After sixteen years on the job these are the last "notes from the director" I will write for a Kelsey Newsletter. Seeking inspiration I dug up my first effort in the spring of 1997. I wrote then, "After ten years as a curator at the Kelsey I thought I knew the Museum pretty well, but after just ten months in the Director's office I know I can never learn enough." I find now, to both my chagrin and delight, that I feel much the same. I can never learn enough about or from the Kelsey Museum. Its spectacular collections and the exciting range of projects conceived by its staff and ever-repaving research associates and friends make the Kelsey a center of learning that is always offering new opportunities.

The articles in this Newsletter underscore the range of Kelsey activities—excavation reports from Italy to Iran, the current special exhibition, "Kelsey Contemporaries", which brings practicing artists' eyes to the interactions between thoughts and things in museum displays, and a comparison of Karamis as Professor Kelsey found it and as it appears today to a UCLA team of excavators. The aspects of her upcoming exhibition, "Discoveries: Excavating the Ancient World," that Janet Richards chose to highlight in this Newsletter all speak to archaeologists' attempts to document and understand the effects of human exploitation on the natural environment in our constant search for food, whether from plants or animals by any means available. How pre-scient Professor Kelsey was in his holistic research plan at Karamis. Some of the earliest publications from Karamis were written by Michigan biologists on the plant remains recovered and saved there, materials Classical archaeologists have only recently begun to study seriously.

In these valedictory notes I am drawn to reflect on the importance of museums such as the Kelsey, which preserve, study, and present the remains of past societies to our current communities. In our increasingly present world the power of the past can be easily lost. Thinkers as diverse in time and place as William Faulkner and Claude Chevalier have reflected, "The past is never dead. It's not even past." The future is now upon us at the Kelsey. The dean has just announced the appointment of my successor as Director. I am pleased to tell you that it is Christopher Ratté, a Research Associate with the Kelsey since his arrival at Michigan in 2006 and has served as Director of the Interdisciplinary Museum Studies Program, Kayla Romberger and Alisha Wesler. These two artists use their installations to explore themes of collection, museum display, and material culture in response to the context of the archaeological museum. Displayed together, the artists' work creates a conversation between contrasting dystopian/utopian views of the relationships formed between people and objects—Romb erg er's work investigating the role of objects in apocalyptic fear, Wesler's role the collection in dream and memory. Kayla Romberger's project, "100 Ways to Avoid Dying," traces the material culture of paranoia. Responding to the underlying structures of the archaeological museum and its framework of display, excavation, and documentation, this site-specific installation explores the realm of the imagination, evoking curiosity and reflecting on essential human desires to collect, narrate, and interpret. The exhibition questions whether the act of transference, often occurring in psychoanalysis, can also take place in a visitor's attempt to reveal the mysterious qualities within ordinary things.

Both installations are accompanied by artists' booklets, available in the exhibition area and on request from the security desk. "Kelsey Contemporaries: Kayla Romberger and Alisha Wesler" runs until June 15.

Terry Wilfong
A new Kelsey Museum field project began this winter in northern Sudan (ancient Nubia). The expedition aims to investigate the Napatan Dynasty, which arose in the years around 800 BC and conquered Egypt, ruling there as the 25th Dynasty until being driven out of Egypt by the invading Assyrian army before 650 BC. Napatan kings continued to rule Nubia for centuries, eventually moving their capital upstream (southwest) to the city of Merose, where their descendents retained control until after AD 300.

The Kelsey project is focused on the site of El Kurru, located in northern Sudan about 10 miles southwest of the famous ancient site of Gebel Barkal and of the modern city of Karima. El Kurru was the site of the first royal pyramids in Nubia and was the burial place of most of the Napatan kings who ruled Egypt. The cemetery had been excavated by George Reisner on behalf of Harvard University and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in 1918-19. Although the tombs had all been robbed in antiquity, Reisner recovered enough material to reconstruct a sequence of burials beginning with Napatan-style tomb (round mounds of stones), continuing with development of enclosure walls, and ending in pyramids of kings and queens whose names were preserved within the tombs. Many of the objects Reisner found are now in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Reisner also briefly excavated remains of a settlement adjacent to the cemetery. A 1909 publication by Tim Kendall showed some of the remains Reisner identified, including a section of city wall more than 200 meters long that then included a massive double gateway, a monumental rock-cut well with stairs around its outer edge, and another section of city wall.

When I visited the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston to review Reisner’s field records, I found that he had also located two structures that he called temples. Reisner never published these finds, and his notebook sketches and descriptions of structures were incomplete, which made it difficult to figure out where they might be located and what other settlement remains might be around them.

Excavation of the settlement Reisner located at El Kurru could illuminate some of the transformations that took place in Nubia with the rise of the Napatan Dynasty. We know that in addition to pyramid burial, Napatan kings began writing in Egyptian hieroglyphs and also adopted Egyptian gods, including Amun. Why did they do this? Where did the Napatan Dynasty come from? What was the basis of their political authority? What about their local economy and longer-distance exchange? And when did they actually begin to control the region?

There are significant disagreements about the chronological development of the Napatan Dynasty, with some scholars putting the first kings buried at Kurru in the 4th century BC, while others extend the ruling line back to the 11th century BC. This is more than a sterile debate about chronology; as an earlier date would make a more direct connection between the collapse of the Egyptian New Kingdom control of Nubia and the rise of the Napatan Dynasty.

Thus, I organized a small first season that would attempt to relocate Reisner’s settlement remains and to evaluate other areas that could be useful for excavation. While this might have been simple in some areas of the world, the ancient settlement at Kurru was not clearly visible in the village today. So we planned to use a variety of methods, including geophysical survey (magnetometry and resistivity); analysis of satellite imagery, detailed topographic survey, and a program of geological coring that we hoped would identify areas of ancient settlement.

2013 SEASON

Using all these methods, supplemented by the knowledge of people living in Kurru village, we were able to relocate four of the five features identified by Reisner (fig. 2).

Proceeding from the Nile bank, the first construction we relocated was the city wall. It turned out to be a solidly built stone wall, 2.4 meters in width and preserved at least a meter high. We recovered several short stretches of the wall, and they appear to line up. The material associated with the wall was mainly Christian in date, rather than the Napatan occupation we had expected, but it was all found in an ash dump against the outer face of the wall and may reflect occupation later than the initial construction of the wall (figs. 2-3).

On a rock outcrop farther from the Nile, we relocated Reisner’s “palace well”—a 6 x 4 -meter rectangular cut into the rock that Reisner said was 5 meters deep (we didn’t excavate that deep this season). It was located within the courtyard of a family’s house in the village, but they graciously allowed us to excavate so long as we refilled the excavation and rebuilt their wall when we were done. Even more impressive was the staircase around the edge of the well, which reached nearly 5 meters in depth and turned into a tunnel descending down through the rock. As our excavation of this structure primarily went through areas previously excavated by Reisner, we did not recover any clear evidence for its date (figs. 4-5).

We also found two of the buildings Reisner called mortuary temples that might have been connected to pyramids in the cemetery. One of these structures was modest in size and may turn out not to be a temple at all. The other, however, was almost certainly a mortuary temple connected with the largest and latest pyramid in the royal cemetery, and was extraordinarily well preserved, with stone columns nearly 3 meters high. Even more extraordinary, two doorways cut into the rocky hillside led to rooms that were entirely underground. We were not able to excavate these rooms completely this season, in part because of safety concerns as the stone overhead was cracked and seemed ready to cave in (fig. 6).

SUMMARY AND PROSPECTS

We were able to relocate many of the structures Reisner found and to get a sense of their scale and state of preservation. We can now plan to excavate them fully in the seasons to come. The city wall was associated with smaller-scale mudbrick architecture inside, and careful excavation of those smaller structures will be extremely important for understanding the development of the settlement. The mortuary temple will be a major monument of Napatan architectural history, and our excavation there will be complemented by preservation and restoration for visitors over the years to come.
For more than a quarter of a century I have called the Kelsey my “second home.” Throughout those years, there was no such thing as a boring day or an uninteresting challenge, and the accumulated detritus in my office bears witness to a constant stream of friends, visitors, docents, collaborators, and students, as well as the many projects that emerged from those associations. Above all, it has been the people that have made my days... and nights... at the Kelsey so remarkable. If it weren’t for Margaret, Elaine, and Sharon, I would never have found a niche at the Kelsey. I can’t thank them enough for their friendship, scholarly guidance, and their willingness, many eons ago, to take a risk on a newly minted, unemployed PhD in Angrish prehistory. Over time, they helped create a position that me as curator and associate director. The other denizens of the Kelsey have been equally extraordinary—Field, Suzanne, Claudia, Janet, Terry, Alex, Sandra, Peg, Lorene, and Scott have offered friendship, humor, support, and a constant stream of creative exchanges, spicing my life with the MDK of Vitamin G (Minimum Daily Requirement of Gossip). The Museum’s more recent additions—Sebastian, Michelle, Dawn, and Carl—have also been wonderful in countless ways.

My time with the docents and the docent program, which I started in 1987, has been a source of endless pleasure. Although I will now be a docent program, which I started in 1987, has become part of my extended family. Aspects of this extraordinary institution be around, enjoying all the fabulous associates and scientists. I’ll still search for opportunities to reconstruct ancient farming methods and storage systems. Different techniques can be applied to the samples to answer questions about labor organization, redistribution practices, and even sociopolitical structure. At a larger scale, sites can be compared within a region to better understand the economic system. Laura Motta, Research Associate, Kelcy Museum and Departments of Anthropology and Classical Studies.

EXHIBITION TO EXPLORE RECONSTRUCTION OF PAST

The exhibition “Discovery! Encaving the Ancient World,” which will run from August 23 to November 10, 2013, explores all the different ways that Kelsey-affiliated scholars study, interpret, and reconstruct the experience of the past, from work in museums and archives to visual presentation to excavation to survey to the organization of our data. Showcasing the multidimensional work and methodologies of art historians, conservators, registrars, archaeologists, historians, bioarchaeologists, environmental specialists, and sound experts, the exhibition takes as a point of departure the questions we ask and the different ways in which we go about answering them. As a teaser for the many discoveries awaiting exhibition visitors, we highlight here the work of exhibition contributors who explore plant and animal data from archaeological landscapes. The Kelsey is fortunate to be a center of bioarchaeological research in the Mediterranean region, sponsoring research from Egypt through Israel, ancient Greece, and Rome, which provides the raw data to answer many questions about ancient economies, social structure, and environmental change.

Student participation is a vital part of our exhibition and research agendas, and many thanks are due to IPCCA student Ivan Cangemi, who assisted with exhibition planning and design while holding a research assistantship at the Kelsey.

Janet Richards, Curator

Wouldn’t it be nice to know how ancient cities were able to feed their growing populations? Two field projects sponsored by the Kelsey Museum have a major impact on the environment. They have caused global warming and the extinction of species. But less well understood and studied are some of the subtle effects humans can have on the environment. A mounting number of ecological, phylogeographic, and biogeographical studies suggest that vertebrate communities in the Mediterranean are shaped not only by prevailing environmental conditions and geologic history but also by human activities. Beginning in prehistory human activities have resulted in extinctions and in important species introductions. Thus, patterns of species distribution in the region, as well as the comontinuum shifts in natural habitats—in other words the whole biotic environment of the region—need to be understood as the product of a dynamic interplay between nature and human agency.

Laura Motta at the excavation of the Prehistoric Mound of Thrasuloi (Greece) (photo courtesy of Laura Motta).

Laura Talalay

Lauren Talalay

parting Thoughts from Lauren Talalay

RAW TEXT END
**NEW WORK AT KARANIS INVITES COMPARISONS**

The University of Michigan completed excavations at the Graeco-Roman site of Karanis, Egypt, in 1933. This concluded more than ten years of work, initiated in 1924 by Francis W. Kelsey, U-M Professor of Latin. Of the more than 70,000 artifacts excavated, over 40,000 made their way to the Kelsey Museum. Besides the artifacts, the Kelsey archives hold many documents, photographs, maps, drawings, and other materials from the excavation.

The Michigan excavation was designed as a salvage project, to rescue the site as much as possible from the sahkbim (fertilizer diggers). The excavations focused on the central area of the site, leaving much more to be discovered. Yet once Michigan left in 1935, the site lay dormant for many years.

From October through December 2012, I had the pleasure of joining the Fayum Project at Karanis. The team is headed by UCLA professor and project codirector Willeke Wendrich, who has been excavating at Karanis since 2005. I was fortunate to register the site person charged with documenting and cataloging all the finds from the field. My primary role for the season was to catalogue the collections, enter data into the database, and pack the collections at the end of the season. This afforded me the chance to see every artifact excavated in 2012. My familiarity with the Kelsey Karanis collections allowed me to compare the finds from the 1920s with those from the 2000s. I was struck by how similar yet different the UCLA finds were from Michigan’s. The kind of materials were familiar. There were pottery, faience, baskets, coins, bone dice, glass, textiles, wood, glass, and animal remains (bone). These are consistent with what Kelsey’s crew found. But Michigan had found more complete vessels, both pottery and glass, as well as larger fragments of textiles and papyrus.

Regardless of size, the UCLA finds were impressive and telling! Though a faience lion bowl, a faience lion figurine, the head of a duck made of bronze, used perhaps as an inlay. Several whole baskets, and even a large rope net, were found. Two sandals were excavated in the grav- ery, one made of plant fibers, the other from leather. There pyxides fragments, and two ostraça (inscribed potsherds) were discovered, one with clear and very neat handwriting. A vase of whole vessels was left in an oven.

The visit to Karanis gave me the opportunity to see how much the site has changed in less than a hundred years. U-M photographer George Swain photographed the site, its buildings, the finds, and the workers for the Karanis excavation. These images comprise a large section of the Kelsey photographic archives. I tried to recreate some of Swain’s images in order to document the changes in the site over the years. Walls have disappeared, either from deterioration or from burial in the sand. Photographs taken in 2012 will be catalogued into the archives.

The site of Karanis still has much to offer to students and scholars. The UCLA team will continue to excavate there. Though the purpose of the current expedition (research) differs from the earlier Michigan mission (salvage), the data, when combined, will begin to reveal new insights, questions, and avenues for research. The potential to have both projects speak to each other is a dream we will work to accomplish. In the future, we may develop a database for finds, maps, even GIS files that bridges the eighty years between excavations.

Sebastián Encina

**EXCAVATING GABII: RESULTS OF THE 2012 SEASON AND PLANS FOR 2013**

The fourth consecutive season of excavations at Gabii marked the beginning of a new three-year research cycle (2011–2013), funded by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 2012, more than twenty staff members and forty volunteers from across the country participated in the seven-week program (fig. 1), contributing to a very successful campaign. The undergraduate students enrolled in the Gabii Project field practicum, which was conducted in collaboration with the University of Verona, Italy, were also able to receive academic credit.

Research activities concentrated on two sectors (Areas D and F) of the excavation site, which now encompasses a one-hectare area near the center of the ancient city. As part of the fieldwork, an extensive Ground-Penetrating Radar survey was also undertaken by partners of the University of Rome III. The overall results confirmed the exceptional state of preservation of Archaic deposits at Gabii and presented new evidence of civic architecture and civic architecture of the Republican period.

In Area D, which is located on the southeast corner of the dig, the excavations exposed other portions of an elite compound dating to the mid-Republican period. The building is composed of two axial rooms surrounded by a 7 meters (fig. 3). Students expose the ashlar terracing wall of the mid-Republican complex.

The Gabii Project field practicum, which staff members and forty volunteers from the University of Michigan completed during the end of the season. This afforded me the chance to see every artifact excavated in 2012. My familiarity with the Kelsey Karanis collections allowed me to compare the finds from the 1920s with those from the 2000s. I was struck by how similar yet different the UCLA finds were from Michigan’s. The kind of materials were familiar. There were pottery, faience, baskets, coins, bone dice, glass, textiles, wood, glass, and animal remains (bone). These are consistent with what Kelsey’s crew found. But Michigan had found more complete vessels, both pottery and glass, as well as larger fragments of textiles and papyrus.

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Sebastián Encina

Prominent at the January workshop at IPICA, the Kelsey Museum, and Stockholm University, top row left to right: Henry Gabinius (IPICA), Emma Sand (IPICA), Linnéa McBurnie (IPICA), Joye Elise Kallberg (Stockholm); middle row left to right: Henrik Habetzeder (Stockholm), Elaine Gazda (IPICA), and Stockholm University; middle row left to right: Henrik Habetzeder (Stockholm), Elaine Gazda (IPICA), and Stockholm University; middle row left to right: Henrik Habetzeder (Stockholm), Elaine Gazda (IPICA), and Stockholm University; middle row left to right: Henrik Habetzeder (Stockholm), Elaine Gazda (IPICA), and Stockholm University.

Opposite page: Fig. 1. The Gabii Project 2012 team during one of the weekly trench norths.

Fig. A. Andrea Bruck (IPICA) excavates an infant burial found in Area D.

Fig. 2. Students expose the ashlar terracing wall of the mid-Republican complex.

The strategy for the 2013 campaign (June 16–August 15) is to continue the sampling of the Archaic levels in Area D, reaching the remains of hut features underly- ing the 7th and 6th centuries BC architecture (these remains have been identified in a section exposed by a modern drainage ditch that crosses the area). In Area F, the excavation will be expanded so as to define more precisely the limits and internal subdivisions of the mid-Republican building, elucidating its chronology and function.

To keep up with finds of the coming season, visit the Gabii Project’s website: http://sitesmaker.umich.edu/gabiiject/Nicola Tonreqns
Afghanistan. Archaeological Delegation in Afghanistan. Dr. and Mrs. James Derw Entsch. The Stanley Immerman Memorial Foundation Lawrence and Emanuel Jackier Dr. and Mrs. James Jerome Mrs. Juile Sandler

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In March he led a tour through Speckernam Travel.

Hellenistic and Roman Curator Elane Gayda, with Julia Falkovich-Khain and Helen Giordano, completed a Web version of last year’s exhibition on Francis Kelsey. In October she lectured at Stockholm and Lund universities in Sweden. In January she organized a five-day workshop on 3-D imaging in archaeological research for IPCCAC students and four archaeologists from Stockholm University. She contrib- uted an essay about villas on the Bay of Naples to an ACLS e-book publication of Villa at Oplontis. In June she will return to Italy to work on the villas of Oplontis exhibition, which opens at the Kelsey in January 2015.

Community Outreach Supervisor Todd Gering will present a number of programs at public libraries this summer, on topics from Egyptian mum- nifies to Greek mythology, as part of the Library of Michigan summer reading program, whose theme this year is “Dig Into Reading.” An article he coauthored with Laura Talalay, “Elevating Barbie: Teaching Children about Egyptian Mummy- mization” in Telling Children about the Past: An Interdisciplinary Perspective, ap- peared this year in Greek translation.

Research Scientist Richard Redding spent January through March at Giza, Egypt, overseeing the laboratory and working on the faunal material from a large house at the Workers’ Town. He gave a paper at the Bioarchaeology Conference in Athens sponsored by the American University in Cairo and Werner-Grim, as well as at the Society for American Archaeology meetings in Hawaii, both

IPCCA BRIEFS
IPCCA students continue their im- pressive fieldwork and scholarly ven- tures. Dan Defending spent the year as a Reginal Member and Heinrich Schliemann Fellow at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. He excavated at Corinth in April, and in June and July will be working in Rome for the Michigan/Catharia project at Sant’Omobono. One of his projects while at the School has been to perform experimental burnt sacri- fices to study the formation processes of ash. Emily Huit defended her dissertation and received her PhD in Classical Art and Archaeology and Anthropology. Next year she will be a UM- Oberlin Mellon Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship. She is also directing a new field project beginning this summer, the Pran’s Siddhi Landscape Project in Sardhana, Uttar Pradesh.

Jenny Kechel will be traveling to Italy this summer to conduct prelimi- nary dissertation research (on late an- tiquity literature) at a Pessey Fellow. Watch for a report of her summer’s work in the Fall 2013 Newsletter. Last summer for the first time, the Kelsey summer field ex- amination team and Kelsey community projects completed their third field season of work with the pottery from Bactria, Afghanistan, under the direction of the French Archaeological Delegation in Afghanistan and the National Museum of the Afghanistian.

Researchers Geoff Embriking started a field project in El Kurru, Sudan. He also taught a course on the archaeology of Nubia in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. He lectured in Ann Arbor, Texas, Hawaii, London, Khat- tush, and Giza, chaired a session at the American Schools of Oriental Research meetings, and published articles on Nubian and Mesopotamian archaeology. In March he led a tour through the museum.

The Kelsey Museum Associates sponsor the Museum’s outreach and development activities and provide program support. The public is encouraged to join the Associates and participate in Museum activities. For more information, call 714.764.9295.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS
Kelsey Contemporaries: Kayla Romberger and Alisha Wessler
Closes June 16

Red Rock & Rust Belt: A Tale of Two Cities
Guest curator: Susan Webb
June 30–July 21
Opening: Sunday, June 30, 2–4 pm

Discovery: Excavating the Ancient World
August 23–November 10
Opening: Friday, September 20, 6–8 pm
Associates preview: September 20, 5:30 pm

DROP-IN TOURS
Sundays, 2–3 pm
June 2 and 16
July 7 and 21
August 4 and 18

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