The Pantheon in Rome ranks among the most celebrated monuments of Classical Antiquity. Yet many questions regarding its design and construction remain. In this lecture, Dr. Pieter Broucke, Middlebury College, will explore and reconstruct this enigmatic building’s various phases of design and construction.

Pieter Broucke is a professor of History of Art and Architecture and the the Director of the Arts at Middlebury College. He holds a PhD from Yale in History of Art and Architecture, an MA in Archaeology from the University of Minnesota, and a Professional Degree in Architecture from Ghent, in his native Belgium. He is delighted to return to the Twin Cities.
“Crossroads and Boundaries in an Ancient Greek Borderland: Regional Survey with the Mazi Archaeological Project”

Alex Knodell, Carleton College

The Mazi Archaeological Project (MAP) is a diachronic regional survey of the Mazi Plain, located in the Kithairon mountain range of northwest Attica, Greece. This area is characterized by its rich agricultural land and its critical location on a major land route between two of the most historically significant regions in Greece: Attica and Boeotia. Territorial disputes in this borderland are attested from the Late Archaic period (Herodotos 5.74.2) and region has marked importance for the study of Attic-Boeotian topography, mythology, and religion – especially at the sites of Oinoe (the outermost Attic Deme site) and Eleutherai (one of the best examples of fortress architecture in all of Greece). Our approach to regional history also extends well beyond the Classical past to include prehistoric precursors, as well as the later history of this part of Greece. An initial field season took place in 2014, followed by a larger-scale effort in 2015. This lecture examines some of our survey results, which shed new light on the long-term history of this crossroads and borderland from prehistory to the present.

AIA members may join the speaker for a no-host meal following the talk.
Cleopatra, last pharaoh of Egypt, may be the most famous female ruler in all of history. But her Roman enemies made her notorious for all the wrong reasons: her political ambitions, her sumptuous lifestyle, and above all her love affairs with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony. Yet if we look past the long-standing stereotypes of popular culture, from Plutarch and Shakespeare to Elizabeth Taylor and Hollywood, the archaeological evidence paints a very different picture. In this illustrated lecture, we will tour the Egypt that Cleopatra inherited from her Ptolemaic ancestors, view her self-chosen portraits on coins and temple walls, and take in her extraordinary achievements as goddess, priestess, queen, civil administrator, scholar, lover, and above all, mother. Our journeys will follow Cleopatra from the Nile to the Tiber, and from desert shrines to the streets and palaces of her capital at Alexandria, now sunken beneath the waters of Alexandria harbor. Archaeological discoveries create a truer picture of Cleopatra than the many literary and dramatic fantasies that have distorted the memory of this great leader.

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

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AIA Minnesota Spring 2016 Lectures


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

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