



# The Artifact

Newsletter of the Milwaukee Society, Archaeological Institute of America

Volume 6, Issue 1 September 2000

## What Mother Never Told Me About Dating: the Aegean Dendrochronology Project

Dendrochronology, or tree-ring dating, is an archaeometric technique. Master chronologies for areas have been developed and are used to precisely date wooden structures. This lecture tells the fascinating story of 27 years of dendrochronological collection, measurement, and analysis in the eastern Mediterranean. Dr. Kuniholm, the Martha Sharp Joukowsky Lecturer, will discuss his research that has built approximately 6,500 years' worth of tree ring chronologies, some of which extend as far back as the early 7th millennium B.C., at the first AIA lecture of the season on September 19 at 8 p.m. Over 180 medieval buildings and sites, and over 100 ancient buildings and sites have been dated by this method as of April 2000.

The Project team is involved in building a single master tree-ring chronology for the Aegean and Near East. It is anticipated that the chronology will extend from the present to the seventh millennium B.C.. They intend to "provide a dating method for the study of history and prehistory in the Aegean that is accurate to the year."

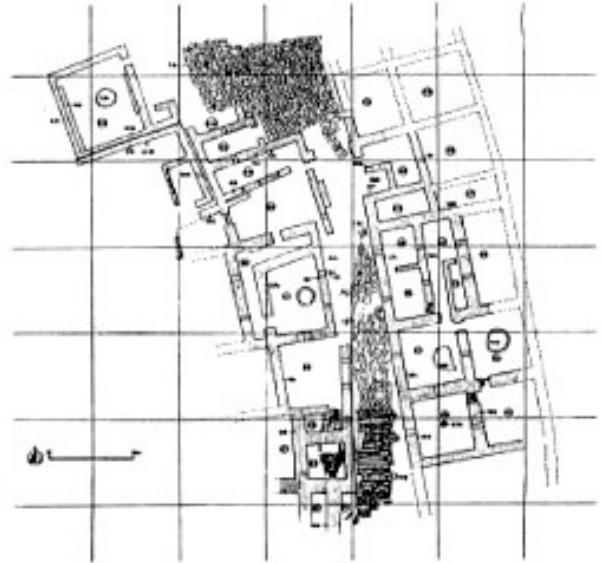
Peter Kuniholm received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. His areas of specialization include Classical archaeology, Aegean dendrochronology and medieval architecture. He has conducted fieldwork at the sites of Gordion and Alambra, and is currently the Principal Investigator of the Aegean Dendrochronology Project.

An introduction to the project and results from a decade of field work can be found on this website: [www.arts.cornell.edu/dendro/](http://www.arts.cornell.edu/dendro/)

The lecture will be presented in Room 195 of Mitchell Hall, located on the corner of Downer Avenue and Kenwood Blvd. on the UWM campus. It is free and open to the public, and will be followed by an informal reception with refreshments.

### News? Announcements?

If you have any news or announcements for the newsletter, please contact Jocelyn Boor at:  
email: [joceboor@uwm.edu](mailto:joceboor@uwm.edu)  
phone: (414) 962-4625



*Plan of the Eski Saray (Old Palace) at Kultepe, Turkey. Note the timber road at the lower center. Plan courtesy of Prof. Tashin Ozguc and the Aegean Dendrochronology Project.*

### Field Trip to Chicago

Join us for an exciting day in Chicago on November 11<sup>th</sup>! We will visit two museums: The Oriental Institute and the Field. "The Royal Tombs of Ur," a traveling exhibit, and the new Egyptian Gallery will highlight our stop at the Oriental Institute. At the Field Museum, you can choose to visit the Egyptian tomb exhibit or visit Sue, the new dinosaur in residence. The itinerary:

8 a.m. Bus departs from the circle drive at the UWM Union (Kenwood side)

10 a.m. Oriental Institute

12 p.m. Depart for the Field Museum  
Lunch on your own

3 p.m. Depart for Milwaukee from the Field Museum  
5 p.m. Arrive Milwaukee

The cost is \$15.00 per person for members of the Milwaukee Society, and \$18.00 for non-members; fees cover transportation costs. Admission to the Oriental Institute is free. The Field Museum charges \$8.00 for adults, and \$4.00 for senior citizens and students with ID. A group rate, is in the works. Please make checks payable to the Milwaukee Society, AIA, and send with your name and the number of attendees to:

Dr. Alice Kehoe  
3014 N. Shepard Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53211

## A Message from the President

Welcome back after what I hope was a good summer for all members, old and new! I just returned from two months of fieldwork in Germany, and am looking forward to seeing all of you at our first meeting in September to catch up on all the archaeological news from the summer. The AIA-Milwaukee 2000-2001 season is looking good. Here is the schedule of lectures as it currently stands: Talks for the Fall range from Aegean dendrochronology (September 19), through Roman Portugal (October 31), and Egypt during the reign of Ramses the II (December 3), in the tradition of offering Milwaukee members a wide selection of time periods and geographic areas. In the Spring we will be hearing about research in the tropical Cloud Forests of Ecuador (February 4), Hawaii (TBA), the changing position of women in prehispanic Maya states (April 1), and a special treat, some local archaeology: Dave Overstreet, now of Marquette University, will be presenting his Paleoindian discoveries in Kenosha (TBA). A fieldtrip to the Oriental Institute in Chicago to visit the Ur exhibit is currently in the works for sometime in November; day and time will be announced at our first meeting, or check out our Website for details as they become available:

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

Three of the seven lectures for the coming year are funded by the national office of the AIA, including our first two speakers, Dr. Peter Kuniholm of Cornell University (Joukowsky Lecturer) who will be presenting his dendrochronology research project in the Aegean, and Dr. Stephanie Maloney of the University of Louisville (Portugal Fund Lecturer), who will present her fieldwork at the Roman Villa of Torre de Palma in Portugal. The third national speaker is Dr. Rosemary Joyce of UC-Berkeley (Borowski Lecturer), who will be speaking in April about her extensive research in the Maya region. Our other lecturers are funded and chosen by our local society. Both nationally and locally sponsored lectures are made possible by our high level of membership, which exceeded 100 members last year for the first time. Thanks are due to all those new and returning members who made this milestone possible! A large part of the national dues goes to support the national lecture program, and a portion of dues from Milwaukee members is rebated to our society every year for additional

lectures and to cover expenses. We receive rebates only for paid-up Milwaukee Society memberships, not for subscriptions to Archaeology magazine alone. It is critical to our program for all members to keep their memberships up-to-date and to renew memberships in a timely fashion. You will receive a reminder from the national office when it is time to renew. Please take the time to return it with your dues. Also, remember that you can renew your membership for two years at a time, locking in your current dues rate. Help us while helping yourself as well!

This year's officers, elected at the Spring 1999 meeting, are in the second year of their two year terms. They are: President, Bettina Arnold, Associate Professor of Anthropology at UWM; Vice-President, Jane Peterson, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Marquette University; and Secretary/Treasurer, Alice Kehoe, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Marquette University. Jocelyn Boor, a graduate student in Anthropology at UWM, will be continuing as the editor of *The Artifact*, the local members' newsletter, with the assistance of Chris Hamlin, a fellow graduate student. The web site will be maintained by UWM Letters and Science Webmaster Thomas H. Hruby and Seth Schneider, a graduate student in Anthropology at UWM. Mary Kohli, also in UWM's Anthropology program, will continue as Refreshments Coordinator.

I would like to close by encouraging all of you to take an active part in the Milwaukee Society, through attendance at lectures, contributing refreshments to receptions, or attending the national annual meeting, which is in San Diego, California this year. This is one investment of time that pays real dividends in entertainment and learning, and how can you beat that?

Please feel free to contact any of the officers with comments, suggestions or problems. Messages sent to [barnold@csd.uwm.edu](mailto:barnold@csd.uwm.edu) will be forwarded to the appropriate officer. See you at this year's lectures!

Bettina Arnold, President

## From the Field

Several AIA-Milwaukee members spent the summer at various excavations. Initial reports include:

### 'A LANDSCAPE OF ANCESTORS': EXCAVATIONS AT TUMULUS 17, SUMMER 2000

UWM Associate Professor of Anthropology Bettina Arnold and Dr. Matthew Murray, Senior Archaeologist with the Section 106 Group in Minnesota, directed an eight week field season at an Early Iron Age burial mound in Germany this summer. Crew members included students from UWM, the University of Chicago, and the University of New Mexico. This work marks a return to Tumulus 17, continuing excavations begun there in 1999, and is part of a long-term regional study that includes the analysis of ancient DNA from skeletal populations in the region around the Heuneburg in southwest Germany. Relatively few large burial mounds of this period have been systematically excavated and the project had the following goals: 1) to gain a better understanding of the techniques of mound construction, and 2) to explore early Iron Age mortuary ritual from the perspective of social organization and relationship analysis.

During the 1999 field season, the Iron Age date of the mound was confirmed through the recovery of distinctively Hallstatt funerary ceramics decorated with burnished red slip, graphite, and incised decorations, as well as by the presence of iron. Radiocarbon dates from the charcoal deposits in the mound dated the earliest use of the monument to around 580 BC. A more precise reconstruction of the life history of Tumulus 17 is now possible, based upon material recovered this summer. Distinctive fibulae (clothing fasteners similar to safety pins) from the mound indicate that it was utilized in the Hallstatt D phase of the Iron Age (580-450 BC). These finds suggest a longer period of use than had previously been thought.

Five burials were uncovered this field season. Grave 1 was likely male based upon the presence of typically 'male' artifacts such as an iron *Hiebmesser* (slashing knife) and two iron spears. Also included in the grave were a bronze cauldron and a possible piece of defensive armor. Grave 2 was represented by an isolated artifact -- an iron spear point -- found without any other artifacts. Grave 3 was likely male, with an iron dagger in an iron and bronze decorated sheath, two iron spears, one bronze arm-ring, four fibulae, and a small ceramic vessel. The central mound enclosure included the cremated remains of at least one individual as well as the remains of an inhumation burial, designated Grave 4. The latter was likely female based upon the presence of two bronze bracelets, a leather bronze-studded belt with a bronze buckle, bronze earrings, a bronze and iron fibula and a bronze globe-headed pin.

Analysis of artifacts from the 1999 and 2000 field seasons will continue through 2001.

--Bettina Arnold and Chris Hamlin



*Bronze cauldron recovered at Tumulus 17*

### ROMAN AQABA PROJECT, JORDAN

This summer I participated in the Roman Aqaba Project, an archaeological excavation of the ancient city of Aila in modern Aqaba, Jordan, located at the tip of the Red Sea. The project is directed by Dr. S. Thomas Parker of North Carolina State University. He has been conducting research at this site since 1994 and plans a final year of excavation in 2002.

A primary goal of the Roman Aqaba Project is to learn about the development of the city's economy during its continuous occupation from the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C. to the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D. During this time period, this port city was an important point for sea trade to the east and also for land trade. The excavation is uncovering information about Nabataean, Roman, Byzantine, and early Islamic settlement at the site, although the primary focus is on the Roman Period.

A small, peripheral part of the Roman Aqaba Project this year consisted of excavating along the city wall of the early Islamic site of Ayla, located next to the ancient site of Aila in Aqaba. This early Islamic city was built c. 650 A.D. Excavations at the Islamic city were carried out between 1986-1995 by Dr. Donald Whitcomb of the University of Chicago. I spent the majority of my time on the dig this summer working on this part of the project.

--Diane Grubisha

### A SLIPPERY SLOPE IN CRETE

This wanna-be archaeologist finally got her first dig on Crete; her first dig, period, at the age of "almost 70." An archaeological practicum for Halasmenos, Crete, was announced by Brock University of Ontario, Canada, in March. I was delighted to be accepted by Professor David Rupp of the Classics Department. I arrived at the town of Pachiammos in eastern Crete on Tuesday, May

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9th. The rough ride to the site was an omen. The others in the group had started on that Sunday. They all looked hot, dirty, and tired.

This was a Late Minoan IIIC settlement on a foothill of the Siteia Mountains. We looked down on the beautiful Bay of Mirabello to the north. This site was first investigated in 1992 by Dr. Metaxia Tsipopoulou, our director, and Dr. William Coulson. Halasmenos was occupied for a brief time in the mid-12th century B.C.

We worked on this rocky, very slippery hill six days a week, from early AM to early PM. Then, after a one-hour break, we climbed another hill to the INSTAP Study Center. There we washed the sherds and other finds of the day, and worked on our trench books. We did find fragments of the hoped-for terracotta goddesses, which confirmed the existence of a shrine. We also found megara (pillared halls), which indicates that the settlement was more substantial than originally thought.

The Study Center is an archaeologist's dream. Modern facilities, a conservation lab, a large working area for several projects, a library, and a good storage space are some of its assets. In fact, despite my aching back, blistered knees, and bruised ego, I have already requested the opportunity to work there next spring. No, I don't want to work at the Halasmenos site, just the study center! If anyone is interested in more details, or seeing photos and slides, please contact me through the Milwaukee Society.

--Mary Kohli

#### **TRIMBORN FARM ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT: REACHING OUT TO THE PUBLIC**

Trimborn Farm, located in Greendale, Wisconsin, has been the setting of an outreach program for the past three years. The program is run by GERALYN FLICK in affiliation with the Southeastern Wisconsin Archaeology Program at UWM. The outreach program is designed to provide pre-college students an opportunity to learn about archaeology through hands-on experience. The children work closely with archaeology graduate students for one week, and learn the techniques and methods used to properly excavate a site. Furthermore, they learn the importance of preserving information that allows archaeologists to gain knowledge about the past.

This season, the students worked on excavating the remains of a building located on the southern edge of the farm. Portions of the exterior and interior stone foundation walls were uncovered, suggesting the structure was 19m x 10 m in size. Two methods of manufacture were used to build the foundation. The exterior walls were built out of large fieldstones with minimal amounts of mortar. The interior walls were made of medium-sized flat rocks and fieldstones carefully placed to insure stability. The rocks were held in place by mortar used in between the stones and on the overall surface of the foundation wall. This distinct

difference in building methods is intriguing. Another interesting aspect of the structure is evidence of a destructive fire at some point in time. A charcoal lense, soil discoloration and blackened nails indicate the structure had burned down, but the date or the cause of the fire remain to be determined. Artifacts recovered from this summer's excavation include nails, window glass, animal bones, slag, clinker, coal, charcoal, and metal fragments.

--Chrisie L. Hunter

More field reports will be in the next issue!

### **Upcoming Lectures**

#### ***UWM "Academic Adventurers"***

Friday, September 15, 2000, 3 p.m.

"Images on the Landscape: Exploring Rock art in Central America" -- Dr. Andrea Stone  
3rd Floor, East Wing, Golda Meir Library

Friday, October 20, 2000, 3 p.m.

"Down and Dirty: Archaeological Excavations at Ashkelon, Israel" -- Dr. Jane Waldbaum  
3rd Floor, East Wing, Golda Meir Library

#### ***Anthropology Colloquium***

Friday, September 29, 2000, 4 p.m.

Title TBA --C. Schroeder, UW-Madison  
Bolton Hall, B84. Anthropology Colloquium

Friday, November 3, 2000, 4 p.m.

Title TBA -- Shannon Fee  
Bolton Hall, B84. Anthropology Colloquium

#### ***Wisconsin Archaeological Society***

Monday, September 18, 2000, 8 p.m.

"Fort Bluemound: A Blackhawk War Fortification in Wisconsin" -- Bob Birmingham, Wisconsin State Archaeologist  
UWM Union E280

All of the above lectures are free and open to the public.

## Preview of Future AIA-Milwaukee Lectures

### Everything's Coming Up Ramses

Ramses (or Ramesses) II, usually called the Great, is the most prominent of nearly a dozen pharaohs bearing that name. Far beyond that, however, his is the name heard most often by travelers to Egypt, since monuments attributed to him are found along the entire length of the Nile Valley. Ramses the Great reigned for two thirds of the 13th century B.C.E. He is often cited as a possible pharaoh of the Biblical Exodus, but there is considerable controversy on this point. We do know that he fought a major battle against the Hittite Empire at Qadesh, in Syria, but his own numerous accounts of this episode are also controversial. Though his tomb is in ruins, his primary queen, Nefertari, was laid to rest in the most beautiful tomb ever discovered in the Valley of the Queens. Many of his numerous sons were apparently buried in KV5, the unique tomb still being excavated in the Valley of the Kings. Carter will examine the reign of Ramses from all these perspectives and attempt to sum up what is known and what is merely attributed to this most famous pharaoh.

Carter Lupton received his degrees in anthropology and archaeology from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. He has worked on excavations at Cahokia in Illinois, at Tell Hadidi in Syria and since 1980 has had a long-term association with the American expedition to Hierakonpolis (Nekhen) in Egypt. He is the Curator of Ancient History at the Milwaukee Public Museum, and curated the “Temples, Tells and Tombs” exhibit at the museum. His areas of specialization include mummy studies, and he travels to Egypt at least once a year, frequently leading tours on behalf of the Milwaukee Public Museum as well as the Smithsonian Associates.



*The Great Temple at  
Abu Simbel of Ramses II*

### The Roman Villa of Torre de Palma

The Portuguese site of Torre de Palma has a rich history of occupation, with artifacts dating from the Megalithic to Modern periods. Dr. Stephanie Maloney will present the results of her extensive research on the Roman period occupation on Tuesday, October 31st at 8 p.m.

A Roman *villa rustica* (rural villa) was occupied at Torre de Palma between the second and sixth centuries A.D.

The villa was the largest in Portugal and one of the largest in Iberia, with a site perimeter that enclosed almost 12 hectares. The villa complex incorporated at least three attached houses, several separate houses, two large bath complexes (each of which contained hot, warm, and cold baths), and an olive press. Also present were extensive storage and work-related buildings, an early Christian church with attached total immersion baptistry, and two cemeteries. This lecture will detail the development of the villa complex over time, discussing the stylistic characteristics of the various builders and the role their identification has played in the study of the villa.

Dr. Stephanie Maloney is a Professor at the University of Louisville, and is Director of the Torre de Palma Project in Portugal. Her areas of specialization include late Roman and early Medieval art and architecture, as well as late Roman and early Medieval Iberia. For more information on the project, you can visit the website: [athena.louisville.edu/~aoclar01/torredp/Torre\\_dp.htm](http://athena.louisville.edu/~aoclar01/torredp/Torre_dp.htm)



*The Southern Bridge at Torre de Palma*

## AIA Annual Meeting 2001

The 102nd annual meeting will be convened in San Diego from January 3 - 6, 2001. A variety of lectures, colloquia, and workshops are being scheduled, and will be posted on the AIA website by the end of September. All members of AIA in good standing will receive an invitation and registration information at that time. Check the AIA website at: [www.archaeological.org](http://www.archaeological.org).

## Refreshment Help Requested

Lectures will continue to close with an informal reception -- an opportunity to meet the speaker and ask more questions! Mary Kolhi continues as our Refreshments Coordinator, and would like your help in providing treats at one or more meetings. Please contact her at:  
email: [marcrete@elknet.net](mailto:marcrete@elknet.net)  
phone: (262) 723-5569 or (262) 723-8899

## AIA-Milwaukee Society 2000-2001 Lecture Schedule

### FALL SEMESTER 2000

September 19: *What Mother Never Told Me About  
Dating: The Aegean Dendrochronology Project*

Dr. Peter Kuniholm

Cornell University

Martha Sharp Juokowsky Lecturer

Tuesday, 8 p.m.

October 31: *The Roman Villa of Torre de Palma,  
Portugal*

Dr. Stephanie Maloney

University of Louisville

The Archaeology of Portugal Lecturer

Tuesday, 8 p.m.

December 3: *Everything's Coming Up Rameses*

Carter Lupton

Milwaukee Public Museum

Sunday, 3 p.m.

### SPRING SEMESTER 2001

February 4: *Tropical Cloud Forest: Archaeology in  
Ecuador*

Ron Lippi

UW-Marathon County

Sunday, 3 p.m.

March: date to be announced; on Hawaii

Michael Kolb

April 1: *Changing Woman: The Position of Women in  
Prehispanic Maya States*

Rosemary Joyce,

University of California, Berkeley

May: date to be announced; Wisconsin Paleoindians

David Overstreet

Marquette University

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**Details inside: Field Trip to the Oriental Institute and the Field Museum on November 11!**