

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE *of* AMERICA

SAN FRANCISCO SOCIETY - *Fall* 2025



REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Tuesday, September 23rd at 5:00 pm PDT
Dwinelle 370, UC Berkeley

Shelby Medina (Anthropology)

Bella Blanton (Ancient History & Mediterranean Archaeology)

Layla Fistos (Ancient History & Mediterranean Archaeology)

We are excited to start the year by hearing UC Berkeley graduate students report on their summer research and excavation experiences at various sites across the globe. **Shelby Medina** will discuss her magnetometry work at the site of Tugunbulak in Uzbekistan. **Bella Blanton** will speak about the field season of the Notion Archaeological Project, a Michigan-Turkish excavation of Ionian Greek city. **Layla Fistos** will present on her work studying amulets from the American University of Beirut Museum in Lebanon.



From Berlin to Berkeley: The History of the Edward Gans Collection of Seals and Its Hidden Gems

October 29th at 5pm PDT

Doe 308A, UC Berkeley

Alice Ziegler

PhD Student

Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology

UC Berkeley

The Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures currently houses the Edward Gans Collection of Seals, comprising almost seven hundred seals and seal-related objects from a variety of periods, extending from the Neolithic Middle East to Post-classical Mesoamerica. Since 2023, a new team of Berkeley scholars has been working on the collection to prepare it for digital publication, and this talk arises from the provenance research undertaken as part of that project. This talk will highlight the fascinating story of how the Gans Collection came to be and the legacy of Nazi persecution that shaped the collection's history, while also featuring several Sasanian seals in the collection of particular significance.



A Dealer, an Insurance Salesman, Seven University Museums, Eighty-Eight Investors, and Three Hundred Classical Antiquities: a Cautionary Tale

November 5th at 5pm PDT

Virtual Lecture on Zoom

Dr. Elizabeth Marlowe

Professor of Art History
Chair of the Art Department
Colgate University

This talk will recount a recently-uncovered story of an unusual, complex, decades-long antiquities investment scheme orchestrated by Royal-Athena Galleries, a prominent Manhattan-based antiquities dealer, that did not end well for most stakeholders. It will also examine the larger ethical implications of the story, raising questions about the relationship of museums to the art market. It also asks, is financial investing in art ever a good idea?



OTHER EVENTS AND LECTURES *of* INTEREST IN FALL 2025

AHMA Colloquium Series: <https://ahma.berkeley.edu/news-events/ahma-colloquium>

Friday, September 26, 12:00 PM (location TBA):

Rita Lucarelli (AHMA), “‘When Everything is Human, the Human is an Entirely Different Thing’: Animal Powers in the Ancient Egyptian Demonic Imaginary”

Friday, October 7th, 5:00 PM (location TBA)

Peter Bang (Copenhagen), “What World History for Rome? Universal Empire in the Afro-Eurasian Arena”

Friday, October 24, 12:00 PM (location TBA):

Giulia Grossi (LMU Munich), “Taxation, Anti-Corruption and Local Politics in a Constitution from Late Antique Apulia”

Tuesday, December 2, 5:00 PM (location TBA):

Emily Mackil and Flavio Santini (AHMA), “Credit, Debt, and Servitude in Fourth-Century BCE Halikarnassos”

Pritchett Lecture and Seminar:

Monday, November 3, 5:00 PM (Alumni House):

Matthew Canepa (UC Irvine), 2025 PRITCHETT LECTURE.
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.

Tuesday, November 4, 4:00 PM (location TBA):

Matthew Canepa (UC Irvine), 2025 PRITCHETT SEMINAR (topic and readings TBA).

The Mario Del Chiaro Center for Ancient Italian Studies Lecture and the Sather Lecture Series will both take place in Spring 2026

Ancient Art Council Lectures

For more information on the lectures, click: <https://www.ancientartcouncil.org>

September 20, 2025 at 2:00 PM, Hybrid - Zoom and Gunn Theater in SF

“Princes of Pylos: Treasures from Bronze Age Greece”

Speaker: Claire Lyons, Curator of Antiquities, J. Paul Getty Museum

The Kingdom of Pylos: Warrior-Princes of Ancient Greece is on view at the Getty Villa through 12 January 2026.

December 6, 2025 at 2:00 PM, Hybrid - Zoom and Gunn Theater in SF

Details to be announced soon

For more information on:

Ancient Arts Council events, information, and/or membership, see

<https://www.ancientartcouncil.org> or email ancientart@famsf.org

American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), Northern California Chapter events, see

<https://www.arce-nc.org/>

Newsletters by email: The SF Society newsletter is available for download from:

<https://www.archaeological.org/society/san-francisco/>. This website will also list the AIA lectures.

2025-2026 AIA Officers:

Lisa Pieraccini, President

James Barter, Vice President

Bella Blanton, Treasurer

Alice Ziegler, Co-Program Coordinator
Susanna Faas-Bush, Co-Program Coordinator
Jared Petroll, Publicity Chair
Leah Packard-Grams, Entertainment Chair

AIA Executive Advisory Committee:

James Barter, Elizabeth S. Peña

For information on Fall AIA events or your membership, please contact Alice Ziegler (ziegler@berkeley.edu) or Lisa Pieraccini (lisap@berkeley.edu).