



Written Report by the Chair of the Board of Directors

Annual General meeting of CIMS, June 26th, 2021

This report covers the period since our last Annual Meeting which took place in Ottawa on November 10th, 2018. It will consist of a report relevant to CIMS's dual mandate of research and information on the culture and traditions of the Mediterranean.

The report will cover events at both the National level and in each of the Chapters: Ottawa and Toronto.

While the year 2019 saw several worthwhile presentations, the Covid pandemic has forced us to change our approach since March 2020. These past months have been difficult for all of us but the Board of Directors decided that we would continue bringing information on the Mediterranean to our members and friends, in spite of the pandemic situation in which we are all living. Because we could not continue to have live lectures in both our Ottawa and Toronto Chapters, we have been having a series of lectures virtually, via Zoom. This new system allows us to engage experts outside of Ottawa and Toronto and thus to broaden our outreach.

We have also finalized three important projects to bring more attention to the activities of the Institute. These projects include:

The preparation of a brochure which describes the mandate of the Institute and which was initially planned for distribution both by mail and at our in-person meetings in both Toronto and Ottawa. Its distribution has been interrupted due to the Covid pandemic but we hope to resume distribution this fall. The brochure's main purpose is for information and marketing.

The complete redrawing of our website in both English and French. It is now available under the following domain: www.mediterraneanstudies.ca. This website will not only include information on the Institute but will also allow memberships to be renewed electronically.

The creation of a student grant. CIMS signed an agreement with the Canadian Institute in Greece (CIG), creating an award to be known as the "**CIMS-CIG STUDENT TRAVEL BURSARY.**" Our thanks go to Robert Peck, Director on the National Board, for the hard

work he put into this project signed both by the President of the Canadian Institute in Greece (CIG) Prof. Scott Gallimore and signed by both our President Alex Gropper and the Chair of CIMS Louise Terrillon-Mackay.

The goal of this award is to support undergraduate students in Canada who have reason to travel to Greece. This would be a merit-based award and we would also aim to support students as much as possible who identify as members of a historically underrepresented group. Travel could be for the purpose of participating in an archaeological project in Greece, attending a summer program or study abroad experience, or participation in some other academic activity that requires the student to be in Greece. The agreement will provide CIG with the sum of \$3000 over an initial three-year period and subject to renewal by mutual consent. CIMS agrees to provide to the CIG \$1000.00 on an annual basis in years 2022, 2023 and 2024. CIMS will be given full credit for providing the funding for this award and for supporting students in this manner.

JOINT LECTURES

As mentioned previously, the use of virtual programming has given us the opportunity to present joint lectures by our two chapters, with special funding from the Joe Di Geso fund, named after one of our generous donors and to whom we wish to extend our special thanks. These and some of our Chapter lectures drew audience not only from Ottawa and Toronto but from all over Canada, the US and even the UK, Greece and many other countries.

Three events in particular were joint lectures:

1. On November 18, 2020, Dr. Timothy Harrison, former Board member and professor and Chair of the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto, gave a presentation on the theme of : *Portraits of a Forgotten Kingdom: Tayanat sculptures and other recent discoveries on the Plain of ancient Antioch in South Eastern Turkey.* Prof. Harrison spoke about the remains of a series of majestic sculptures, uncovered during excavations at Tell Tayianat, dating to the early 9th century BCE and which include the head and torsos of male and female figures of a winged bull and sphinx and a magnificently carved lion figure. The lecture presented these extraordinary sculptures and other recent discoveries at the Tayinat Archaeological Project excavations and contextualized these discoveries within the broader cultural milieu of the early first millennium of the eastern Mediterranean world.

2. On March 7, 2021, Dr. Antonio Ricci, Board member and Associate professor, Department of the Humanities at York University gave a virtual presentation on the theme of: *Renaissance Readers and Their Books: Representations of a Fugitive Act.* The lecture examined depictions of readers in paintings and poems of the 15th and 16th centuries with the intention of recovering aspects of the experience of reading during this period and to gain a measure of insight into what remains an elusive phenomenon. It focused on the painting of the Virgin Annunciata, a well known painting of the

Renaissance. To quote the former Italian Ambassador Taffuri: 'Books educate us, move us, and bring us new experiences and new worlds'. The Renaissance offers us intriguing answers.

3. On April 29th, 2021, Dr. Nicolas Terpstra, gave a virtual lecture on the theme of "*Who Created Florence: Making a Renaissance City*". Dr. Terpstra is the Emilio Goggio Chair in Italian Studies, Department of Italian Studies at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto.

Florence stands out for many as embodying the peak of Italian Renaissance creativity. But what made it the artistic centre that we see today? To understand why, the speaker went beyond the artists themselves to look at those who later collected, conserved, and (re)created the art and architecture we see today. The lecture described those who took up the creation of the new Florence from a fifteenth century creator, to a sixteenth century collector, an eighteenth century conservator, a group of nineteenth century expatriates, in order to answer the question of "who created Florence" as the modern Renaissance capital that we see today.

OTTAWA CHAPTER LECTURES

The Ottawa Chapter saw both in-person and virtual presentations in the period from December 2018 to June 2021. We were able to hold lectures in various venues, thanks to the generosity of the College of the Humanities at Carleton University during 2019 and the beginning of 2020. The lectures in the fall of 2020 and through 2021 were presented virtually via Zoom. Our thanks go to Prof Shane Hawkins, Director of the College of the Humanities at Carleton University who made all of these possible, to our continued cooperation with the Ottawa Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America and to all those who helped in preparing our lectures here in Ottawa and abroad and to the continued support of the diplomatic missions representing the Mediterranean countries in Ottawa in particular the Ambassadors of Italy, Greece, Egypt, Turkey and Georgia.

In February 2019 we had the pleasure of cosponsoring with the Embassy of Georgia a lecture on the theme of "Exploring the Roots of the Vine: the History and Archaeology of the earliest Wine", with Prof. Stephen Batiuk, Research Associate in the Department of Middle Eastern Civilizations and the Archaeology Center of Toronto University. Prof Batiuk has been working on a project in the region of Caucasia, modern Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan on the origins of wine going back to the Neolithic period, and demonstrated how wine culture originated in Georgia, spread to the Ancient Near East and eventually through the Mediterranean world.

This was followed by a lecture cosponsored by the Egyptian Embassy, by Prof Jean Revez, History Department, University du Quebec in Montreal,(UQAM) on the column decorations inside the Temple of Amon-Ra in Karnak, a project of Memphis University.

Dr. Brendan Burke, interim Director of the Canadian Institute in Greece and Chair of Greek and Roman Studies from the University of Victoria, BC. gave a lecture on the excavations in the ancient site of Eleon in the village of Arma in central Greece. This was particularly interesting, as CIG is doing innovative work in digital archaeology, such as the use of drone photography, photogrammetry, 3D scans etc. The project is in partnership with the Ephorate of the Antiquities of Boeotia (Thebes).

In May 2019 we were fortunate in having H.E. Dr. Mamdouh Al Damaty, former Minister of Antiquities of Egypt as our guest speaker, and sponsored by the Egyptian Ambassador to Canada. Dr. Al Damaty, Egyptologist and Professor of Archeology at Ain Shams University in Cairo, spoke to us about the new discoveries he has made in the Valley of the Kings, the Tomb of King Tutankhamun, the pyramids of Dahshour and Giza, etc. over the past few years.

In the Fall of 2019 we welcomed Dr Alexander Kitroeff, Professor of History at Haverford College, Pennsylvania, where he is Professor of History, coordinator of Middle East and Islamic Studies. He has studied and written extensively on the Greek diaspora in Egypt especially in Alexandria in the early 19th through the early twentieth century. He has just published a book on “The Greeks and the Making of Modern Egypt” where the Greeks played a central role in the development of Egypt’s cotton cultivation and export, tobacco and cigarettes and textiles manufacturing and contributed to the opening and running of the Suez Canal.

The year closed with the presentation by our former Board member and distinguished research professor and Dean emeritus of the College of the Humanities, Carleton University, Dr. John Osborne. Prof Osborne presented us with a conundrum: “Is the Capitoline Wolf Etruscan or Medieval?” Is this sculpture in Rome’s Capitoline Museum since 1471, the she-wolf who according to legend, nurtured the twins Romulus and Remus, dating back to the Etruscan period (4th century BCE) or from the Middle Ages? He proved that it was definitely Etruscan, to the relief of the audience.

Other presentations included that of Dr. Daryn Lehoux, Professor of Classics at Queens’ University, who spoke on the theme of “Greco-Roman Egypt and the History of Ancient Astronomy”.

Virtual presentations sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) Ottawa Society included Dr. Carl Knappett, Walter Graham/Homer Thompson Chair in Aegean Prehistory at the University of Toronto, on “Creativity in Aegean Bronze Age Art”; Dr. Carolyn Laferrière of Yale University on “Imagining the Sights and Sounds of Ancient Ritual” at the Yale University Art Gallery; Rita Freed from the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston on “Exhibiting Nubia in our present-day world” and Professor Mike Sampson from the University of Manitoba on “New Sappho and Digital Forensics: Technology in the Service of Scholarly Integrity”. Our colleagues in Toronto were able to join us for most of these.

The highlight of the in-person lectures before Covid closed us down was the presentation by Dr. Jodi Magness on her recent excavations in the ancient village of Huqoq in Israel's Galilee, which have brought to light the remains of a monumental late Roman (5th century) synagogue building paved with stunning and unique mosaics, including biblical scenes and the first non-biblical story ever discovered decorating an ancient synagogue. CIMS has a particular interest in these excavations as our Institute has contributed financially to this project. Dr. Magness is the Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The lecture was presented in collaboration with the Zelikovitz Center for Jewish Studies, Carleton University, and the Jewish Community Center of Ottawa.

In addition to two Joint lectures in 2021, Ottawa chapter closed the season with a presentation by Professor Michael Cosmopoulos, the Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation Professor of Archaeology and Chair of the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Dr. Cosmopoulos has excavated at several ancient sites in Greece and Ukraine and is currently directing the Iklaina Archaeological Project. He has been awarded several teaching awards, including the Archaeological Institute of America Award for Excellence in Teaching. He is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, of the Academy of Science St. Louis, of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, a Corresponding Member of the Athens Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a National Geographic Society Explorer. The lecture was cosponsored by AIA and the College of the Humanities at Carleton and was under the patronage of the Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to Canada. The title of the lecture was "*Digging Homer. The Mycenaean Palace at Iklaina and the Birth of Greek Epic Poetry.*"

TORONTO CHAPTER LECTURES

Thanks to Noel McFerran for helping to organize Toronto's lectures and to Solomon Klein for preparing the posters.

Toronto has had a busy schedule these past two and a half years. We have endeavored to feature scholars from St. Michael's College, our home base, as well as from other institutions in the Toronto area. We began with a talk on *Popes and Zionists* by Dr. Adrian Ciani of St. Augustine's Seminary and Seneca College Next came Dr. Robert Logan of the University of Toronto on *the Alphabet: Mother of Invention*, followed by Dr. John Solheid of St. Michael's College at U of T on *Origen and Third-Century Christian Education in Caesarea Maritima co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute*. From there we had Dr. Stephen Tardif of St. Michael's College take us to *The Garden of the World: Victorian Visions of Italy* followed by Dr. Alison More, also of St. Michael's College, speaking on *Clara in natura, clarior in fama, clarissima in Gratia: Clare of Assisi and Feminine Holiness in Later Medieval Europe*. After her came Dr. Peter O'Hagan, also of the University of St. Michael's College, speaking about *The Rise of the University: A Medieval Institution* to be followed by the late Dr. McKenzie Lewis of

the University of Waterloo, the director of the excavations of the Villa del Vergigno Excavations in Tuscany, (originally co-sponsored by the Toronto chapter) who spoke about *How Old is the City of Florence*. This lecture was co-sponsored by **the Italian Cultural Institute**. Next came a special lecture by Dr. Millicent Marcus, of *Yale University*, co-sponsored by the University of St. Michael's College and the **Italian Cultural Institute**, commemorating the 80th anniversary of Mussolini's anti Semitic edict. She spoke on "**Non capisce non puoi piu andare a scuola?**": *Representations of Fascist Anti-Semitism and the Racial Laws in Italian Cinema(1970-2001)*.

Our 2019/2020 lectures were inaugurated by CIMS board member, Noel McFerran, Rare Book Librarian at the Kelly Library at the University of St. Michael's College, who spoke about *Italian Printing in the Kelly Library*. Our next lecture was part of a series on *Sicily in the Mediterranean World*, which we co-sponsored along with the **Italian Cultural Institute** and the **Columbus Centre**. It was given by Damiano Pietropaolo, former head of English Language Drama at the CBC, on *the Sicilian Legacy of Modern Europe*. This was followed by Dr. Callie Callon, of the Toronto School of Theology, speaking on *Physiognomy in the Ancient World*. In January of 2020 Dr. Guillaume Bernardi of York University spoke on *The Age of the Castrati in Europe*.

Our next lecture was part of a joint effort initiated by the Ottawa chapter and given by Dr. Jodi Magness, of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and director of the Tel Huqoq Excavations which were co-sponsored by the Toronto chapter as part of a project celebrating Jewish-Italian Friendship. The lecture was titled *More than Just Mosaics: The Ancient Synagogue at Huqoq*. It was held at the Royal Ontario Museum which co-sponsored the talk along with the Israeli Consulate. Our final lecture of the season was given by Dr. Jeffrey Easton of the University of Toronto, who spoke on *Going Somewhere?: Migration and Mobility in the Roman West*.

The 2020/2021 season was unique in that it was done virtually and allowed both chapters to participate. The first lecture was given by Dr. Carl Knappett, J. Walter Graham Chair in Minoan Studies at the Dept. of Fine Arts at the University of Toronto. He spoke of *Creativity in the Aegean Bronze Age*. It was a joint lecture with the AIA and CIMS Ottawa. It was followed by Dr. Mike Sampson from the University of Manitoba, who lectured on New Sappho and *Digital Forensics: Technology in the Service of Scholarly Integrity*. Next we had a joint lecture with CIMS Ottawa given by Dr. Timothy Harrison, Head of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto and former Head of the American Schools of Oriental Research and a former board member of CIMS as being head of the C.R.A.N.E project in Turkey who spoke on *Portraits of a Forgotten Kingdom: Tayanat Sculptures and Other Recent Discoveries on the Plain of Antioch in Southeastern Turkey*. This was followed by the last lecture of the year given by Amit Rozenblum, Site Conservator with the Israel Antiquities Authority who told us about *Ancient Synagogues in the Galilee and Golan Heights*. It was co-sponsored by the Israeli Consulate in Toronto.

The New Year(2021) was begun with a talk by Cristiana Conti a doctoral student at York University who spoke on *The Yahweh of the South: The Site of Kuntillet 'Ajrud and its Controversial Connection with the Northern Kingdom of Israel.*" She was followed by her

thesis advisor and Head of Jewish Studies at York University, Dr. Carl S. Ehrlich who gave a joint talk with Ottawa on the topic of *Rape in the Hebrew Bible*. Also from York University our next speaker was Dr. Antonio Ricci who gave a joint lecture with Ottawa on *Renaissance Readers and Their Books: Representations of a Fugitive Act*. The last speaker of the season was also a joint lecture given by Dr. Nicholas Terpstra, Acting Chair of Italian Studies at the University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto who spoke on *Who Created Florence: Making a Renaissance City*.

For the upcoming season we have a few joint initiatives in the works including an inaugural lecture by the world renowned Dante scholar, former Principal of the University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto as well as being the former president of CIMS, Dr. Domenico Pietropaolo, who will give a talk on the 700th anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri. We will also have talk by Dr. Angus Smith of Brock University, a member of the executive of the CIG, who will speak on the Mycenaeans. We look forward to a stimulating season.

June 26, 2021