NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

These notes come to you from the airport, as I wait to embark on the first leg of a journey that will take me by air from Detroit to Izmir on the west coast of Turkey; then by land from Izmir to the seaside site of Notion, a largely unexplored ancient Greek town. This summer will be the first season of a new Kelsey-sponsored archaeological project at Notion; our initial task will be to map the site using a variety of different techniques, including aerial photogrammetry, conventional surface mapping, and geophysical prospection. The start of a new field project is a great moment in the life of an archaeologist, and my colleagues and I are very excited and not a little nervous to see how things turn out. Stay tuned for a future newsletter!

It has been an exciting year in many ways at the Kelsey Museum. The Fall and Winter semesters saw two successful special exhibitions—“Discovery,” highlighting current Kelsey-sponsored research projects, and “Life in Minimania,” featuring objects from Seleucia-on-the-Tigris in Iraq. Our current summer exhibition, “Ancient/Modern,” juxtaposes artifacts from the Kelsey collections with contemporary objects of similar form and/or function (see article on facing page by Collections Manager and Exhibition Curator, Sebastiana Encina). In addition to Notion in Turkey, another new Kelsey-sponsored field project was launched at Olynthos in Greece (the Michigan Classics Professor and Kelsey Research Associate Lisa Nevett), and fieldwork continues at El Karrur in Sudan (see article on pages 4-5 by Project Director and Kelsey Research Scientist, Geoff Embirgill), and at Rome (Sant'Omobono) and Gabii in Italy (under the direction of Classics Professor and Kelsey Research Associate Nicola Terracciano).

Collections research by Curator for Graeco-Roman Egypt Terry Wilfong has borne fruit in the form of a monograph on what is surely the Museum’s most popular single object: the coffin of the seventh- or sixth-century BC Egyptian priest Djehutynosem, and the forthcoming publication of Karanis Revealed: Discovering the Past and Present of a Michigan Excavation in Egypt.

On the teaching front, an important new initiative was the incorporation of the Kelsey collections into the curriculum of a popular course on the history of ancient Israel/Palestine, taught by Professor of Near Eastern Studies Douglas Vanden and the Department of Near Eastern Studies. A major focus of the course was an essay competition, for which students wrote research papers on objects from the collection of Eleanor and Lawrence Jackson, which the Jackiers have pledged to the Kelsey Museum. The course culminated in a small exhibition of objects from the Jackson collection and a prize ceremony attended by the Jackiers in April. We hope to have similar Jackier prize competitions in future years.

As director, much of my time this year has been taken up by work on a “self-study” in preparation for an academic review of the Kelsey Museum scheduled for next October (all units in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts are reviewed about once a decade—although it has been nearly twenty years since the Kelsey’s last review). This exercise has provided an occasion to reexamine the history and mission of the Museum, and it has made me more aware than ever of the many assets that make the Kelsey such a unique and dynamic institution. From our academic setting; our standing among the peoples of the past and modern-day throughout the exhibition visitors will encounter examples of similari- ties in tool design. How we prepare our food, filter water, or even entertain ourselves descend in a direct lineage from the past. The objects found in our kitch- ens, sheds, offices are not just products of a post-Industrial Revolution era. Similarities often occur not only in the forms of objects but also in iconography. The coins we carry in the United States today are far removed from the form of currency used in Rome or China or the Persian Archaic/Early Hellenistic periods of everyday life. The modern carpenter has power tools that can easily cut through wood. Faced with the same demand, the ancient carpenter probably created many of the same shapes and decorations by using a bow drill. The bow drill may be more cumbersome to use, but a master craftsman could use it to make fine furniture, exquisite boxes, and sturdy architectural elements. It has been an exciting year for Kelsey’s objects hidden in collections. “We have one just like that!” visitors often exclaim when they see some of the Kelsey’s objects hidden in collections storage. Their words always refer to items that are thousands of years old yet recognizable because of their likeness to modern counterparts.

One of the Kelsey’s strengths is its vast collection of everyday objects from an- cient times. Many of these objects come from household contexts. And in many cases, what inhabitants of Roman Egypt, for example, used to accomplish their daily tasks is quite similar to how we fulfill the same needs thousands of years later. The exhibition “Ancient/Modern: The Design of Everyday Things,” opening June 27, explores these connections be- tween the peoples of the past and modern-day.

The exhibit also explores our differ- ences. The modern carpenter has power tools that can easily cut through wood. Faced with the same demand, the ancient carpenter probably created many of the same shapes and decorations by using a bow drill. The bow drill may be more cumbersome to use, but a master craftsman could use it to make fine furniture, exquisite boxes, and sturdy architectural elements. It has been an exciting year for Kelsey’s objects hidden in collections. “We have one just like that!” visitors often exclaim when they see some of the Kelsey’s objects hidden in collections storage. Their words always refer to items that are thousands of years old yet recognizable because of their likeness to modern counterparts.

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“The large clay figurine from ancient Seleucia (KM 162-52) at left resembles a modern-day doll but probably served a very different function, while the ancient ceramic kylix (KM 1259-170) above looks decidedly more modern in its use of gilding although it served the same function.”

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Once you know a little about Cathy Peterson’s background, it seems almost inevitable that she would be the Kelsey Museum’s new Educational and Academic Outreach Coordinator. Inspired by a high school Latin teacher, she decided to study classics. In college, an introductory archaeology course and another class that required working as a docent at an art museum further refined her interests. So by the time Cathy started work on her PhD in Classical and Near Eastern archaeology at Bryn Mawr, she knew her goal was to work in an archaeology museum. More museum experience at the University of Pennsylvania Archaeology and Anthropology Museum confirmed this direction, and a stint in visitor services at the Philadelphia Museum of Art made it clear she wanted to work with the public. Perhaps this exact fit between Cathy’s training and her new position helped her hit the ground running when she arrived in Ann Arbor in November. She quickly began training IPNAS students to serve as Kelsey docents and will mount a regular class for volunteer docents in September. She organized an April family day that drew 167 participants. And she has assembled an ambitious roster of sum- mer programs and activities that will be calculated to reach diverse audiences: special tours during Art Fair, Sunday drop-in tours led by Kelsey curators, gallery conversations with experts in fields related to the special exhibition, and a program called “Read and Look” for 4-6-year-olds. She also manages the Museum’s Facebook page and its weekly gallery conversations with experts in fields related to the special exhibition, and a program called “Read and Look” for 4-6-year-olds. She also manages the Museum’s Facebook page and its weekly blog posting. Soon she hopes to update our popular Classic City Graze and design some K-12 lesson plans.

It’s a pleasure to welcome Cathy Peterson to the Kelsey staff.

STAFF

Christopher Ratti, Director
Diane Johnson, Associate Director
Curators
Susanne Desse, Graeco-Roman Emma K. Gatchell, Hellenistic and Roman Shauna Herbert, Greek and Hellenistic Janet Richhoffs, Dystice Agyt
Christopher Ratti, Graeco-Roman and Near Eastern Terry Wilfong, Graeco-Roman Egypt
Research Associates/Affiliates
Gary Beckman Lisa Nevett Christine Graber Ann van Rossum Brandon Hala Carol Snaurum Stephanie Legate-Hopto Lauren Taylor Armand Legrande Nicola Terraciano Lippa Margomenou Andrea Fischer Newman

Graduate Program Coordinator
David Stone
Scott Meier, Sandra Malveaux, Secretary
Editor
Kathryn Huss, Michelle Fontenot, Darcy Downing
Museum Entrance Monitor
Administrative Specialist
Support Staff
Despina Margomenou Arthur Verhoogt Gary Beckman Lisa Nevett

Kelsey Museum Newsletter
The Kelsey Museum Newsletter is sponsored by the Members of the Kelsey Museum.
El Kurru in northern Sudan is well known as the site of a royal cemetery of Kush whose burials include kings who conquered and ruled Egypt as its 25th Dynasty (715-653 BC). The burials were excavated in 1918-1919 by the American archaeologist George Reisner, and he also noted elements of a settlement around this cemetery. A Kelsey conservator Suzanne Kite photographs that will eventually Tim Skuldboel, Martin Uildriks, and February and March included excavators 2014. Their film, which should air on PBS in the visit my blog: elkurrukush.blogspot.com. Information and photos about the season, prevented previous excavation. For more the site in which structural problems had us to begin excavating a royal pyramid at returned to El Kurru in 2013 2013 to investi- gate elements of this settlement, and we significantly expanded our work in 2014. This season, we focused our excava- tion efforts on two of Reisner’s structures: a mortuary temple and a city wall. We anticipated having structural problems excavating underground rooms in the mortuary temple, so we brought an archi- tect who has designed support structures in rock-cut tombs in Egypt. This allowed us to begin excavating a royal pyramid at the site in which structural problems had prevented previous excavation. For more information and photos about the season, visit my blog: elkurrukush.blogspot.com. We also hosted a National Geographic film crew during the season. Watch for their film, which should air on PBS in the late summer or early fall of 2014. The team working at El Kurru during February and March included Tim Skuldboel, Martin Uldriks, and Carola Stearns; photographer Kathryn Howley of Brown University, who took kite photographs that will eventually yield 3D digital maps; architect Igu- nacio Forcadel; artist and registrar Jack Cheng; and Kelsey conservator Suzanne Davis. We also continued a program of magnetometry survey with the help of Prof. Mohamed Abdelwahab of the University of Dongola-Wadi Halfa. We employed as many as 60 local workmen.

**EXCAVATIONS AT EL KURRU, 2014**

**CITY WALL**

This year we were able to clear a single stretch of 12 meters of the eight wall that included a gateway found by Reisner (fig. 1). The wall is 2.15 meters wide, faced with shaped sandstone blocks behind a core of sandstone blocks and rubble. It is preserved about 1.50 meters high. The gateway included a piece of petrified wood used as a threshold, sockets perhaps for locking a gate, and two door socket stones at different levels, suggesting a history of rebuilding. It had two walls extending about 3 meters toward the river on either side of the gate, forming an unusual kind of portico, and two smaller extensions on the west (village) side. We also excavated a sounding against the city wall (fig. 2) and found a domes- tic occupation with cooking pots left in place. The pottery is entirely clas- sic Christian, dating to the eighth to eleventh century AD. After the house was built and fell out of use, it was used as a trash dump, and then as a cemetery. It is noteworthy that although the diag- nostic ceramics in the area are entirely Christian in date, the construction of the wall itself is more similar to Napatan and Meroitic construction than it is to Chris- tian, at least in its use of shaped sandstone blocks. Some of the facing blocks are not finished, but chisel marks remain visible. It is of course possible that these were stones shaped in Napatan times for use in the cemetery and that the wall (or at least its facing) is largely built of blocks taken from the cemetery. Our preliminary geo- morphological observations of this area suggest that it was prone to flooding and wash from a nearby wadi that may have removed traces of earlier settlement. The area along the wall farther to the north is not affected in this way and may preserve traces of earlier settlement.

**MORTUARY TEMPLE**

In 2013 we began excavation of a struct- ure described by Reisner as a mortuary temple dedicated to worship of a deceased king. Our excavation of the temple this year entirely cleared two outer rooms, each 15 meters long, buried in over 2 meters of sediment. Room 1 (fig. 3, foreground) was entered by a staircase from the south and seems to have had few features or installations. Its northern wall of massive stone blocks (75 x 90 x 32 cm average size) was destroyed by an ancient wadi flood. Room 2 contained 26 columns and was originally roofed around the edges with a system of stone beams and perhaps palm branches. Some of the stone beams were preserved in the fill of the room. The first underground chambers, Rooms 3 and 4, were decorated with columns and stone beams—the system seems to have been decorative rather than functional as there are gaps between the beams and the ceiling, and the beams are placed in a location that is not structurally weak. In Room 3 the columns had two different types of capitals—five volutes around one set, and palm branches around the other (fig. 4). In Room 4 a four capital was the same lotus capital. Both Rooms 3 and 4 were provided with a lock- ing door (round holes at top and bottom to support a pivoting door, and a square slot for a bolt at the top of the door). Straight back from Rooms 3 and 4 were Rooms 6 and 7, respectively. Each was a square room approximately 4.9 x 4.9 meters in size, and was also provided with a lock- ing door mechanism (fig. 5). The function of this structure and especially of its underground rooms remains something of a mystery, as is the date of its construction, because virtu- ally no portable objects were found in the lower levels of the fills. There are no inscriptions to date its initial construc- tion and use. The complete absence of archaic cultic objects, combined with the evident concern with security, leads one to suspect that these were storage rooms for valuable objects that were removed when the building was abandoned. Our best guess for the date of construction is fourth century BC (later Napatan).

**KU. PYRAMID 1**

The only well-preserved pyramid at El Kurru is Ka. 1 (fig. 6). It appears from its form to be considerably later in date than the other burials at the site, and this raises interesting questions about ancestral memory, powerful lineages among the Kushite elite, and the importance of El Kurru as a place within the political land- scape of Kush. Reisner cleared the corners of the pyra- mid, remove corner blocks and excavate the foundation deposits there, and he cleared out the chapel, which contained some incised blocks. He also excavated the massive, monumental descending (about 2.5 meters long, 2.5 meters wide, 8 meters deep at the (downway)) and the first underground chamber (about 5 meters long and 4.5 meters wide), which he label- led included excavated blocks. He also excavated the massive, monumental descending (about 2.5 meters long, 2.5 meters wide, 8 meters deep at the (downway)) and the first underground chamber (about 5 meters long and 4.5 meters wide), which he label- led included excavated blocks. Reisner excavated a meter or two into the second room (Room B) and encountered a large structural flaw in the ceiling—a hole in the stone through which (he said) he could see the base of the pyramid. We began excavation with the consent that our architect, Nacho Forcadel, would be able to build protective structures that would allow us to excavate the back of Room B.

Our excavation revealed particularly inter- esting results in Room A (fig. 7), where careful excavation uncovered twelve postholes cut into the floor in three rows, perhaps to support a canopy over the king during a stage in the mortuary ritual. The season was made possible by generous support from the National Geographic Society, the Qatar-Sudan Archaeological Project, and Ms. Kathleen Picken. As always, our thanks are due to our archaeological colleagues in the Suda- nese antiquities department, the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums. Geoff Emberling

![Fig. 1. Gateway in city wall.](image1.png)

![Fig. 2. Christian period domestic architecture against city wall.](image2.png)

![Fig. 3. Rooms 1 and 2 of a mortuary temple.](image3.png)

![Fig. 4. Room 3 with volute and palm capitals.](image4.png)

![Fig. 5. Gateway in city wall.](image5.png)

![Fig. 6. Ka. Pyramid 1.](image6.png)

![Fig. 7. Room A in Ka. Pyramid 1.](image7.png)
Curator for Conservation Suzanne Davis gave an invited presentation at the annual meeting of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) and chaired a session at the American Schools of Oriental Research meeting. She also published articles on the conservation of glass and on conservation outreach at the Kelsey Museum. She is a program chair for the 2014 meeting of AIC and is in this year’s winner of AIC's Advocacy Award.

The focus of Research Scientist Geoff Egydio’s year has been the excavation season at EI Kurru in northern Sudan, where he trained excavated significant portions of a Napatan royal pyramid and mortuary temple (ca. 350 BC), as well as a city wall and settlement of apparently sixteenth-century Christian date (ca. AD 900). He also obtained major funding for the next four years of the project from the Qatar-Sudan Archaeological Project. For details, see blog. elkurrukush.blogspot.com

The focus of Research Scientist Terry Williams was promoted to full Professor and Curator. He published “The Oracular Amuletic Decrees: A Question of Length,” in Journal of Egyptian Archaeology, and his book Life, Death, and Afterlife in Ancient Egypt: The Coffin of Djehyhotep in the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology appeared in summer of 2013. His next book, Karans Revealed, edited with Andrew W.S. Ferrara, will feature an overview of his 2011-2012 Kelsey Museum exhibition along with new essays about material and will appear in the summer of 2014. He gave an invited lecture, “A Misunderstood Egyptomania? Alexander the Great and the 7th Century Roots of Western Egyptomania” at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore in October. He is currently preparing an exhibition of the jackal gods of ancient Egypt, which will open at the Kelsey Museum in February 2013.

A special panel, “The Art of Empire in Achaemenid Persia,” honoring Greek and Near Eastern Curator Margaret Root was convened at the AIA meetings last December by Beth Duschek (IPCAA 1997) and Mark Garrison (IPCAA 1968). At a party in her honor that evening Kelsey Director Christopher Rattey toasted her achievement, while many IPCAA-sites and long-time friends were gathered around from the world looked on. She is now working to make her next AIA-sponsored Iran trip (in May 2013) more affordable, especially for academics.


STAFF UPDATE

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SPECIAL EXHIBITION

Ancient/Modern: The Design of Everyday Things
June 27–September 7, 2014

RELATED EVENTS

Ancient, Modern, or Somewhere in Between?
lecture by Donna Braden, Curator of Public Life, The Henry Ford Museum
Friday, June 27, 6:00 pm
Exhibition opening reception follows

A Taste of the Mediterranean
with Vinology and Morgan & York
Thursday, June 19, 5:30–6:30 pm
Please preregister at 734-763-8639.

Drop-in Tours
with exhibition curator Sebastián Encina
Sunday, June 22, 2:00 pm
Sunday, August 24, 2:00 pm

Sunday Gallery Conversations
July 20, 2:00 pm, with Professor Franc Nunoo-Quarcoo, Stamps School of Art & Design
August 3, 2:00 pm, with Professor Carla Sinopoli, Museum Studies Program and Department of Anthropology

OTHER ACTIVITIES

For a complete list of Kelsey events, see the “Events” column on the Kelsey homepage: www.lsa.umich.edu/kelsey

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