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27th EAA Annual Meeting (Kiel Virtual, 2021)

ABSTRACT BOOK

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MOSAIC AS SENSORIUM: A HAPTIC APPROACH TO THE PAVEMENTS OF ANTIOCH

Abstract author(s): Miranda, Amy (Aarhus University)

Abstract format: Oral

Mosaic floors are walked upon and not necessarily viewed through direct vision. Rather, they are viewed through peripheral vision (which Juhani Pallasmaa convincingly attributes to the haptic sense), not quite in focus, but crucially completing a space. The twitches and undulations of floor mosaics are experienced somewhat visually, but also haptically. With the haptic, mosaics deeply affect an individual through the illusionistic dimensions of a mosaic surface that I suggest create a topographical map that delineate the floor and describe the space. This is perhaps most readily demonstrated through the ornamental and material components of mosaic pavements which, I suggest, unite compositions to create a holistic surface. As a case study, I look to some of the mosaics from ancient Antioch in present-day Antakya, Turkey. Dating to the second and third centuries CE, these pavements are a testament to how decoration connects with individuals through its sensorial potentials, which contribute to a synaesthetic pleasure. The houses of Antioch, with their mixing of figural and ornamental motifs, are then developed as sensuous, synaesthetic spaces through experiences of materiality and color. The stone and glass tesserae play with texture and weight as well as the effects of light to go beyond what can be seen. I draw upon recent work in architecture and geography on space and texture (Pallasmaa, as well as Kevin Hetherington and Mark Paterson) and suggest an investigation into the tactility of the tesserae's material (stone and glass) and hapticity of the floor surface. The synaesthetic topography an individual travels through as one steps upon the floor contributes to the surface's allure. The materiality of mosaics, the physicality of the tesserae, their colors and reflections, draw particular attention to how architecture functions beyond the visual as they act with the haptic and other senses to build an immersive environment.

SENSING WHAT CANNOT BE SEEN: ENGRAVED GEMS AND DIVINE REPRESENTATION

Abstract author(s): Allen, Ruth (Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University)

Abstract format: Oral

Engraved gemstones have long been considered too small, too frivolous, and too luxurious to be considered much more than beautiful, and remain largely absent from accounts of ancient Mediterranean visual culture, or else are sidelined as ancillary to the study of monumental art. But even those scholars who have understood gems' potential have given them little meaningful agency beyond their capacity to stamp: engraved gems are, by and large, seen only as tools for sealing, and their images consequently given more importance in impression than on the stone. This paper aims instead to take gems seriously as objects whose material qualities – their colour, shine, and “touch-capacity” – were as integral to their function as their iconography, recognising that engraved gems were used, adored, and examined as decorative objects seen and worn on the body, and bringing ‘ornamental’ gems into conversation with those typically classed separately as ‘magical’ or amuletic.

Its focus will be on the relationship between gems and the divine. We will look at the use of gems in the adornment of cult-statues, and the ways in which the special material qualities of the stone played an important part in the performance of divine presence. We will then explore how the engravers of gemstones exploited these material associations, promoting the sensual as much as the visual in order to turn engraved gems into miniature sites of divine encounter. In so doing, this paper aims to show the ways in which the agency of the gem-image was enhanced by the material and aesthetic qualities of the stone and animated by the act of wearing, which created further meaning in the tensions between seeing and not seeing, looking and handling, intimacy of scale and the flashy, look-at-me brilliance of the stone.

THE MATERIAL LIFE OF LINEAR A: A STUDY OF OBJECTS BEARING AN UNDECIPHERED SCRIPT FROM MINOAN CRETE (C.1800-1450 BC)

Abstract author(s): Rice, Mnemosyne (Trinity College Dublin)

Abstract format: Oral

Objects bearing Linear A inscriptions are not merely textual documents; they are material objects which are transformed by the addition of writing, mutually entangling text and material. This paper aims to understand this underexplored relationship, and how Linear A text contributed to the multiple meanings of objects through two case studies: 1) the stone vessels or ‘libation tables’ found in ritual deposits and 2) the clay (administrative) tablets found in the palaces. These examples showcase the spectrum of affordances which inscribed artefacts offer.

Some of the stone vessels appear to have been designed to receive inscriptions, while the clay tablets are thought to be palimpsests; these differences in engagement with Linear A are dependent on material properties, but more importantly, are the result of deliberate choices made by their creators. Stone vessels had potentially very long use-lives and human agents interacted with them in multiple contexts (from production to religious events), suggesting a multiplicity of sensorial experiences. Because clay tablets are interpreted as ‘reusable’ records which could be erased and reinscribed, the sensorial ‘moments’ would have happened more frequently and over shorter periods. In both cases, the materials (various types of stone and clay) and their accompanying text would have evoked multiple, simultaneous meanings for their human interlocutors.

This paper draws on Piquette and Whitehouse's (2013) framework for analysing ‘graphical artefacts’, and studying their production as a craft. This approach reveals the inscription of objects as a crucial step in the production process. It also foregrounds the human agents responsible for creating the artefacts, and their requisite knowledge and experiences (e.g. knowledge of materials’ proper-

ties, skill in specialised tool use, and varying levels of literacy). Through detailed analyses of the inscriptions and their interaction with the whole, this paper reassesses Linear A graphical artefacts from a material perspective.

WATER, ARCHITECTURE, AND THE SENSES: EXPLORING THE MATERIALITY OF AQUATIC LANDSCAPES IN THE ROMAN WORLD

Abstract author(s): Rogers, Dylan (University of Virginia)

Abstract format: Oral

The Roman world was full of water in various contexts, from splashy fountains, to immersive bathing complexes, to underground drainage networks. Water-displays, though, afford us with an important avenue of inquiry into the nature of sensory experience in Roman society, both in private and domestic contexts, as we can piece together ancient reactions to the multisensory pleasure of flowing water attested through literary and archaeological evidence. This paper, thus, explores how we can consider how water had the ability to oftentimes drastically alter the built environment in a variety of spaces in the Roman world. In sensory archaeology, by using the framework of the sensorial assemblage (or sensory field), which considers the built environment, substances, artifacts, and memories, we can begin to understand the reason behind fountain construction, as it had the ability to change the experience of a space and create new memories for ancient Romans. Because water, especially moving water, is inherently ephemeral, structures built to harness this element are interesting case-studies for reconstructing past sensory experiences. As such, if we consider the materiality that is inherent in water, we can reimagine these spaces—along with repopulating them with ancient Romans. An important aspect of this research is how, despite geographical location and climate zone, there was a propensity across the Roman empire to display water—which helped forge a common Roman sense of identity—that, in a way, was intimately tied to the senses themselves. This paper will consider a few examples of water-displays from the Roman world, especially those found at the site of Jerash (modern Jordan), in order to elucidate the sensorial impact of water throughout various Roman landscapes.

BRIGHTNESS - ΣΙΓΑΛΟΕΙΣ - SENSED AND ITS TRANSFORMED METAPHORICAL FUNCTION WITHIN HOMERIC POETRY

Abstract author(s): Saito, Yukiko (University of Liverpool / Kyoto Seika University)

Abstract format: Oral

This paper, focusing on the use of σιγαλόεις (bright, shining), pursues two aims. First, distilling the subtle, unseen nexus between colour/light, touch, and motion. Second, elucidating how viewers' sensory experiences might be affected by colour or its bright-hued aspects, through cognitive exploration. Brightness encompasses human life itself. How can the sense or aspects of brightness associated with materials be most effectively delineated? Characters are portrayed as being amazed (θεάομαι; Od. 19. 229 and 235) on seeing Odysseus' bright appearance. So are we, i.e., viewers. Odysseus wears a shining tunic with the sheen of dry on-ion-skin, which shines radiantly as the sun shines (Od. 19. 231-233). Σιγαλόεις is used in describing various materials such as when Andromache discards her shining headdress (Il. 22. 468), Nestor takes up shining reins (Il. 8. 116), Penelope enters the bright upper chamber (Od. 16. 449), and so forth. They illuminate the intriguing nature of brightness. Its religious significance was profound for society in antiquity (e.g., Parisinou (2002); Christopoulos, Karakantza and Levaniouk (eds.) 2010; Platt 2011). Viewers, ourselves included, seem to be always attracted to bright light and gaze in wonder at it. I should like to go one step further, to discern the deeper aspect of visualising brightly-coloured scenes as multisensory experiences (e.g., Hölscher 2018; Witcombe 2018; Butler and Bradley (eds.) 2019). Examining how various σιγαλόεις-related scenes are associated with each other, I investigate what kind of function(s) those shining materials could be seen to be performing, while seeking σιγαλόεις' metaphorical, transformed representation. Spotting σιγαλόεις, whose materials indicate the radiant colour-hue's effect on viewers' recognition, my goal is to unveil the poet's aesthetical skill in composing his story, like the textual sounds of a unified, harmonious ensemble. Then the social significance of the realisation of ancient colour-sense is unfolded, accordingly.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Theme: 1. Widening horizons through human-environment interconnections

Organisers: Wouters, Barbora (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) - Hansen, Gitte (University Museum of Bergen) - Lo Russo, Sarah (Vrije Universiteit Brussel; University of Basel)

Format: Regular session

Coastal zones, including riverine estuaries, have always constituted contact zones where people connected and interacted, thereby exchanging thoughts and goods. This connectivity as well as the dynamic coastal environment made these communities highly responsive to change and innovations. People continuously adapted to new situations and influences (trade, migration, climate, sea-level rise...), which stimulated the social resilience and the adaptation of changes in lifestyles. Both are embodied in the material features of the coastal landscape and its landing and meeting places, which acted as hubs for trade and ideas. Different authors, including Gordon-Childe, have in the past addressed the evolution of these centres and the related issue of urbanisation. We approach this question of connectivity from different angles: the study of the exchange of artefacts, the changing environment and use of space, all the way to the environmental archaeology of the coastal communities. This session wants to further explore the responses to this dynamic connectivity by focusing on the archaeology of the landing and meeting places from a variety of regions

and periods, not limited to urban settlements. We invite contributions spanning different sub-specialisms of archaeology, including studies presenting new findings, theoretical or scientific advances or applications.

ABSTRACTS:

- 1 THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT OF TYRRHENIAN COAST AND THE CHANGING FORTUNE OF LANDING PLACES OVER TIME**
Abstract author(s): Citter, Carlo (University of Siena)
Abstract format: Oral
The Tyrrhenian coast between Rome and Pisa has changed much over time. The major rivers (Tevere, Ombrone and Arno) used to shape it together with sea level fluctuations. When dealing with landings and main harbours in this region, we need to reconstruct the most likely scenario of the period we are studying. Most areas that look as fertile plains today, used to be lagoons for the whole antiquity. Thus, providing opportunities for inner, safer landings. But they turned to marshes in modern era. The recorded changes contribute to understand the trajectory of many settlements, including riverine towns, harbours, market-places. Of course, the changing fortune of these settlements cannot be caused only by environmental changes. But they impacted much and recent literature acknowledges this as one of the main causes. We will provide an overview on the long durée because some major Etruscan sites declined in the Roman period, others persisted until the early middle ages. Only a few proved to be resilient over time.
- 2 HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTIONS IN NORTHERN DENMARK DURING 3000 YEARS OF COASTAL AND RESOURCE CHANGES**
Abstract author(s): Kristiansen, Søren - Ljungberg, Thomas (Department of Geoscience, Aarhus University) - Christiansen, Torben (The Historical Museum of Northern Jutland) - Dalsgaard, Kristian (Department of Geoscience, Aarhus University) - Haue, Niels (The Historical Museum of Northern Jutland) - Greve, Mogens (Department of Agroecology, Aarhus University) - Nielsen, Bjarne (Vesthimmerlands Museum)
Abstract format: Oral
New refined understanding of the global relative sea level (RSL) has contributed to much more precise estimates of the rates of the paleo-coast change worldwide. This rapidly evolving understanding therefore holds major potential in relation to onshore human-environment interaction studies at local and region levels. However, changes of coastlines and their consequences for prehistoric societies living in glacio-isostatically uplifting areas have not been assessed on a larger scale and based on high-precision modelling of the slow changes of the coastal ecosystems as meadows, marshes and lagoons.
In this paper we present new results which highlights how high-resolution models of coastal and settlement development during the last 3000 years in the central Limfjord area (Northern Denmark) are correlated with archaeological evidence. The methods include optically stimulated luminescence (OSL), geo-archaeology, correlation with archaeological databases, and upscaling using paleo-landscape modelling and remote sensing (lidar) data.
This new temporal and spatial model of coastal development shows that only few of the new land areas were colonized, and only for a short period during the Late Roman Iron Age until 400 CE. Although the new marine forelands constituted rich grassing lands, Bronze and Iron Age settlement locations were little influenced by the steady growth of these. In addition to improving the understanding of the current archaeological record, the high-resolution model may serve as an important base for qualification of future research and for monitoring and protecting archeological sites in the region. Combined, this provides new knowledge of relevance for both the paleo-environment changes and the humans living along the ever changing coasts.
- 3 A HUNDRED DIFFERENT WAYS TO THE BEACH: WHY THE PATH TO THE SHORE MAY BE MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN YOU THINK**
Abstract author(s): Johnson, Andrew (Manx National Heritage)
Abstract format: Oral
The Isle of Man has a varied coastline extending 160km and ranging from wide, open beaches, through small coves and rivermouths, to impenetrable cliffs. Today the island is served by seven small ports and harbours, but these represent just a tiny proportion of the landing places historically used by a once largely rural population.
Today the islanders take access to the shore for granted, but the routes by which they reach the coast, and the reasons for their existence, go largely unregarded. The physical character and legal status of these routes are often significant in betraying their former purpose: some exist as footpaths, some as tracks leading only as far as the nearest farmstead, whilst others have been transformed into public highways.
Perhaps even less appreciated is the extent to which the shore, both intertidal and above the strand-line, has been adapted or altered to improve safety or ease of use. It is sometimes possible to glean from this the reasons individual landing places were exploited: fishing and the collection of seaweed as manure are amongst the most obvious uses.

Much less obvious are landing places connected with medieval chapels, burial grounds and holy wells, some of which persist as little more than folk memories. These sites in turn were once connected with communications from across the sea, small-scale trade, local fairs and beach markets.

The recovery of these former uses of the coastline has been greatly aided by map regression and place-name study, allied with long-term fieldwork, and presentation by means of GIS.

- 4 2500 YEARS OF HUMAN INTERACTION WITH THE SHORELINE AT TRONDHEIM, NORWAY**
Abstract author(s): Cadamarteri, Julian (NIKU - Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research)
Abstract format: Oral
This paper presents and discusses data relating to settlement and natural topography derived from archaeological excavations in the medieval town of Trondheim, Norway. Trondheim is situated at the estuary of the river Nid and is the northernmost medieval city in Norway, growing from a small Viking Age regional and inter-regional coastal trading centre established during the 10th century AD. As such it played an important part in Norwegian history and was the seat of the Norwegian kings until 1217. And the seat of the Norwegian archbishop until 1537. Recent archaeological finds document the presence of an agrarian settlement here since the early Pre-Roman Iron Age at c. 500 BC. Throughout this long period, the local population lived in a changing natural environment created by ongoing interrelated formation processes, including isostatic recovery, alluvial deposition and a landslide which covered part of the peninsula with a thick body of clay. The archaeological material show that the peninsula and especially the shore seem to have been used for gatherings dating back to the first century AD. The settlement established in the 10th century was also located near the shore and a medieval Thing, a law assembly, was regularly held on the beaches. The archaeological material demonstrate the close interaction of natural processes and human actors in the formation and use of the landscape. The dynamics of human settlement practices in the context of the natural environment, both terrestrial and marine, are highlighted. The settlement history is discussed in the wider context of local and regional developments during the Norwegian Iron Age.
- 5 THE OLD “BAYE DE BRETAGNE”: A MARITIME CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF ATLANTIC FRENCH COAST**
Abstract author(s): Gaëlle, Dieulefet (UMR CRéAAH-LARA, Université de Nantes) - Pouzet, Pierre (UMR 6564 LETG, Université de Nantes)
Abstract format: Oral
This research deploys an maritime and coastal approach, combining archeology and marine geosciences on the old “Baye de Bretagne” localised in Loire-Atlantique (France). In medieval and modern times, this bay was an important salt supply center for merchants and fishermen in Northern Europe, then a large anchorage linked to Nantes and to the maritime route between Saint-Malo, Lorient and La Rochelle. But, at the end of the medieval period, the evolution of the environment and the use of space conditions the reorganization of nautical and maritime activity. And now, what are the archaeological markers of this activity on land and under the sea? And what can they teach us about the resilience of coastal populations?
The oceanic coastal societies of the past have succeeded in exploiting resources, creating port facilities and navigation techniques for their growth by seizing the coastline and adapting to changing constraints. They thus produced a “maritime cultural landscape”. The Land-Sea continuum has become a vast and complex maritime network with urban, port and artisanal areas interconnected with maritime routes. The challenge of this proposal is therefore to indentify the construction and evolution of the maritime landscape.
- 6 HUMAN ADAPTATION TO LAKE LEVEL CHANGES IN THE LATE-HOLOCENE: KURSI BEACH AS AN EXAMPLE (SEA OF GALILEE, ISRAEL)**
Abstract author(s): Giaime, Matthieu (Hatter Laboratory, Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies, Department of Maritime Civilizations, University of Haifa; Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) - Artzy, Michal - Cohen, Haim (Hatter Laboratory, Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies, Department of Maritime Civilizations, University of Haifa)
Abstract format: Oral
During the Holocene, the Jordan Valley was a cradle of human occupation where the emergence of the first complex societies was noted. Local populations benefited from a particularly favourable environment, fertile agricultural lands and plentiful of water from the Jordan River. Along the valley, the freshwater lakes attracted local inhabitants to their shorelines and they, in turn, closely interacted with their natural environment. These anthropogenic legacies, modified over the millennia constitute the cultural heritage of the region. Lake of Galilee/Kinneret’s ancient coastal settlements have kept international interests due to the Christian world concern as the area where Jesus performed several miracles.
Using geomorphological and archaeological indicators, we aim to highlight the importance of Galilee lake level changes during the Late-Holocene period. Several structures excavated at Kursi Beach – including a breakwater and fishponds – dated to between the Iron Age and the Byzantine period provide evidence of pluri-metric lake level changes during the 1st Millenium BCE and the 1st Millenium CE. Our data is comparable with archaeological indicators originating from other Lake of Galilee excavation sites to better constrain lake level changes during that time period. Understanding lake level changes is of high interest to contextualise archaeological discoveries and to analyse the importance of human adaptation to environmental changes during a key period in this region.