

Kelsey Team Explores Kedesh in Upper Galilee

In May 1997 the Kelsey began excavations at Tel Kedesh in the Upper Galilee of Israel. I am codirecting the expedition along with Andrea Berlin, a graduate of the University of Michigan Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology and currently an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota. This project marks a renewal of Kelsey-sponsored explorations of the Graeco-Roman Galilee, which began with Leroy Waterman's work at Sepphoris (1931) and continued with my own excavations at Tel Anafa (1978–86).

Kedesh is the largest tel site in Upper Galilee, occupying 20–25 acres. It is located on the land of Kibbutz Malkia some 450 m above sea level in the Anti-Lebanon mountain range. Situated in one of the richest agricultural zones of modern Israel, the area of Kedesh and the Upper Galilee has been home since antiquity to a tapestry of different cultural and ethnic groups from the Israelite tribe of Naphthali to Phoenicians from the nearby city of Tyre. In more recent times it was the site of a Palestinian farming village until 1948. Today it lies among the thriving apple orchards of Kibbutz Malkia and provides pasturage for the kibbutz's herd of cattle. Many successive layers of occupation can be seen in a road cut through the north end of the tel, and a Roman temple, preserved to architrave height, stands on a low hill to the east of the mound.

The ancient site is mentioned a number of times in the Bible, most importantly as one of the "cities of refuge" for those guilty of unintentional

homicide (Josh. 20: 1–3). It also appears in several of the histories from the period of Graeco-Roman occupation (3rd century BCE–3rd century CE). We learn from Zenon, a 3rd-century BCE



University of Michigan undergraduate Mandy Leins is positioning the electronic range pole near the remains of the Roman temple at Kedesh.

traveling merchant from Egypt, whose account of his travels is preserved on scraps of papyri in the Michigan library, that Kedesh was a flourishing farming village in his time, providing him with food supplies and the luxury of a bath (P. Zen. 59004). From the book of Maccabees we hear that a battle

between Jonathan and the Seleucid king Demetrius took place here in 145 BCE and that the site was abandoned after the Jewish victory (1 Macc. 11.63, 73). According to the historian Josephus, Kedesh was again a Tyrian outpost and stronghold in the first centuries BCE and CE (War II.459; Ant. XIII.154); and it served as an encampment for the Roman general Titus at the beginning of the First Jewish Revolt (War IV.104).

The Kelsey team is focusing our efforts on the Hellenistic and Roman-period remains of Tel Kedesh proper. Our immediate goals are to clarify the date and character of the site's Hellenistic and Roman occupation. In particular, we hope to identify the site's population(s) and to explore their ties and interactions with the Phoenicians, Jews, Greeks, and Romans living throughout this area. The identification of Kedesh as a Phoenician outpost in the later Hellenistic and early Roman periods naturally suggests the identity of at least some of the site's residents. The early Hellenistic occupants, however, remain unidentified, as does the site's precise character at that time. Since Kedesh and its people probably passed in and out of Tyrian control from the Persian period onward, and were at least briefly under the rule of the Hasmoneans and later perhaps Herod the Great, we are especially interested in the social and economic

effects of such changes in political control.

Tel Kedesh and its environs are rich in remains from the Early Bronze Age through to modern times and have clear potential to elucidate the questions outlined above as well as many other issues. A site of this size and importance demands

Notes from the Director

This past year the Kelsey staff and Associates have been busy and productive on many fronts, bringing previously planned projects to fruition and working on upcoming projects. As a new director I have spent much of my time "getting educated" about the myriad activities going on behind the Museum's deceptively calm facade. In this first newsletter I will touch on a few of the year's highlights from the Museum's exhibits and fieldwork programs.

Our exhibits program got off to a spectacular start this September with the opening of the Sepphoris show, curated by Elaine Gazda and Elise Friedland. This loan exhibition, organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art, centered on recent excavations at this important Roman-era site in northern Israel by teams from North Carolina, Florida, and Israel. Gazda and Friedland designed a special display on the Kelsey's 1931 expedition to Sepphoris and produced a booklet of essays on that expedition, *The Scientific Test of the Spade*. The exhibit, jointly displayed at the Kelsey and the Museum of Art and sponsored by numerous generous benefactors, brought in a record number of visitors this fall. It was accompanied by several special programs, the most dramatic of which was Joyce Klein's *Zippori Live!*, a reenactment of daily life in ancient Sepphoris (see photo on p. 4).

In February the redesigned Egypt and the Ancient Near East Gallery was opened to the public with a lecture entitled "Worlds without End: The Quick and the Dead in Ancient Egypt" by Professor Lorelei H. Corcoran of the University of Memphis. The new installation, curated by Janet Richards, puts on view objects never before displayed and features a reconstruction of a Karanis household courtyard of the 1st–3rd centuries CE (see article on pp. 6–7). Complementing the Near Eastern Gallery is Lauren Talalay's reinstallation of our collection of David Roberts's lithographs of Egypt. In addition, Thelma Thomas has put some of our most beautifully inscribed early Islamic textiles in the turret gallery and is opening a larger textile show, *Reconstructing Personal Style in Late Antiquity*, on April 17 (see p. 5). Terry Wilfong is planning an exhibit of the musical instruments from Karanis for next winter, and Lauren Talalay and I are putting together a photographic survey of the Museum's many fieldwork projects undertaken since Sepphoris.

The Kelsey helped sponsor fieldwork on three continents this year, with excavations at Paestum in Italy and Kedesh in Israel and a study season at Leptiminus in Tunisia. Last summer's work at Paestum was planned as a final season, but the extraordinary finds—including the foundations of a monumental 6th-century BCE building, votive objects, silver coins, and potsherds inscribed in the Achaean alphabet—will send the jointly sponsored Michigan-Bowdoin team back into the field again this summer to explore further this tantalizing site. During its summer study season the Leptiminus Archaeological Project analyzed artifacts collected during five seasons of excavation and field survey, including more than 90,000 pieces of diagnostic pottery. Finally, our work at Kedesh (about which I have more to say on pp. 1–3) is preliminary and exploratory but shows promise of many productive seasons in the future.

Back at home the Kelsey basement was the site of major demolition and remodeling to convert it into a laboratory for the study and publication of the Museum's fieldwork and excavated objects. The laboratory is to be named after Henry and Helga Hosmer, who plan a bequest in support of fieldwork undertaken by Kelsey affiliates and the Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology (IPCAA). Construction is complete and, thanks to generous support from the College of LS&A, we are now installing extensive computer equipment, which will make this a state of the art facility for the publication of archaeological materials. The laboratory will be featured in the behind-the-scenes tour of the Kelsey at the Spring Associates' Event on May 1.

These, then, are a few of the Museum staff and Associates' accomplishments over the past year. In future newsletters I hope to highlight other activities—the ongoing computerization of the registry and our growing presence on the World Wide Web, our continuing conservation concerns, our outreach and development efforts, and our publications. As to my own education as a museum director, I can only say it, too, will be an ongoing process. After ten years as a curator at the Kelsey I thought I knew the Museum pretty well, but after just ten months in the Director's office I know I can never learn enough.

Sharon Herbert
Director

extensive pre-excavation and exploration and testing to insure, insofar as possible, that major field seasons when they are undertaken will yield maximum information with minimal destruction. To these ends we have begun our work at Kedesh with two short exploratory seasons. The first of these took place in May/June 1997 and the second over spring break this March.

Our 1997 team consisted of seven members—Andrea Berlin and I, as well as five graduate students, three from the University of Michigan (Geoff Compton, Carla Goodnoh, and Chris Munro) and two from the University of Minnesota (Jarrett Lobell and Jacob Dorer).

Surprisingly for a site of its importance, no accurate topographical map had ever been made of Tel Kedesh, and this was one of the major goals of our 1997 season. Using the Kelsey's Sokkia electronic surveying station, we were able, under Geoff Compton's guidance, to establish a grid system and complete a topographical map of the lower tel in a little under two weeks.

Meanwhile other members of the team cleared the six-foot thistles off selected grids and collected all objects visible on the surface of these areas. Based on field analysis of the materials collected and on topographical considerations, we placed a small probe trench

at the western edge of the lower tel and another in the center south. We excavated these probes for nine days, then processed the finds for four days. Both probes revealed stone walls and floors at depths varying from .5 to 1.3 m below modern surface. The pottery associated with the floors dates to the mid-second century BCE. No architecture later than Hellenistic was present in either probe trench. In fact, much of the lower tel appears to have been unoccupied and undisturbed from the Hellenistic period onward. The material from the southern probe was particularly interesting, with intact pots, loom weights, and other domestic artifacts left on the Hellenistic

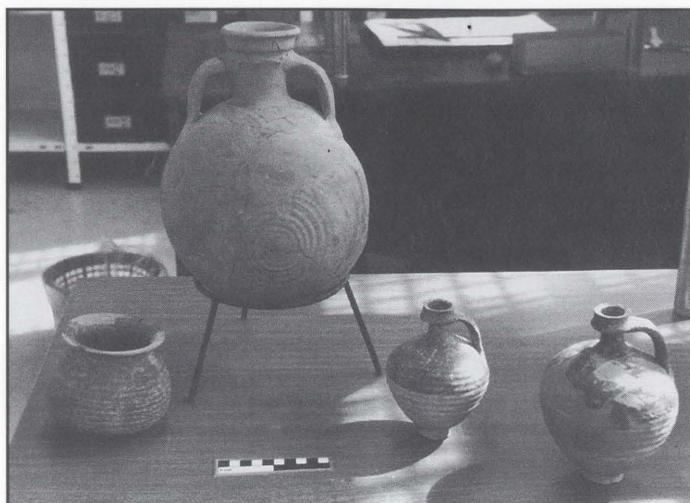


Photo: S. Herbert

An assemblage of Hellenistic pottery from the southern probe trench at Kedesh.

floor. It appears as if this part of the site may have been hastily abandoned around the time of the battle between Jonathan and Demetrias (145 BCE).

One of the great advances of the last twenty years in archaeology has been the development of an array of remote sensing techniques that, in certain circumstances, allow us to "see below the surface" before excavating. Certain techniques work better than others at a given site, depending on the nature of the remains and the geology of the area, and a third goal of our 1997 season was to assess the geological profile of the site in order to determine what kind of remote sensing techniques, if any, would be useful. Midway through the season we brought in geoarchaeologist Arlene Miller Rosen (another Michigan graduate) from Beer Sheva University to act as a consultant on the geology of the tel and its amenability to various remote sensing technologies. In Rosen's judgment, the nature and depth of the deposits make the site an excellent candidate for magnetometry, a technique that works by discriminating between the differing levels of magnetism given off by stone walls and their surrounding soil.

Acting on this assessment, we contacted Dr. Lew Somers of Geoscan Research, one of the foremost practitioners of archaeological remote sensing. After studying our plans and photographs, Somers estimated that he could conduct a magnetometric survey of the lower tel in five to eight days with the help of two students. He was available to work over our spring break in March, and we decided to combine that work with topographic mapping of the upper

tel and surrounding valley.

The LS&A Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) funded three students to take part in the project. Luckily Geoff Compton was on his way back from fieldwork in Egypt at that time, and we were able to divert him to Israel to reestablish the grid plan

and continue the topographic survey. On the first day of spring break David Stone, a recent IPCAA graduate, and I, along with three LS&A archaeology undergraduates—Adam Hyatt, Mandy Leins, and Will Pestle—headed off to Israel to rendezvous with Geoff and Lew. We arrived at the site early on March 3 and had reestablished the grid plan by March 5, when Lew Somers arrived. We then began the magnetometric survey and continued the

topographic mapping, with the undergraduate members of the team rotating between the two jobs. We were able to gather the magnetometric data on seven to nine 20 x 20 m grid squares each day. In the evenings, back at our rooms in the guest house in the nearby Moshav of Ramot Naftali, we started to process the results and produced rough maps. We completed the survey by the morning of March 11 and that afternoon headed off to the Tel Aviv airport to catch a flight back to Ann Arbor in time for

afternoon classes on March 12.

The preliminary results of the magnetometry have revealed the outlines of several large building complexes and what looks like a fairly regular north-south village grid plan. An impressive structure is showing up in the southeast quadrant of the tel, adjacent to the well-preserved remains in our 1997 southern probe.

What is the next step for the Tel Kedesh project? Using the results of the 1997 and 1998 work, we can demonstrate the presence of significant and accessible Hellenistic remains. With the magnetometric plans we can choose our future excavation areas strategically—selecting sectors on the basis of building type and size (public versus private; elite versus poor; industrial versus domestic, etc.) and block out reasonable sectors to study and publish in three-year increments. With this information we will spend the summer working on long-term research design and grant proposals that will fund large-scale excavations at Kedesh starting in the summer of 1999. If we are successful in raising the funds, I hope to be reporting to you the results of excavations at this important site for many years to come.

Sharon Herbert

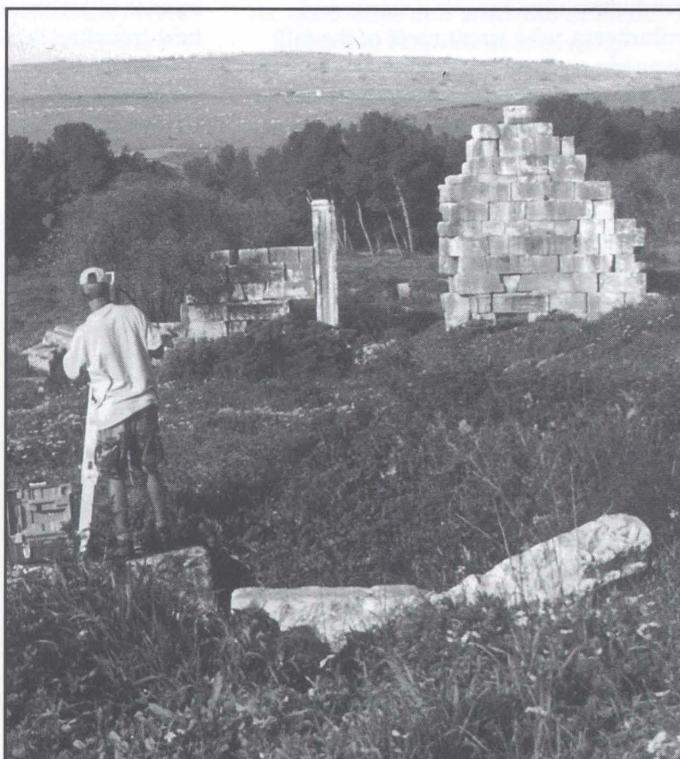


Photo: S. Herbert

IPCAA student Geoff Compton tying the Roman temple into the topographic plan of Tel Kedesh.

In Memoriam: Vivette Bursley



On Monday, March 23, Vivette Bursley, a dedicated friend of the Kelsey, died at her winter home on Sanibel Island, Florida. Born

Vicdan Mumtaz in Istanbul, Turkey, Vivette attended French convent schools and later the Sorbonne, earning a master's degree in political science. She came from a prominent Turkish family. Both of Vivette's grandfathers were high-ranking officials in the Ottoman Empire: one was secretary to Sultan Abdul Hamid, the other governor of Istanbul. Her father was a composer and writer.

Vivette met her husband Gilbert, a former Michigan State senator and former president of Cleary College, while he was a military attaché to the American Consulate in Istanbul. The

couple would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year.

Vivette and Gil had a rich and eventful life together, living in Greece, Palestine, and former French and Belgian colonies in Africa during the 1950s. Their home in Ann Arbor is filled with the remembrances and acquisitions of their travels together.

Vivette taught French at Angell Elementary School in Ann Arbor. Her love of children, travel, and the civilizations of the Mediterranean world led her to the Kelsey Museum, where she and Gil became members of the Associates in 1985 and served on the Board from 1990 to 1995.

In 1988 Vivette joined the original group of Kelsey docents and was instrumental in creating two of our traveling educational suitcases on Greek mythology and on Greek art and archaeology. I recall hours spent with Vivette, poring over slides, maps, and books on Greek art. She created a marvelous game on Greek mythology for the kits. Eager and intelligent to

work with, Vivette was also a gracious hostess and one of the most generous people I have ever known.

My fondest memories of Vivette are her interactions with children, whether on tours, at our Art Fair booth, or at our Top of the Park hieroglyphic workshops. She positively glowed! Children, including my own, never failed to respond to her sweet enthusiasm and her soft, lilting French-accented tones.

In the words of her husband, Gil, Vivette loved young people and was interested in the direction they took. Thus, Gil has established two memorial funds in her name. One is to benefit a young people's playhouse on Sanibel Island, where Vivette was a founding member of the Island Theater Wing. The other is the Vivette Bursley Kelsey Museum Outreach Fund. Friends of Vivette and the Kelsey Museum may contribute to this fund in her name.

Chère Vivette, we will miss you.

Becky Loomis

Outreach News

This past year has been a busy and productive time for our docents and volunteers, who spent most of the fall focusing on Sepphoris-related activities. Nearly 1,400 school children toured *Sepphoris in Galilee: Crosscurrents of Culture* under the expert instruction of Kelsey and Museum of Art docents.

Docents and volunteers from both museums also helped at one of the highlights of the term, a Sepphoris Family Day, generously funded by the University of Michigan Office of the Vice President for University Relations. The Sepphoris Family Day drew a record number of participants: approximately 1,000 children and parents spent the afternoon going on scavenger hunts in the galleries, creating clay lamps, coins, and mosaics, watching demonstrations of textile production, and talking with a soldier from the Roman imperial army.

Other outreach projects targeted for children included *A Child's Walk through Sepphoris* and the production of two traveling educational kits. The child's walk, created and designed by Bobbie Levine, Carolyn Lichter, Prudence Rosenthal, and Elise Weisbach, consisted

of an illustrated self-guided gallery tour that helped children explore Roman-period Sepphoris and learn about the science of archaeology. The wonderful new traveling kits—"Sepphoris of the Galilee: Jews, Romans, and Christians in the Ancient World" and "Multiculturalism in the Holy Land: Sepphoris, City of Peace"—were conceived and designed by Becky Loomis and funded by the Chrysler Corporation Fund. Each kit is stocked with books, artifact reproductions, audiovisual aids, and hands-on materials. Funding from Chrysler also allowed us to produce a special booklet, *Going to Galilee*, a charming compilation of drawings and

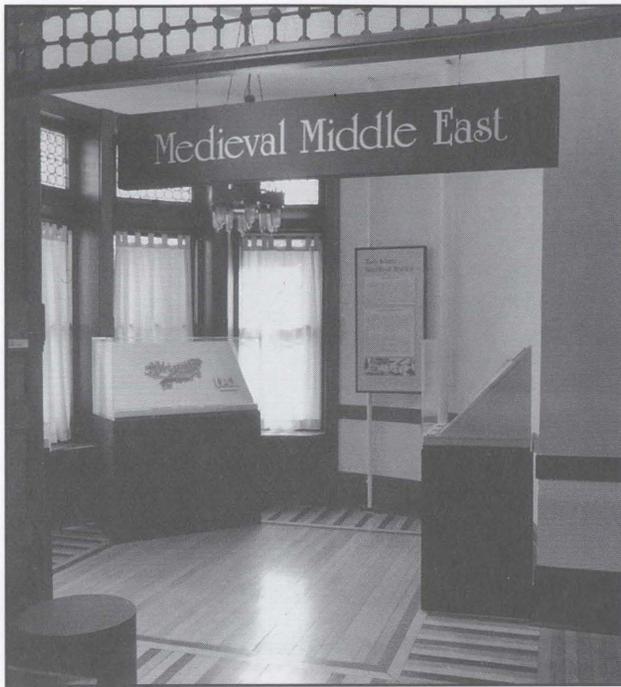
writings by children who visited the exhibition.

Finally, we are extremely grateful to the University for underwriting *Zippori Live!*, a series of living history enact-



Joyce Klein is interviewed for Michigan Radio during a performance of *Zippori Live!*

Two New Exhibitions Highlight Kelsey's Late Antique and Medieval Textiles



The Kelsey turret gallery, newly dedicated to the medieval Middle East, currently features samples of early Islamic inscribed textiles.

ments staged in the galleries during November and December. Written and directed by Joyce Klein, *Zippori Live!* transported visitors back to 3rd-century Sepphoris, where they met and discussed life with a Roman couple, a peddler of dubious character, and Jewish scholars, all played by specially trained University of Michigan students.

Now that the Sepphoris exhibition and all its exciting activities are behind us, we are turning to other projects. The docents have just finished offering a series of presentations to schoolchildren who visit the campus through the King-Chavez-Parks program, which is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and targets underserved school districts in Michigan. In addition, undergraduates Marisa Horowitz and Jason Sprague completed their first presentation on Egypt and archaeology to children at Mott Children's Hospital. It was a great success, and we hope to continue the program in the future.

As always, we are exceptionally grateful to our indefatigable docents and volunteers. Their tireless efforts have made this an inspiring year for all of us.

Lauren Talalay

This spring the Kelsey began to dedicate its turret gallery to displaying objects from its collections on the medieval Middle East. The inaugural exhibition in this charming small space is *Early Islamic Inscribed Textiles*, curated by Thelma K. Thomas. The three cloth fragments currently on view come from the Museum's extraordinary series of Islamic textile documents dating from the 10th to the 13th centuries CE. The Kelsey collection includes examples in a variety of materials, weaves, embroideries, and ornamental schemes, all most frequently used as clothing.

The often exquisitely crafted inscriptions on

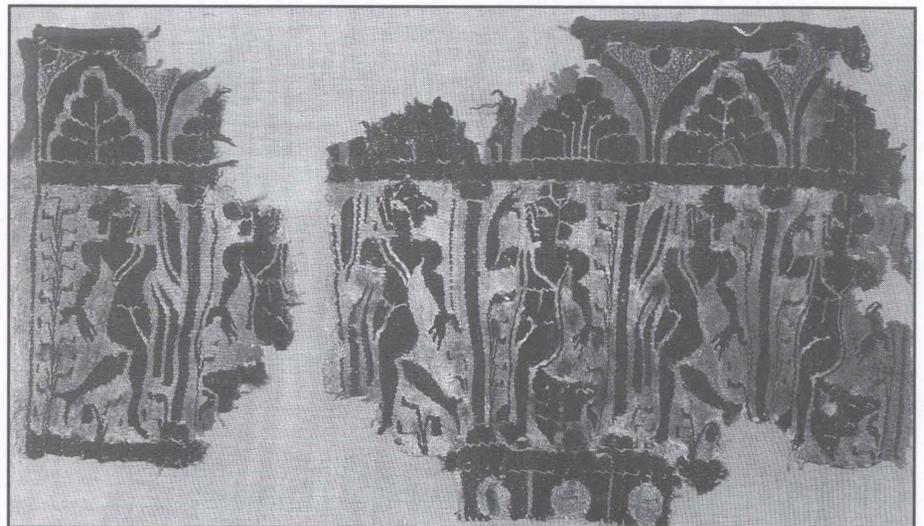
these textiles incorporate a wealth of information. The earliest and most prestigious of them, called *tiraz*, name the official factories in which they were made, the caliph for whom they were made, and the recipient for whom they were intended, as well as offering quotations from the Koran. These extremely important documents of high

status were keenly sought after and widely imitated.

Reconstructing Personal Style in Late Antiquity, also curated by Thelma K. Thomas, opened on April 17. This exhibition presents textiles from the 4th to the 7th centuries CE in order to explore the potential of late antique fashion to express social identity, individual personality, and taste. These artifacts began to enter museums and private collections in the early 20th century and have since influenced not only artists like Matisse but also such designers as Mario Fortuny and Gianni Versace.

Among other considerations, the exhibition emphasizes the process of textile design in late antiquity. Texts from the period describe how a buyer might present a picture to a weaver to serve as a basis for cloth design. Moreover, it seems from the recent discovery of incomplete patterns for these textiles that weavers also had pattern collections available for their customers. The exhibition demonstrates how late antique artisans generated designs from these minimal patterns. It also shows how increased knowledge about these textiles allows us to correct the errors made in early 20th-century reconstructions and pastiches of them.

Electronic versions of both *Early Islamic Inscribed Textiles* and *Reconstructing Personal Style in Late Antiquity* will soon be available through the Kelsey homepage on the World Wide Web.



This fragment of a neckband from *Reconstructing Personal Style in Late Antiquity* represents male and female devotees of Dionysus (a pagan god associated with wine), mostly nude and dancing in abandon. Such images frequently adorn garments found in tombs.

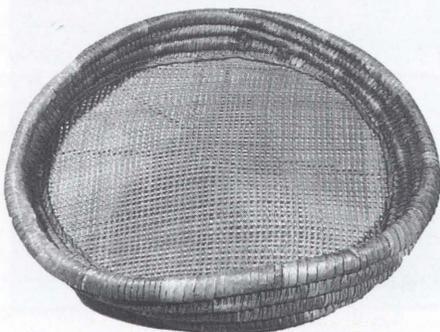
"Excavating" the Kelsey Collections: The Egypt and the Ancient Near East Gallery

"Egypt and the Ancient Near East," which opened February 20 at the Kelsey Museum, is the permanent installation of the Museum's archaeological collections from Egypt to Iran, ranging in date

Spotlight

from 3500 BCE to the sixth century CE. Our guest lecturer for the opening of the exhibition was Lorelei H. Corcoran of the University of Memphis. An expert on Egyptian religion of the late antique period, Professor Corcoran delivered a fascinating lecture entitled "Worlds without End: The Quick and the Dead in Ancient Egypt," which was followed by a reception and preview of the exhibition at the Kelsey.

Along with some old favorites, the exhibition emphasizes material excavated during the course of University of Michigan-conducted or -sponsored expeditions to key sites of the ancient world: the Hellenistic and Parthian capital of Seleucia on the Tigris (modern Tell Umar), the long-lived sacred city of Nippur in southern Mesopotamia, and the Ptolemaic-Roman site of Karanis (Kom Aushim) in the Fayum of Egypt. The Kelsey's extensive archaeological and photographic records of work at Karanis have enabled the reconstruction for this exhibition of a typical early Roman-period (Excavation Level "C," 1st-3rd centuries CE) house and courtyard context. Within the dim house interior are displayed artifacts excavated from that period and the later Roman period (3rd-5th centuries CE) in similar houses throughout Karanis town: a statue in a domestic shrine niche; an assemblage of objects found in situ in a cupboard niche, including glass vessels, baskets, weaving tools, and other household implements; pottery



This grain sieve from Karanis (1st-5th centuries CE; KM 3414) resembles those still in use today.



Overview of the new Egypt and the Ancient Near East permanent installation. The funerary bust of a lady from Palmyra, Syria (200-225 CE, KM 80.1.1) is visible to the left of the exhibition title panel.

vessels, children's toys, storage boxes, and personal toilette items.

In the courtyard as in the house, the kinds of objects displayed highlight another emphasis of the exhibition: that of long-term continuity, change, and cross-cultural currents in the ancient world. Continuity with the present is evident in the multifunctionality of courtyards as hubs of household activity: in modern as in ancient times, these are places for small animal shelters, the preparation of food, and the storage of household grain, goods, and tools, both domestic and agricultural. The form of the grain sieve on display, dating to Roman-period Karanis (1st-5th centuries CE), can be seen in any modern agricultural village or, indeed, in the operations of modern archaeological excavations; a similar set of mortar and pestle for the grinding of grain might also be found in village houses of the 20th century—not infrequently these are ancient implements recycled to present use. Even present-day economic preoccupations are echoed in the past, as seen in the fragment of a tax roll and cancelled contract from Roman-period Karanis (courtesy of the University of Michigan Library and thanks to Traianos Gagos, Archivist and Assistant Professor of Classical Studies).

The bulk of the Kelsey's archaeological collections date to the late classical

and post-classical periods (3rd century BCE-15th century CE). The character of these objects from sites in northeast Africa and the ancient Near East reflects the cosmopolitanism and complex cultural interconnections of the time. The funerary bust of a lady from Palmyra, Syria (200-225 CE) incorporates a melange of Roman and indigenous Near Eastern styles and ideologies, while the grave stele of Heraklea and Ares from Terenouthis, Egypt (late 3rd-early 4th centuries CE) combines aspects of longstanding Egyptian mortuary practice and belief—documented elsewhere in the exhibition in Middle (2040-1650 BCE) and New Kingdom (1570-1030 BCE) artifacts—with typical Ptolemaic-Roman elements and style. A bronze figurine of the god Zeus-Sarapis in the Egyptian temple cult display similarly illustrates the religious syncretism of Ptolemaic- and Roman-period Egypt, where thousand-year-old rituals were performed before newly cosmopolitan deities in the ageless struggle to maintain *ma'at* (order and harmony) against the forces of *isfet* (chaos). Visitors to the 19th Dynasty (1293-1185 BCE) temples at Abydos in southern Egypt would be startled to recognize the same bronze censer proffered to numerous gods by countless representations of King Seti I in the example displayed in this case, which was found

by University of Michigan excavators in the North Temple at Karanis and dates to a period more than a thousand years later than its Abydos predecessors.

The Kelsey's ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian collections are not limited to the classical or post-classical world, however, and research on one earlier corpus of Near Eastern materials for this installation proved to be a stimulating exercise in collaboration with colleagues in Near Eastern Studies and the Museum of Anthropology. In familiarizing myself with the range of our Near Eastern collections, I was at first pleasantly surprised to learn that they included a small selection of artifacts from the important and long-lived ceremonial city of Nippur in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq); even more exciting was the realization that these artifacts were excavated materials on permanent loan from the American Schools of Oriental Research, so their precise archaeological context could be reconstructed.

Through conversations with art historian/Kelsey curator Margaret Root (Department of the History of Art) and historian/archaeologist Norman Yoffee (Department of Near Eastern Studies) and afternoons spent working through drawers of artifacts with archaeologist Henry Wright (Museum of Anthropology) and philologist/historian Piotr Michalowski (Department of Near Eastern Studies), it gradually emerged that our Nippur artifacts included a significant assemblage excavated from the temple of Inanna, the same building that has provided the longest continuous archaeological sequence to date for any temple in Mesopotamia. More specifically, this assemblage dates to Level IV of the temple—a phase of rebuilding by King Shulgi during the powerful 3rd Dynasty of Ur (2150–2000 BCE)—and provides a small but informative cross-section of the kinds of objects characteristic of the Inanna temple, as well as sealing inscriptions from the activities of the dominant priestly family of Ur-Nammu, who oversaw that temple for several generations. Fleshing out the picture are another group of objects from sounding trenches dug by excavators near the temple; these include other categories of sacred artifacts and examples spanning thousands of years of the material culture of both earlier and later periods at the site.

Not only do these materials constitute a valuable teaching tool for classes in History of Art, Near Eastern Studies,



Assemblage of objects from Level IV of the Inanna Temple at Nippur.

and Anthropology, but they also represent a corpus of largely unpublished data. Preliminary research on this corpus has highlighted the existence of such nuggets in the Kelsey collections, the value and stimulation of collaborative effort in “excavating” these corpora, and the ever-expanding research and teaching potential of the Kelsey’s collections.

The Museum’s unique facility for research and teaching was also salient in another aspect of the *Egypt and the Ancient Near East* exhibition. Graduate and undergraduate students have participated in all stages of the research and installation process, gaining invaluable experience in museum practices. Christina McIntosh, currently an intern at the National Memorial Holocaust Museum, spent her senior year deeply involved in all facets of research and planning for the exhibition, assisting with object choice and case layout, brainstorming for the Karanis contexts, contributing to panel copy, and writing a Karanis gallery guide (to be available this summer). Jason Sprague, a

junior meditating a career in Egyptian archaeology, played a diverse and wholly invaluable role in the installation process, including development of the coffin graphic panel and his heroic effort, along with Kelsey Preparator Dana Buck, in the construction of the house and courtyard contexts. Finally, Ellen Morris, a Ph.D. candidate in Egyptology at the University of Pennsylvania, brought a fresh perspective to the “Defying Death” component of the exhibition, developed the field photograph book of the University of Michigan excavations at Karanis, and researched the Seleucia field reports and photo archives (with the assistance of Robin Meador-Woodruff, Associate Curator of Slides and Photographs), resulting in a second field photograph book for Seleucia as well as explanatory panel copy for groups of artifacts in the Seleucia case and for Seleucia site itself.

The participation of these students in the *Egypt and the Ancient Near East* installation has not only helped them to strengthen skills in research and museum practice but has also contributed greatly to the success of the exhibition and to the spirit of collegiality in the Kelsey community. My debt to that wider community is too long to elaborate in detail here, but I must particularly thank Geoffrey Brown, Dana Buck, Robin Meador-Woodruff, Todd Gerring, and Helen Baker and generally extend my heartfelt gratitude to Kelsey curators, research scientists, staff, and IPCAA students.

Janet Richards



Taken during the University of Michigan excavations of Seleucia on the Tigris, this view of Block B was one of the first applications of aerial photography to archaeology.

Photo: P. Jaronski, Photo Services

Photo: Kelsey Museum Archives

The Associates of the Kelsey Museum, 1997-98

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The Kelsey Museum Associates sponsor the Museum's outreach and development activities and provide program support. The public is encouraged to join the Associates and participate in Museum activities. For more information call (313) 763-3559 or 647-0441.

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The Elaine K. Gazda Exhibitions Fund

The Elaine K. Gazda Exhibitions Fund was established in the spring of 1997 as a tribute to Professor Gazda's exceptional leadership as Director of the Kelsey Museum from 1986 to 1997. Among her achievements as director were a major renovation of the Museum building, a dynamic program of exhibitions, a vigorous outreach program, and two new part-time curatorial appointments.

Because the vitality of our exhibitions program has always been close to her heart, the funds contributed in Professor Gazda's name have been designated as support for exhibitions. And in recognition of her concern for the pedagogical aspects of museum practice, the funds will be earmarked particularly for those exhibitions that involve students in the various aspects of researching, preparing, and mounting objects for display.

Currently, the funds are being used to help defray the cost of building three new display cases dedicated exclusively to exhibitions mounted by students enrolled in Kelsey-related classes.

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Staff Update

Curator of Conservation **Geoff Brown** has spent much of his recent time examining, treating, and mounting textiles for Thelma Thomas's two shows (see p. 5). He also plans to revive an object-by-object survey of the textile collection, which was begun before the Museum was renovated. The survey will provide information for structuring an eventual collections-wide conservation project and will be the basis for a sizeable grant proposal.

During fall term 1997 Hellenistic and Roman Curator **Elaine Gazda** cocurated *Sepphoris in Galilee: Crosscurrents of Culture* with Elise Friedland as well as installing Etruscan objects from the Kelsey collection in the turret gallery. During winter term 1998 she is in Italy directing the University's Florence Program. She is also preparing for her winter 2001 exhibition, which will feature Maria Barossa's watercolors of the Villa of the Mysteries procured by Professor Francis Kelsey in the 1920s.

IPCAA student **Melanie Grunow** won the Archaeological Institute of America's (AIA) Woodruff Traveling Fellowship (\$5000), which she will use to conduct dissertation research in Italy.

Librarian **Molly Lindner** organized and chaired a session at the December American Philological Association (APA)/AIA meetings in Chicago entitled "Proximity to Power: The Vestal Virgins in Imperial Rome." Her paper for that colloquium was entitled "Vestal and Imperial Portraits and Inscriptions from the Atrium Vestae: The Antonine and Severan Material." She continues to teach as an adjunct lecturer in art history at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit and at the University of Michigan, Dearborn. The Center for Creative Studies awarded her a Tannahill Faculty Development Grant for travel to Rome this May to prepare her AIA paper for publication. She will conclude her tenure as Kelsey Librarian on July 1, 1998. We will miss her capable administration of our library collections and wish her well in future endeavors.

Robin Meador-Woodruff, Coordinator of Collections and Curator of Slides and Photographs, is collaborating with the School of Information on a number of computing projects. In May she will speak at the American Association of Museums meeting.

Curator of Dynastic Egypt **Janet**

Richards took up a new half-time position in Egyptology in the Department of Near Eastern Studies and, with Terry Wilfong, will develop an Egyptian studies focus within that department's Biblical Studies and Ancient Civilizations major. Also with Terry Wilfong, she collaborated on a five-university Mellon Grant proposal to develop a program for teaching hieroglyphs on the World Wide Web. In March she gave a seminar at Oxford University entitled "Conceptual Landscapes in the Egyptian Nile Valley" (to be published by Blackwell's in *Ideational Landscapes: Constructed and Conceptualized*). At the Kelsey she developed and installed the *Egypt and the Ancient Near East* permanent exhibition (see pp. 6-7). She authored a chapter of *Egyptology and Anthropology* (Sheffield Press, 1998): "Ancient Egyptian Mortuary Practice and the Study of Social Differentiation." This summer she will work on a handbook of the Kelsey's Egyptian collections and act as consultant on the Brooklyn Museum's reinstallation of their pre-New Kingdom collections.

Margaret Root, on leave from her curatorship at the Kelsey to chair the Department of the History of Art, is working to develop a new BA/MA Program in History of Art and the Allied Professions (working title). Her external activities this year include delivering a seminar on the Persepolis Fortification tablets (sealed administrative documents of the Persian empire) at the University of Toronto as well as the Graham Lecture in History of Art; a paper in Lyon, France, at a symposium honoring historian Pierre Briant; and a paper at the December AIA meetings on interpretations of Persepolis. The first fascicule of her catalogue of seal impressions on the Persepolis Fortification tablets (coauthored with Mark Garrison, IPCAA Ph.D. 1988) is in production with Oriental Institute Publications. In addition, Professor Root continued her project to publish the Museum's Adams (ex-Herzfeld) collection of prehistoric stamp seals by offering a museum research seminar at the Kelsey in fall term 1997. A summary of the work produced in that seminar will appear as a jointly written article in the *Bulletin of the Museums of Art and Archaeology*.

In October Curator of Educational Outreach **Lauren Talalay** was the keynote speaker at a Bryn Mawr College conference called "All for One or One

for All? (Re)constructing Identity in the Ancient World." In March she delivered a paper in Cyprus at a conference on "Engendering Aphrodite: Women and Society in Ancient Cyprus." This summer she will work on prehistoric material from Greece.

After a year of sabbatical leave, Post-classical Curator **Thelma Thomas** is serving as president of the Byzantine Studies Conference (a national scholarly organization) and as acting director of IPCAA during winter term 1998. She is also organizing a new course on "Archaeological Museum Practices" for fall term 1998. Her other current Kelsey projects focus on the textile collections. Two workshops she attended helped her conceptualize a new gallery devoted to objects from the medieval Middle East: "Exhibiting Islamic Art," sponsored by the North American Historians of Islamic Art at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, and "Integrating Islam into the Liberal Arts Curricula" at the University of Washington. The first installation in the new gallery, which opened March 20, is a small show of inscribed Islamic textiles from the 10th to the 13th centuries CE. Another exhibition, *Reconstructing Personal Style in Late Antiquity*, opened April 17 (see p. 5). During the summer she will continue research on medieval Middle Eastern textiles at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Textile Museum in Washington, DC.

Curator of Graeco-Roman Egypt **Terry Wilfong** began the first year of his joint appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. He has continued working on various publication projects, including editing volume 34 of *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists* and preparing volume 35 (which contains a collection of papers edited by Thelma Thomas). In the fall, he gave a public lecture at the Detroit Institute of Art in connection with their *Splendors of Egypt* exhibition, and he delivered a paper at the Annual Meeting of the APA/AIA in Chicago. In the spring, he cotaught a "master class" in Coptic papyrology at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. This summer he will continue working on the Terenouthis publication, as well as his exhibition *Music in Roman Egypt: Musical Instruments from University of Michigan Excavations*, which is scheduled to open in early 1999.

Welcome to New Staff Member



Photo: P. Jaroniski, Photo Services

On March 16 Donna Herron took up her new position as Student Services Assistant serving both the Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and

Archaeology (IPCAA) and the Kelsey Museum. Her job entails maintaining student records, reconciling accounts, and serving as liaison with relevant departments for IPCAA, as well as providing computer support for both IPCAA and the Kelsey.

Donna has an undergraduate degree in graphic design from the University of Massachusetts and a masters degree in arts management from Carnegie Mellon University. Before coming to work at the Museum, she served as Education Director for the Ann Arbor Art Center, where she recruited artists to teach classes in media ranging from painting to jewelry making to sculpture, as well as coordinating all the Center's other outreach activities.

Members of the Kelsey staff welcome Donna and look forward to working with her.

Kelsey Tour of Middle East Seeking Participants

A Kelsey-sponsored tour, "Wonders of the Middle East: Israel and Jordan," is scheduled to depart from Detroit on October 18, 1998, and return October 28. This extraordinary behind-the-scenes archaeological tour of northern Israel and Jordan will be led by Professor Sharon Herbert, Director of the Kelsey Museum, who has more than 25 years' experience doing fieldwork in the region. The tour follows the history of this area from the Bronze Age to the present. Members of the group have a unique opportunity to talk with excavators and researchers currently working at each site.

The journey begins in hilly Jerusalem, the heart of the Holy Land, where tour members visit excavations of the Old City, the Temple Mount, the spectacular Israel Museum, and the stained-glass windows by Marc Chagall at Hadassah Hospital. Making their way up the coast to the important Hellenistic ports of Caesarea, Tel Dor, and Akko, they will enter the Galilee, birthplace of Rabbinic Judaism and home of Jesus. Dotted the area around the tranquil Sea of Galilee—actually a lake formed by the headwaters of the Jordan River—are some of the most beautiful and important archaeological sites in the country. Stretching from the Jezreel Valley in the south to Metulla in the north, the

Galilee includes such landmarks as Hazor, an impressive Bronze Age site; ancient Sepphoris, renowned for its exquisite mosaics, including the "Mona Lisa of the Galilee"; and Bevoir, a remarkably preserved hilltop Crusader fortress. The trip continues to Banias, the Hellenistic sanctuary of Pan; Gamla, the most important site of the Jewish Resistance after Masada; and Hammat Gader, whose baths attest to the opulence of the Roman empire.

Jordan offers the traveler an equally rich and vital experience. Tour members visit Petra, the breathtaking Nabataean city carved out of the rose-red rock, and Gerash, an expansive city with both Hellenistic and Roman remains. The trip ends at Amman, where the group will have a rare chance not only to view recently discovered papyri from Petra but to talk with the premier authority currently deciphering these documents.

Cost of the tour is \$4,053 per person, double occupancy, plus a tax-deductible fee of \$200 payable to the Kelsey Museum. The land-only price is \$2,417, and there is a supplement for single occupancy of \$356. For further information or to reserve a place in the tour group, contact: Zoe Pearson, Conlin Travel, P. O. Box 1207, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1207; phone: 734-677-0900 or 800-426-6546; fax 734-677-0901.

The Kelsey Museum of Archaeology

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Sharon Herbert

Associate Director

Lauren Talalay

Curators

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Elaine Gazda (on leave),

Hellenistic and Roman

Robin Meador-Woodruff,

Slides and Photographs

Janet Richards (on leave),

Dynastic Egypt

Margaret Cool Root (on leave),

Greece and Near East

Lauren Talalay, *Educational Outreach*

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Margaret Lourie

Exhibits Preparator

Dana Buck

Program Assistant

Todd Gerring

Office

Helen Baker, *Administrative Associate*

Donna Herron, *Student Services Assistant*

Jackie Monk, *Office Assistant*

Michelle Biggs, *Gifts Manager*

Museum Hours

Tuesday–Friday 9:00–4:00

Saturday–Sunday 1:00–4:00

Admission is free

and open to the public.

World Wide Web Address

<http://www.umich.edu/~kelseydb/>

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Current Exhibitions

- *Reconstructing Personal Style in Late Antiquity*
- *Early Islamic Inscribed Textiles*
- *Egypt and the Ancient Near East* (new permanent installation)
- *A Victorian's Passion: David Roberts 1796–1864*

Associates Spring Event

- Friday, May 1
5:30: Behind-the-scenes Museum tour
6:30: Business meeting, followed by champagne reception



Photo: Kelsey Museum Archives

This archive photo of Seleucia on the Tigris under excavation by a University of Michigan team in 1929 can be found in the new Egypt and the Ancient Near East installation (see article on pp. 6–7).

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