

## Program

### *ACHS Discussion Forum*

#### **10 October 2011**

Location and time: BACC ROOM A : 19:00

**Lecture:** *The Western Marmarica Coastal Survey: life on the fringe.*

#### **Linda Hulin**

Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology

Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford

Director, Western Marmarica Coastal Survey, Libya

The Western Marmarica Coastal Survey focuses on a coastal strip some 35 km to the east of Tobruk. This is a rich area archaeologically, even if the area lacks the large-scale urban centers of Cyrenaica or the Egyptian Delta. Over one hundred sites have been recorded in the first three seasons, ranging in date from the Middle Stone Age to the 13th century AD, and in type from tool and bead-making production sites to farms, rock art sites, qsur, pottery kilns and port facilities. Although geographically remote, the region has, throughout its history, maintained long-distance connections across north Africa, with Egypt and, with the development of maritime trade, with the Mediterranean, and offers insight into the long-term persistence of communities in marginal environments.

#### **27 October 2011**

Location and time: Auditorium : 19:00

**Lecture:** *Glimpses of an ancient city across 1000 years: British Museum excavations at Kom Firin (2002-2011)*

#### **Neal Spencer**

The British Museum

Director, The British Museum excavation at Kom Firin, Egypt.

The British Museum has been investigating the large settlement site of Kom Firin, Beheira, since 2002, and this lecture will present an overview of our understanding of the ancient town. Nine seasons of survey, geophysics, drill-coring and excavation have allowed us detailed glimpses at parts of the settlement's history. Founded in the early 19<sup>th</sup> dynasty, seemingly in response to the threat from Libya, the site features a small Ramesside temple and enclosure. The settlement continued to flourish throughout the first millennium BC, with evidence for significant remodeling of the town layout.

**12 November 2011**

Location and time: BACC ROOM C : 19:00

**Lecture:** *Funding of Temple Construction in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt*

**Tiffany Chezum**

PhD researcher, Oxford University

It is clear from the plentiful ruins that survive throughout the Nile Valley that the Graeco-Roman era in Egypt was characterized by an enormous expenditure on the construction of temples. Yet the most basic question of the existence of these buildings remains obscure – the circumstances of their origins. Built during an age marked by extreme social and administrative change, the temples of this era were in their inception subject to a myriad of influences that necessarily complicates our understanding of both why they were commissioned and how they were financed. This paper hopes to address how and under what incentives the temple constructions of Greek and Roman Egypt were funded, and to determine what impact the administrative transition from the Ptolemies to the Romans had upon this system. Elements that must be considered include the disparate agendas of the Ptolemaic and Roman governments, the motivations and capabilities of the native elite, the availability of funds to potential donors during the various eras, and the downward trajectory of building activity that can be discerned after the Augustan era. Therefore, the question of how the temple constructions of Ptolemaic and Roman times were financed necessitates a complex and multiform answer. In both eras, capital appears to have amassed under the ruling regime which then invested in temple construction and improvements. The primary difference in this system between the two eras lies in the role of the clergy: in the Ptolemaic period, wealthy and influential priesthoods appear to have been capable of exercising influence over the building program and to have had primary control over the funds that were allocated for that purpose. This system resulted in a pattern of building activity whose internal variability may be attributed to the progression of individual monarchs but whose overall constancy was due to the indefatigable efforts of the priests. Conversely, during the Roman period, the gradual socio-economic disenfranchisement of the priests likely resulted in the diminution of their rapport with the state and therefore of their influence over the construction of sacred structures. This then led to a corresponding decrease in building activity.

**17 November 2011**

Location and time: BACC ROOM C : 19:00

**Lecture:** *Beheira Survey-Archaeology of the western Nile Delta.*

**Mohamed Kenawi**

Lecturer at ACHS

Director, Beheira Survey

The Western Delta of Egypt surprisingly remains an understudied and documented region. After the construction of the high dam in Aswan 1970, it was possible for the first time for the archaeologist to work in the Delta, when the water's level was controlled. The Beheira Survey is the first project to focus solely on the Hellenistic and Roman sites in the Western Delta of Egypt.

The project, now in its third year, aims to document all surface remains, conduct a study of surface pottery, and enhance our understanding of the trade networks. By the end of summer 2009, 66 sites were surveyed and mapped. The sites identified included several important wine production estates, two amphorae kilns, and the first known ancient plant nursery in Egypt. These discoveries demonstrate the economic importance of the region and suggest that it may have been a major supplier of products and goods for Alexandria and then to Rome during the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

We used early modern water canals routes as survey transects. As long as it is known that ancient and modern settlements are mainly near canals, and modern canals have been excavated upon ancient ones.

Furthermore, the Western Delta also seems to have been an important location for the elite of Roman Egypt. Of most interest is the possible location of the capital for the *nomos* Metilis. This site has long been thought to be lost.

These important preliminary results suggest a far richer cultural and economic history for the Western Delta during the Hellenistic and Roman eras than previously thought.

**24 November 2011**

Location and time: BACC ROOM C : 19:00

**Lecture:** *Schedia and its Pottery.*

**Archer Martin**

Köln University

Ceramist

*"On proceeding a slight distance from Eleusis, and on the right, one comes to the canal, which leads up to Schedia. Schedia is four 'schoeni' distant from Alexandria; it is a settlement of the city, and contains the station of the cabin-boats on which the praefects sail to Upper Egypt. And at Schedia is also the station for paying duty on the goods brought down from above it and brought up from below it; and for this purpose, also, a 'schedia' has been laid across the river, from which the place has its name." (Strabon 17,1,16)*

Shortly after the foundation of Alexandria, the new metropolis was connected by an artificial channel with the Canopic Nile. At the point, where the channel met the Canopic Nile, a new town, Schedia, was installed. In its important river harbour all goods coming from Upper Egypt had to be transferred on smaller vessels. Schedia seems to have been a flourishing Greek dominated polis throughout the Ptolemaic and Roman times and was populated until the Early Byzantine period. According to inscriptions it had a huge garrison, temples and synagogue. Schedia was one of the earliest Christianized towns of Egypt with an own bishops seat. Irrespective to its importance the

site is still nearly unknown. Since 2003, following rescue excavations of the Egyptian Antiquities Service between 1981 and 1992, the Institutes for Classical Archaeology of the Universities of Göttingen and Köln are conducting investigations of the site.

**1 December 2011**

Location and time: Auditorium : 19:00

**Lecture:** *Isis temple at benevento : Its sculptures, architecture and setting.*

**Rosanna Pirelli**

Director of the Italian Archaeological Center, Cairo

This lecture will focus on the influence of the Egyptian goddess Isis in Italy and her temple at Benevento. Isis was a famous goddess in all over Italy with many temples in Bologna, Florence, Rome, Napoli.

**8 December 2011**

Location and time: Auditorium : 19:00

**Lecture:** *Baths and bathing in Egypt in Ptolemaic and Roman times.*

**Bérangère Redon**

IFAO: Institut français d'archéologie orientale

The presence of Greek culture is important in the Delta and Fayoum as collective baths are not known in the Pharaonic times. The lecture will focus on the usage of *tholoi* baths and the culture of bathing.