



Association for the Study
of Marble and Other
Stones in Antiquity

Asmosia Newsletter

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1993 - 1995**

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The President's Report

ASMOSIA 4/Bordeaux, which will be held in October this year, with seventy-nine proposals already submitted for presentation, promises to be the largest conference yet. Our Association, founded at Il Ciocco in May of 1988 in the beautiful Italian Appenines with an original cadre of fifty, has now grown over four-fold. Clearly, ASMOSIA is fulfilling a need in bringing people together who should collaborate on research projects but who, unfortunately, speak different languages (or different mutually incomprehensible jargons). As more and more archaeologists and art historians have joined the Association, and have met and acquainted scientists with their research problems, collaborative efforts have grown. Research papers co-authored by archaeologists and art historians with scientists now appear with increasing frequency and no longer does the scientific contribution appear as a footnote or an addendum in an archaeological report, as was once done. This collaboration must be encouraged and nurtured while carefully heeding the warnings expressed by Marc Waelkens in the previous newsletter. Collaboration between science and archaeology means research is undertaken by both with an agreed upon program for field sampling, laboratory analysis, and discussion of results. In this way, meaningful contributions will be made to the body of archaeological literature as scientific data becomes more and more an integral part of that literature.

ASMOSIA 5, which will be held in May 1998, will mark the tenth anniversary of our Association. We urge members now to consider having their own institution host this important meeting. If you would like to hold the meeting at your home institution, please feel free to discuss this possibility with me or any member of the Executive Council. You can send an invitation to host the meeting or you can merely request more information.

All invitations should be received within the next few months so that a final announcement can be made at ASMOSIA 4 in Bordeaux. I look forward to seeing many of you in France!

The Co-Editor's Report

The Internet is proving to be a useful resource for the communication of new research and technologies in our disciplines. For example, the Classics and Mediterranean Archaeology Server at the University of Michigan (a World Wide Web and gopher site) points to Internet resources pertaining to the study of the ancient Mediterranean world and also serves as a well-organized, easy-to-use launching site to other loosely related archaeological resources. Sources pointed to include: e-texts, field projects, course-related materials, museum files, other gophers and listservs. This server may be accessed through:
<http://rome.classics.lsa.umich.edu/welcome.html> or <gopher://rome.classics.lsa.umich.edu:70+11/general>

We would like to make a Home Page for ASMOSIA in time for the next meeting in Bordeaux. Please send me any information that you would like included on your laboratory or research program or any other materials that would be suitable for inclusion (maps, quarry views, etc). Please remember to send in laboratory reports and other pertinent information for inclusion in future newsletters.

Laboratory Report

"Geoarchaeology: A Growing Interest at Wiener Lab" by Sarah Vaughn, Wiener Lab Director (excerpted from the Spring 1995 Newsletter of the American School of Classical Studies)

Almost since inception, the Wiener Lab

Science and Technology for Cultural Heritage: Journal of the "Comitato Nazionale per la Scienza la Tecnologia dei Beni Culturali" - CNR, vol. 2 (1993): among the articles included: C. Zantedeschi, A. Zanco, "Distinctive characteristics of Euganean trachytes for their identification in ancient monuments"; G. Alessandri, L. Toniolo, F. Cariati, A. Pozzi, "The problem of colour and provenance of the Angera dolostone in monuments"; M. Bacci, R. Linari, A. Orlando, B. Radicati, "Non destructive investigations of calcium oxalate films"; M. De'Gennaro, M.D. Fuscaldo, C. Colella, "Weathering mechanisms of monumental tuff-stone masonries in downtown Naples"; M. R. Di Florio, S. Lorenzoni, L.M. Olivieri, E. Zanettin Lorenzoni, "Evidence of ancient quarrying in Lower Swat, N.W.F.P., Pakistan. A geoarchaeological study"; R. Alaimo, L. Di Franco, G. Montana, "Calcium oxalate growth using values for experimental variables comparable to those detected in urban environment"; "Round Table: the Protection of Stone Materials. The State of the Art."

Articles

K. Ulens, L. Moens, R. Dams, P. de Paepe, "Study of the patina of ancient marbles by stable isotopic analysis," *Science of the Total Environment*, 58, no.1-3, 63-69. Show a progressive increase in ^{12}C and ^{16}O from the interior to the weathered crust.

P. Budd, A.M. Pollard, B. Scaife & R.G. Thomas, 1995, "The possible fractionation of lead isotopes in ancient metallurgical processes," *Archaeometry* 37, 143-150. Possible lead isotopic fractionation in non-equilibrium evaporation is considered feasible in ore roasting and smelting. Research is needed to quantify the possible extent in practise.

James A. Harrell and V. Max Brown, "Chephren's Quarry in the Nubian Desert of Egypt," *Nubica* III/1 (Warszawa 1994) 43 - 57. A new, detailed map of the area around the quarry, a refined petrological

nomenclature for Chephren's gneiss, and a new explanation for the popularity of the stone.

James A. Harrell, "Ancient Egyptian Origins of Some Common Rock Names," *Journal of Geological Education* 43 (1995) 30 - 34.

G. Bigazzi, Z. Yegengil, T. Ercan, M. Oddone, M. Ozdagan, "Fission track dating obsidians in Central and Northern Anatolia," *Bull. Volcanol.* 55 (1993) 588-595. Fission tracks could discriminate between sources of obsidian artifacts.

K.L. Gauri, J.J. Sinai & J.K. Bandyopadhyay, 1995, "Geologic Weathering and Its Implications on the Age of the Sphinx," *Geoarchaeology* 10, 119-133.

Great Sphinx at Giza is shown to be Pharaonic in origin and not much older as recently claimed, the latter date based on an erroneous interpretation of weathering.

Communications

(* = new items or information)

North Americans whose papers have been accepted at ASMOSIA 4 and who hope to obtain financial assistance from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation should send the following to Norman Herz by 07 July: 1. Copy of the abstract submitted, 2. one-page CV, 3. Travel budget, listing expected expenses and all sources and amounts of support received or expected to receive. If your travel plans change later, please e-mail or fax Norman Herz immediately..

Archetype Publishers advises that authors' proofs for ASMOSIA III will be mailed out shortly. Authors must return the proofs immediately since they will have no other opportunity to correct any printer's errors. The volume should be ready by 01 September, in time for the Bordeaux meeting. IF YOU ARE AN ASMOSIA III AUTHOR, BE SURE THE EDITORS HAVE YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS.

Geology and Geochemistry in Archaeology. Milton Keynes, U.K., April 1996. One-day

has focused attention on inorganic raw materials used for ancient ceramics, building stone, mortars and concretes, in addition to sediment studies. Chris Hayward, from the Department of Geology, University College, London began a comprehensive study of ancient Greek and Roman Pleistocene limestone quarries in the Corinthia in July 1993. Working first at the Hexamilia quarries to the east of ancient Corinth, and later at related quarries west of the site, he is using petrographic and geochemical analyses to provide detailed characterization of the sandy oolitic stone. In collaboration with archaeologists at the site, his aim is to establish material criteria for distinguishing diachronic and spatial patterns in quarry exploitation, relevant as well to monuments made from this stone at Kenchries, Perachora, Delphi, and Epidaurus.

Research Associate Scott Pike is continuing the first systematic characterization study of the ancient Pentelic marble quarries, a project he began as a Fulbright Fellow in 1993. Working in collaboration with the Department of Geology at the University of Georgia, the Wiener Laboratory, and the Archaeometry Laboratory at the National Center for Scientific Research (Demokritos) in Athens, he has surveyed and mapped more than 180 quarries, 30 of them ancient. Using a combination of analytical techniques (petrography, stable isotopic ratios, trace element geochemistry and electron paramagnetic resonance), he hopes to establish a clear material "signature" for these extensive deposits.

These results will significantly enhance the isotopic database for Aegean marble, to be available in the Lab later this year, through the generosity of Norman Herz, senior collaborator and the Lab's first Senior Visiting Professor. Herz will be resident in the Lab from late-March to mid-June working on the Aegean marble research program, setting up the isotope database, and giving a series of seminars.

Further work on construction materials used in antiquity is being done by Research Associate Ruth Siddall of University College, London. Her collaboration with archaeologists at Corinth aims to establish material profiles for ancient concretes, mortars, cements, and other constructional binding materials used throughout the history of the site. The results of her research will constitute a laboratory handbook and collaborative papers on archaeological and constructional questions at Corinth.

An exciting development this year has been my collaboration with the Attiko Metro geologists, collecting lithic and clay samples from the ancient river beds and other exposures long covered by urban Athens. These will be incorporated into the Lab's lithic database, and the clays will be used to produce a variety of refined ceramic sample briquettes which will be thin-sectioned for the petrographic collections.

Further enhancing the value of all of these projects has been the establishment of the Wiener Lab's permanent geoarchaeological reference collections and databases. Fully catalogued for use by specialists and non-specialists alike, the collections can be consulted by application to the Laboratory Director.

New Publications

Books

Mette Moltesen, 1995, *Catalogue: Greece in the Classical Period*, Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen, 239 pp. Classical Greek originals in the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek primarily contain marble sculpture. Painted pottery is also represented as well as bronze mirrors and terracotta figurines. Isotopic values and provenance given for sculptures.

A. Gilardoni, 1994, *X-Rays in Art*, 2nd ed., Grafica & Arte Bergamo. ISBN 887201-1493.

symposium of the Mineralogical Society to discuss recent applications of geology, geochemistry and mineralogy in the study of archaeological stone artifacts. Provisional program includes papers on non-destructive portable techniques in artifact analysis, recent work on British stone axes and Roman quarries in the Eastern Desert of Egypt. A one-day excursion to a local archaeological site will be held on 26 April to demonstrate the use of field-portable geochemical and geophysical instruments to analyse and to characterise archaeological samples. Information from Olwen Williams-Thorpe, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Open University, Milton Keynes, MK7 5AA, UK; tel: 01908-665147; fax: 01908-655151; e-mail: O.Williams-Thorpe@open.ac.uk

**International Conference on Ancient Science and Technology, 06 - 08 September 1995, University of Wales, Institute of Classics and Ancient History, Gregynog, near Newton, Powys, Wales. For information contact: Dr. T. E. Rihll, Department of Classics, St. David's University College, Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales, SA 48 7 ED, United Kingdom or e-mail: j.v.tucker@swansea.ac.uk or d.w.j.gill@swanswa.ac.uk*

**III Convegno Internazionale di Archeologia e Informatica, 22-25 November 1995, Rome, Italy. The International Association of Computing in Archaeology announces its next Symposium, organised by the Istituto per l'archeologia etrusco-italica of the Italian National Research Council, in co-operation with the Centro Linceo Interdisciplinare and the CISADU of the Università di Roma, La Sapienza, and with the support of the Ministero degli Affari Esteri. Its aim is to exchange the most recent knowledge and to make known the latest advances in computerised archaeological research. The themes of each section will stress, besides computer technology, archaeological problems whose analysis and investigation has benefited from the use of computers. Ample space will be devoted to methodological problems and future perspectives. There will also be poster sessions, workshops, and demonstrations illustrating relevant hardware, software, and applications. The topics to be included: A. Spatial Analysis and Field Archaeology 1. Topographic and Urbanistic studies 2. Excavations and recording*

techniques 3. Spatio-temporal and cultural development studies; B. Laboratory Research 1. Archaeometric studies 2. Artifact classification; C. Computerisation of Archaeological Corpora 1. Factual Data 2. Textual data; D. Computers in Cultural Heritage Management 1. Sites and Monuments Records 2. Conservation and restoration; E. Data Dissemination 1. Networks 2. Museums and Education 3. Archaeological publications; F. Methodological Problems and Future Perspectives 1. Various methods of comparison 2. Projects of research. Deadline for submission of abstracts was 31 May 1995. For information contact: III Convegno Internazionale di Archeologia e Informatica, Prof. Paola Moscati, Istituto per l'archeologia etrusco-italica - C.N.R., Viale di Villa Massimo 29, 00161 Roma, Italia; fax: 39 - 6- 44-23-93-79.

1996 International Symposium on Archaeometry will be held 20 - 24 May 1996 in Urbana, Illinois, USA under the auspices of the University's Program on Ancient Technologies and Archaeological Materials (ATAM). Among the Symposium topics will be Technology/provenance of stone/pigments/plaster. A pre-conference tour of Chicago museums and a post-conference tour of the spectacular mound site of Cahokia will be offered. Contact Sarah Wisseman, ATAM Program, University of Illinois, 116 Observatory, 901 S. Mathews, Urbana, IL 61801, USA. by March 1, 1995 to receive further information; tel: 217-333-6629, fax: 217-244-0466, e-mail: wisarc@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu

13th International Bronze Congress will be held 28 May - 01 June 1996 at the Harvard University Art Museums. Sessions will focus on bronze statuary, ancient technology, modern conservation and technical study, history, and the influence of classical bronzes during the Renaissance. Additional events include an exhibition of classical bronze statuary from North American collections, visits to the conservation laboratories of Harvard University, and a field trip to Providence, Rhode Island. Abstracts are due 1 October 1995. Information at Harvard

University Art Museums, 32 Quincy Street,
Cambridge, MA 02138 U.S.A.; tel. 617-
495-3393, fax -617-495-9936.

*30th *International Geological Congress* will
be held 04 - 14 August 1996 in Beijing, P.
R. China. For information contact:
Secretariat Bureau, 30th International
Geological Congress, P.O. Box 823, Beijing
100037, P.R. China; tel: 86-1-832-7772; fax:
86-1-832-8928.

*13th Congress of the International Union of
Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences* will be
held 08 - 14 September 1996 in Forlì, Italy.
For information contact: Segretaria del XIII
Congresso U.Z.S.P.P., Casa Saffi, Via S.
Marchesi 12, I - 47100 Forlì, Italy; tel: 39 -
543- 35725; fax: 39 - 543-35805.

**The Archaeological Use of GIS, Mapping
Systems and Related Applications*, a special
symposium to be held in conjunction with the
13th Congress of the International Union of
Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, 03 -
14 September 1996 in Forlì, Italy. The
particular aim of the symposium is to
introduce potential 'consumers' of GIS and
related applications to the benefits of
integrating spatial data with conventional
database data, exploiting the spatial data
through appropriate mapping or CAD
software, and extending the range of
questions which can be addressed through
GIS and spatial analysis. The symposium is
limited to one and a half days. About a dozen
papers have already been offered, prior to
any specific call for papers, so there will be a
fairly tight selection of additional papers for
oral presentation. The symposium will also
offer opportunities for posters or
demonstrations. Deadline for submissions is
30 June 1995. For information contact:
Albertus Voorrips (University of Amsterdam)
via e-mail: avo@ivip.frw.uva.nl or else the
Segretaria XIII Congresso UISPP, Casa
Saffi, Via S. Marchesi 12, 47100 Forlì, Italy;
tel: 39 - 543-35725 or fax: 39 - 543 - 35805.

**First European Meeting on Phytolith
Research*, 23-25 Sept 1996 in Madrid, Spain.

Call for papers. This scientific congress will
take place in the Centro de Ciencias
Medioambientales (Consejo Superior de
Investigaciones Cientificas). The main scope
of the meeting is the study of phytoliths (opal
and calcium oxalate phytoliths) in soils and
plants, specially directed towards pedogenetic
research as well as environmental and
archaeological/historical research. Section I:
Phytoliths in soil; Section II: Phytoliths in
plants; Section III: Phytoliths in
archaeology; Section IV: Phytoliths in
paleoecology. Preliminary abstracts to be sent
before 15 July 1995. Second circular to be
sent 01 Nov 1995. For information contact:
A. Pinilla, First European Meeting on
Phytolith Research, Centro de Ciencias
Medioambientales, C.S.I.C., Serrano, 115
dpdo, 28006 - Madrid, Spain; tel: 34-1-562-
50-20; fax: 34-1-564-08-00; Scientific
correspondance or questions should be
addressed to: J. Juan, First Meeting on
Phytolith Research; e-mail:
juan@trivium.gh.ub.es

Calendar

(* = new items or information)

1995

July 03-05. *Archaeological Science
Conference*, Liverpool. Contact The Science
Conference Organization, Dept of
Archaeology, 14 Abercromby Square, Univ.
of Liverpool, PO Box 147, Liverpool, L69
3BX, UK

Aug 27-Sept 01. *Second International
Symposium on the Geology of the Eastern
Mediterranean Region*, Jerusalem. Includes a
theme symposium and field trip on
geoarchaeology. Contact Secretariat, Second
International Symposium on the Geology of
the Eastern Mediterranean Region, P.O.B.
50006, Tel-Aviv 61500, Israel. tel. 972 3
5140014, fax 972 3 5175674.

*Aug 29 - Sept 08. ECAART 4 - *European
Conference on Accelerators in Applied
Research and Technology*, Zürich,

Switzerland. For information contact:
Martin Suter, Chairperson ECAART 4, ETH
Hönggerberg, Institute of Particle Physics,
Building HPK, Ch 8093, Zürich,
Switzerland; tel: 41-1-633-2033; fax: 41-1-
633-1067; e-mail: suter@imp.phys.ethz.ch

Aug 30-Sept 08. *International Rock Art
Congress*, Pinerolo-Torino, Italy, Contact R.
G. Bednarik, Australian Rock Art Research
Ass., P. O. Box 216, Caulfield South, Vic
3162, Australia.

Sept 04-10. *Third Course, Geotechnical
Aspects of the Protection of Monuments*,
Gargnano (Lake Garda) Italy. Community of
Mediterranean Universities. Contact Prof.
Fulvio Zezza, Istituto di Geologia Applicata e
Geotecnica, Via Re David, 200, 70125, Bari,
Italy.

*Sept 06-08. *International Conference on
Ancient Science and Technology*, Gregynog,
near Newton, Powys, Wales. Contact Dr.
T.E. Rihll, Department of Classics, St.
David's University College, Lampeter,
Dyfed, Wales, SA 48 7 ED, United
Kingdom. Information in this newsletter.

*Sept 13- 18. *The Prehistory of Mining and
Metallurgy*, London and Bangor. Contact:
Paul Craddock, Dept. of Scientific Research,
The British Museum, London, WC1 3DG,
UK.

Sept 20-24. *First Meeting, European
Association of Archaeologists*, Santiago de
Compostela, Galicia, Spain. Closing date for
preinscription 1 March. Information at Apdo.
de Correos 994, 15700 Santiago de
Compostela, Spain; tel. 34-81-590555, fax
34-81-598201/582144.

Sept 25-29. *1995 Laboratoire de
Conservation de la Pierre Congress*,
Montreux, Switzerland of Ecole
Polytechnique, Lausanne on "Preservation
and Restoration of Cultural Heritage".
Deadlines: abstract 10 Feb; registration pre 31
March, CHF650, after CHF750; final text 30
April. Information at EPFL-DMX-LCP,

Congrès LCP 95, Renata Pancella et Michèle
Citti, MX-G Ecublens, CH-1015 Lausanne,
Switzerland. tel. 41 21 693-4876 or 2835;
fax 41 21 693-4878

Sept 26-30. *Colloquium: Thasos: Matières
Premières et Technologie de la Préhistoire à
nos jours*, Limenaria, Thasos, Greece.
Organizers Ephoria of Antiquities of Kavala,
Archaeological Museum, Erythrou Stavrou
17, GR-65403 Kavala, Greece; tel. 51-
222335, fax 51-224717, and École Française
de Athènes, Diditou 6, GR-10680, Athens,
Greece; tel. 1-3612518, fax 1-3632101.

**Oct 09-11. ASMOSIA IV Conference,
Bordeaux-Talence. First
announcement see Newsletter 6 #4.**

Oct. 09-14. *International Earth Sciences
Colloquium on the Aegean Region*, Izmir-
Güllük, Turkey. Contact Prof. Özkan Pi_kin,
General Secretary IESCA 1995, D.E.
University, Dept. of Geology, P.K. 74
(E.Ü.-PTT) 35100 Bornova, Izmir, Turkey.
tel: (232)388-2919; fax: -7864; email:
DMUJEOO1@TREARN.BITNET

Nov 06-09. *Geological Society of America,
Annual Meeting*. New Orleans, Louisiana.
Contact: Vanessa George, Geological
Society of America, 3300 Penrose Place,
Boulder, CO 80301; tel: 303-447-2020; fax:
303 - 447-1133.

*Nov 15 - 19. *American Anthropological
Association, Annual Meeting*, Washington,
D.C. Contact: American Anthropological
Association, 4350 North Fairfax Drive, Suite
240, Arlington, VA 22203; tel: 703-528-
1902.

*Nov 22 - 25. *III Convegno Internazionale di
Archeologia e Informatica*, Rome, Italy.
Contact Prof. Paola Moscati, Istituto per
l'archeologia etrusco-italica - C.N.R., Viale
di Villa Massimo 29, 00161, Roma, Italia;
fax: 39-6-44-23-9379. Information in this
newsletter.

Dec 27-30. *Archaeological Institute of*

America, 97th Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. Contact Shelley Griffin, Archaeological Institute of America, located at Boston University, 656 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2010; tel: 617 - 353-9361; fax: 617 - 353 - 6650; e-mail: aia@bu.edu

1996

*April 25. *Geology and Geochemistry in Archaeology.* Information in this newsletter and from Olwen Williams-Thorpe, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Open University, Milton Keynes, MK7 5 AA, UK; tel: 01908-655147; fax: 01908-655151; e-mail: O.Williams-Thorpe@open.ac.uk

May 20-24. *1996 International Symposium on Archaeometry*, Urbana, Illinois. Contact Sarah Wisseman, ATAM Program, University of Illinois, 116 Observatory, 901 S. Mathews, Urbana, IL 61801, USA. tel: 217-333-6629, fax: 217-244-0466, e-mail: wisarc@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu. Information in this newsletter.

May 28-Jun 01. *13th International Bronze Congress*, Cambridge, MA USA. Information at Harvard University Art Museums, 32 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 U.S.A.; tel. 617-495-3393, fax -617-495-9936. Information in this newsletter.

*Aug 04-14. *30th International Geological Congress*, Beijing, P.R.China. Contact Secretariat Bureau, 30th International Geological Congress, P.O. Box 823, Beijing 10037, P.R. China; tel: 86-1-832-7772; fax: 86-1-832-8928.

*Sept 08-14. *XIII Congress International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences* and a special symposium held in conjunction with the Congress, *The Archaeological Use of GIS, Mapping Systems and Related Applications*, Forlì, Italy. Contact: Segretaria del XIII Congresso U.Z.S.P.P., Casa Saffi, via S. Marchesi 12, 47100 Forlì, Italy; tel: 39 543.35725, fax 39 543.35805. Information in this newsletter.

*Sept 23-25. *First European Meeting on Phytolith Research*, Madrid, Spain. Contact A. Pinilla, First European Meeting on Phytolith Research, Centro di Ciencias Medioambientales, C.S.I.C., Serrano, 115 dpdo, 28006- Madrid, Spain; tel: 34-1-562-50-20; fax: 34-1-564--08-00. Information in this newsletter.

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GR 106-76, Athens, Greece

Dr. Louise Joyner
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Merion Station, PA 19066