Excavations in the trash heaps of the Egyptian town of Oxyrhynchus uncovered half a million scraps of paper giving us unprecedented evidence of human activity from the ancient Mediterranean world. Countless bits of everyday writing from Greco-Roman times were deposited in these garbage dumps: letters, contracts, tax records, census returns, petitions, recipes, school exercises. Editing, interpreting, and publishing these papyri has been a painfully slow process, with only 6,000 of those half a million texts yet in print. Our Minnesota-based project is using web-powered crowd sourcing to speed up the work and expand its horizons into new areas, such as texts written in the Coptic language representing the concerns of early Christian inhabitants of Egypt in late Roman times.

AIA members may join the speaker for a no-host meal following the talk.

“Resurrecting Early Christian Lives: Digging in Papyri in a Digital Age”

Philip Sellew, University of Minnesota

Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 6pm: Alex Knodell, "Crossroads and Boundaries in an Ancient Greek Borderland: Regional Survey with the Mazi Archaeological Project," in the John B. Davis Lecture Hall in the Ruth Stricker Dayton Campus Center, Macalester College

Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 11am: John Hale, “CLEOPATRA: An Archaeological Perspective on Egypt’s Last Pharaoh,” in the Pillsbury Auditorium at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts
** Free but all MIA talks are now ticketed **
call 612-870-6323 or visit http://new.artsmia.org/discover/talks/

Sunday April 10 at 2pm: John Hale on “Dragons of the North: The World of Viking Longships,” at the American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, http://www.asimn.org/
**please note that there will be a charge for this event (details TBA)**

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