

FALL/WINTER 2013

# INVENTORY

NEWS FROM THE JOUKOWSKY INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ANCIENT WORLD

## TIME PERCOLATES

Amazing though it may seem, the 'baby' Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World is now almost ten years old. I am starting my ninth year at Brown as its inaugural director. We have been in our beautifully renovated home, Rhode Island Hall, for almost four and a half years. How time flies when you are having fun.

This issue of *Inventory* was not deliberately designed as an 'anniversary' issue, but it actually serves that purpose very well, demonstrating as it does the Institute's ongoing commitment to its founding mission.

We have, for example, a new addition to our active fieldwork program. Peter van Dommelen, now in his second year at the Institute, has launched the S'Urachi Project in Sardinia, a remarkable site where Brown undergraduates and graduates alike will have the opportunity to work. Brown is unusual in North America for its expertise, spearheaded by van Dommelen, in both the west and west-central Mediterranean, and in the often-neglected Phoenician and Punic periods.



Our interactions with other resources on campus are represented by the work of graduate student Jennifer Thum, the proctor (research assistant) in the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology. As well

as manning the Haffenreffer's CultureLab and interacting with classes and visitors alike, Jen brought a special skill to the collection. You can read about her use of Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) to make an Egyptian Old Kingdom relief block 'pop'. This technique promises to be exceedingly useful, both in the field and on Brown-based artifacts. We look forward to trying it out, for example, on the Institute's large, still under-studied coin collection.

Central to the scholarly mission of the Institute is the dissemination of our research. We use many means to promulgate and share our results, not least a fast burgeoning series: *Joukowsky Institute Publications* (or JIP). Under the editorial direction of John F. Cherry, several volumes have now appeared, and Oxbow Books has done a terrific job

of high quality production. We are also happy to note that Joukowsky Institute faculty, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students have already edited volumes in the series.

Scholarly publication is one form of outreach, but there are other ways to make an impact. "Archaeology for the People" is an entirely original idea (of Cherry and Felipe Rojas), springing out a frequent lament that it is nearly impossible to find smart, responsible, and elegant writing about archaeological topics aimed at the 'eager,

intelligent, and non-specialized public'. This posed a challenge we couldn't refuse, and thus a competition was born. All readers of *Inventory* are welcome to submit entries!

Rhode Island Hall is usually humming with activity. Some days, however, it is busier than others, and probably one of



our busiest was Saturday, October 19, 2013. The first International Archaeology Day coincided with Family Weekend at Brown, which seemed too good an opportunity to miss. Organized by Suzie Birch and Fotini Kondyli (both postdoctoral fellows) and with a cast of thousands (graduates and undergraduates alike), the Institute put on quite a show. Every floor of Rhode Island Hall had some interactive display or demonstration going, and visitors (of all ages) were also invited to go 'dig' on the Quiet Green with the class, Archaeology of College Hill.

Finally, we are delighted to announce the formation of a new Advisory Committee to the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World. Leading academics – from Brown and other top universities, in archaeology and other related fields – have agreed to assist the faculty in plotting a forward course for the Institute. We are very grateful to all, not least Martha Sharp Joukowsky, and look forward to working with them as we move – unbelievably! – into our next decade.

Sue Alcock

Director, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World  
Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology  
Professor of Classics; Professor of Anthropology (by courtesy)  
Professor of the History of Art and Architecture (by courtesy)



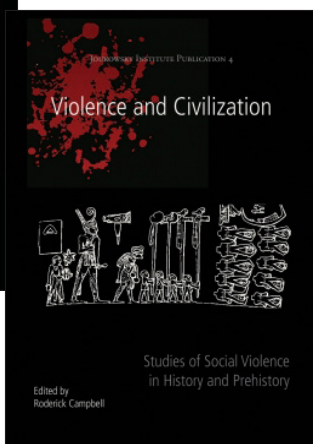
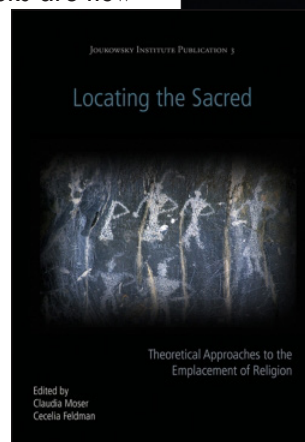
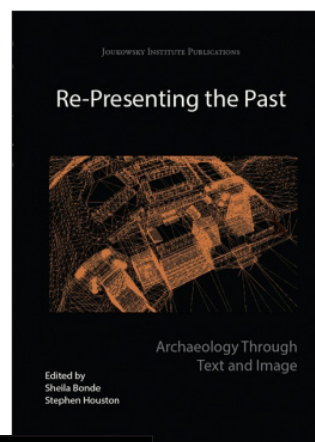




## (RE-)INTRODUCING JOUKOWSKY INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS

From the Joukowsky Institute's inception, it was always our goal to establish a signature publication series that would further the academic study and public promotion of the archaeology and art of the ancient Mediterranean, Egypt, and Western Asia, as well as helping to promote the activities and research of the Institute on the national and international stage. This publication series has really taken off in 2013.

The Joukowsky Institute has now signed an agreement with Oxbow Books to co-produce an ongoing series, under the rubric of *Joukowsky Institute Publications* (JIP). With this partnership in place, books are now rolling off the press! In July 2013, there appeared *Re-Presenting the Past: Archaeology through Text and Image* (JIP 2), edited by Brown professors Sheila Bonde and Stephen Houston, the papers presented at a conference held at the Institute in 2008. Now available (publication in January 2014) are two further volumes, again arising from conferences at Brown. JIP 3 (*Locating the Sacred: Theoretical Approaches to the Emplacement of Religion*, edited by JIAAW doctoral students Claudia Moser and Cecelia Feldman) is a volume that is the product of two sessions convened when Brown hosted the Theoretical Archaeology Group-USA conference in 2010. *Violence and Civilization: Studies of Social Violence in History and Prehistory* (JIP 4, edited by former JIAAW postdoctoral



fellow Roderick Campbell) represents most of the papers presented at a conference sponsored by the JIAAW and Brown's Cogut Center for the Humanities in Spring 2009.

Looking to the rest of 2014, two further volumes are actively in production. *Of Rocks and Water: Towards an Archaeology of Place* (JIP 5), edited by Ömür Harmanşah, represents papers from a JIAAW conference several years ago; it will be published this summer. JIP 6 is *Archaeologies of Text: Archaeology, Technology, and Ethics*, edited by Brown professor Matthew T. Rutz and former JIAAW postdoctoral fellow Morag M. Kersel, and it will be available in the Fall.

After 2014, the sky is the limit! Future titles in the JIP series will closely reflect the interests of the Institute: its primary focus is on the dissemination of the results of conferences and workshops held under the Institute's aegis, but it also extends to fieldwork reports and other scholarly studies by scholars associated with the Institute, and the publication of archaeological material in Brown University collections. Among future volumes currently planned is one that presents the winning entries in the "Archaeology for the People" competition (see story at right).

### A New Perspective on an Old Kingdom Relief Block

This fall, Joukowsky Institute doctoral student Jennifer Thum worked closely with an Old Kingdom relief block, which is from an ancient Egyptian private tomb of the 5th or 6th Dynasty (ca. 2494-2181 BCE). The block is part of the permanent collection of the the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, and Thum's study of it comprised a large part of her official graduate Proctorship for the term.



The block came to the museum through a series of donors, and curators do not know its place of origin. It is in poor condition, with cracks, worn areas, and residue from reconstruction (at some point in its history, it broke into pieces and was repaired). It is hard enough to see the details of the carving on this block with the naked eye, and it is even harder to get a good photograph using conventional methods. All of these problems made the block an ideal candidate for Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) and digital epigraphy.

RTI is a light-based technology that merges a series of photographs, each with light coming from different direction, so we can shine light digitally over a composite image of the object.

A shiny sphere positioned near the object reflects the light in each photo, allowing the computer software to "read" the direction the light is coming from.

Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions through drawing and recording. Digital epigraphy is the computer-based version of epigraphy, where a tracing is made over a picture of the object using drawing software. To digitally draw the Haffenreffer's block, Thum used Adobe Illustrator, drawing on the RTI images.

To get the best angle of light for each section of the block, she divided the RTI image into 16 rectangular sections, and took four "snapshots" of each one – numbers chosen based on how much detail each section of the block would show. Each of the snapshots shows the same section of the block, but with the light shining from a different direction.



Thum completed the process by drawing the block – not just the figures and hieroglyphs, but also the damage and restoration. The RTI images and the drawing will now become part of the museum's collection, helping visitors and curatorial staff to understand more about the formerly invisible relief.

## INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

On October 19, 2013, the Joukowsky Institute opened its doors in celebration of the first annual International Archaeology Day, which has grown from National Archaeology Day. In collaboration with JIAAW, the AIA Narragansett Society, Rhode Island's chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America, organized a range of events and activities, including a stratigraphy and an artifact lab featuring pottery, coins, glass, and figurines from the Institute collection. JIAAW graduate students and undergraduate concentrators volunteered their expertise for the day and explained to visitors the different "stories" objects tell, with interactive exhibits and "labs" throughout the building. One station showcased 3D computer reconstructions of archaeological sites, and the top floor hosted a "bone lab" with human and animal skeletons, which attracted a steady stream of visitors.



We welcomed young archaeologists in grades 7-12 (and some much younger!) for Young Archaeologists' Day as part of the event. Outside,

the Archaeology of College Hill class was excavating the home of Brown's first president. Volunteers were able to try their hand at excavation, including digging and screening for finds. We also set up an area where visitors could take part in reconstructing the footprint of ancient homes and get a sense of what daily home life would have been like for different peoples in the past.

## \$5,000 FOR 5,000 WORDS?

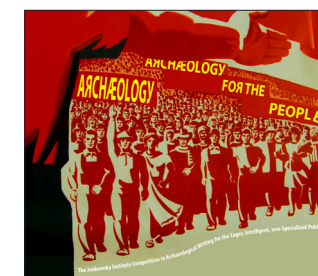
The Joukowsky Institute has launched a world-wide competition for archaeological writing aimed at the eager, intelligent, and non-specialized public: "Archaeology for the People – The Joukowsky Institute Competition for Accessible Archaeological Writing."

Archaeology abounds in nearly all aspects of the human experience. In a crowded hotel lobby during the recent AIA conference, one could hear scholars passionately speaking about pedestrian survey in the Caucasus, rival working models of the Antikythera mechanism, and whether the Homeric epithet for eels was or not directly related to an indigenous version of Zeus in Western Anatolia. It takes an imaginative and intelligent author to turn those seemingly abstruse discussions into clear and compelling prose that people other than archaeologists can understand.

The task is not impossible. Stephen Jay Gould and Roy Porter faced a similar challenge in their own fields. Yet they were able to invoke complex and revealing stories in powerful prose that is fascinating to everyone: writing that encourages people to read and learn more. Yet archaeology, despite its broad appeal, has had almost no champions of their caliber. This may be about to change.

The Joukowsky Institute invites all interested writers to produce accessible and engaging texts showcasing any aspect of archaeology of potential interest to a wide readership. As an incentive, we are offering a prize of \$5,000.

More details and complete rules can be viewed at: <http://proteus.brown.edu/archforthepeoplecompetition>



## CORE FACULTY

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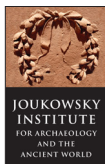
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## IN THE SHADOW OF THE *NURAGHE*: THE S'URACHI PROJECT

The summer of 2013 saw the start of a new JIAAW project, when Professor Peter van Dommelen and his team broke ground at the site of S'Urachi on the west coast of the island of Sardinia. In close collaboration with the village of San Vero Milis, local archaeologist and museum director Alfonso Stiglitz and van Dommelen teamed up to investigate one of Sardinia's over 7,000 *nuraghi* – monumental settlements made up of one or more dry-stone-walled towers that may reach up to sixty feet. While most of these settlements consist of just a single tower, a small number of *nuraghi* developed into massive complexes comprising up to five towers and surrounded by a defensive wall sporting yet more towers. S'Urachi ranks among the largest on the island, as it boasts four to five towers and a circuit wall with at least ten more.



fringes of the complex. Although it was probably built as early as the Middle Bronze Age, surface finds demonstrate



The JIAAW excavation takes place outside the *nuraghe* and its circuit wall, investigating the later histories of the monument, which are thought to be better preserved on the

that S'Urachi continued to be inhabited throughout the first millennium BCE until well into the Roman period (2nd to 3rd century CE). They also suggest that at least part of the *nuraghe* itself was transformed into a sanctuary and that settlement shifted to the outer areas of the monument. The JIAAW project concentrates on the Phoenician and Punic periods in order to examine how colonizing Phoenicians and Carthaginians interacted with local Sardinian inhabitants across the first millennium BCE.

Two large trenches were opened in areas where fieldwork in the 1940s had largely removed the later Roman constructions. It

quickly became clear that one area included a number of rooms or buildings built against the older defensive wall, while the other exposed a mostly open area that was used for a series of dumps of a wide range of material. The rooms appear to date to the late Punic or Hellenistic period (2nd to 1st century BCE), while the trash pits in the other area contain much older material (6th to 5th century BCE).

The project is set to continue excavating for a number of years and to expand to survey the surrounding landscapes.

