



Cornell University

40th

ANNIVERSARY: 1967-2007

“Any Site ... Any Dig” The Archaeology Program Newsletter

Volume 1.1, Fall, 2007

WORDS FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Welcome to the new Archaeology Program's newsletter! This year marks the 40th anniversary of archaeology at Cornell. We have come a long way since November 1967 when Archaeology became a concentration at Cornell. We are one of the few universities in America that offer an undergraduate major in Archaeology (since 1975) as well as an MA in Archaeology (since 1987). We keep expanding our faculty plus offering more diverse courses and field opportunities for students. This is an exciting time for archaeology at Cornell and we would like to share our progress with you via our new newsletter and our revised web site. We plan to publish our newsletter every semester and we want you to be part of the process. Please let us know what you would like to see in future newsletters. Are you interested in updates on our alumni? Do you have any suggestions for our web site? Please send your comments and suggestions to our newsletter editor, Dr. Jeffrey Zorn, Near Eastern Studies jrz3@cornell.edu or to me at sbb8@cornell.edu.

Have a great fall and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sherene Baugher

The Anthropology Collections include about 20,000 objects, ranging from the Lower Paleolithic to near the present. About half of the collections is archaeological; the remainder is ethnographic material. Ethnographic highlights include Ndembu masks from the African work of Victor and Edie Turner, made famous by his publications on ritual, structure and symbols; and Yir Yorront material collected by Lauriston Sharp, including a stone ax representing his well-known article "Steel Axes for Stone-Age Australians." Archaeological highlights include a collection of Mississippian pottery; ceramics and textiles from the pre-Columbian Andes; and materials collected by Geology Professor C. Fred Hartt in what was probably the first archaeological work done in the Amazon, in 1870.

In 2006, after considerable research and searching, I located in the Collections a small group of local stone tools that are almost certainly the pieces famously collected in Ithaca by Frank Hamilton Cushing during his first visit to Cornell in the summer of 1874, miscataloged years ago as part of Hartt's Brazilian collections -- probably when they surfaced in a previously neglected box of Hartt's things. An article on Cushing's early life and Cornell connections has just been published in volume 3 of *Histories of Anthropology Annual*.



A class working with Inuit artifacts in the Anthropology Collections

NOTES FROM THE COLLECTIONS: The Anthropology Collections

Frederic W. Gleach, Curator

In January 2005 I was appointed Curator of the Anthropology Collections. At that time much of our collections was in storage; an interim committee had overseen a program of renovation, and I have continued and developed from their work. We now have greatly improved exhibit facilities, and opportunities to continue working with students on various kinds of research projects relating to material culture.

In the main anthropology exhibit cases, in the departmental seminar room, we have mounted an exhibit called "Anthropology at Cornell: The First Century, 1870-1970." I hope to also develop this as a website -- time permitting! In the Collections space itself we have eleven new display cases, including two custom-made for the mummy cases of Penpi the scribe; others feature selected pieces in evolving displays. In the first-floor hallway outside the Collections we have five new cases for exhibitions through photography, currently with a series called "People and Their Stuff," focusing on the relationships of material culture and the people who make and use it, and one case devoted to "The Anthropology Collections and the University Museum," tracing the history of McGraw Hall and the collections that have been housed here. Finally, using wall space within the Collections, is an exhibit of old postcard illustrations showing people making and using objects like those in the Collections, titled "The Social Lives of Things." Recent student projects have included a study of Hopi kachina figurines, based on a collection we have on long-term loan; a study of the Mississippian pottery collection and its history; and the development of a typological collection for our North American projectile points. We have also begun classifying the Old World paleolithic and neolithic tools into a type collection.

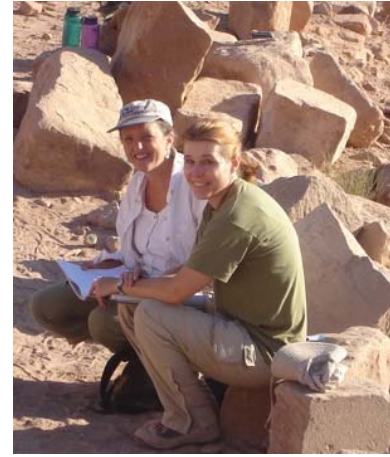
Numerous classes and other groups have visited the Collections over the past year-and-a-half, including History and Art History classes as well as Anthropology and Archaeology ones. We have also lent pieces to exhibits in Kroch Library's Special Collections, and in the Southeast Asia Program, as well as to various faculty for use in their classes. We have had open houses for alumni reunion week and other special events, raising awareness of the Collections to both new and returning audiences. Our space and resources may be limited, but we continue to strive to make the most of them, and hope to keep doing so for many years to come.

FACULTY SUMMER RESEARCH

Each issue will highlight the work of some of our Arkeo faculty.

Sherene Baugher and her Cornell students excavate sites in New York State every fall. Therefore, summer is a time for laboratory work, analysis, and report preparation. This summer three Cornell students and one Ithaca College student worked with Baugher on completing two collection catalogues from two seasons of work on a buried Civil War era hamlet in Robert H. Treman State Park (near Ithaca). This summer Springer (formerly Kluwer/Plenum) published Baugher's co-edited book, *Past Meets Present: Archaeologists Partnering with Museum Curators, Teachers, and Community Groups*. The book was co-edited with John Jameson of the National Park Service.

Kathryn Gleason joined Director Leigh Ann Bedal (Penn State/Erie) and Arkeo grad student Eilis Monahan for a two week season in July on the Pool and Garden Project (formerly known as The Lower Market. They supervised removal of two meters of erosion over the monumental pool in preparation for their planned excavation of the large garden complex in 2008.



Kathryn Gleason (L) confers with Leigh Ann Bedal at Petra

Back at Cornell, Gleason continued work on the Mughal/Rajput gardens of Nagaur, India and their contribution to the large water harvesting system that served this desert fortress/palace. See: <http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Feb07/old.gardens.India.s.html>. Her excavation report on the gardens of "Horace's Villa" has appeared in *The Horace's Villa Project, 1997-2003* edited by B. Frishcer *et al.*

Michelle Goman wrote up research for publication and prepared for her new course "Paleoclimate Since the Last Ice Age"

Kurt Jordan ran a three-week field course excavating the 1688-1715 Seneca White Springs site in Geneva, New York. The excavations were very successful -- preserved Seneca domestic features and copious amounts of artifacts and faunal remains were recovered. The White Springs excavations were advised by Peter Jemison of the Seneca Nation of Indians. The Cornell Chronicle did a brief story on the White Springs dig, which can be found at the following link: <http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/June07/fieldArch.da.html> In August, Kurt submitted the final version his book *The Seneca Restoration, 1715-1754: An Iroquois Local Political Economy*. The book is scheduled to be published in 2008.

Kenneth Kennedy published the following articles. "Blunt and sharp force traumatic markers in Early Historic crania from Mantai, Sri Lanka". *Paleopathology Newsletter* 138 (2007): 18-23.

"The Narmada fossil hominid". In: *Human Origins, Genome, and People of India: Genomic, Palaeontological and Archaeological Perspectives*. A.K. Sankhyan and V.R. Rao, eds. Pp. 188-192. Calcutta: Anthropological Survey of India, Allied Private Publishers Private Ltd.

"Recent and future trends in palaeoanthropology". In: *Professor Irawati Karve Birth Centenary*. S.R. Walimbe, P.P. Joglekar and K.K. Basu, eds. Pp. 187-192. Pune: Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute.

Sturt Manning, This joint Cornell - University of Cyprus - University of Toronto project, Elaborating Early Neolithic Cyprus (EENC), held its second season of excavation and third of survey focused on exploring traces of very early Neolithic occupation and use in central Cyprus. We believe we are tracing a phase of human activity on the island which has not previously been recognized. Cornell members included Jess Herlich, Rachel Kulick, Eilis Monahan, and Sturt Manning. Seven consecutive days of temperatures over 105 degrees Fahrenheit during the season (a record) made for tough work at times. Efforts in 2007 concentrated first on excavation at the site of Ayia Varvara Asprokremnos (AVA), where rich lithic production debris has been recovered in particular, and then on survey of areas of the surrounding landscape - several new sites and chert resource areas were identified. A number of exciting finds were made indicative of use and presence at the AVA site contemporary with the earliest Neolithic of the mainland - we expect that this material will greatly enrich discussions of the origins and spread of agriculture (and the associated social and economic processes) in the 10-9th millennia BC as we analyze it.



Dr. Maria Parani (University of Cyprus); Dr. Sturt Manning (Cornell); Rachel Kulick (Cornell); Father Panayiotis; Eilis Monahan (MA student, Cornell); Seth Button (PhD. student, University of Michigan).

Nerissa Russell returned for another season of zooarchaeological analysis at Neolithic Çatalhöyük, Turkey. Highlights of the excavation season included a low relief wall decoration of a previously unknown style (<http://www.catalhoyuk.com/>). On the faunal front, a blank spot was filled in with the analysis of the first Level IV

midden deposits excavated, and recorded an intriguing set of cattle scapulae placed as a foundation deposit below a house that contained more scapulae placed on the floor at abandonment.

Jeffrey Zorn spent two weeks at Tel Dor, Israel working on the write up of his excavations in Area G, which are very significant for the information they provide on the Iron I period in coastal Israel. He also finished a chapter for the *Oxford Handbook of the Levant* on the Neo-Babylonian period.

STUDENT PROFILES

Each issue will highlight some of the activities of Cornell graduate and undergraduate archaeology students.

Undergrad **Rachel Kulick**: From June 11th to July 15th I was in Cyprus with Prof. Sturt Manning, with whom I had taken a dendrochronology course in Spring 2007. During June, I accompanied the Cornell Dendrochronology team in collecting many juniper, pine, and cedar wood samples from trees in the forests of Stavros tis Psokas and Troodos. I visited several Medieval churches in the Troodos region, from which we were able to drill samples from old wood beams. I also attended the annual conference held by the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute in Nicosia and met many of the projects' directors and other students.

While in Cyprus during July, I worked on the Elaborating Early Neolithic Cyprus Project, which is co-directed by Prof. Manning, Dr. Carole McCartney of the University of Cyprus, and Dr. Sally Stewart of the University of Toronto. I assisted in excavating the Neolithic site of Ayia Varvara Asprokremnos and did some surveying around the area.



Rachel in front of Les Trois Freres, France

From July 16th to July 29th I worked on the Between the Caves Project in France, directed by Dr. Sebastien Lacombe who was assisted by his wife, Dr. Kathleen Sterling (Cornell), and Dr. Margaret Conkey of U.C. Berkeley. We excavated part of the open air, late Paleolithic (probably Magdalenian) site called Peyre Blanche. We retrieved many lithic artifacts from the site, and I learned a lot about particular lithic technologies by

studying the lithics and by trying my own hand at flint-knapping. On several evenings, we visited various prehistoric sites and caves in the region. We also held an informational session at our home base in Peyre for locals to learn more about the rich prehistory of their area.

In addition to working on prehistoric archaeology projects for the first time this summer, I gained invaluable experience that will greatly help me in pursuing my current research project through the Hunter R. Rawlings Presidential Research Scholars Program. In the RCPRS program, I am working, under the guidance of Prof. Sturt Manning, on a dendrochronological/archaeological study of the Medieval churches in Cyprus; the intent is to use the tree samples to continue to fill in the chronological gap between the Roman and Medieval periods and to assist in ascertaining the construction and renovation dates of the Medieval churches. As we were only able to obtain samples from a few churches this past season, more sampling will be on next summer's schedule!

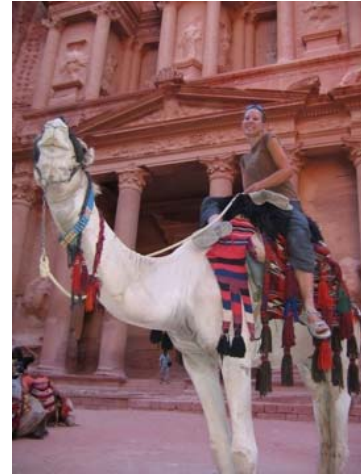
Two years ago, I would never have imagined all the opportunities that I have enjoyed so far as an archaeology major; this past summer was no exception!

Grad Eilis Monahan: This summer, thanks to Hirsch Travel Funding, and the connections I've made through the Cornell Archaeology Program I had the fantastic opportunity to take part in three different archaeological projects in the Mediterranean and Near East.

I first spent 4 weeks in Cyprus working on the excavation portion of the Elaborating Early Neolithic Cyprus project, co-directed by Prof. Sturt Manning, from Cornell, and researchers from the Universities of Toronto and Cyprus. We were working on the second season of excavation as Ayia Varvara-Asprokremnos, a unique Pre-Pottery Neolithic A site, and I also assisted with collecting wood samples from Byzantine churches in the Troodos Mountains as part of Cornell's continuing Aegean and Near Eastern dendrochronology work.

I then spent a week in Jordan working in Petra, newly and rightly named the second Wonder of the World, on the Garden and Pool Complex adjacent to the Great Temple. The project is directed by Dr. Leigh-Ann Bedal of Penn State, to whom I was introduced by Professor Kathryn Gleason, from Cornell. Petra was the most beautiful place I have ever been, and as well as working on amazing archaeology, I got to stay in the Bedouin Village with our workers, which was a truly exceptional experience.

After we finished in Petra, I returned to Cyprus for two weeks on the Survey phase of the EENC project, where we worked to locate new Neolithic sites and resource collection areas. I also got to stay in the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute for a week at the end of the summer doing some preliminary research in their library for my master's thesis.



Eilis and Daisey outside of the "Treasury" at Petra

FROM THE EDITOR

Do you have any information you would like to share with Cornell's Arkeo community in this Newsletter? Would like to discontinue receiving the Newsletter? Would you like to receive it as a PDF in your email? Send all such material and requests to the editor:

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Also be sure to check out the Program's new web site at:

<http://www.archaeology.cornell.edu/>