

# SAS BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Volume 43 Number 1

Spring 2020

FROM THE EDITOR  
*CARMEN TING*

This is going to be a somewhat unusual, more personal note from me, but again, we are living in unusual times (maybe abnormality is the new norm). I would like to share with you my thoughts of the current situation. Probably haunted by the memories of surviving the SARS coronavirus not long ago, I was, and am still, worried for my mom and family that are living thousand miles away. I proceeded to being annoyed at the unexpected disruptions on both professional and personal fronts. I also feel anxious about the future – how do we go back to ‘normal’ life again after this? For a large part of it, I feel rather disoriented and confused. But then, when I manage to disentangle this mixture of mostly negative emotions, I came to realise that I am actually quite lucky because I am not weathering the situation alone, as I am well supported by the various communities I belong to. Because of this personal experience, I do hope that the SAS can also be part of the communities you can fall back on at challenging time like this. Our editors are working tirelessly with the aim of diversifying the contents of the blog and

bulletin to ensure that you feel and stay connected in the community of archaeological science.

In this issue, Nicolás has brought to our attention the latest developments of the research being carried out on the Akko 1 Shipwreck. There are also a wide array of reviews of the conferences, meetings, and workshops that took place earlier this year or last year, in case you feel like you are missing out, with almost all major international conferences, such as the Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology and International Symposium on Archaeometry, being cancelled or postponed.

We are also starting a lockdown book club, currently led by Charlie. You can read the summary of his insightful comments of the volumes and monographs related to different aspects of archaeological sciences. You are more than welcome to join by sharing with us what you are reading, whether they are academic textbooks or leisure reads. You can even get involved by sending us a short review, which will be posted on the blog. Cute cat (or pet) pictures are mandatory though!

Hopefully, this issue of the SAS bulletin will provide you with the much-needed break from the avalanche of the updates on the current situation. Keep safe and healthy, everyone! I have faith that the next issue of the bulletin will reach you at a different, better time.

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POMERANCE AWARD FOR SCIENTIFIC  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARCHAEOLOGY

*ROBERT TYKOT*

Nothing more appropriate as the first post of this issue than the joyous news of Professor Heather Nan Lechtman being awarded with the highly prestigious Pomerance Award for Scientific Contributions to Archaeology. The award was presented to Professor Lechtman during the past annual meeting of the American Institute for Archaeology (AIA).



(from left to right) Thomas Tartaron, Heather Lechtman, and Robert Tykot (Photo courtesy of Robert Tykot).

The official announcement by the AIA is in the link below:  
<https://www.archaeological.org/grant/pomerance-award-for-scientific-contributions/>

#### CONFERENCE REVIEW: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

*CHARLES C. KOLB, Associate Editor*  
*ROXANNE RADPOUR, Associate Editor*

Furthering on the Annual Meeting of the AIA, which was held in Washington D.C., 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> January 2020, hopefully, you can get a grip of the vibe of the meeting through the two reviews, which focus on the sessions related to archaeological ceramics and pigments, respectively.



Left: Panel discussion from Session 5J; inset: excavated Egyptian blue pellets presented at the meeting. Right: Top – Kate Smith presenting the results from a multi-characterization approach of an Egyptian funerary headboard. Bottom – Krystal Cunningham discussing the reverse engineering and reproduction of ancient cobalt blue.

You can read more about Charlie's insights on the archaeological ceramics sessions below:  
<https://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/02/conference-review-archaeological.html>

Roxanne also shared her thoughts on the archaeological pigments session in the following link:  
<https://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/04/archaeological-pigments-session-at.html>

#### SHORT COURSE REVIEW: GLASS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE NEAR EAST

*ARTEMIOS OIKONOMOU, Associate Editor*

Artemios took part in a short course, entitled 'Glass in the Mediterranean and the Near East', which was organised by the Fitch Laboratory, the British School at Athens (Greece), last April. Sadly, this year's course has been postponed; but in case you are keen to learn more about the analysis of glass and vitreous materials from the field's leading specialists, you may wish to consider Artemios' recommendation:  
<https://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/04/short-course-review-glass-in.html>



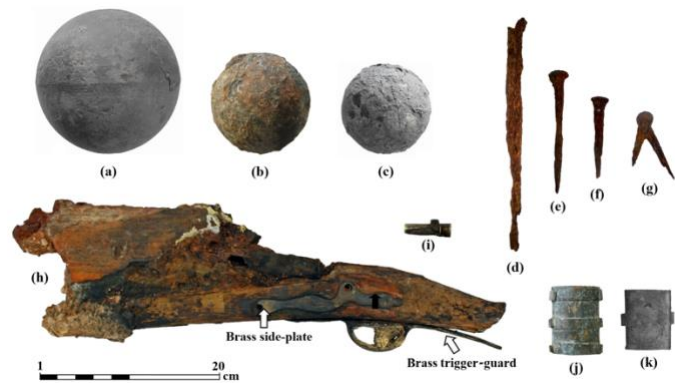
Objects handling session at the short course (Photo courtesy of Artemios Oikonomou).

#### MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY

*NICOLÁS CIARLO, Associate Editor*

Nicolás has invited Ashkenazi and Cvikel to share with us the latest findings of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Akko 1 shipwreck, specifically on the metal objects. The results of the analyses of these metal objects using a combination of techniques revealed contribute valuable information to our understanding of the context of the shipwreck, as well as to the technological changes that occurred during the Industrial Revolution in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century CE.

<https://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/04/maritime-archaeology-new-research-on.html>



The range of metal objects recovered from the Akko I shipwreck (Photo courtesy of J.J. Gottlieb, N. Iddan, S. Levy, D. Ashkenazi, and D. Cvikel).

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE: THE VIEW FROM THE KEROS PROJECT**  
*EVI MARGARITIS, Associate Editor*

Evi has kindly shared with us her experience of speaking in the International Day of Women in Science in Cyprus, as well as her thoughts on the struggle female researchers encountered in archaeological science. In this piece, she also explains how the Keros Archaeological Project has gone the extra mile to give more opportunities for female researchers, committing in its pursuit of gender balance in archaeology and archaeological science.

<https://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/04/international-day-of-women-and-girls-in.html>



Evi and her team processing archaeobotanical remains in Keros (Photo courtesy of Evi Margaritis)

**WORKSHOP REVIEW: XRF ROUNDTABLE AT THE J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM**  
*AGNESE BENZONELLI, Associate Editor*

Agnese was invited to participate in the roundtable discussion of the application and future directions of X-ray fluorescence (XRF) in archaeology, arts, and cultural heritage, held at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles.

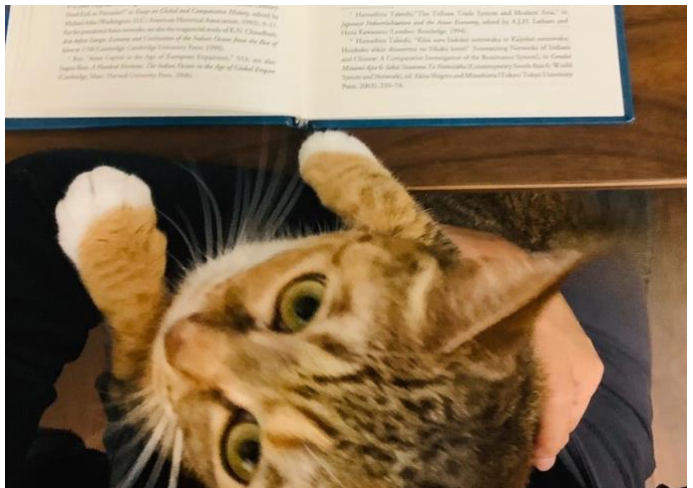
<https://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/04/round-table-on-xrf.html>



(Photo courtesy of Carmen Ting)

**THE LOCKDOWN BOOK CLUB**  
*CHARLES KOLB, Associate Editor*

<https://socarchsci.blogspot.com/2020/04/the-lockdown-bookclub-book-reviews-by.html>



Soft kitty, warm kitty, little ball of fur (Photo courtesy of Evelyn Char and Nana the cat).



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