



Associates Newsletter

Kelsey Museum of Archaeology

Fall 1988

Notes from the Director

This issue of the Newsletter highlights exciting new activities at the Kelsey—the opening of another era in the Museum's involvement in the archaeology in Egypt; three new exhibitions and the fall mini-course; the graduation of our class of Docent/Assistants and the projects they have undertaken; the Associates' tour of Turkey; and the Kelsey's development program. It is gratifying to me as director to witness the outpouring of enthusiasm and energy by many people on behalf of the Museum—staff, volunteers and Associates.

As we begin the new academic year, I encourage all of you to renew your membership in the Associates and ask you to invite your friends and acquaintances to join this energetic group of Kelsey supporters. A great deal of what we have been able to do in recent years for students, scholars, and members of the community at large we owe to Associates' contributions of time, ideas and money. The report by Meredith Klaus on the Docent/Assistant class and the activities of Dr. Lauren Talalay, our Public Programs Coordinator, will give you some idea of what has been accomplished in the past year in that area alone. Volunteer Assistants have been active in many areas of the Museum's activities from collections

to excavations, library to Newsletter, and Docents are now regularly giving gallery tours. Attendance at the Museum is up by 40% since a year ago, and mini-course enrollment reached into the nineties with the course on Egyptian mummies in March. Development activities are also on the rise, thanks to Associates' support. If and when they realize their potential, they will put the Kelsey in a better financial position than ever before.

Over the spring and summer months, the Associates maintained a busy calendar. After the Spring Dinner in April at the elegant Executive Residence of the Business School, Mark Garrison's lecture on the Kelsey's Carthage excavations drew intriguing questions from the audience. Response to the Spring Dinner has been so positive that the Associates plan to hold this event annually and perhaps to add to their calendar another, more informal, occasion to get together. As you can read in Jan Newman's article in this issue, the Associates' tour of Turkey in May was a great success. July 3rd at the "Top of the Park" saw Boris Karloff play to a full house in the film *Classic "The Mummy,"* sponsored by the Kelsey at the suggestion of the Docents and Assistants. Another of their ideas made its debut at Art

Fair thanks to the support of the Associates' Board. Two Kelsey T-shirts, designed by David Slee, went on sale at a booth in front of the Kelsey. Dedicated Docents, Assistants, and Associates Board members organized by Dottie Sims and Rich Julius did a brisk business. A few T-shirts are still available at the Kelsey but you'll have to hurry

This year at the Kelsey you will find some new faces and one familiar person who will be wearing a different hat. I wrote in the last issue of the Newsletter that Thelma Thomas joins us this year as Assistant Curator of Collections. On September first, Marti Lu Allen, who has served as Coordinator of Collections for the past two years, became our new Assistant Curator of Exhibitions. Replacing Marti Allen in her former post is Robin Meador-Woodruff who comes to us from the Museum of Art where she has served as Assistant Registrar for the past two years. Laura Gorman will be visiting as Assistant Curator of Conservation from September through February. I look forward to another rewarding year at the Kelsey and hope you will join us in building an ever stronger Museum.

Elaine K. Gazda

New Fall Exhibitions

Three new exhibitions will open at the Kelsey Museum this fall. **The Hand of Man and Symbol and Artifact**, opening on September 1, 1988, focus on the late Ice Age in Europe, one of the most extraordinary and innovative periods in prehistory. Both exhibitions were co-curated by Marti Lu Allen, Asst. Curator of Exhibitions, and Lauren Talalay, Coordinator of Public Programs and specialist in prehistoric archaeology.

Symbol and Artifact features more than 100 objects culled from collections at the University of Michigan and the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Most of the pieces date to the Upper Palaeolithic era (ca. 35,000–11,000 years ago), a time of revolutionary human achievement. Often referred to as "the creative explosion," these 250 centuries witnessed an unprecedented outpouring of artistic self-expression and symbolic behavior as well



Serigraph Head of a Horse, Tito Bustillo, Spain

as new developments in the production of man's basic tools. Included in the exhibition are examples of some of the first "portable art" in the world, items of self adornment such as necklaces and pierced teeth, an early bird whistle or musical instrument, pieces of carved stone and bone possibly used for keeping records, and a variety of stone tools dating from as early as 200,000 years ago. Much controversy surrounds the interpretation of these early artifacts. The exhibition explores some of the provocative and conflicting suggestions advanced to explain the appearance of these artifacts in the archaeological record and, in so doing, considers the origins and development of "art" and symbolic expression.

The Hand of Man presents an artist's view of prehistoric cave and canyon painting in Europe and North Africa. Douglas Mazonowicz, founder of the Gallery of

Development News

Heartfelt thanks to last quarter's corporate sponsors:

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| MICHCON | \$2,000 |
| Washtenaw County | |
| Medical Society | \$ 500 |
| Warner Lambert | \$ 200 |

THE KELSEY AND ALL THAT JAZZ Fundraising Committee is hard at work on corporate sponsorship of the Jazz Benefit, January 27, 1989 at the Michigan League. Last year's sponsors included Comerica Bank-Ann Arbor, Aristoplay Ltd., and Edward Surovell Realtors.

Won't you recommend us to a friend? This is a great promotional opportunity for companies we patronize with tax-deductible radio, newspaper, direct mail and advertising publicity. Please contact committee members: Bob Aldrich, Greg Henry, Keith Jensen, Jim McLean or Giovanna at the Kelsey, 764-9304 for suggestions and further information.

Giovanna Costantini

Exhibitions, *continued*

Prehistoric Art in New York City, gave up his career as a graphic designer and teacher in the late sixties and since then has devoted himself to studying and reproducing prehistoric art from Europe and the Sahara. His compelling silkscreens (serigraphs) on display at the Kelsey Museum are a labor of love—based on first-hand examination of the paintings as well as on photographs and painstaking tracings of the originals. Each serigraph is accompanied by text and photographs which describe the discovery of the site, the various techniques used by Mazonowicz, and some of his personal responses to these fast-vanishing treasures of the ancient world.

A third exhibition, **Ancient Locks and Keys**, will open in October. Curated by Marti Lu Allen, the exhibition explains the principles of ancient locking mechanisms including the tumbler system invented in ancient Egypt and still used in Yale locks today. In antiquity, as in the present day, locks and bolts were essential to household security. Not surprisingly, keys became a symbol of power and authority. The locks, bolts, and door bars on display are drawn from the Kelsey's own collections. They include examples dating from the first to the fourth century A.D., from Egypt as well as Italy. The exhibition features a full-sized door from Karanis, Egypt, with its locking device still in place, boxes with lock plates and a trick box. There will be a hands-on section demonstrating three types of ancient locks.

Excavations at Coptos

Dawn of Christmas Day 1987 saw a University of Michigan archaeological team setting out from the Hotel Ahknaten in Luxor to meet a group of Egyptian colleagues at the village of Qeft some 25 miles to the north. What brought the Egyptian and American archaeologists together in this small village on the edge of the Eastern Desert was their excavation of ancient Coptos, one of the great commercial ports of Graeco-Roman Egypt. Their successful collaboration was the fruit of three years of negotiations between the Near East Center of the University of Michigan, the University of Assiut and the Egyptian Antiquities Organization. It began the latest chapter in the Kelsey Museum's long history of excavating in Egypt.

Coptos was a prosperous and highly urbanized city in the Graeco-Roman period, renowned as a wealthy and cosmopolitan emporium. Located near the junction of the main roads across the Eastern Desert and the Nile, it was a major transshipment point on the Indian Ocean-Mediterranean trade route which connected Rome and China in the first true "world system." The site and its environs studied together have great potential to provide information about the complex and changing relations between city and country, and between foreign and native populations in Graeco-Roman Egypt. They also may verify or correct the ancient accounts of trade with the east. Pliny commented on the volume of this trade "... in no year does India drain our empire of less than five hundred and fifty millions of sesterces, giving back her own wares in exchange which are sold among us at fully one hundred times their prime cost." (NH VI, 26) Goods said to have passed through Coptos included many luxury items from Arabia, Africa and India: frankincense, myrrh, and aromatic balms of all sorts, ivory and tortoiseshell, spices including cinnamon and pepper, exotic woods and semi-precious stones, fine muslin from India and even some silk from China. The merchandise traveling eastward was more mundane: ready-made clothing, brass, copper, iron, swords and axes, a little wine, wheat and, appropriately enough, the juice of sour grapes.

Not surprisingly, the actual remains at the site of Coptos fall somewhat short of the ancient press reports. Much of the ancient city is covered by the modern village of Qeft and what is not serves as something of a village "green," supporting herds of grazing goats and packs of wild dogs. Also, as is common in Egypt, the site has been mined by farmers in search of organically rich soil for fertilizer. The first problem facing the Michigan-Assiut team, then, was to discover just what was left of the ancient city and to what extent it could be stratigraphically



S. Herbert

Michigan team clearing and measuring early Roman Buildings at Coptos in December 1987

cally excavated. This, and an exploratory survey of the trading stations between Coptos and the Red Sea, were the goals of the December expedition.

Results of this exploratory season were extremely promising. At Coptos well-preserved, stratified deposits of Early Roman and Late Hellenistic materials were located and tested. In the desert, student teams mapped and collected samples from Graeco-Roman forts, guardposts, and campsites as well as other sites ranging from recent Islamic nomad camps to those of Acheulian hunters of 200,000 or more years ago. The results of the 1987 season show that Coptos and its environs are clearly worthy of more intensive study, and the Michigan team intends to return to Coptos in December of 1988 and following years.

Thanks are due to the many individuals who made this international and interdisciplinary expedition possible. Professors Ernest McCarus, Director of the Near East Center, and John Eadie, formerly of the Department of History, first conceived the project and negotiated the original agreement with Assiut. Participating faculty from the University of Michigan were, together with this author, Professors William Farrand, John Kolars, and Henry Wright. Professor Ahmed el-Sawi was our principal archaeological colleague in the Assiut University system. Students from the Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology were Sommers Draper, Andrew Kosak, and Nigel Pollard. Mary Ringia of the Near East Center provided efficient and cheerful administrative support. Egyptian team members were students Khalid Muhammed Abu Alla, Wa'el Abdel Wares, Naser Sha'aban Al-Amari, Khalid Murree Hamdan. Our work was ably facilitated by members of the Egyptian Archaeological Organization, most notably Matawa Balbush, Muhammed Sughair, Hassan Almed Hossein el-Afiouni, Muhammed Ed-Dowi el-Barbari, and Abd-el-Regal Abu Bakr. The project was planned and carried out with funds from the USIA, the Fulbright Commission, and the Office of the Vice-President for Research at the University of Michigan.

Sharon C. Herbert

Let's Talk Turkey!

The two dozen pilgrims who journeyed to that country with the Kelsey Museum/Chicago Classical Art Society Archaeological Tour last spring have done little else since their return. What a trip!

The tour began and ended in Istanbul. Exotic we expected, but for first time visitors, "East meets West" has taken on new significance, embodied in our memories of that city. Ancient Greek relics and Roman remains were our focus as we visited the hippodrome and museums, but impressions of Byzantine, Ottoman, and modern Turkey converged to make our first day full of rich images of minarets, domes, traffic, and sunsets on the Bosphorus.

Crossing the Dardanelles into Asian Turkey, our first thrill was the ancient ruin of Troy. All that we had read indicated that there would not be much to see. That was true, compared to other sites we visited, but no one in our group was disappointed by Troy. With John Pedley, our wise, witty, and tolerant guide, and a "real" Trojan Horse, who could complain?

Traveling down the Aegean coast, staying in Izmir and Kusadasi after a night in Canakkale, we trekked out to the sites by bus each morning. Tired, dusty, hot, we returned in the evenings in time for a late dinner, enriched by our impressions of Assos, Pergamon, Ephesus, Aphrodisias, Miletus, Didyma, and a very special day at Professor Pedley's former dig at Sardis.

Reading lists were available before departure, and traveling libraries, backpacked on the trip, were passed around on the bus. Always most enlightening, however, were Professor Pedley's remarks as we approached a site. By the time we left

the bus, we knew the historical significance of what we were to see, and, marching through the site we tried to cling close to our mentor in order to catch his pronouncements on things archaeological and to perfect our vocabulary of classical decorative trim. By the end of the trip, not one of us would shirk from calling out, "Bead and Reel, Egg and Dart, Lesbian Leaf," as we pointed out the trim on capitals or architraves. The trip back to the hotel each day was sleepier and not so academic. Instead of lectures, we indulged ourselves in naps or Hinky Pinky riddles.

One might assume that so much daytime touring might leave little opportunity for shopping or nightlife. Fortunately, Turkey is a country where shopping and nightlife are simultaneous activities. Many of the group will be glad to show you the rugs and jewelry that are material reminders of their trip.

Our last night in Istanbul coincided with the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The city was beautiful with lighted mosques as we walked back from our elegant dinner in an old Roman cistern. The legacy of the trip, in spite of all we had seen and learned, was laughter. As one of our group said, "If we could bank our laughs on this trip, we'd have enough to last a lifetime." For that we thank the Kelsey, the Classical Art Society, Zoe Pearson of Conlin Travel, and our guide, whom we'll still recognize publically as Professor, but in our hearts is our own Mustafa Pedley.

We all await the announcement of the next biennial Kelsey/Chicago Classical Art Society Trip.

Jan Barney Newman



Members of the Kelsey Museum Associates/Art Institute of Chicago Classical Art Society at Sardis, Turkey, May 1988

Docent Update: A Year of Success

In April of this year 23 delighted Docents received diplomas from Lauren Talalay, Coordinator of Public Programs, and enjoyed a champagne celebration ending their year of arduous training. Eager to put their new found knowledge to work, they had begun giving tours, lectures and workshops as early as February, on subjects as diverse as Homer and hieroglyphics. The grand total of 98 tours, serving about 2000 people, compares favorably with the total of 59 tours during the previous year. These numbers reflect a similar increase in the total number of visitors to the Museum—38,565 during 1987-88, up from 27,739 in 1986-87. Resting briefly on the laurels of their successful T-shirt sale in July, this talented and tireless crew will continue to conduct a hopefully escalating number of tours during the coming year; already calls have come in to repeat the workshop on Egyptian culture for Jacobson's; for further workshops at the Hands-on Museum, and for slide presentations on museum topics at the Ann Arbor Schools. Brains still spinning from the crash course on Egyptian hieroglyphics offered by Roger McCleary, with which last year was concluded, the Docents, deterred or undeterred, face the coming fall.

Meredith Klaus

Fall Mini-Course

The fall minicourse on life in the Late Ice Age is scheduled for three Saturday mornings in October. On October 1, Lynn Fisher will discuss Upper Palaeolithic portable art from Germany, France, and Switzerland. The following Saturday, October 8, Dr. Daniel Fisher, a palaeontologist at the University of Michigan, will examine hunting and hunting strategies. On October 15, Professor James Payne will make stone tools using the techniques employed by the Upper Palaeolithic hunters. The mini-course will conclude with an evening program on October 21 with a lecture and performance by Dr. Jelle Atema who reconstructs musical sounds produced by the world's earliest instruments. Dr. Atema's program will be open to the public. The fee for the minicourse will be \$30 for Associates, \$40 for non-Associates, and \$15 for students with a valid ID card. Announcement and registration materials will be sent in September.

*Meredith Klaus, Editor
David Slee, Designer*

Kelsey Museum Staff

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Elaine Gazda

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Marti Allen, *Exhibitions*

Laura Gorman, *Visiting Curator*

Sharon Herbert, *Excavations*

Roger McCleary, *Visiting Curator*

Margaret Root, *Collections & Exhibitions*

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The Kelsey Museum Associates

The Kelsey Museum **Associates** help the Museum to acquire important objects, sponsor educational activities and provide general museum support. The Public is welcome to join the **Associates** and participate in Museum activities. Information is available by calling (313) 764-9304.

Associates Board Members

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Gerald Hodge

James McLean

Zoe Pearson

Michael and Helen Radock

Ann van Rosevelt

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Calendar of Events

Greek Vases—A Special Collection

Continues through October 2

Symbol and Artifact/The Hand of Man:

Creative Expression in the Stone Age

September 1–December 15

Lecture by Professor Whitney Davis,

A History and Pre-History in Palaeolithic Art September 30, 8:00 p.m.

Mini-Course, Late Ice Age (Upper

Palaeolithic) October 1, 8, 15

Ancient Locks and Keys

October 14– March 15, 1989

Lecture by Dr. Jelle Atema, *A Blast From*

the Past: Sound Reconstruction of the World's Earliest Musical Instruments.

October 21, 8:00 p.m.

Frankincense and Myrrh

January 5–February 24

The Kelsey and All That Jazz

January 27

The Museum is open to the public

Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00

and Saturday-Sunday 1:00-4:00

Regents

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