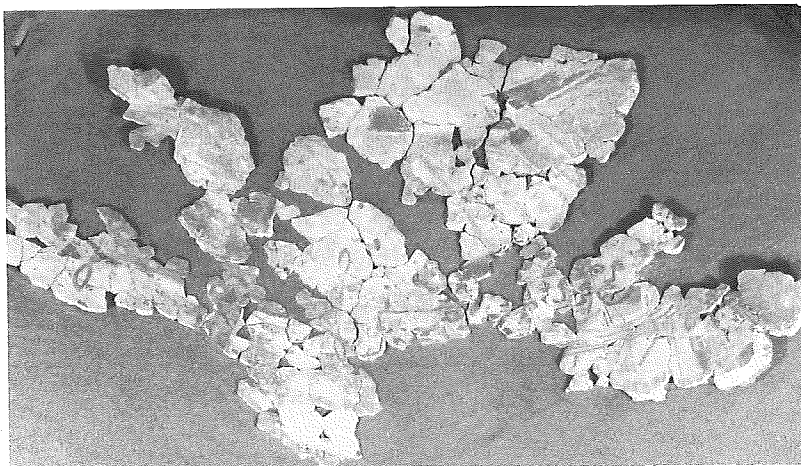


Figure 5: Fresco from the baptistery of the Episcopal Basilica with an earlier painting visible beneath the later design.



Figure 6: The baptistery fresco after the removal of the later design.

Study Tour of Ancient Egypt

The Center for Archaeological Studies is pleased to announce that it will sponsor a study tour of ancient Egypt from January 3 to 16, 1984.

Participants will visit many of the major and minor archaeological sites of Egypt, including Giza, Saqqara, Tell el Amarna, Luxor, the Valley of the Kings and Queens, and Abu Simbel. The tour will include a 4-day luxury cruise of the Nile from Luxor to Aswan.

The study tour will be directed by Dr. Karl Petruso, Assistant Professor of Archaeology. Together with Professor Creighton Gabel, he directed the Boston University excavations at Marea in the Nile Delta from 1979 through 1981.

The cost of the study tour is \$2,675 per person based on double occupancy (single supplement \$385). The cost includes round trip airfare (Boston or New York/Cairo), transfers and travel within Egypt, deluxe accommodations, 2 meals daily on land (3 meals daily on cruise), admission fees to sites and museums, taxes and gratuities, and a \$200 tax-deductible donation to the Center for Archaeological Studies.

All study tour participants will receive a seminar certificate in Egyptian archaeology from the Center. In addition, those who wish to earn degree credit for their participation may do so by enrolling in CLA AR 591: *Topography and Monuments of Ancient Egypt*, which grants two Boston University credits (equivalent to one-half course).

For information on the course requirements, contact Professor Petruso at the Center for Archaeological Studies. Information on the tour, including details of the itinerary and terms of payment, may be obtained from Barbara Steinfeld, METCO Tours, 295 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (tel. 800-422-1211). Space is limited, and early application is recommended.

Awards

James R. Wiseman, Director of the Center and Chairman of the Department of Archaeology, has been appointed Fellow of Dumbarton Oaks for the 1983-1984 academic year. Professor Wiseman, on sabbatical leave for the year, will be in residence at the Center for Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. He will be devoting his time during this year to research and writing in connection with the final publication of the excavations at Stobi, Yugoslavia, a bi-national archaeological project (1970-1982) sponsored by Boston University. His principal work in 1983-1984 will be with the inscriptions from the entire site, and with the archaeology and history of the principal Early Christian complex of Stobi, the Episcopal Basilica and its baptistery.

Mary Beaudry, Assistant Professor of Archaeology, has completed a major portion of the work on her grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for "An Archaeological Interpretation of 17th-Century Settlements in Massachusetts." The project focuses upon three early to mid-17th-century Pilgrim sites in Plymouth, Massachusetts (see *Context* 2:3 (1982) 2). Research assistants Douglas George and Donald Jones aided in re-cataloguing and correcting identifications of the site materials as well as in creating a computer file of the finds. Professor Beaudry will continue work on the grant during the fall, assisted by Douglas George, and prepare a monograph report on all three of the sites (the R.M. or Eel River Massacre site, also known as the Clark Garrison site, the Winslow site, and the John Howland site).

The Center for Archaeological Studies field school in urban archaeology, co-directed by Professors Mary Beaudry and Ricardo Elia (see articles in this issue of *Context*), received support from a number of sources. The Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy gave the Center a mini-grant so that a tour guide trained in archaeology could

be a full-time member of the project staff. Judy Dolan, an M.A. student in the Department of Archaeology, served in this capacity. Her duties were to help the hundreds of visitors to the site understand why and how archaeologists do what they do. The Polaroid Foundation donated \$1,500 to the project to help pay the salaries of a photographer and draftsman, and the developers of the parcel, Mintz Associates Architects/Planners, Inc., have pledged funds to aid in preparation and publication of the final report. Several other local businesses and organizations also have pledged their support for various aspects of the project.

Karl M. Petruso, Assistant Professor of Archaeology, recently received an equipment grant from the Ohaus Scale Corporation of Florham Park, New Jersey. Ohaus donated a sophisticated portable electronic balance to a long-standing research project Petruso has been carrying out that is concerned with the recovery of systems of weight measurement in the prehistoric eastern Mediterranean. The primary source of evidence for these systems is the ancient balance weights which survive.

Petruso has also just finished a book (to be published by the University of Cincinnati) on the results of his metrological research in Crete and the Cycladic Islands during the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1600-1000 B.C.). The next part of the project, for which the electronic balance will be used, concerns the recovery of systems of weight in prehistoric Cyprus and their affinities with Aegean and Near Eastern systems.

J. Cooper Wamsley, a third-year graduate student in the Department of Archaeology, has received funding from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Town of Oxford for a study of an early Huguenot village near Oxford, Massachusetts.

In 1686, thirty Huguenot families established a frontier community along a tributary of the French River. Hostile Indians caused the settlement to be aban-

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doned in 1704. The project involves the archaeological examination of a fort, mill, tavern, and domestic sites associated with the settlement. Two of the goals of the project are: to establish whether or not this French minority was able to maintain their cultural integrity within the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and to nominate all significant sites to the National Register of Historic Places.

Ricardo Elia, has recently received word from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission that it will fund a

project entitled "A Survey of Contact-Period Burials in Rhode Island." **Ricardo Elia**, Director of the Office of Public Archaeology, will serve as Principal Investigator for the project; Archaeology graduate student **Lauren Cook** will be Project Archaeologist. The project will involve a systematic study of Contact-Period burial sites in Rhode Island, and will result in the development of a preservation program for these potentially threatened sites.

Alice Hausman, Research Associate of the Center for Archaeological Studies, has received a post-

doctoral grant from the National Institute of Health to work on demographic data from the Kalahari desert. This award, a Public Service Research Award of Health, will enable **Alice** to continue her research on the biological consequences of economic and dietary change in south African social groups. Next summer she will return to field work in Southern Africa. A grant from the National Science Foundation will fund the collection of information on nutrition and skeletal growth.

New Appointments at the Center

Administration

Creighton Gabel, Professor of Archaeology and Anthropology and Research Associate of the African Studies Center, will be Acting Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies and Acting Chairman of the Department of Archaeology in 1983-1984. Professor Gabel, who served as Graduate Advisor in Archaeology last year and is the former Chairman of the Department of Anthropology, will administer the Center and the Department during the absence of Professor **James Wiseman**, who will be on sabbatical leave.

Faculty

Paul E. Zimansky, an expert in Near and Middle Eastern archaeology, history, and languages, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Archaeology at Boston University, effective September 1, 1983. Professor Zimansky received his B.A. in Classics at The Johns Hopkins University in 1968 and his Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago.

Professor Zimansky is Co-Director with **Elizabeth C. Stone** (Department of Anthropology, SUNY Stony Brook) of the American contingent of the Syrian 'Ain Dara Expedition. Americans have been working at 'Ain Dara, an important site of the Iron Age in northern Syria, for the past two

summers. Prior to 1982 Professor Zimansky participated in archaeological excavations in Iran and Iraq. He has taught at the University of California at Berkeley; in the Departments of Anthropology and History at the State University of New York at Stony Brook; and in 1981-1982, as holder of a Fulbright Lectureship, he was a Visiting Professor at the University of Aleppo in the Syrian Arab Republic.

During the fall term, 1983, Professor Zimansky will teach: AR 233: *Archaeology of the Holy Land* and AR 532: *Archaeology of the Near East: City and Settlement in the Bronze Age*.

Russell Barber, former Director of the Institute for Conservation Archaeology at Harvard University, will be a Visiting Assistant Professor of Archaeology during the spring term, 1984. He will teach AR 350 and AR 750: *Archaeology of Prehistoric North America*, which will emphasize the archaeology of the Northeast.

Professor Barber received his Ph.D. in anthropology from Harvard University in 1979 and has taught there on a part-time basis since 1974. His current research is concentrated on interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the prehistory of northeastern North America. Dr. Barber has also been named a Research Associate for 1983-1984.

Research

The Center is pleased to announce the following research appointments for 1983-1984.

Research Associates

Alice Hausman, who was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Archaeology here last year, is also a Research Associate of the African Studies Center. She holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from SUNY Binghamton. Dr. Hausman's research during the coming year will be concerned especially with the biological consequences of economic and dietary change as seen in certain social groups in central and southern Africa.

George H. Odell, who completed his undergraduate work at Yale, received a Ph.D. in Anthropology in 1977 from Harvard University. He has been a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia and at Brown University, and since 1979 has been Research Archaeologist and Director of the Lithic Artifact Laboratory at the Center for American Archaeology in Kampsville, Illinois. Dr. Odell was Field Director in 1983 of the Belize Archaic Archaeological Reconnaissance Project, of which Professor **Richard MacNeish** is the Project Director. Dr. Odell will be working during the coming year especially on lithic material recovered during the project in Belize.

Visiting Research Scholars

Robert K. Hitchcock, who received a B.A. in Anthropology and History from the University of California at Santa Barbara, was awarded a Ph.D. in Anthropology in 1982 from the University of New Mexico. Dr. Hitchcock has

worked on archaeological and ethnographic problems in Botswana, and is a co-investigator with Professor Edwin Wilmsen in his current ethno-archaeological research in that country.

Dr. M. Picazo Gurina is a Professor of Ancient History in the Faculty of Geography and History at the University of Barcelona, Spain. Her present research is concentrated on economic, social, and political behavior in early Greek colonies in France and Spain. Dr. Gurina will be on campus for one-to-two months during the spring term.

Lydia M. Pulsipher, Assistant Professor of Geography at The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, received her Ph.D. in Geography in 1977 from Southern Illinois University. Dr. Pulsipher is Director of the Galways Plantation Project on Montserrat in the West Indies (see reports by Conrad M. Goodwin and Donald Jones, respectively, in *Context* 2:1 [1982] 4-5, and 2:3 [1982] 6-7). Dr. Pulsipher is continuing her research on Galways, a 17th-century sugar plantation.

Daniel Wolfman, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and Senior Archaeologist of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, is developing a research project jointly with Professor Richard S.

MacNeish that is concerned with evidence for early man in Honduras.

Dr. Encara Sanahuja Yll is Professor of Prehistory in the Faculty of Geography and History of the University of Barcelona, Spain. Professor Yll is at present doing research on the site of Son Fornes, an important Bronze Age settlement on Mallorca in the Balearic Islands. Professor Yll will be on campus for one-to-two months during the spring term.

Research Fellows

Caroline Hemans, who received a B.A. in Classics from Boston University, is a candidate for the Ph.D. in Classical Archaeology from Indiana University, where she received an M.A. in 1978. Mrs. Hemans has been a member of the Stobi (Yugoslavia) Excavation Project since 1977 and is currently in Boston completing her research on frescoes from that site, both for publication in the forthcoming series of volumes on Stobi and for her doctorate at Indiana. (See her report in this issue of *Context*.)

Frederick P. Hemans, who earned a B.Arch. at Cornell University and an M.A. in Classical Archaeology at Indiana University, is a Ph.D. candidate in Archaeology and a University Teaching Fellow at Boston Univer-

sity. He has been the chief architect of the Stobi (Yugoslavia) Excavation Project since 1974, and is the Managing Editor of *Context*. His current research, both for his doctorate and for a forthcoming series of volumes on Stobi, is concerned with private residences at Stobi.

Frieda M. Odell-Vereecken graduated in 1974 from the State University of Ghent, Belgium, and holds a License degree in Art History and Archaeology. She has participated in archaeological projects in Luxemburg, Belgium, the Netherlands, Massachusetts, Canada, and Belize. Ms. Odell-Vereecken is doing research on lithic materials from the Belize Archaic Archaeological Reconnaissance Project.

Al B. Wesolowsky, who holds the B.A. and M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin, is the Managing Editor of the *Journal of Field Archaeology* at Boston University. He has been a member of the Stobi (Yugoslavia) Excavation Project since its inception in 1970, and is now preparing the definitive publication of the burials at Stobi. The same subject is the topic of his doctoral dissertation, to be submitted to the University of Cambridge, England, where he was a Senior Research Student (Christ's College) in 1973-1976.

Humanities Foundation Awards in Archaeology

The Humanities Foundation of the College of Liberal Arts has announced two awards in archaeology.

The first award, \$1,500, is for a project entitled "Context and Human Society," proposed by James Wiseman, Chairman of the Department of Archaeology. Under the terms of the award a distinguished scholar in interdisciplinary studies will visit Boston University in 1983-1984 to give two lectures under the general heading of the project title, one aimed primarily at undergraduates and the other at graduate stu-

dents; the public will be invited to both lectures. The visitor will also participate in scheduled seminars and classes, and will meet informally with students and faculty. One of the lectures will be co-sponsored by the Boston Society of the Archaeological Institute of America. The Department and the Center hope that the first visit will inaugurate a series of annual events of this kind.

The first distinguished visitor will be Karl Butzer, who is Henry Schultz Professor of Environmental Archaeology at the University of Chicago. He is the author of many books, the most recent of which is *Archaeology as human ecology* (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 1982). Professor Butzer will be on campus for the week of April 9, 1983. A schedule

of events and more details will appear in the next issue of *Context*.

The Humanities Foundation has also purchased for the Archaeology Library, on the proposal of Professors Fred Kleiner and James Wiseman, a microfiche reference work, *Ancient Roman Architecture*, Vols. 1 and 2, edited by Karin Bull-Simonsen Einaudi (Fototeca Unione: distributed by the American Academy in Rome, 1982). The volumes contain 26,000 photographs and constitute, in the words of the publisher, "the largest collection of source material on ancient Roman architecture and topography available in any form." The books may be checked out from the Archaeology librarian for use in the Archaeology Library.

The Final BAAR Field Report

by Richard S. MacNeish

The final season of the Belize Archaic Archaeological Reconnaissance (BAAR) was a great success both administratively and in terms of the work accomplished. James Pope, the camp director, assisted by Kitty Lou Pope, Ray Scippa, Gerald Swazey, and Bruno Marino, as well as Bader Hassan and Mary Ann Boggess, made the camp at Orange Walk an efficient and comfortable facility. The final excavations, under the direction of Richard Callaghan and Eve Danziger of Canada, accomplished all that we had hoped.

The three digs undertaken this year radiated out from our Orange Walk camp. The purpose of these excavations was mainly to fill in gaps at each end of our preceramic sequence. One site (BAAR 191) at Ladyville was stratified with the two lowest strata having intact cultural remains of the Lowe-ha phase. These were under two layers of the Sand Hill complex which in turn underlay an Orange Walk level. A brief study by Charles Wright suggested that the two lowest strata were deltaic soils of the Belize River when it was at Ladyville and sea level was 50 feet above its present level. The second early site was situated about a mile south of Chan Pine ridge. Here (at BAAR 251) Sand Hill remains capped Lowe-ha materials. The third dig (BAAR 197/3) was also at Ladyville, about 1.5 miles north of the Signal Tower, and contained stratified later remains. In zone H there was a small patch of Progreso phase remains and nearby in zone B was an activity area about 5 meters in diameter with Melinda remains that were over scattered materials that seem to have been of the Orange Walk phase, as they contained a few macroblades.

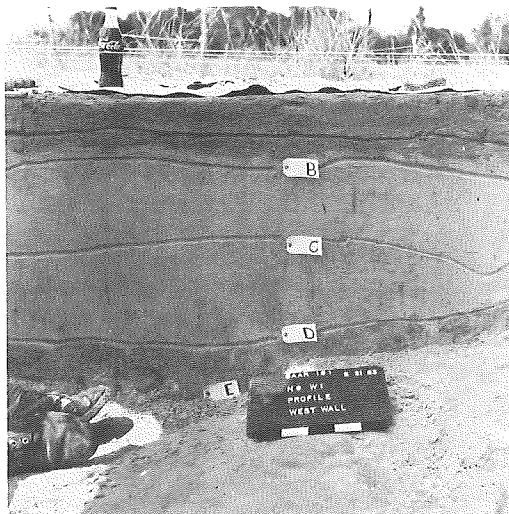
Thus, our sequence was well confirmed and we now have the Lowe-ha phase dated ca. 9,000-7,500 B.C. with its fluted and fish-tail projectile points and some 114 other artifacts and over 2,800 ecofacts represented in the lowest

levels of six sites as well as from surface sites. The Sand Hill phase, 7,500-6,000 B.C., has many more artifacts (798) and ecofacts (167,950) including diagnostic Pedernales-like and Bulverde-like points, macroblades and snowshoe adzes from eight excavated and eight surface components. This phase represents what was still basically a hunting culture, but some plant collecting occurred. In the Orange Walk phase, 6,000-5,000 B.C., this activity increased, along with much seed collecting, as shown by milling stones and mortars and pestles. Along with its diagnostic types, La Mina-like and Shumla-like points, crescentic scrapers, small snowshoe adzes and macroblades were a total of ca. 1,445 artifacts and over 345,000 ecofacts. These came from excavated components

and 19 surface sites, most of which were inland but a few closer to the coast. The Belize phase, 5,000-4,000 B.C., is characterized by stone bowls, grinding stones, scraper planes, ovoid hoes, and tranchet-like and San Nicolas-like points, with fewer artifacts (376) and ecofacts (45,500) from only three excavated components and 19 surface ones. Melinda, 4,000-3,000 B.C., with its Melinda points, small stemmed snowshoe adzes, triangular scraper planes, petit tranchets, adzes, petaloid hoes, net sinkers and grinding stones, had even fewer artifacts (328) and ecofacts (11,500) from two excavated and 13 surface sites. More of these sites, however, are nearer the sea and there is a suggestion some were hamlets not just seasonal camps. Finally, the Progreso



Excavations in progress at BAAR 191, "Kelly's fluted point site."



Pleistocene soil profile at BAAR 191; zones C and D are 10,000-year-old deltaic soils.

phase, 3,000-2,000 B.C., is the least well known, with but 59 artifacts and 16,000 ecofacts from only two excavated components and 13 surface sites. These sites again are larger and in more open terrain, in riverine and coastal ecozones. They contain manos and metates along with scraper planes, stemmed points, ellipsoidal hoes, picks, and small end scrapers. The manos and metates, and other forms, suggest corn agriculture; indeed, corn pollen of this age tends to confirm the suggestion.

It is a nice sequence, but a great deal of interdisciplinary analysis needs to be done before we can go to press. Fortunately, much of this was accomplished this season, in no small part because of the efforts of Peggy Wilner and her helpers who washed and catalogued all our specimens and made them ready for study. A part of the analyses, under Bruno Marino, a graduate student at Boston University, and Antoinette Nelken-Terner of the CNRS of France, concerned artifact typology and descriptions. They made use of an attribute recording program for computer analysis devised by Robert Vierra of the University of Nevada. Thousands of attributes from a sample of the more than 3,000 excavated artifacts were recorded. This work means the typology volume will be ready to go to press as soon as the computer descriptions are done. Even the photographs of the artifacts are ready to go, thanks to the efforts of Ray Scippa, and drawings of the pieces were done by Elizabeth Ross.

Even more significant and pioneering, however, are the use-wear studies directed by George Odell, who was assisted by John Shea of Boston University, Leslie Shaw of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and Jim Pope of Atlantic University of Florida. They recorded use-wear attributes not only on replicated artifacts doing simulated activities, but also on the debitage and artifacts from excavated materials. The recording of attributes observed under the microscope was done by a new program they invented that should put use-wear studies for

determining ancient activities on a much more scientific basis. Furthermore, Leslie Shaw devised a program for determining ancient flint-knapping activities and Frieda Odell has mapped all the evidence for ancient activities onto our 26 floor plans, locating every artifact and ecofact that was uncovered *in situ*. Thus the basic data has been collected for interpreting the ancient way of life of each occupation of each cultural phase in each ecozone. We are now ready to do cultural contextual studies for our proposed volumes.

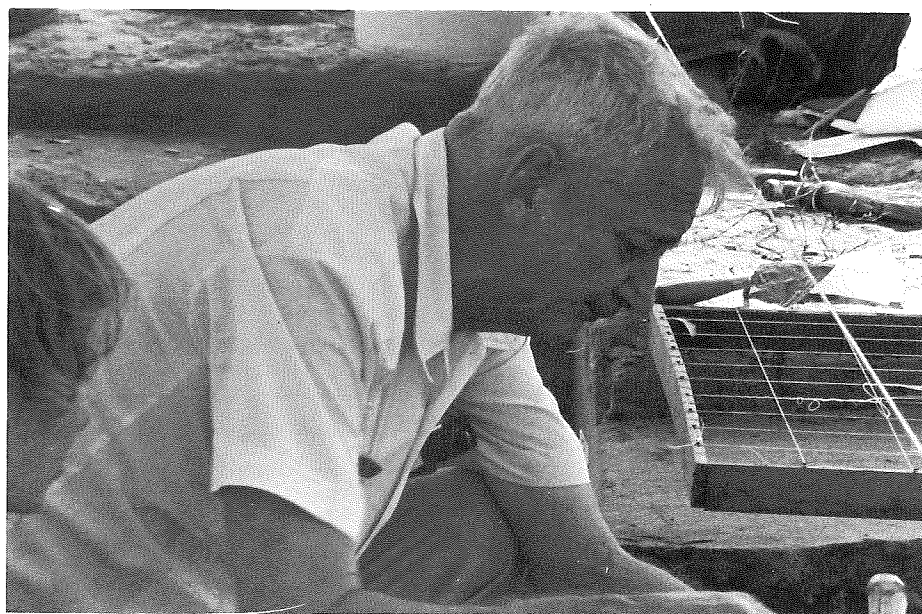
All the above recorded data and even many of the artifacts, as well as the fine equipment, have now been transferred from our Orange Walk camp in Belize to the laboratories of the Department of Archaeology at Boston University. It is a great data base for students

and professors to work on and will provide a learning experience on "real" archaeological materials. Eventually such studies and analyses will lead to many significant papers and four proposed volumes on the previously unknown 7,000 years of the preceramic of Belize and the Maya lowlands.

Richard S. MacNeish is Director of the Belize Archaic Archaeological Reconnaissance Project and Professor of Archaeology at Boston University.

Further Reading

A recent article, "The Preceramic of Mesoamerica," by Richard S. MacNeish and Antoinette Nelken-Terner in the Journal of Field Archaeology, volume 10:1 (Spring 1983), discusses the current state of research on the preceramic cultural phases in all of Mesoamerica.



Charles Wright, formerly of the British Colonial Science Service, soils specialist, working with Eve Danziger, of the University of Brandon, Manitoba.



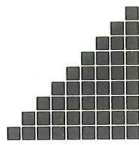
Richard S. MacNeish, director of the Belize project, pointing out some features of site BAAR 191.

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CALENDAR

September 10, 24, and October 1, 15, and 22

Center Workshop: Nancy Seasholes, "Discovering Boston," Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fees are \$100 for members and \$120 for non-members.

October 6

Reception and Lecture: "Archaeology in Boston." The Boston Society of the Archaeological Institute of America will sponsor a reception and lecture at the Boston Athenaeum in honor of the move of the National Headquarters to Boston and the award of an NEH Challenge Grant to the Institute. For details call the Center at 353-3416.

October 22, 29, and November 5

Center Workshop: Caroline J. Hemans, "The Illustration of Archaeological Artifacts," Saturdays from 1-5 p.m. Fees are \$95 for members and \$115 for non-members.

November 2

Center Lecture: Dr. Glynn L. Isaac, Professor of Anthropology at Harvard University, "Recent Study of Very Early Archaeological Sites in East Africa."

November 12, 13, 19, and 20

Center Workshop: Al B. Wesolowsky, "Bones for Beginners," Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Fees are \$95 for members and \$115 for non-members.

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December 7

Center Lecture: Dr. Wendy Ashmore, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Rutgers University, "Quirigua Archaeology and History Revisited."

January 3-16

Study Tour of Ancient Egypt: Dr. Karl Petruso, Assistant Professor of Archaeology at Boston University, will direct this tour of archaeological sites in Upper and Lower Egypt. See page 15.

April 9-13

Center Lectures: Dr. Karl Butzer, Henry Schultz Professor of Environmental Archaeology, the University of Chicago, will give two lectures on "Context and Human Society." See the next issue of *Context* for details. Co-sponsors are the Humanities Foundation of Boston University and the Boston Society of the Archaeological Institute of America.

Center Lectures are held at 7:30 p.m., room 522, at 725 Commonwealth Avenue.

Departmental Colloquia will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the African Studies center at 125 Bay State Road, on the 3rd Thursday of each month. For additional details call the Center at 353-3416.

area and abroad. Other categories of membership are: Contributing Member, \$50; Institutional, \$50; Patron, \$100; Benefactor, \$500; Corporate, \$1000; and Life Member, \$400. These categories include a subscription to the *Journal of Field Archaeology*. Please make checks payable to the Center for Archaeological Studies and send to the Center office at Boston University, 232 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215. Gifts to the Center are tax-deductible.

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