



Associates Newsletter

Kelsey Museum of Archaeology

Fall 1989

Notes from the Director

After a refreshing change of pace over the spring and summer months, we are gearing up for the challenges and excitement that the fall term ushers in. The articles in this Newsletter will tell you what is on the Kelsey's agenda for the new academic year, but let me bring you up to date on our news and activities of the past few months.

Two Grants from the IMS

Among our most exciting news is that the Kelsey has been awarded a major grant for general operating support from the Institute of Museum Services in Washington. On May 18th, International Museum Day, Lois Burke Shepard, Director of IMS, announced that 400 museums throughout the country had succeeded in the stiff competition that focuses on the quality of the museum's operations and "rewards and showcases the highest quality museums in our nation." The award which provides ten percent of the museum's operating budget up to a maximum of \$75,000, will make it possible for the Kelsey to further its programs of public and university outreach, collections research, publication, and development.

Last August we received a second grant from IMS's conservation program for a condition survey of our collections of 3000 glass and 460 plant fiber objects (for example, baskets, sandals, and rope). The two collections are important because of their large size, good state of preservation, and excellent potential for research. Most of the objects were excavated at Karanis and date to the Roman occupation of Egypt. Amy Rosenberg, Associate Curator of Conservation, is the project director. This fall we expect to hire a conservation intern and collections assistant to help with the survey.

NEH Supports Coptos Excavation

The excavation and field survey of Coptos in Egypt will launch a campaign of three full seasons in May, 1990, thanks to a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Sharon Herbert, Associate Curator of Excavations at the Kelsey, and Henry Wright, Director of the University's Museum of Anthropology, are the co-project directors. The promising results of their second preliminary field season of last December and January are reported in this issue of the Newsletter. We will be keeping you informed of their progress.

Carthage in the Field

As I write, our team of archaeologists and Earthwatch volunteers is at work in Carthage, continuing to excavate the Vandal period cemetery that has occupied their attention since 1987. This is the last season at this site which has yielded large quantities of new information about the health and life expectancy of the population of one of the great cities of the ancient Mediterranean world. After this season, Professor John Humphrey, who is the project director, plans to continue work at another site in Carthage.

Terenouthis Project

In the last issue of this Newsletter, I wrote about the Museum's new effort to publish all of the finds from the 1935 season of excavation at Terenouthis in the Egyptian Delta, a project funded by the Getty Grant Program. Work is now well underway. In mid-June, Dr. Mieczyslaw Rodziewicz of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization arrived for three months of study focused on the pottery from the necropolis. He is accompanied by his wife, Dr. Elsbietta Rawska-Rodziewicz who is studying the carved bone from the site and also from the collection of Peter Ruthven, donated to the Museum by his father Alexander Ruthven, who was President of The University of Michigan from 1929 to 1951.

Meanwhile, in Cambridge, England, T. V. Buttrey, Keeper of the Coins and Medals at the Fitzwilliam Museum, is completing his work on the coins from Terenouthis. At the Kelsey, Visiting Curator Roger McCleary, Professor Sharon Herbert and graduate student Carla Goodnoh have reassembled the finds from each of the 178 burials for our photographer Ron Banyash to record.

Seleucia on the Tigris

Over the spring and summer we began to explore a new project focused on yet another of our "old digs"—Seleucia on the Tigris. In May and August we were visited by Professor Antonio Invernizzi of the University of Turin, who, along with his Italian colleagues, has been excavating at Seleucia since 1964. In publishing the results of the Italian excavations, the materials found by the Michigan archaeologists in the 1920s and 1930s are proving invaluable. Professor Invernizzi has thus proposed a collaboration between the Kelsey Museum and the University of Turin to publish a series of monographs and articles that take account of the finds and contextual information recovered by both excavations. During his visits to Ann Arbor, Professor Invernizzi studied the Kelsey's terracotta figurines from Seleucia. In October we expect to host Professor Georges

continued



A Late Roman building excavated at Coptos.

Le Rider of the Sorbonne in Paris who is publishing the coins found by the Italian excavators. He and an assistant plan to study several thousand coins from the Michigan excavation in order to integrate them into the publication. We expect this collaboration with our Italian colleagues to extend over a decade or longer.

Demotic Ostraka

Another distinguished visitor to the Kelsey in recent months was Dr. Ursula Kaplony-Heckel from the Philipps University in Marburg am Lahn, West Germany. She came to study the Kelsey's collection of some one hundred and ten Demotic ostraka from Karanis as well as eleven Demotic-Greek ostraka in the Kelsey collection. Ostraka are potsherds used instead of expensive papyrus for written records and other texts. Demotic is a late form of the ancient Egyptian language which had been written in earlier times in hieroglyphs. The Demotic ostraka from Karanis include many bureaucratic documents, possibly from an office, according to Dr. Kaplony-Heckel. A noted expert in this field, Dr. Kaplony-Heckel hopes to return with her assistants next winter to prepare a publication of our collection.

New Personnel

On April 1st, Dana Buck joined the Kelsey staff to replace David Slee as exhibition designer, museum technician, and layout artist of this Newsletter while David is on leave. Dana has worked at the Kelsey before, as a member of the security force. He brings to his new position a great deal of experience in theatrical set design and carpentry. His first exhibition, designed in cooperation with Marti Lu Allen, Assistant Curator of Exhibitions, is now on view in the galleries—"Touring the Ruins: Vintage Photographs and Postcards of the Ancient World." The intimate Victorian ambience includes a fenced-in garden.

On August 21st, we welcomed conservator Brook Bowman for a five month position in the Kelsey laboratory. Brook has worked at the Fort Douglas Military Museum, the L.D.S. Church Museum of History and Art, and the University of Utah Museum of Natural History. Her field work includes excavations at the ancient sites of QarQur in Syria and Petra in Jordan, a salvage operation involving the Donner Reed wagons after 1983 flood in the Great Salt Lake, and work on a stage coach station in Wyoming. We look forward to several months of collaboration with Brook.

Associates Activities

The Associates Spring Membership Dinner was a great success. An elegant meal at the Executive Residence of the Business School was followed by a fascinating introduction to the Kelsey's excavations at Tel Anafa and Coptos by Sharon Herbert. You can read about our indefatigable Docents elsewhere in this Newsletter—tours, collec-

tions assistance, hieroglyphic workshops and T-shirts are among the activities that have occupied them over the past few months.

Membership Renewal

As we begin a new academic as well as membership year, I want to encourage all of you to renew your membership in the Associates of the Kelsey Museum. Many appealing events are on the Associates' calendar—mini-courses, lectures, exhibition openings, the annual benefit "The Kelsey and All That Jazz," and the Spring Membership Dinner. We look forward to having as many of you as possible join us on these occasions. Membership information will be in the mail very soon, so please watch for it and renew promptly for the 1989-90 membership year which begins on October 1st. Many thanks for your support!

Elaine K. Gazda

Staff Profile

Thelma K. Thomas has been Assistant Curator of Collections at the Kelsey since last September. She looks back on first year here with satisfaction, as well she might. This past spring, she curated her first exhibition at the Kelsey, "A Selection of Textiles from Mediaeval Egypt." She was also involved with the exhibition "Beyond the Pharaohs," which was organized by the Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art and which travelled to the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore during the spring and summer. She contributed to the catalogue of the RISD exhibition, writing an essay and numerous catalogue entries on sculptures from late Roman and early Byzantine Egypt. She also participated in a symposium in connection with the show. In addition, Thelma taught a course in Late Antique and Early Christian Art and presented a paper through the UM History of Art Department Colloquia Series entitled "Textiles and Texts: Byzantine Egyptian Textiles as Described in Written Sources." She will be participating in the Kelsey's project to publish the Terenouthis excavation by working on the late Roman painted plaster, and will soon see a booklet about Mediaeval Egyptian textiles at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in print.

Obviously Thelma hasn't had much time to browse around Ann Arbor, but when asked if she enjoys living here, the answer is an unqualified yes! She likes the relaxed pace, in contrast to New York, where she lived for the past several years while studying at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University. She describes life in New York as "burrowing your way underground every morning, then shoving your way back up," and "never getting used to the homeless people in the doorway." She notes a similar problem in Ann Arbor, but

Associates Tour

Mark your calendars! A tour of Italy co-sponsored by the Associates of the Kelsey Museum and the Classical Art Society of the Art Institute of Chicago is being planned for May 4-12, 1990. It will be led by Professor John Pedley of the Department of Classical Studies, and will be limited to no more than twenty-five participants. Still in the planning stages, the proposed itinerary includes such sites as Palermo, Solunto, Segesta, Motye, Selinus, Agrigento, and Piazza Armerina. Then, on to Syracuse to visit the Temples of Apollo, Athena and Zeus, the theatre, the quarries and Castello Eurailo, the most complete military work of the Greek era. A final stop will be made in Taormina for several days, after which departures may be made from Rome. Call Zoe Pearson at 769-9680 for additional information, as this should prove to be an exciting and educational tour!



Curator Thelma Thomas pauses for moment in the galleries.

hopes that "here you can do something about it, some little thing." When asked about our troublesome Michigan weather, she laughed, commenting that she grew up in Seattle which is known for its overcast skies. Thelma has acquired a new house and renewed an old pleasure—gardening, along with the requisite weeding as a wonderful way of relieving frustrations. Does she miss the spectacular scenery in the Northwest? "Only once a year when I go home."

Thelma will be teaching a History of Art class this fall, "Materials and Techniques of Byzantine Art." In the winter term, she will offer a survey of later Byzantine Art. Future exhibits at the Kelsey include plans for an exhibition tentatively entitled "Dangerous Archaeology: Francis Willey Kelsey and Armenia (1919-1920)."

Thelma's extensive knowledge of late Roman and Byzantine Art, especially that of Egypt, fills an important niche at the Kelsey and will enable her to bring a sizeable portion of the collection to the attention of students and the public. We look forward to her future endeavors!

Excavation News

This year, archaeologists from the University of Michigan welcomed the New Year in the small Egyptian village of Qift together with Egyptian colleagues from the University of Assiut. This joint Michigan/Assiut team was carrying on the program of exploratory excavation and survey begun there in 1987. Although today Qift is a sleepy Nile village little different from numerous farming communities in Upper Egypt, in antiquity it was the site of the busy and prosperous city of Coptos, a major emporium on the Rome-Indian Ocean trade route. Even before the coming of the Roman traders, there is evidence that the citizens of Coptos profited greatly from the city's position as a gateway to the rich mineral resources of the the Eastern Desert and the most direct route to the Red Sea, and hence to the Horn of Africa and the fabled Land of Punt.

Although Flinders Petrie had uncovered the remains of a large Ptolemaic temple at Coptos as early as 1893 and a French team probed the Roman town before the First World War, the site of Coptos has been largely neglected in favor of the impressive Pharaonic remains of nearby Luxor for most of this century. In recent years, however, there has been growing scholarly interest in the complex trade system of the Roman Empire and its reciprocal relations with the kingdoms of Africa and the Orient. This has brought ancient trade centers such as Coptos, where the interchange between East and West might be documented in the archaeological record, into increasing prominence. The purpose of the recent Michigan/Assiut work has been to explore the potential of the site, as preserved today, to add to our understanding of the ancient trade process.

This year, the lack of funds and time constraints allowed only a scant 17 day session over Christmas and New Year. The work was planned to build on the results of the 1987 season in which well-preserved, stratified remains of the Early Roman occupation were located and tested. After the '87 season it still remained to be seen whether later Roman and earlier Greek and Pharaonic remains were well-enough preserved to allow us to reconstruct the growth of the ancient trade system over time. With the discovery of such deposits in mind, we dug below the early Roman houses discovered in 1987 and explored other areas in search of later Roman remains. Both efforts were well-rewarded. In the new area, parts of a large, late Roman building, possibly a bath were uncovered. Coins and pottery allowed us to date the occupation of this building to the fourth and fifth centuries A.C. In the area of the early Roman houses explored in 1987, the kitchen of an earlier Hellenistic Greek house was discovered. Below the Greek levels, we began to expose

a massive (12+ meters wide) mudbrick wall, possibly dating to as early as the 19th century B.C.

The two exploratory seasons at Coptos have shown that the ancient remains on the site are exceptionally well-preserved and further excavation should provide new information about East-West trade. The promising results of the two short seasons have helped us secure a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and we are now planning a major three-year Kelsey Museum expedition to Coptos. We look forward to reporting the results to you in future Newsletters.

Footnote: Archaeological research is by nature collaborative and we owe thanks to many without whose work this report could not have been written. The 1988/89 season was funded by the Kelsey Museum, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the USIA. Participating Michigan faculty were Professors William Farand, Sharon Herbert, and Henry Wright. Professor David Grose joined the expedition from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Professor Ahmed El-Sawy coordinated the Assiut University participation. Catherine Sease of the Field Museum of Chicago served as Conservator and Jacqueline Royer of the University of Michigan School of Architecture was the expedition architect. Professor T. V. Buttrey identified the coins. Sommers Draper and Andrew Kosak of Michigan's Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology supervised the trenches with the help of students from Assiut's Program in Archaeology. We received able administrative assistance from the Center for Near Eastern and North African Studies as well as the Kelsey Museum. Warm thanks to all.

Sharon C. Herbert

Staff News

The Kelsey staff took advantage of the slower summer pace to begin new projects and finish ones in progress. Public Programs Coordinator **Lauren Talalay** is currently at work on a volume entitled "Deities, Dolls and Devices: Neolithic Figurines from Franchthi Cave, Greece." The book is part of a series published by the Indiana University Press and is scheduled to be available in 1990. **Marti Allen** is working toward the completion of a project which has taken her to Tunisia for the past three summers. She researched the terracottas excavated in the Roman circus at Carthage, and will publish her findings in the University of Georgia's site report. This research will also be the focus of a future exhibition at the Kelsey Museum, in which the terracottas will appear by courtesy of the Tunisian government. **Thelma Thomas** has been organizing an upcoming exhibition scheduled for Fall 1990, "Dangerous Archaeology: Francis Willey Kelsey and Armenia (1919-1920)." She is currently pursuing funding, planning a lecture series to accompany the exhibition, and poring over the Kelsey Museum archives as she completes her research.

Kelsey Museum T-Shirts: Hot Off The Press!

We received an eagerly awaited shipment of T-shirts just in time for the Art Fair. From a table on the porch of the museum, docents tempted passers-by with the brightly colored shirts. We made sure to order enough so that those of you who were unable to come by during the summer would not miss out on this opportunity to show your support for the Kelsey. Don't delay, our T-shirts will soon be a thing of the past!



Kelsey Museum staff proudly model their fashionable T-shirts.

Docent News

Docent Appreciation Day was celebrated on May 11 before we all went our separate ways for the summer. A very special thanks was extended to Dottie Sims, who has worked tirelessly to help make the Kelsey's Public Programs the successful ventures that they are. Many thanks to all of you for your participation in the Docent program!

Those docents who did remain in town over the summer stayed busy organizing outreach activities. Among the events were a showing of the Burton-Taylor version of the film *Cleopatra* at the Top of the Park during the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, a hieroglyphic workshop at the Power Center attended by more than 300 children, and a session about mummy-making sponsored by Jacobson's Back to School Program.

Progress continues on the traveling suitcases. The Egyptian kit, which will be available for the Ann Arbor Schools, hospitals, and senior homes in November, includes two slide shows designed by docents. One illustrates the history and development of mummification and Egyptian burial practices, the other discusses daily life in ancient Egypt. Docents also continue to work on slide presentations, games, hands-on activities and bibliographies for the Greek, Roman, and Near Eastern kits. Those suitcases should be complete and ready to "go on the road" by February 1990.

When not working on their suitcases, Katie Tuma and Barbara Riordan have been busy with other projects. Katie is designing a children's guide to the Egyptian galleries. Barbara will represent the Kelsey Museum at Aquinas College in late August. Aquinas College has designed an interdisciplinary program in art and history and Barbara will lecture to several groups of undergraduates on the art and culture of ancient Egypt.

Jane Schwenk has been working with the extensive Kelsey coin collection for the past two years, and has made the installation of portrait coins now on display the focus of a brochure which she produced. In addition to the brochure, she has compiled background material to assist the docents in explaining the exhibition to visitors. Jane reports that the Kelsey has approximately fifty thousand coins in its collection, about seven thousand of which she has helped to enter into the Kelsey's computerized database. Her exposure to the coin collection has led her to do considerable research on the production of coins in the ancient world, as well as study the significance of their designs.

Robin Meador-Woodruff, *Managing Editor*
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Kelsey Museum docents discuss the Traveling Suitcase project.

Development News

The past year was an exceptionally good one for the Kelsey's development program. Associates membership dues and other contributions increased 29% over last year and 38% over the previous year. These figures represent an increase in new donors, a decrease in lapsed members of the Associates, and above all, a critical 26% increase in membership upgrades—that is to say, many of our friends are giving more generously than in the past.

Foundation and corporate support also continued to grow last year, increasing 35% in the numbers of sponsors and 30% in increased dollar support over 1987-88. New on our roster of corporate sponsors this year are M-Care, Care Choices, Trustcorp, Jacobson's and Stucchi's. We also saw increased corporate support through grants from employers who match their employees' contribution dollar for dollar. General Motors is one of the recent participants in this matching grant program.

As a result of our success during the past year, the Kelsey is in a much stronger position to offer community outreach programs, mini-courses, tours, and other events for the general public while continuing to support collections research and excavation activity which place the Museum among the world's leading archaeological institutes.

If you know of someone who might join the Associates or wish to receive news of Kelsey activities, please take a moment to jot their name on the form on the last page and return it to the Museum office. Our membership group is what we make it!

Associates Fall Mini-Course

Get ready to spend Saturdays in October at the Kelsey! The Office of Public Programs is again coordinating the fall Associates' mini-course, the title of which is "Forging the Past: Ancient Fakes and Frauds." On October 7, 1989, Sarah Wissman of the University of Illinois will speak about thermoluminescence testing and pottery; on October 14, Adon Gordus will talk about coins, Persian miniatures, and the methods of detecting fakes in metal objects; on October 21, Elaine Gazda will present issues of connoisseurship and forgery detection through discrepancies of style and technique in Roman portrait sculpture; and on October 28, Roger McCleary will speak about Egyptian fakes in the Kelsey. It promises to be an entertaining and enlightening series. Registration fliers will be sent in September, but you may reserve your spot today by calling the Kelsey Museum Office.

The Kelsey Museum Associates

The Kelsey Museum **Associates** help the Museum to acquire important objects, sponsor outreach and development activities and provide Museum support. The public is encouraged to join the **Associates** and participate in Museum activities. For further information call (313) 763-3559 or 747-0441.

Exhibition News

On July 14, the exhibition "Touring the Ruins: Vintage Photographs and Postcards of the Ancient World" opened to enthusiastic comments and a celebratory English tea. The first part of the show, "Egypt and the Classical World" will be on display until September 10. It focuses on the most magnificent sites of Pharaonic Egypt, such as Thebes, Karnak, and Giza. It also highlights a number of spectacular sites of the Greek, Roman, and Roman provincial worlds, such as Athens, Paestum (South Italy), and Timgad (Libya). The second part of the exhibition, "Pompeii and Rome," will open on September 15 and will highlight the photographs of well known 19th-century photographers Sommer and Brogi. "Touring the Ruins" is scheduled to close on November 12. It will be followed by an exhibition entitled "Art and Holy Powers in the Early Christian House" organized by the Krannert Art Museum of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This show will be on display from November 17 until March 19, 1990, and will be accompanied by an extensive catalogue authored by Henry and Eunice Maguire. In addition, the Kelsey's permanent galleries are now featuring an installation of recently acquired ancient portrait coins and a return engagement of a portion of the popular exhibition "Egyptian Mummies: From Ancient Cult to Modern Science."

Associates Board Members

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Calendar of Events

Touring the Ruins: Vintage Photographs and Postcards of the Ancient World – Egypt and the Classical World
July 14–September 10, 1989

Touring the Ruins: Vintage Photographs and Postcards of the Ancient World – Pompeii and Rome –
September 15–November 12, 1989

Open House and Behind-the-Scenes Tours—September 22, 1989 at 4:00 p.m.

Associates Mini-Course: Forging the Past: Ancient Fakes and Frauds

Sarah Wissman—October 7, 1989

Adon Gordus—October 14, 1989

Elaine Gazda—October 21, 1989

Roger McCleary—October 27, 1989

Lecture by Andrew Szegedy-Maszak, "Perfect Ruins: Early Photographs of Rome"
— October 13, 1989 at 4:30 p.m.

Lecture by Susan T. Stevens on the Kelsey Museum's excavations at Carthage. Co-sponsored by Earthwatch—
November 10, 1989 at 8:00 p.m.

Art and Holy Powers in the Early Christian House—November 17, 1989—
March 19, 1990

Lecture by Henry Maguire, "Garments Pleasing to God: The Significance of Domestic Textile Design in the Early Christian Period"—November 17, 1989 at 8:00 p.m.

Lecture by Andrew Stewart, "Faces of Power: The Portraits of Alexander the Great (336-323 BC)"—November 28, 1989 at 4:00 p.m.

The Kelsey and All That Jazz—
January 26, 1990 at 9:00 p.m.

The Museum is open to the public
Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00
and Saturday-Sunday 1:00-4:00
There is no admission fee.

Kelsey Museum Staff

Director

Elaine Gazda

Curators

Marti Allen, *Exhibitions*

Brook Bowman, *Visiting Curator*

Sharon Herbert, *Excavations*

Roger McCleary, *Visiting Curator*

Margaret Root, *Collections & Exhibitions*

Amy Rosenberg, *Conservation*

Thelma Thomas, *Collections*

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