



Association for the Study  
of Marble and Other  
Stones in Antiquity

# Asmosia Newsletter

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### *Newsletter Editors*

*Archaeometry* - Norman Herz  
*Archaeology & Art History* - Susan Kane

## President's Report

I trust that this has been a fruitful, eventful and exciting summer season for all our members. We now number 234 and are constantly growing. But please, if you haven't already, send in your dues for this year (\$10 or FF50), and if you can, for next year as well. For our European members, I would like to remind you that there is a new alternative for payment of their membership dues. Checks for FF50 (fifty French francs), payable to Norman Herz, may be sent to me c/o David Herz, 7, bis rue de la Durance, 75012 Paris, France.

You should also mark your calendars for exciting events in the spring and summer of 1998. The prima event, of course, will be the tenth anniversary meeting of ASMOSIA, held for the first time outside of Europe, on June 11-15 in Boston, Massachusetts. The meeting will be hosted by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) and Harvard University. Papers will be given at the Museum from June 11-13, followed by a two day field trip in New England. Organization of the conference is going on now, so you can expect more details in succeeding Newsletters.

For now, person to contact for ASMOSIA 5 is Dr. John Herrmann. And incidently, we should all join in congratulating John for his recent appointment as Curator of Classical Art at the MFA. Although it's still too early to learn many more details other than the dates for the meeting, your contact address is:  
Dr. John J. Herrmann Jr.  
Department of Classical Art  
Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115  
tel 617 369-3258; fax 617 267 0280

The other great event of 1998 will be the 30th International Symposium on Archaeometry. This is tentatively set for April 27 - May 1 to be held in Budapest. Although it is still too early to learn any more details than this, a principal organizer for the Symposium is one of our own members, Dr. Katalin T. Biro at the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest, e-mail: h5852tbi@ella.hu.

When we started out so boldly at Il Ciocco in the Spring of 1988, with the blessings of NATO and a determination to convince people that the humanities and sciences could work together to each other's advantage, the world was full of skeptics. Most art historians and archaeologists believed in the existence of an impenetrable barrier, that the jargon of scientists could never be understood. And many scientists had to learn that the methods of the "soft sciences" where style, tradition and history and perhaps also the mysterious 'gut feelings' could play a valid role in solving problems. The success of ASMOSIA in establishing a firm contact between the two communities can only be described as astounding. Our success can be measured by the fact that ASMOSIA is now a widespread recognizable and respected acronym with conservators, archaeologists, art historians and archaeological scientists. The outlook for the future is indeed bright; at meetings now, such as the Archaeological Institute of America, papers with scientific themes are freely mixed in the program with the purely "humanities" papers.

See you in Boston in '98!



## Co-Editor's Report

Thank you for sending me your notices of publications, events, and change of addresses. Remember to send your electronic mail and web site addresses, too.

I have two personal announcements, one happy and one sad, to make concerning two of our "charter members." The good news first. I am happy to announce the birth of our newest ASMOSIA baby: Miriam, born to Vicky Mandi on 17 March in Oxford, England. Congratulations to Vicky and her husband on their newest research program!

The sad news is that Keith Matthews had a stroke on 23 September and is hospitalised. It is still too early to determine his condition, according to his colleague Mike Hughes who provided this news. Please join me in wishing Keith and his wife Cathy strength during this difficult time. Keith's home address is: 79 Hurst Green Road, Hurst Green, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9AJ, United Kingdom.

## Announcements

Dr. James Harrell, Director of the Institute for Archaeological Geology at the University of Toledo (Toledo, OH 43606-3390, USA) announces a new web site at the following URL:

[HTTP://WWW.GEOLOGY.UTOLEDO.EDU/ARCHAEOLOGY/](http://WWW.GEOLOGY.UTOLEDO.EDU/ARCHAEOLOGY/)

The web site features information on ancient Egyptian quarries and quarry stones, including a listing of 157 hardstone and softstone quarries dating from the beginning of Early Dynastic times until the end of the Roman period. Included among the

information listed under each entry is quarry location (geographic description, latitude and longitude); rock type(s) quarried (petrological description and classification, and geologic formation); maps showing the quarry locations, and color images of the quarry stones. This information will be updated as further research is completed. For additional information or comments contact: Professor James Harrell at e-mail: [JHARREL@GEOLOGY.UTOLEDO.EDU](mailto:JHARREL@GEOLOGY.UTOLEDO.EDU); tel: 419-530-2193; or fax: 419-530-4421.

The Society for Archaeological Sciences announces their new web site at the following URL: <http://www.wisc.edu/anthropology/sas/sas.htm>

The American School of Classical Studies in Athens announces that the search has been re-opened for the Director of the Wiener Laboratory. They seek an individual with an area of expertise in one of the primary areas of the Lab's research programs (human skeletal analysis, zooarchaeology, geoarchaeology) who has an established publication record and demonstrated administrative experience in collaborating with archaeological and Classical scholars. Salary is negotiable and commensurate with rank and experience. The position is to be filled for the term 01 July 1997 to 30 June 2000, with eligibility for renewal. The deadline for applications is 15 November 1996. For further information, contact: Professor George Rapp, Jr., Chair of the Search Committee, Archaeometry Laboratory, University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN 55812, USA. tel. 218 - 726-7629 and fax: 218 - 726-6979.

The American School of Classical Studies also invites applications for a one year (1997-1998) Research Fellowship in Geoarchaeology for

research on a geoarchaeological topic in Greece. The Fellowship is open both to scholars with a Ph.D. and those working on a doctoral dissertation, with a stipend of approximately \$13,000 to \$25,000 depending on seniority and experience. The deadline for applications is 05 February 1997. For further information contact: Scott Pike, Acting Director, The Wiener Laboratory, American School of Classical Studies, 54 Soudias Street, Athens GR 106-76. tel: 30-1-723-6313 or 723-9281. fax: 729-4047.

## New Publications

### Books

*The Roman Imperial Porphyry Quarries: Gebel Dokhan, Egypt. Interim Report, 1996*, 26 pp. by David Peacock, University of Southampton and Valerie Maxfield, University of Exeter. The report includes an extended article on "The Lepsius Quarries" by Jill Phillips and Sue Wright, and shorter articles on excavation at the fort in Wadi Abu Ma'Amel, basketry and cordage, ostraca, glass, textiles, coins, lamps, and environmental data.

*Archaeological Chemistry, 1996*, 375 pp., eds. Mark Pollard and Carl Heron, Royal Society of Chemistry, paperback US\$40.50, UK£22.50. Chapters include: Development of Archaeological Chemistry, Analytical Techniques applied to Archaeology, Obsidian characterization in the Eastern Mediterranean, Geochemistry of Clays & the Provenance of Ceramics, Archaeological Glass, Medieval and later brass, Resinous substances, Amino acid stereochemistry and the first Americans, Lead isotope geochemistry and the trade in metals, and Whither archaeological chemistry.

### Articles

C.L. Hayward, 1996, "High-Resolution Provenance Determination of Construction-Stone: A Preliminary Study of Corinthian Oolitic Limestone Quarries at Examilia," *Geoarchaeology* 11, 215-234.

V.Kilikoglou, Y. Bassiakos, A.P. Grimanis, K. Souvatzis, A. Pilali-Papasteriou and A. Papanthimou-Papaefthimou, 1996, "Carpathian Obsidian in Macedonia, Greece," *Journal of Archaeological Science* 23, 343-349.

J.B. Lambert, S.C. Johnson, and G.O. Poinar, Jr., 1996, "Nuclear magnetic resonance characterization of Cretaceous amber," *Archaeometry* 38, 325-335.

A.H.V. Smith, 1996, "Provenance of coals from Roman sites in U.K. Counties bordering River Severn and its Estuary and including Wiltshire," *Journal of Archaeological Science* 23, 373-389.

C.M. Stevenson, P.J. Shephard, D.G. Sutton, and W. Ambrose, 1996, "Advances in the Hydration Dating of New Zealand Obsidian," *Journal of Archaeological Science* 23, 233-242.

## Communications

The Fifth International ASMOSIA Symposium will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA from June 10 - 15, 1998 at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Mark your calendars now for this historical tenth anniversary meeting. More details will be included in the next newsletter.

The Israel Journal of Chemistry has published a special issue devoted to



Archaeological Chemistry. The reference is: IJC vol. 35, #2, 1995, 109-190 and includes: Shalev - Metals in Ancient Israel; Koren - HPLC Analysis of Ancient Tyrian Purple; Budd et al. - New Heavy Isotopes in Archaeology; Nissenbaum and Killebrew - Stable Isotopes of C and O in Estimating Firing Temperatures of Pottery; Mercier et al. - TL Dating of the Mousterian Levels in the Hayonim Cave; Weiner et al. - Mineral Assemblages in Kebara and Hayonim Caves; Goren and Segal - Pre-pottery Neolithic B Sculptures and Modelled Skulls from Jericho; Moens et al. - Provenance Determination of Ancient Greek and Roman Marbles; Yellin - Trace Element Characteristics of Central Anatolian Flows and Their Relevance to Pre-history. The issue can be purchased from Laser Pages Publishing, POB 50257, Jerusalem 91502, Israel. Fax: 972-2-370625 or by e-mail: laserpages@netmedia.co.il

IVth International Symposium on the Conservation of Monuments in the Mediterranean Basin will be held 6-11 May 1997 in Rhodes, Greece. The aim of the Symposium is to discuss recent and appropriate new technologies for the conservation of sites of historical, archaeological, and artistic value in the Mediterranean Basin. Deadlines: 10 September acceptance of papers by 400 word abstracts, 10 November receipt of manuscripts, 10 January 1997 final acceptance of papers, 10 March final announcement of program. Written presentations in English; simultaneous translations of oral presentations in Greek, English, and Italian. Field trips pre- and post-congress. For further information contact: Professor A. Moropoulou, NTU-A. Office for Public and International Affairs, 9 Iroon Polytechniou, Zografou Campus, 157-73 Athens, Greece. Tel: 30-1-772-2017/772-2006; fax: 30-1-772-2028.

## Calendar

(\* = new items or information)

### 1996

Oct. 28-31. *Geological Society of America*, Annual meeting, Denver. Contact Vanessa George, GSA 3300 Penrose Place, Boulder, CO 80301, tel. 303-447-2020, fax -1133.

Nov 06-09. *Third Symposium on Archaeometry*, Athens, Greece. Contact Eleni Aloupi, 41 M. Moussourou St., 116 36 Athens, Greece. fax: 301-752-3030 e-mail: thetis@netor.gr.

Dec. 02-06. *Materials Research Society*, Fall meeting, Boston. Contact Materials Research Society, 9800 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 U.S.A. Tel: 412-367-3003; Fax: 412-367-4373.

Dec 27-30. *98th Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America*, New York City. Abstract deadline 22 March. Contact Shelley Griffin, AIA, 656 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215. fax: 617-353-6550 e-mail: aia@bu.edu

### 1997

\*Feb 10-13. *Australasian Archaeometry: 6th Australasian Archaeometry Conference*, Sydney, Australian Museum. Contact AINSE<PMB 1, Menai, NSW 2234, Australia. tel. 612-439-8220; fax: -6561; e-mail: tuniz@atom.ansto.gov.au.

April 07-11. *Materials Research Society*, Spring meeting, San Francisco. Contact Materials Research Society, 9800 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 U.S.A. Tel: 412-367-3003; Fax: 412-367-4373.



\*May 6-11. *IVth International Symposium on the Conservation of Monuments in the Mediterranean Basin*, Rhodes, Greece. Contact Prof. A. Moropoulou, NTU-A. Office for Public and International Affairs, 9 Iroon Polytechniou, Zografou Campus, 157-73 Athens, Greece, tel. 30-1-772-2017/772-2006, fax: 30-1-772-2028. Information in this Newsletter.

\* May 29-31. *Remote Sensing Applications in Archaeology*, St. Cloud St. University, St. Cloud, Minnesota. Sponsored by St. Cloud St. University, NASA, and the Oriental Institute. Contact: Benjamin Richason, Spatial Analysis Research Center, Dept. of Geography, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN 56304. e-mail: RSAA@eleftheria.stcloud.msus.edu and conference home page: <http://eleftheria.stcloud.msus.edu/RSAA>

June 23-27. *Engineering Geology and the Environment*, Athens. International Symposium sponsored by the International Association of Engineering Geology. Information: Hellenic Committee of Engineering Geology, Athens 1997 Symposium Secretariat, P.O. Box 19140, GR-117 10 Athens, Greece. Fax: 30-1-381-3900.

\*Sept 21-27, *XIII International Symposium on Environmental Biogeochemistry*, Monopoli (Bari) Italy. Special session on weathering processes of monuments and techniques of diagnosis. Information: Prof. Nicola Senesi, XIII ISEB, Istituto di chimica agraria, Univ. di Bari, via Amendola 165A, 70126 Bari, Italia. tel: 39-80-544-2853; fax: 5442813; e-mail: nsenesi@mail2.clio.it

## 1998

\*April. *International Archaeometry Symposium*, Budapest, Hungary. A web site is under development for this meeting at the following URL: <http://origo.hnm.hu/amestry98/homepage1.html>

\*June 10-15. *Asmosia V*, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

## New Members

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