

THE INSTITUTE IN THE NEWS

Volume of Studies Honors Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati

— Roz Salzman¹

The long, distinguished, and prolific careers of Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati are honored in the recent publication of a volume of studies, *Between Syria and the Highlands*, authored by 51 scholars from universities and research centers around the world. Giorgio Buccellati is a professor emeritus of the Departments of History and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and the founding director of the Institute of Archaeology at UCLA (now the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology). He is also director of the Mesopotamian Laboratory. Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati is professor emerita of archaeology and art history at California State University–Los Angeles. Both are researchers affiliated with the Cotsen Institute. They have worked for many years in the Near East and served as directors of the archaeological expedition to Tell Mozan (ancient Urkesh) in north-eastern Syria.

In her contribution to the volume, Willeke Wendrich, director of the Cotsen Institute, writes: “When I think of Giorgio and Marilyn, I think of . . . equally impressive scholars, who have always worked closely together, but who remain distinct persons, with their own careers. Co-directing excavations, authoring articles and books together, requires great talent in delivering and accepting input, ideas, and critique. . . . They are the scholarly giants on which next and future generations of archaeologists stand. Most importantly, they treat the people with whom they work as members of an extended family: their American, Italian, and Syrian students; the women of the villages around

1. Director of the Cotsen Communications Group.

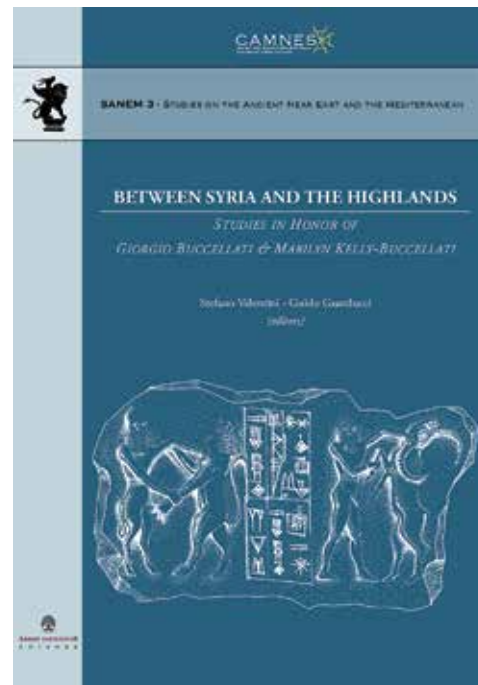


Figure 1. *Between Syria and the Highlands: Studies in Honor of Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati*.

Mozan; and their close colleagues in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, as well as the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, of which Giorgio was the founding father and Marilyn, the ever-present mother.”

In discussing this Festschrift (a collection of writings published in honor of a scholar or scholars), the Buccellatis admitted that they had no idea that the volume of tributes was in the works until late 2019, when their son Federico, also an archaeologist, who was appointed director of the Mozan/Urkesh Archaeological Project in May, brought out the book during a Christmas visit. This followed a Skype call with Stefano Valentini and Guido Guarducci, two colleagues from their excavation in Syria and editors of the volume. “They were excavating near us in Syria, and they pretty much knew which colleagues to approach for contributions,” Giorgio Buccellati explains. “We said, almost immediately, that we wanted it to be open source online,” which it now is. The Buccellatis are currently in the process of writing individual letters to each contributor because, Giorgio adds, “we are carefully reading what they have

Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati Honored (continued)



Figure 2. Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati, Giorgio Buccellati, and Federico Buccellati discuss the site of Tell Mozan, ancient Urkesh, in northeastern Syria.

written and are responding to their arguments.” The book is included in the series *Studies on the Ancient Near East and the Mediterranean*, published by the Center for Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies in Florence, Italy.

Valentini says about Marilyn and Giorgio, “I have always appreciated their empathy and their intellectual honesty, supported by an innate ability to communicate, share, and involve the scientific community with the ultimate goal of giving life to an archaeology full of humanity: made up of people and of faces, not only of pottery and of dust. Thanks to them, I gained the awareness that the archaeologist, wherever he is working, must also fulfill his task as cultural mediator: between the cultures of the past and those of the present and between our Western culture and that of the countries we host.”

Guarducci adds, “I would like to deeply thank Giorgio for accepting, since the very first day back in 2010, becoming a member of the scientific committee of the newborn Center for Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies, as well as his and Marilyn’s constant support in the ensuing events that we organized. Thank you Giorgio and thank you Marilyn for your remarkable academic and scientific effort and for your precious friendship.”

In their contribution to the volume, “Integrating Conservation, Archaeology, and Community at Tell Mozan (Urkesh),” Neville Agnew and Martha Demas of the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles describe the Buccellatis as “having woven a beautiful tapestry, integrating archaeology, conservation and community from their deep attachment for the place and people. Their work reflects a blend of scholarly erudition and pragmatic commonsense. They see near and far. Practicing archaeologists who have embraced both site and artifact conservation, innovators and experimentalists, networkers across multiple disci-

THE INSTITUTE IN THE NEWS



Figure 3. Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati and Giorgio Buccellati.

plines with the ability to engage help from others with different expertise—these are the attributes of the Buccellatis. We stand in admiration of their inventive ways of harnessing the benefits of archaeology for a larger purpose and in ways they never would have imagined—as a bulwark against the ravages of war.”

The chapter “The Terqa Cloves and the Archaeology of Aroma” was contributed by Monica L. Smith, professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and a core faculty member of the Cotsen Institute. She notes that the starting points for her paper were the tiny botanical remains found by the Buccellatis in 1976 in their excavations in Terqa, where they reported cloves from a second millennium BCE context. She writes, “It is a great pleasure to offer this modest chapter in honor of Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati and Giorgio Buccellati. Throughout my many years at UCLA, they have been gracious and generous colleagues and friends, with whom it has always been a wonderful pleasure to share conversations about archaeological theory interwoven with warm observations about family life and some wonderful meals.”

“The Scepter from Sitagroi and Early Bronze Age Symbols of Power” is a chapter written by Ernestine Elster, alumna of the Cotsen Institute and former director of publications. She describes how she first met Giorgio Buccellati in the 1960s during an extension course, which culminated in an optional trip to visit sites and museums. The original Friends of Archaeology formed as a result of this trip, with Buccellati becoming the faculty adviser. Subsequently, after she received her MA and Buccellati had been appointed director of the newly established Institute of Archaeology, he asked her to be director of the fledgling publications program, a position she held from 1974 until 2003. She claims that the Buccellatis “served as unofficial godparents” to *The Archaeology of Grotta Scaloria: Ritual in Neolithic Southeast Italy* (Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press, 2016), which she coauthored. “Our friendship is a long one, studded with family meetings and memorable travels,” she writes.

Studies on the Ancient Near East and the Mediterranean is a scientific monographic series of the Center for Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies, created with the support of Arbor Sapientiae of Rome. A digital copy of *Between Syria and the Highlands: Studies in Honor of Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati* (394 pages) is available through www.avasa.it/en/publications.htm; a hard copy may be purchased for \$157.50.

BACKDIRT

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COTSEN INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AT UCLA
DECEMBER 2020



Archaeology and Pandemics



BACKDIRT

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COTSEN INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AT UCLA

Willeke Wendrich
Director of the Institute

Randi Danforth
Publications Director, CloA Press

Hans Barnard
Editor, *Backdirt*

Isabel Schneider
Assistant Editor, *Backdirt*

Peg Goldstein
Copyediting

Doug Brotherton
Design

FRONT COVER: Empty corridors of the Cotsen Institute with directions for one-way traffic and a hand sanitizer dispenser in place. (Photograph by Vanessa Muros)

BACK COVER: Symbols of life in 2020: face masks and meetings through Zoom. (Screenshot by Matei Tichindelean)

ABOVE: Sonia Zarrillo, postdoctoral fellow at the Cotsen Institute, presents a lecture for the Andean Working Group: “New Approaches to Tracing Cacao’s Dispersal from the Amazon Basin,” January 23, 2020.

To request a copy or for information on submissions, please contact the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press via email at: nomads@ucla.edu

Read *Backdirt* online at: <http://ioa.ss.ucla.edu/content/backdirt>

©2020 UC Regents

CONTENTS

BACKDIRT 2020

2-3

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

- 5 Willeke Wendrich

THE INSTITUTE IN THE NEWS

- 6 Writing for the Public: Advancing a Meaningful Archaeological Practice
Stephen Acabado and Marlon Martin
- 9 Volume of Studies Honors Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati
Roz Salzman

6

FEATURE ARTICLES: PANDEMICS IN HISTORY

- 12 Ancient Epidemics in Chinese Archaeology
Zichan Wang
- 18 The Plague of Athens
John K. Papadopoulos
- 24 Viral Legacies
Georgi Kyorlenski
- 30 Sixteenth-Century Epidemics and Colonial Legacies in the Americas
Anthony Meyer
- 38 Social Distancing: A Brief Historic Perspective
Hans Barnard
- 44 An Archaeological Reflection on Plague and Prehistoric Globalization
Li Min

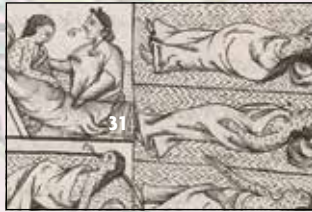
5

4

1

FEATURE ARTICLES: PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

- 50 An Unintended Study of the Impact of Protective Facial Coverings during Pandemics
Wendy All
- 56 How I Survive Life in Quarantine
Hans Barnard
- 64 Child Enslavement in a Roman Fresco
Sarah Beckmann
- 72 "I'm again not doing well..."
Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati



74 Material Entanglements in 2020
Adam DiBattista

76 A Space of One's Own
Moupi Mukhopadhyay

82 Reflections on 2020 Thus Far
Iman Jamal Nagy

85 2020 and Inclusivity at the Cotsen Institute
Carly Pope

LABORATORY LIFE

88 Archaeology and the Impermanence of Scientific Knowledge
Stephen Acabado and Marlon Martin

92 Distancing: One-on-One Heritage Archaeology across Three Continents
Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati

98 Some Reflections on Qin Studies
Lothar von Falkenhausen

101 The Himalayan Institute of Cultural and Heritage Studies Foundation
Sonali Gupta-Agarwal

104 Looking Deep into the Weave: An In-Depth Investigation and Protection of a Gold Woven Textile
Skyler Jenkins

110 Learning to Do Research under the "Pandemic Normal:" Notes from the Armenian Laboratory
Kristine Martirosyan-Olshansky

112 Research Before and During the Pandemic: The Experimental and Archaeological Sciences Laboratory
Vanessa Muros

116 A Participatory Exhibition in the Time of Covid-19
Nicole Smith, Gabriel Canter, Austin Shipman, and Jason De León

120 A Virtual Field Season: Digitizing a Roman Granary
Nicole Smith, Gabriel Canter, Austin Shipman, and Jason De León

ALUMNI ADVENTURES

128 Careers after the Cotsen: Alternatives to Academia
Roz Salzman

133 Finding Community
Geneva Griswold

135 High on Archaeology: Conducting Research and Fieldwork in the Himalayas
Sonali Gupta-Agarwal

138 Learning and Unlearning
Christine Johnston

142 Increasing Data and Data Accessibility in Zooarchaeology
Hannah Lau

CONTENTS

CONTINUED

REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRS

- 146 Report of the Conservation Program
Glenn Wharton
- 151 Report of the Chair of the Archaeology Program
Greg Schachner
- 153 Incoming Graduate Students
Willeke Wendrich

COTSEN COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 155 Community Events
Michelle Jacobson and Roz Salzman
- 160 The Eighth Graduate Archaeology Research Conference: Experiencing
Destruction and Regeneration in Archaeology
Alba Menéndez Pereda, Eden Franz, and Zichan Wang
- 163 Elizabeth Carter Honored with a Two-Day Symposium
Roz Salzman and Michelle Jacobson

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- 166 An Interview with Donor Phillip Tamoush
Isabel Schneider
- 168 An Interview with Bronson Tran
Isabel Schneider
- 170 Remembering Dr. Marilyn Beaudry-Corbett
Willeke Wendrich
- 172 Remembering Gregory E. Areshian (1949–2020)
Kristine Martirosyan-Olshansky
- 175 Ofer Bar-Yosef (1937–2020): Celebration of Life
Willeke Wendrich
- 176 In Memoriam: Norma Kershaw
(December 31, 1924–September 14, 2020)
Aaron A. Burke

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

- 178 From the Publisher's Desk
Randi Danforth

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 181 List of Donors