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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 Waalkens 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

Communications

Articles


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.


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
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.

symposium of the Mineralogical Society to
discuss recent applications of geology,
geochemistry and mineralogy. The study of
archaeological stone artifiaets. 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
gasophysical instruments to analyse and to
categorise archaeological samples.
Information from Olwen Williams-Thorpe,
Dept. of Earth Sciences, Open University,
Milton Keynes, MK7 5AA, UK: tel: 01908-
665147; fax: 01908-665151; 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. Rihill, Department of Classics, St. David's
University College, Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales,
SA 48 7 ED, United Kingdom or e-mail:
j.v.rucker@swansea.ac.uk or
d.w.j.gill@swansea.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 Lincore Interdisciplinare and
the CISADU of the Universita 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

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 Wiseman,
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:
wisar@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: Segretari 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.fvw.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.


Call for papers. This scientific congress will take place in the Centro de Ciencias Medioambientales (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas). 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, dpto, 28006 - Madrid, Spain; tel: 34-1-562-50-20; fax: 34-1-264-08-00; Scientific correspondence or questions should be addressed to: J. Juan, First Meeting on Phytolith Research; e-mail: juan@trivium.gu.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 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, Pinero-Orino, 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. Rihill, 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 Ecoublens, 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 Ecole Française
de Athènes, Didirou 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.

Colloquium on the Aegean Region, Izmir-
Güllük, Turkey. Contact Prof. Özkan Pi̇kin,
General Secretary IESCA 1995, D.E.
University, Dept. of Geology, P.K. 74
(E.U.-PTT) 35100 Bornova, Izmir, Turkey.
tel: (232)388-2919; fax: -7864; email:
DMUIEOOI@TREARN.BITNET

Nov 06-09. Geological Society of America,
Contact: Vanessa George, Geological
Society of America, 3500 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, 4320 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 Mosecati, 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
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


*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.


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