

CANADIAN INSTITUTE
FOR MEDITERRANEAN
STUDIES

INSTITUT CANADIEN
D'ÉTUDES
MÉDITERRANÉENNES



PROGRAM FOR THE FALL 2014

1) Sunday, September 28, at 2:00 p.m, Rm 1160, Desmarais Building, University of Ottawa

AIA lecture in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies and with the support of the Egyptian Embassy

Lecture by Prof. R. James Cook, Assistant Professor, Ancient History and Classics, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario

Title: Irrigation and Innovation in the Graeco-Roman Fayum

It is well-established that an elaborate irrigation system supplied water to the Fayum region during the period of Greek and Roman hegemony in Egypt (ca. 330 BCE – 400 CE). This irrigation network, which has figured prominently in histories of the period, had a profound impact on the agricultural exploitation of the Fayum and on its inhabitants. Most of our knowledge of this important landscape feature has, however, been derived from ancient Greek texts on papyrus, rather than from the physical remains of the irrigation system itself. Ongoing archaeological fieldwork near the site of Karanis (modern Kom Aushim) and a reconsideration of the documentary evidence reveal some of the complex ways in which disciplinary boundaries and the primacy of the text have influenced the interpretation of life in Graeco-Roman Egypt. In addition, they highlight the difficulty of approaching the pre-modern past from the perspective of current biases concerning technology and development.

Biographical Notes

Prof. Cook's main interests are Greek and Roman art, architecture, and history; the society and archaeology of Hellenistic and Roman Egypt and North Africa; Pompeii; ancient technology; hydraulics and agriculture; archaeological method and theory.

Professor Cook has a PhD in Classical Art and Archaeology from the University of Michigan, in Ann Harbor, Michigan, a Masters degree in Greek and Roman Studies from the University of Victoria, BC. and a BA in Political Science from McGill University in Montreal. He is presently Assistant professor in Ancient History and Classics and Research Associate at Trent University, Peterborough. He has published extensively and has engaged in field work as a ceramicist in Pompeii, on the Fayum project and the Abydos Middle Cemetery project in Egypt as well as in Tunisia and Jordan.

Refreshments to follow.

2) Sunday, October 19th, at 2:00 p.m., Desmarais Building, University of Ottawa,

AIA lecture in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies

Lecture by Prof. Debra Foran, Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology at

Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario

Title: Mosaics and Moabites: 5,000 Years of History in the City of Madaba

The city of **Madaba** in Jordan is famous for its Byzantine mosaics that adorn its many churches. Professor Foran will present the results of the Tell Madaba Archaeological Project which has been working on the city's west acropolis for over 15 years. These excavations have produced 11 distinct occupation phases which represent the key periods in the site's settlement history. These remains reflect Mādabā's waxing and waning fortunes as a regional centre, from its beginnings in the late 4th millennium BCE to its resurgence as a prosperous Byzantine town, to its final re-establishment in the late 19th century.

Biographical notes

Debra Foran, Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology at Wilfrid Laurier, works on pilgrimage and trade during the Late Byzantine period (5th to 8th centuries CE) in Jordan. She earned her PhD from the University of Toronto in 2003, where her dissertation examined the existence of a Byzantine mosaic workshop in Madaba. Dr. Foran has worked with the Tell Madaba Archaeological Project since 1998 and became the Director of the project in 2006. Since excavations at Tell Madaba were completed in 2012, Dr. Foran has begun preparing the final publication for the site. She is also the Director of the Town of Nebo Archaeological Project. Dr. Foran is President of the American Schools of Oriental Research in Canada.

Refreshments to follow

3) **Thursday, November 13th, at 7:30p.m.**

**Ben Franklin Place, the Chamber, (the same place as the Centerpointe Theater),
Centrepointe Drive (Main Entrance / Library Entrance)**

**Presented by the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies, under the auspices of the
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey**

**Lecture by Dr. Kutalmis Gökay, Professor of Clasiical Archaeology, Ankara University,
Turkey**

Title: Zeugma: Crossing the Euphrates between civilisations

Situated in South-eastern Turkey, Zeugma, literally "bridge" or "crossing" in ancient Greek, owes its name to the fact that it was located at the major ancient crossing point on the river Euphrates. Zeugma was an important Hellenistic and Roman site, which drew international public attention when it was realized that with the construction of the nearby Birecik dam, a part of the site was to be flooded by the waters of the Euphrates, and preliminary rescue excavations uncovered exquisite mosaics in Roman houses.

The ancient term Zeugma actually referred to the twin cities on the opposing banks of the river. They were Hellenistic settlements established by commander Seleucus Nicator around 300 BCE. Today the name Zeugma is usually understood to refer to the settlement on the west bank, called Seleucia after the founder, while the one on the East bank was called Apamea after his Persian wife Apama. The twin settlements were crucial in the cultural policies of the Seleucid empire aiming to achieve the integration of Greco-Macedon and Semitic cultures in the region.

In 64 CE, Seleucia came under the rule of the Commagene Kingdom, and then from 72 CE, it was the major eastern frontier city of the Roman Empire. With two Roman legions based in Zeugma in the first century CE, the strategic importance and cosmopolitan nature of the city increased greatly. Zeugma prospered and functioned as a major commercial city as well as a military base. The archaeological site of Zeugma is of immense historical significance for understanding the ancient integration of Hellenistic and Semitic cultural spheres and the birth of syncretistic hybrid cultures in the region. Excavations are carried out at the site by Ankara University.

Biographical notes

Dr. Kutalmış Görkay received his BA Degree from University of Ankara's Department of Classical Archaeology in 1988. He holds an M.A. and PhD degrees from the same institution.

In 1992, Dr. Görkay was a research student in the Faculty of Literae Humaniores at Oxford University. In 1995, he was a visiting scholar at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts where he worked on the Aphrodisias Project. During this time, he also worked on the Alexandria Troas project under the direction of Professors Hans Wiegartz and Elmar Schwertheim of Münster University.

He worked at the excavations of Dr. R. R. R. Smith of Oxford University and Dr. C. Ratté of New York University, Institute of Fine Arts at Aphrodisias and participated in the excavations conducted at Arykanda, in Lycia, by Dr. Cevdet Bayburtluođlu, of Ankara University's Department of Classical Archaeology.

In 2001, Dr. Görkay was granted a fellowship by the French National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS) to conduct post-doctoral research at Ausonius Research Institute on Antiquity and Middle Ages at the Université Michel de Montaigne Bordeaux 3.

In 2002, he attended the Zeugma Post Excavation Meetings at Oxford as representative of PHI (Packard Humanities Institute). In 2003 -2004, he was a visiting scholar at Harvard University where he worked with Professors D.G. Mitten and Rabun Taylor. Between 2003 and 2004, Görkay conducted archaeological field surveys in Erythrai, in Ionia.

Since 2005, he is an Associate Professor at Ankara University and directs the Zeugma Archaeological excavations.

Reception offered by the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey

Free parking. Open to the public.