



# AIA-MN Newsletter

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The AIA-MN Newsletter is a publication of the Minnesota Society of the Archaeological Institute of America

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### SOCIETY UPDATE

Welcome to the 2007-2008 lecture season of the Minnesota Society of the Archaeological Institute of America! We have an exciting year ahead of us, with new officers, a new website, and a great slate of interesting lectures.

The officers for this year are:

Michael C. Nelson, President	nelsonm@macalester.edu
Mireille M. Lee, Vice-President	leem@macalester.edu
Don Hammer, Treasurer	hamme008@tc.umn.edu
Susan McGuire, Publicity Secretary	susanmcguire@russeljdittmar.com

Please feel free to contact any of us with questions about the Society.

The Minnesota Society now works closely with the Classics Department at **Macalester College**. We are looking forward to increased involvement in the Society by students from all area colleges and universities. Macalester is also the host of our new website: <http://www.macalester.edu/aia-mn>. There you will find our lecture schedule, contact information for our officers, information about the AIA, MIA, and Macalester College (including maps), plus links to other websites of interest. Please feel free to send additional links and announcements to: [nelsonm@macalester.edu](mailto:nelsonm@macalester.edu).

### UPCOMING LECTURES

We are pleased to announce two exciting lectures this fall. On Thursday, October 4, Dr. Bettina Arnold, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, will speak on Iron Age funerary practices in southwest Germany. On Thursday, November 8, Dr. Allison Karmel Thomason, Associate Professor of Historical Studies, Southern Illinois University, will speak on the functions of luxury objects in Neo-Assyrian palaces. Both talks will be held at 6:00 pm in the Pillsbury Auditorium at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (2400 Third Avenue South). Flyers for the fall lectures are on pp. 2-3 of this *Newsletter*.

In the spring, we will have three lectures, one at the MIA, and two in the beautiful John B. Davis Lecture Hall at Macalester College (1600 Grand Avenue, St. Paul; free parking at Snelling and Grand). The inaugural lecture at Macalester College, on February 7, will feature Dr. Andy Overman and Dr. Joe Rife talking about the current Macalester excavations at Omrit, Israel, and Kenchreai Greece. On March 6, Dr. Thomas Finan, Assistant Professor of Medieval Studies at the University of St. Louis, will speak at the MIA on the excavations at the medieval ecclesiastical complex at Kiltasheen, Co. Roscommon. Our last speaker for the year will be Dr. Skip Messenger, Professor of Anthropology at Hamline University, who will talk at Macalester on the current state of research in Mayan archaeology. Flyers for the spring lectures will be included in the Spring *Newsletter*, which will be mailed in January.

As always, lectures are free and open to the public. We look forward to seeing you!

### CONTRIBUTIONS

The AIA-MN seeks contributions from its members to support travel expenses for our speakers. Please contact any officer for more information.

6:00 PM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2007  
PILLSBURY AUDITORIUM  
MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

# *A Landscape of Ancestors: Early Iron Age Societies in Southwest Germany*

**Dr. Bettina Arnold**  
**Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology**  
**University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

## **Synopsis:**

The Landscape of Ancestors project represents a long-term investigation of an early Iron Age archaeological landscape in southwestern Germany. The focus of this project is a group of burial mounds associated with one of the best excavated and most extensively studied late Hallstatt period (~600-400 BC) hillfort settlements in western Europe, the Heuneburg. The Heuneburg hillfort is located on the upper Danube River on the Swabian Alb near the university town of Tübingen. The site and surrounding landscape have been systematically excavated since the 19th century, with over 25 years of more recent systematic fieldwork at the hillfort. The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee project, initiated in 1999, has added 23 new burials to the relatively small number of systematically excavated graves from this important site. On-going analyses of finds, including personal ornament, pottery and textile remains, suggest some interesting links between this region and other parts of western Europe and the Mediterranean world. The new

discoveries have also transformed the way the occupational history and social configurations at the site have been interpreted. Gender, age, kinship and social status are the focus of this most recent phase of investigation:  
<http://www.uwm.edu/~barnold/arch/index.html>.

## **About the Lecturer:**

Bettina Arnold is Associate Professor of Anthropology, Coordinator of the Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies, and Co-Director of the Center for Celtic Studies and editor of the Center's on-line journal, e-Keltoi. She received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Harvard University. Her research focuses on pre-Roman Iron Age Europe, mortuary ritual and gender. The "Landscape of Ancestors" project is a long-term investigation of the mortuary and social landscapes associated with the early Iron Age Heuneburg hillfort. An additional research focus involves the history of archaeology, especially the symbiosis between archaeology and politics, and the role played by archaeological research in the construction of nationalist narratives.

**Dinner at Christos Greek Restaurant will follow the lecture.**  
**RSVP to Mireille Lee, [leem@macalester.edu](mailto:leem@macalester.edu), 651/696-6853.**

6:00 PM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2007  
PILLSBURY AUDITORIUM  
MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

*Banquets, Baubles and Bronzes:  
Material Comforts in  
Neo-Assyrian Palaces*

**Dr. Allison Karmel Thomason**  
Associate Professor, Department of Historical Studies,  
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

**Synopsis:**

The large-scale monumental reliefs, from the palaces of the Neo-Assyrian kings at Nimrud, Khorsabad and Nineveh have received a great deal of attention in archaeological and art historical studies. My current research and the lecture that I will present explores the small-scale items—the movable property of the palace that would have peppered the daily experiences of the Assyrian court. I want to bring alive for the audience the glint of a gold arm-cuff, the flow of a woven red robe splaying across a mud brick floor, the clang of bronze cups as they are clamped down on an ebony table decorated with ivory carvings. All of these things are relatively scarce yet nevertheless present in the archaeological record, obsessed over in administrative documents and trumpeted proudly as tribute and plunder in Assyrian wall reliefs and royal inscriptions.

**About the Lecturer:** Dr. Allison Karmel Thomason is a professor of Ancient History at Southern Illinois University. She specializes in Mesopotamian art, archaeology and history; ancient Near Eastern art and Neo-Assyrian art. She received her PhD from Columbia University and participated in excavations in Corfu, Greece, with Martha S. Joukowsky and in Ashkelon, Israel with Larry Stager. Her publications include “Representations of the North Syrian Landscape in Neo-Assyrian Art”, “From Sennacherib’s Bronzes to Taharqa’s Feet: Representations of the Material World at Nineveh”, and “Luxury and Legitimation: Royal Collecting in Ancient Mesopotamia” among others.

**Dinner at Christos Greek Restaurant will follow the lecture.  
RSVP to Mireille Lee, leem@macalester.edu, 651/696-6853.**



AIA-MN  
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Macalester College  
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St. Paul, MN 55105



***Schedule for the 2007-08 Archaeology Lecture Series:***

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Bettina Arnold, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
*A Landscape of Ancestors: Early Iron Age Societies in Southwest Germany*  
6:00 PM, Pillsbury Auditorium, Minneapolis Institute of Arts

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Allison Karmel Thomason, Associate Professor of Historical Studies, Southern Illinois University  
*Banquets, Baubles and Bronzes: Material Comforts in Neo-Assyrian Palaces*  
6:00 PM, Pillsbury Auditorium, Minneapolis Institute of Arts

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Andy Overman, Professor of Classics, Macalester College, Director, Excavations at Omrit  
Joe Rife, Assistant Professor of Classics, Macalester College, Director, Kenchreai Excavations  
*Reports from the field*  
6:00 PM, John B. Davis Lecture Hall, Macalester College

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Thomas Finan, Assistant Professor of Medieval Studies, University of St. Louis  
*The Medieval Ecclesiastical Complex at Kiltasheen, Co. Roscommon, Ireland*  
6:00 PM, Pillsbury Auditorium, Minneapolis Institute of Arts

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Skip Messenger, Professor of Anthropology, Hamline University  
*The Ancient Maya: What We Thought We Knew, What We Think We Know, and What We  
Would Like to Know*  
6:00 PM, John B. Davis Lecture Hall, Macalester College