ASMOSIA VIII - TOWARDS A LASTING IMPRESSION

In just a few short months the members of ASMOSIA will gather for the eighth international ASMOSIA conference at the Centre Camille Jullian of the Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l’Homme in Aix-en-Provence, France. The dates of the conference are June 12-18, 2006. As in the past, the conference will feature three days of formal presentations of current research on ancient and archaeological stone with plenty of time scheduled for colleagues to informally meet and discuss their research and ideas. Following the more formal presentations the organizers have arranged for cultural and artistic tours throughout the Aix-en-Provence region including (1) a group visit to the exhibition “Greeks and the Others in Sicily” at the Musée d’Archéologie Méditerranéenne (Vieille Charité) in Marseille, (2) a one day tour at Vaison la Romaine and Arles, including the visit to the site of Vaison-la-Romaine in the morning and to the Classical Galleries of Sculpture of the Musée d’Arles et de la Provence antiques in the afternoon, (3) a visit to the recent excavations conducted in Aix-en-Provence, including the remains of the just excavated Roman Theater; and (4) a visit to the Musée Granet Famous Provençal Painter Paul Cézanne Exhibition. The first call for papers was issued on 3 October 2005 with abstracts due 31 January, 2006.

EDITOR’S COMMENTS

June in Aix-en-Provence. An ideal time to visit a beautiful and engaging region. We are fortunate that Philippe Jockey and his colleagues have organized what will surely be another successful and gratifying conference. Not only do the ASMOSIA conferences provide a unique forum for scholars from diverse backgrounds working with ancient stones in a variety of perspectives, the meetings also benefit from being held in fantastic, beautiful and culturally-enriched locations. I am confident that ASMOSIA VIII will continue with this tradition. The first call for papers has already been distributed with the abstract deadline set for January 31. In this edition of the newsletter you will find additional conference information, including suggestions on accommodations and hotels. Websites are also provided to help you plan your journey. The organizers remind you that it is imperative that (Continued on page 2)
PRESIDENT’S REPORT

It is difficult to imagine that it has been over two years since the last ASMOSIA meeting on the beautiful island of Thassos. As we start making preparations for ASMOSIA VIII at Aix-en-Provence, I am pleased to report that the proceedings of the Thassos conference after some initial delay are now progressing at a much-accelerated rate. The majority of papers are now back to the authors for corrections and a stream of edited papers will soon be arriving to the publishers.

Over the past couple of months ASMOSIA’s Executive Committee has been discussing ways to streamline the conference-to-publication process. Issues raised concerned the editors’ burden of having to reinvent the wheel for each publication including contracting with publishers and finding funding to cover the ever-increasing cost of publication. Also under discussion are strategies to increase the availability and distribution of future proceedings. It is hoped that following the ASMOSIA VIII conference in Aix-en-Provence, a suitable publisher will be contracted that can publish the proceedings quickly, relatively inexpensively and that has the global footprint to distribute the volume widely. In addition, by the New Year we will be undertaking an effort to make available through the web papers and abstracts published in previous proceedings.

Finally, I want to encourage each and every one of you to attend the next ASMOSIA congress in France. Not only will the venue and surroundings be magnificent, we will also be able to share the results of many new and exciting research projects and, perhaps most importantly, talk informally with old colleagues and meet new ones.

You will find information regarding the conference in the pages of this newsletter and on the ASMOSIA webpage.

Yannis Maniatis

EDITOR’S COMMENTS (CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE)

you book your room accommodations early. June is high-tourist season in Aix-en-Provence and space may be limited.

Information on ASMOSIA VIII and all other ASMOSIA matters can be found on the organization’s website at www.ees.science.utoledo.edu/ASMOSIA/.

This newsletter is the second to be distributed electronically. A few of you have voiced your displeasure with this new mode of delivery, preferring the traditionally mailed copy. However, the cost savings for electronic distribution are immense, especially since ASMOSIA membership spans the globe. The ASMOSIA budget is not large and it relies solely on the dues of the membership and those dues are very low when compared to other professional organizations. Nevertheless, many of our members have inadvertently not kept up their dues to the organization. I, too, am guilty of nonpayment. In the back of the newsletter is the current membership list. To the right of each name, in brackets, is the last year that dues were paid, including payment for future years. If all of the ASMOSIA membership were to make current their dues, then ASMOSIA’s budget would grow in strength and allow for the Executive Committee to allocate funds to important and worthwhile projects such as (1) paper distribution of the newsletter, (2) allocating funds to help offset the high costs of publishing the proceedings, or (3) some other need. So, I encourage each of you to please pay the annual membership fee at your earliest convenience. You can send your annual membership fee to the proper address on the right.

To keep the newsletter current and interesting I canvas the ASMOSIA membership for news of recent publications, research updates or any other information that you would like to share.

“...PROCEEDINGS OF THE THASSOS CONFERENCE AFTER SOME INITIAL DELAY ARE NOW PROGRESSING AT A MUCH-ACCELERATED RATE.”

Paul Cezanne, self-portrait

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Due to its central location in Provence and its abundance of artistic and cultural events, the city of Aix-en-Provence has a wide range of hotels from the cheapest two stars hotels to the most famous four stars “Mas”. You will easily find hotel accommodations according to your budget and taste!

The easiest and most convenient way to book your hotel room is to make your reservation online at www.aixenprovencetourism.com. This is a very useful website not just for hotel reservations, but also for seeking information about our host city as well as the surrounding region.

Listed below are a few hotels and apartment hotels, either located just near the Conference site (I) or, as an alternative, situated in the very center of the old town (II) (usually booked by scholars and colleagues visiting us).

Remember, June is a very popular time to visit Aix-en-Provence. You should book your accommodations as soon as possible.

(I) Studios or apartments “Apart’hotel Citadines Aix / Jas de Bouffan”. We are pleased to inform you that we have made arrangements with the “Apart’hotel Citadines Aix / Jas de Bouffan” for ASMOSIA participants. The offer is valid until February 15, 2006. The apartments are located just five minutes by foot from the Conference site. When making your reservation just mention your participation with ASMOSIA conference to receive the discounted rates. You can make your reservations by contacting the Apart’hotel Citadines Aix Jas de Bouffan has an attractive swimming pool and a garden. Studios have sofa and pullout beds. Apartments have sofa beds in the lounge area and two single beds in the bedroom. All studios and apartments have a bathroom with separate toilet, a fully equipped kitchen area (stove, oven, fridge), TV with satellite channels, and direct-line phone, hairdryer, iron and ironing board. House linen provided (linen changed and house cleaning once a week free of charge). Additional house-cleaning service on request and charged according to requirements. Beds are made up for your arrival. Four apartments are equipped for people with reduced mobility.

SNCF TGV station 10 minutes by car. Bus line 4 and 6 stop in front of the Apart’hotel. Marseille Provence Airport 30 minutes by car.

(II) As an alternative, you can book a room in the center of the old town itself.

### Apart’hotel Citadines

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<td>2-Person Studio</td>
<td>77 €/day</td>
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The Apart’hotel Citadines Aix Jas de Bouffan has an attractive swimming pool and a garden. In studios: sofa and pullout beds. In apartments: sofa beds in the lounge area and two single beds in the one bedroom.

SNCF TGV station 10 minutes by car. Bus line 4 and 6 stop in front of the Apart’hotel Marseille Provence Airport 30 minutes by car. All studios and apartments have a bathroom with separate toilet, a fully equipped kitchen area (stove, oven, fridge...), TV with satellite channels, direct-line phone, hairdryer, iron and ironing board. House linen provided (linen changed and house cleaning once a week free of charge). Additional house-cleaning service on request and charged according to requirements. Beds are made up for your arrival. 4 apartments are equipped for people with reduced mobility.

### Hotels in the City Center

**** Hôtel CARDINAL

Special Price for ASMOSIA Conference

24 rue Cardinale, 13100 Aix-en-Provence  
+33 4 42 38 32 30, +33 4 42 26 39 05 (fax)  
Prices from 55 € to 65 €

**** Hôtel SAINT-CHRISTOPHE

2 avenue Victor Hugo, 13100 Aix-en-Provence  
+33 4 42 26 01 24, +33 4 42 38 53 17 (fax)  
Prices from 71 € to 77 €

**** Hôtel de FRANCE

63 rue Espariat, 13100 Aix-en-Provence  
+33 4 42 27 90 15, +33 4 42 26 11 47 (fax)  
Prices from 64 € to 81 €

*** Hôtel CARAVELLE

29, bd du Roi René, 13100 Aix-en-Provence  
+33 4 42 21 53 05, +33 4 42 96 55 46 (fax)  
lacaravelle@mail.com, Prices from 65 € to 70 €

**** Grand Hôtel du ROI RENE

24 bd du Roi René, 13100 Aix-en-Provence  
+33 4 42 37 61 00, +33 4 42 37 67 11  
H1169@accor.com, Prices starting from 168 €

**** VILLA GALLICI

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Prices available on the website
RESEARCH SUMMARY: ROMAN COLUMN WRECK AT KIZILBURUN, TURKEY

During the summer of 2005, the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) at Texas A&M University initiated the excavation of an ancient stone carrier wrecked off the Aegean coast of Turkey at Kizilburun. The stone carrier, which is one of at least five shipwrecks in the area discovered by INA archaeologists in 1993, lies at a depth of between 140 and 150 feet (42-45 m). The primary cargo is comprised of eight enormous marble drums, measuring three feet tall, five feet in diameter, and estimated to weigh six or seven tons a piece. Atop the drums is what appears to be an unfinished Doric column capital, suggesting that the eight drums and one capital make up a single column destined for the façade of a temple or other monumental building. A sample drilled from one of the drums was sent to Dr. Scott Pike of Willamette University for isotopic analysis, which revealed that the marble drum(s) likely originated in the Marmara region of Turkey.

Excavation of the sand adjacent to the drum pile revealed the remains of the ship’s secondary cargo, which included two large marble wash basins with pedestal bases, a roughly-worked but very fine smaller hand basin, and an unfinished marble headstone. Ceramics associated with the column wreck—which include fine ware pottery and transport amphoras from East Greece, the Adriatic, and even Egypt—suggest that the ship went down in the early first century B.C. Excavation around the drums themselves yielded hundreds of nails and wood fragments, indicating that the massive size and weight of the drum cargo may have preserved a substantial portion of the ship’s wooden hull. One of the major goals of the 2006 season will be the removal of the marble drums in order to excavate and raise any surviving hull remains. Pending authorization from the Turkish Ministry of Culture, the Kizilburun marble column may ultimately be raised to the surface to be cleaned and studied.

All artifacts raised from Kizilburun column wreck in 2005 are currently being desalinated and conserved at the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology. A preliminary report on the first excavation season will appear in the spring 2006 issue of the INM Quarterly.

Deborah N. Carlson
Archaeological Director
Texas A & M

RESEARCH SUMMARY: QUARRYSCAPES — EU PROJECT ON ANCIENT QUARRIES

The EU Commission has approved and granted a three-year research project aimed at improving the conservation of ancient quarry sites. The project is financed through the International Co-operation part of the 6th Framework programme for Research and Development, and will be lead by the Geological Survey of Norway.

The project, named "Conservation of Ancient Stone Quarry Landscapes in the Eastern Mediterranean" (acronym QuarryScapes), aims at improving cultural heritage management of ancient quarry landscapes through the development of theoretical and practical methodologies and conservation concepts, and suggesting mechanisms for sustainable management. QuarryScapes will also organise open workshops and disseminate project results through the development of practical guidelines for conservation of ancient quarry landscapes. In addition to the Geological Survey of Norway, the partners in the project are Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium), Middle East Technical University (Turkey), North South Consultant Exchange (Egypt), Supreme Council of Antiquities (Egypt), Università IUAV di Venezia (Italy), University College London (UK) and Yarmouk University (Jordan). Official starting date for the project was November 1, 2005.

Tom Heldal
Geological Survey of Norway

Tool marks help identify areas of ancient stone working and help identify ancient quarries in the landscape (photo provided by Tom Heldal)
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Checks and money orders should be made payable to "ASMOSIA". Persons requesting membership should provide the following information with their dues payment: (1) your title (e.g., Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr., Prof.); (2) your name; (3) the address where you want the newsletters and other mailings sent; (4) your e-mail address; (5) your telephone number; and (6) your fax number. If there are any changes in the above information for persons who are already members, these changes should be included with the dues payment.

All communications regarding membership should be directed to the ASMOSIA Secretary/Treasurer, James A. Harrell, E-mail: james.harrell@utoledo.edu, Telephone: [1] 419-530-2193, Fax: [1] 419-530-4421.
ASMOSIA is the acronym for the Association for the Study of Marble and Other Stones in Antiquity. It was founded in 1988 to promote the exchange of knowledge among its members in all fields related to the study of marble and other stones of art historical or archaeological interest. This exchange is accomplished through periodic Newsletters to members, biannual meetings of the membership, and publication of the meeting proceedings.