



The Artifact

A Publication of the Archaeological Institute of America - Milwaukee Society

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The Palace and Gardens of King Kasayapa at Sigiriya, Sri Lanka

During the late 5th century AD, Kasayapa, king of ancient Sri Lanka, commissioned his surveyors, architects, and gardeners to design and construct a new luxurious seat for his government in a remote part of his island kingdom. The location was Sigiriya, or 'Lion Rock.'

This site was briefly excavated by the British in the late 19th century as part of the Archaeological Survey of Ceylon and was more recently excavated by the local department of antiquities in the 1950s. Sigiriya is already famous in the history of art as the location of one of the earliest series of painted figures in South Asia. Kasayapa's palace, located 600' above the jungle canopy, is one of the earliest in Asia and the enormous figure of a lion, built against a sheer cliff on the north approach to the palace, coincides exactly with the accounts of ancient historians who described the path ascending to the summit as entering the mouth of the huge creature who gave the rock its name.

This lecture will present the results of several seasons of survey and excavation by a combined team including the University of Maryland in their attempts to uncover yet another unique aspect of Sigiriya - the water gardens. The organization includes landscapes of formal plan, very similar to the much later tradition of Mughul gardens of Iran and north India, as well as those of

more naturalistic character, like the traditions of China and Japan. Of particular interest are the numerous garden pavilions that stood along the central axis of the formal gardens, others that occupied special sites surrounded by moats, and the many small structures that perched on the numerous boulders in the upper gardens. The water gardens are the largest in the world and will be traced through their many components: fountains, shallow reflection pools, deeper bathing pools, and the cisterns and moats that were necessary to supply all these facilities.

Dr. Robert L. Vann teaches in the School of Architecture at the University of Maryland. His areas of specialty include the history of Greek and Roman architecture, ancient construction, and underwater archaeology.



The 'Lion Rock' of Sigiriya

Letter From the President

Greetings, and welcome back after what I hope was a productive but relaxing summer! I was able to enjoy my first Milwaukee summer in several years, since the Landscape of Ancestors in Germany project is currently in analysis rather than fieldwork mode for a change. I finally have first-hand knowledge of what kinds of things are growing in our front flowerbed, and I had a chance to teach for the Irish Fest Summer School at UWM for the first time as well. I was also recently named co-director, with John Gleeson of UWM's Ethnic Studies program, of the revitalized Center for Celtic Studies at UWM. As the Center expands we hope to bring speakers to campus that might be persuaded to present lectures for the AIA Milwaukee Society. Check the Web site for information as it becomes available: <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/celtic/>

There have been some major changes at both the local and national level for the AIA that I would like to share with old and new members alike. The less terrific news is that the membership increases have now gone through, as you will have noticed if you sent in a renewal recently. While the increases will probably not represent a major burden for most members, we recognize that for some of you the change may cause difficulties. We urge you to stand by us as we work our way through the fiscal complexities of the new millennium. The AIA is facing tremendous challenges in an increasingly competitive entertainment and information environment, but with your continued support and commitment to AIA programs we will continue to flourish for the next century and beyond. Our own Professor Jane Waldbaum will be taking the helm of the AIA soon, and the organization itself is in the process of reconsidering its role and mission. We will be keeping you informed via the Web site of changes and initiatives as

they occur:

<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/ArchLab/AIA/>

The other major change is in the venue of AIA lectures on the UWM campus, which have been held for many years now in the Art History Department's lecture hall in Mitchell 195. This summer, the Anthropology Department moved into the newly renovated Sabin Hall, the last campus building north of Mitchell on Downer Avenue. The main lecture hall there, Sabin G90, should be better able to accommodate the occasionally SRO crowds we have had for some speakers. We will also be able to hold the post-lecture reception on the second floor in Anthropology Department space. In order to minimize the confusion this change will cause for some members, we will be holding the first two lectures of the fall season in Mitchell 195, and will announce the new venue at those lectures. The fliers for the 2001-2002 lecture series will include a map identifying the location of Sabin Hall. Subsequent lectures will be in Sabin G90 unless otherwise indicated.

Our line-up for this year covers a broad range of geographic areas and time periods. The fall series begins with two speakers provided by the national office. The first lecturer was Kevin Crisman of Texas A&M University on **Shipwrecks and Archaeology in Portugal's Azores Islands** (Sunday September 30), followed by a talk by Robert Lindley Vann of the University of Maryland on the **Palace and Gardens of King Kasayapa at Sigiriya (Sri Lanka)** (Tuesday October 30). The Milwaukee Society is pleased to be able to bring you a December 2 lecture by Jennifer Tobin of the University of Illinois-Chicago, who will be presenting her research on the port site of Cilicia in **Roman Turkey**. The spring series also looks exciting, with one Kress lecturer from the national office, the possibility of a

second, and two Milwaukee Society lectures. In February the Milwaukee Society has invited Ying Wang of UWM's Art History Department to present a talk on her research into **Shang Bronze Age China** (Sunday February 10). We are working on bringing Paul Bahn back to lecture in March, since he will be in residence as an AIA Kress lecturer and may be willing to add a Milwaukee talk to his schedule. If you missed his over-flow crowd lecture on **Upper Paleolithic art** in December 1999, you'll want to be sure to make it to this one! In April, we will host the other 2001-2002 Kress lecturer, Claudio Bizzarri of the Universita di Macerata (Italy), who will be presenting his research on an underground **Etruscan town in Umbria** (Sunday April 2). Finally, we have invited UW-Madison's Jason Yaeger to present his research in the **Maya** area on Sunday, May 5. **Remember** – 50% or more of the lectures (three/four out of six/seven) we bring you every year are directly funded by rebates from national membership dues, so if you have been coming regularly to lectures, and look forward to coming to campus to hear professional archaeologists talk about their research, consider becoming a member. If you are already a member, be sure to take a moment to renew your membership. **We need your support now more than ever!**

I also would like to extend an invitation to all members to get more actively involved in the Milwaukee society through attendance at lectures, contributing refreshments to receptions, or attending the national meeting as a delegate, which will be held in **Philadelphia, PA** from January 3-6 2002. If you are interested in any of these activities, or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at barnold@uwm.edu. See you September 30 at the first lecture of the 2001-2002 season!

Bettina Arnold, President

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From The Field

Tumulus 17 and Beyond

Since 1999 this newsletter has reported on the excavation of Tumulus 17 in southwest Germany, near the town of Hunderingen and the Heuneburg Iron Age hillfort, and the long-term research project entitled "Landscape of Ancestors." The project combines archaeological excavation, which concentrates on early Iron Age (EIA) burial mounds, and ancient DNA (a-DNA) studies of bone from burials found within tumuli. Recent a-DNA samples that have been tested come from the Heuneburg hillfort, burial mounds near the Heuneburg and a previously excavated mound near Stuttgart. Analysis of the cultural materials (ceramic, bronze, metal and organic remains) and the stratigraphic sequence of mound construction are underway at the University

of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Archaeology Lab, the Milwaukee Public Museum and the Landesdenkmalamt Tübingen in Germany.

At the end of the 2000 field season Tumulus 17 had been completely excavated and five burials were uncovered. Radiocarbon dates from the graves and the cultural materials found within them, including a bronze cauldron and a short sword from Grave 1 and fibulae in Grave 3, suggest that the mound was used for approximately 150 years (600 B.C. to 450 B.C.). The dates from the mound contradict the prevailing view that the “Speckhau” mound group was abandoned after the destruction of the mudbrick wall at the Heuneburg circa 550 B.C. The relationship between Tumulus 17 and the Heuneburg is also important to the “Landscape of Ancestors” project because it is located approximately 3 km from Tumulus 17.

Tumulus 17 contained a plethora of pottery sherds, which comprise the bulk of the cultural material from the mound. A large number of sherds show evidence of secondary burning and might have come from the pyre of the cremation burial found in the central chamber. Even if the sherds are not from the pyre, they will still provide information about mortuary practices during the EIA. Analysis of this material is currently underway as part of a Masters thesis project being conducted by the author.

Organic material, including fabric differentially preserved due to contact with metal in the mound, is also being studied. The fabric fragments were taken to Head Conservator Christine Del Re of the Milwaukee Public Museum for restoration and mounting; graduate student Jamie Kelly is producing the mounts for four of the best-preserved samples. The mounts will allow the fabric fragments to be placed on slides

for viewing via a scanning electron microscope. The light can pass through the samples to determine the material and weave of the fabric. Photos of the fabric fragments as seen through the microscope will be taken and sent to experts for analysis. Preliminary microscopic observation of the fabric suggests that at least one of the samples is linen and another is a textile placed on an organic backing, which might be reeds or grass.

Metal and ceramic artifacts from the five burials were sent to conservators at the Landesdenkmalamt in Tübingen for restoration. The metal objects make up the highest percentage of grave goods and include a bronze cauldron, fibulae, a globular headed pin, a studded belt, bracelets, an iron short sword, spears, and a dagger. Grave 3 contained an intact ceramic cup, which is the only complete vessel recovered from Tumulus 17. The metal objects will be x-rayed to determine their actual shape and size before complete restoration takes place. Soil samples from the bronze cauldron and ceramic cup will also be taken to determine if any organic substances were in the graves with the individuals from Grave 1 and 3. Alcoholic beverages like the 300 liters of mead found in another famous EIA burial, Hochdorf, may be identified. Stay tuned!

The second component of the “Landscape of Ancestors” project is the a-DNA analysis being conducted by Dr. Frederika Kaestle of Indiana State University. Extraction of DNA was also conducted on archaeological excavators, bone/tooth makers, and lab assistants conducting the a-DNA research to be sure that no contamination occurred to the ancient samples. Two of the ancient samples sequenced so far came from the Heuneburg hillfort situated along the Danube River near Hundesingen. A third

sample came from the Gießübel-Talhau mounds next to the Heuneburg. Two additional samples came from the Grafenbühl tumulus near the Hohenasperg hillfort in Stuttgart. The results of the lab tests at this point are incomplete and more testing is needed to obtain a better understanding of the relationship between these individuals. The preliminary tests suggest that there is a difference in the gene frequency between the modern and ancient samples.

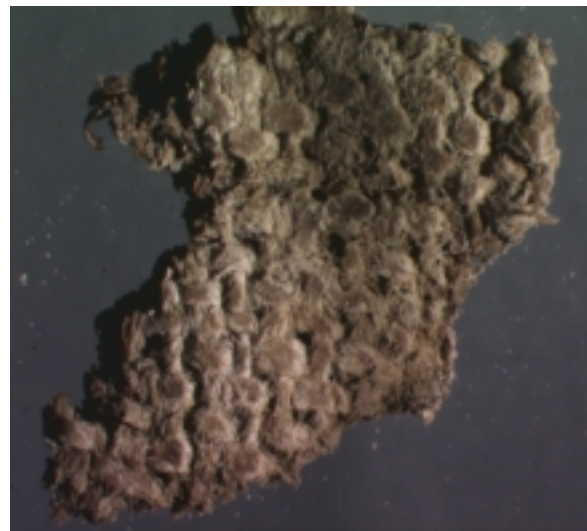
In September, Dr. Bettina Arnold (overall project director) of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Dr. Matthew Murray (field project co-director) of Minnesota State University-Mankato, and Seth Schneider of UWM will be traveling to Esslingen, Germany to present a paper at the European Association of Archaeologists. In the summer of 2002, excavations at Tumulus 18 will begin. This mound is situated across the logging road from Tumulus 17 and is approximately the same size as Tumulus 17, which suggests it might have similar mound construction and ritual attributes. Tumulus 18 should be completed in 2002, and by that time it is hoped the genetic analysis will also be close to completion. There are plans to organize a session presenting project results, including analysis of cauldron contents and restoration of the metal objects in Tumulus 17 Graves 1, 3 and 4, at the SAA conference in 2003. Milwaukee will be hosting the meeting that year for the first time since the 1960's, so be sure to check out the program when this show comes to town!

If you would like more information about the "Landscape of Ancestors" project please visit Dr. Arnold's web page: <http://www.uwm.edu/~barnold/arch/index.html>). To see copies of the write-ups for the Tumulus 17 excavation in 1999 and 2000 visit the online archive of *The Artifact* at the

AIA-Milwaukee Chapter web page (<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/ArchLab/AIA/mlwsociety.html>).

Many thanks are due to everyone who has been involved with the project thus far. Funding and support has come from the National Geographic Society, National Endowment for the Humanities, the Landesdenkmalamt in Stuttgart, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Graduate School. The crews from the 1999 and 2000 field seasons made the excavation at Tumulus 17 possible, along with the help received from German colleagues. Dr. Frederika Kaestle and her associates in her lab are enlarging the picture of the genetic Iron Age world with their research. Finally, thanks goes out for the support received from the faculty, students, and friends in the Anthropology Department at UWM and Milwaukee.

-- *Seth A. Schneider*



Textile fragment at 7X from Tumulus 17,
near Hundersingen, Germany

Trimborn Farm: Year Four

The drought conditions this summer revealed the outlines of several possible structures, including the large building on the southern edge of the site. This building appears to have three sections. Excavations continued in units placed on the northern outer foundations and on interior wall foundations.

The students in the week-long College For Kids program and from the half-week Walker Middle School session learned the basics of archaeological fieldwork. They were supervised by Geralyn Flick, Field Director and archaeology graduate students from the Southeastern Archaeology Program at UWM.

The foundations continue to emerge and provide information about building techniques at this historic site.

-- *Jocelyn Boor*

Special Report

Journey to Ancient Angkor

The upcoming October 30th lecture by Robert Vann on Sri Lankan water gardens gives me an excuse to talk about my recent sojourn in Thailand and Cambodia, lands rich in archaeological treasures. My first stop was Siem Reap, Cambodia, the modern gateway to the Khmer kingdoms known as ancient Angkor (Khmer refers to Cambodian people speaking Khmer languages). Siem Reap is a cow-town with desultory dirt roads and an old-fashioned market, surrounded by an astonishing collection of luxury hotels festooned with giant recreations of Khmer art, nagas (serpent gods) and swaying apsaras (female spirit dancers). We visited during the quiet rainy season so these deserted palaces were eerie reminders of the hoards who descend upon Siem Reap in the

winter. Visiting at this time a risky proposition. Indeed, a week after we left floods wrecked havoc around the capital city of Phnom Penh. We were lucky; our trip benefited from cool winds and cloud cover but little actual rain.

A visit to ancient Angkor entails visits over several days to a dozen or so architectural complexes. The early complexes are in the Roulos Group, dating to the 9th century, a time when a powerful Khmer leader unified disparate states into a kingdom. The wealth of the Khmers derived from their intermediate position between the superpowers of India and China. Angkor's rise to empire status went hand-in-hand with the Indianization of their culture, in particular the adoption of Hinduism and Mahayana Buddhism. Most Khmer kings were Hindu, followers of Vishnu, though certain rulers leaned toward Buddhism. The surviving architecture of ancient Angkor consists almost exclusively of religious shrines and monastic schools—I never saw one palace or administrative building! The Angkor complexes are filled with fabulous reliefs of the Ramayana, the Hindu story recounting Rama's search for his abducted wife Sita. Some of the most superb renditions are in the Banteay Sri complex, renowned for its extremely fine carving and remarkable preservation.

One of my favorite mythological sculptures is the South Gate of Angkor Thom. The gateway, a high corbelled vault, is surmounted by four giant faces looking to the four directions. I was lucky enough to see a caravan of elephants (carrying Japanese tourists) pass through the gate, evoking ancient royal processions. The approach to the gate is flanked by giant nagas, alluding to the Hindu story, The Churning of the Sea of Milk. Each naga is tugged by a dozen life-size gods, good ones

on one side of the road and bad ones on the other. What a spectacle! Within the Angkor Thom complex is the Bayon, which houses an amazing set of reliefs depicting battles and scenes of daily life. Ancient Angkor is nearly synonymous with the Angkor Wat complex. With its massive façade approached by a majestic causeway, Angkor Wat is straight out of a fairy tale, and apparently it was the setting of a recent Hollywood fantasy film. Both Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom are surrounded by majestic moats, a standard feature of ancient Khmer architecture. Perhaps our October lecture on Sri Lankan water gardens will shed light on them.

Speaking of Sri Lanka, it exerted substantial influence on the ancient kingdoms of Southeast Asia. Its particular form of Theravada Buddhism was adopted in Burma in the 11th century, spreading to Sukkothai, the ancient Thai capital, by the 12th century. Some Sukkothai temples are described as "Singhalese style," attesting to Ceylon's considerable influence. Indeed, the adoption of Sri Lankan Theravada Buddhism in Cambodia marked the incipient demise of the Khmer empire in the late 13th century.

-- *Andrea Stone*

Member News

Diane Grubisha, a graduate student in Anthropology at UWM, received a five-month Council for American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) Fellowship through the American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR) to conduct archaeological research in Jordan.

Jocelyn Boor received her MS in Anthropology from UWM in May, and is now the Program Coordinator at Trimborn Farm, Milwaukee County's only historic park.

Upcoming Lectures

Wisconsin Archaeological Society
All lectures are on Mondays at 8 p.m.

October 15, 2001
"Regional Variation in the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex" - Dr. Alex Barker, Milwaukee Public Museum

November, 19, 2001
Title TBA – Dr. Barbara Crass, UW-Oshkosh

December 17, 2001
"Celts on the Upper Danube: Tumulus 17 Revisited" – Dr. Bettina Arnold, UW-Milwaukee

AIA Annual Meeting 2002

The 103rd Annual Meeting will be convened in Philadelphia from January 3-6, 2002. As always, an exciting program of lectures, colloquia, and workshops is being planned. Information will be posted on the AIA website soon, and all members of the AIA in good standing will receive an invitation and registration form in the mail. Check the AIA website at: www.archaeological.org.

Refreshment Help Requested

Our local lectures will continue to close with an informal reception – a wonderful opportunity to meet the speaker and ask more questions. Mary Kohli continues as our refreshments coordinator, and would like your help in providing treats at one or more of the meetings. Please contact her at: marcrete@elknet.net or phone 262-723-5569. A co-coordinator is needed – please contact either Bettina Arnold or Mary.

Preview of Future AIA Lectures

The Site in the Sand Dunes: Survey of a Roman Mansio in Smooth Cilicia, Turkey

In 1986, while gathering sand for cement, a local company began bulldozing a series of large dunes that had collected on the seashore along the Bay of Iskenderun on the south coast of Turkey. The dunes, however, proved not to be the expected piles of sand but instead formed a shallow mantle over the remains of an ancient settlement whose existence had been unknown.

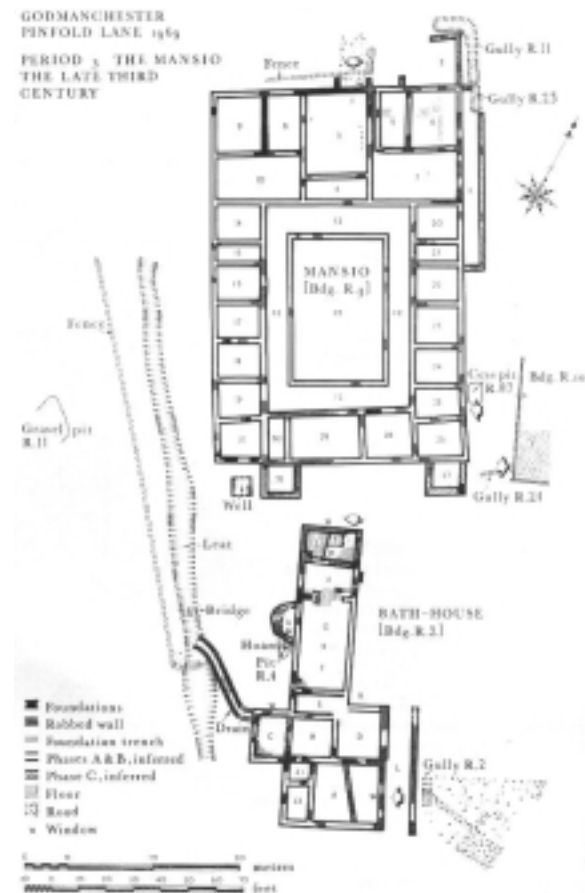
In 1994 and 1995 a survey of the ancient remains was conducted by a team from Bilkent University of Ankara. Its mission was to collect the small finds at the site and to document the architecture in order to better understand the site's place in the history of the region. The bulldozing had exposed at least 20 buildings laid on a grid plan; among them were two baths, several granaries and cisterns, and an aqueduct system.

Study of the finds indicates that the remains date to the period of Roman occupation of the region, from the 1st century BC through the 7th century AD. Although the investigators suspected that the site was a small city or perhaps a port serving an island city (settlement types that abound in the Roman period), the nature of the architecture instead indicated that it served a more specific purpose. Located on the sea and along a major roadway, and consisting of structures designed to store commodities and refresh people, the site can be interpreted as a way-station, or *mansio*.

Mansiones, roughly equivalent to our modern motels or rest stops, served both the

common traveler and the army. Here a weary traveler or platoon could find a secure place to spend the night, collect food and water for the road ahead, and wash the travel-weary body. Although *mansiones* are described in ancient literature, none have been securely identified in the archaeological record. These remains are thus valuable for a better understanding of a little known facility of the Roman world.

Dr. Jennifer Tobin is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Classics at the University of Illinois, Chicago. She teaches courses on Classical archaeology, the monuments and institutions of Athens, Classical mythology, and the monuments and institutions of Rome.



A Third-Century AD Roman *Mansio* in Godmanchester, U.K.

AIA-Milwaukee Society 2001-2002 Lecture Schedule

FALL 2001

September 30
*Shipwrecks and Archaeology in Portugal's
Azores Islands*
Dr. Kevin Crisman
Texas A&M University
Sunday, 3 p.m., Mitchell Hall 195

October 30
*The Palace and Gardens of King Kasayapa
at Sigiriya (Sri Lanka)*
Dr. Robert L. Vann
University of Maryland
Tuesday, 8 p.m., Mitchell Hall 195

December 2
*The Site in the Sand Dunes: Survey of a
Roman Mansio in Smooth Cilicia*
Dr. Jennifer Tobin
University of Chicago-Illinois
Sunday, 3 p.m., Sabin Hall G90

SPRING 2001

February 10
Silk, Status and Power in Shang China
Dr. Ying Wang
UW-Milwaukee
Sunday, 3 p.m., Sabin Hall G90

March: topic and date to be announced
Paul Bahn, Independent Researcher

April 2
Underground Etruria: A Town in Umbria
Dr. Claudio Bizzarri
Universita di Macerata
Tuesday, 8 p.m., location TBA

May 5
*Making a Maya City-State: Linking the City
and the Countryside at Xunantunich, Belize*
Dr. Jason Yaeger
UW-Madison
Sunday, 3 p.m., Sabin Hall G90

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