



NEWSLETTER 2016/17

Welcome to our first bulletin, 2016-17

The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History began its operation this academic year, with a major inaugural conference. It was a busy year, hopefully a good omen for those to come. We are delighted to share with you our news, plans, and other announcements.

Looking forward to seeing you in our future events and to future collaborations!

Zur Shalev, Gil Gambash, HCMH Directors
Hilla Heinemann, HCMH Administrator

Research

November 2016- The Cyprus Project

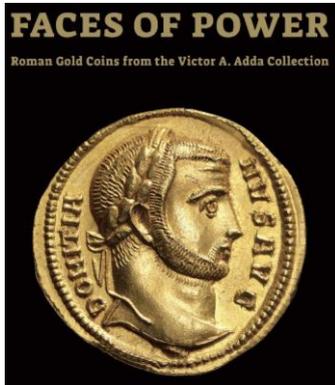


In our November 2016 conference we had Prof. Joan Connelly from New York University as guest speaker. During the conference, Prof. Connelly expressed keen interest to collaborate not only with HCMH, but also with the Rezanati Institute of Maritime Studies (RIMS), headed by our co-director, Dr. Gil Gambash. She invited representatives from HCMH and RIMS to visit her excavation site in western Cyprus, on the island of Yeronisos, for the double purpose of discussing

future cooperation and conducting preliminary underwater survey around the shores of the island. The Haifa delegation visited Cyprus in June 2017, and included both our co-directors, as well as Prof. Assaf Yasur-Landau, a senior researcher in RIMS and head of the Laboratory for Coastal Archaeology and Underwater Survey at the Department of Maritime Civilizations, and Mr. Amir Yurman, head of RIMS' maritime workshop. Preliminary results of the underwater survey established the ground for future collaboration in Yeronisos and the nearby bay of Maniki, and academic and logistical discussions to that effect took place during the visit, involving the NYU team, as well as senior representatives from the University of Cyprus and the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus.

Publications

Faces of Power: Roman Gold Coins from the Victor A. Adda Collection



In the passing year we also worked in close cooperation with the Israel Museum. Our co-director, Dr. Gil Gambash, joined forces with Dr. Haim Gitler, chief curator of archaeology and the curator of numismatics, in order to edit a volume dedicated to a collection of 75 Roman gold coins minted by Roman emperors from Augustus to Constantine. The volume is titled: "Faces of Power: Roman Gold Coins from the Victor A. Adda Collection", and it features some of the leading numismatists and historians of the day, discussing aspects of portraiture and propaganda in the Roman realm during the first three centuries CE. At the same time, an exhibition of these same coins opened in the archaeology wing of the Israel Museum, and will remain on presentation until the spring of 2018.

Upcoming Events

Mediterranean Forum



Professor John Haldon

The Centre aims to nurture a broader Israeli community around Mediterranean history. For this reason we intend to convene the Mediterranean Forum. The forum aims to bring together historians and humanists in Israel who define their work as Mediterranean in a broad and flexible sense. We will hold 4 meetings annually, in Haifa and in other locations. In these meetings, Israeli scholars as well as international guests will present their work and encourage discussion. Beyond the meetings, we hope to foster informal communication by using an electronic mailing list for queries and announcements and by creating a shared bibliography on the HCMH website.

We are delighted to announce our speakers for the upcoming academic year (2017-18):

December 10th, 2017: Professor John Haldon, Department of History, Princeton University.

January 2nd, 2018: Professor John Watkins, Department of History, University of Minnesota.

Late April, 2018: Professor Katell Berthelot, CNRS and Centre Paul-Albert Février, MMSH.

Early June, 2018: Professor Roald Docter, Department of Archaeology, Ghent University.

* Specific details regarding the topic and venue of each lecture will be circulated in good time.

The Latin East in the 13th Century: Institutions, settlements and material culture

Commemorating the 800th anniversary of Atlit Castle

In 1218 the Knights Templar began constructing a major fortress in Atlit (Castrum peregrinorum). A large international conference in Haifa will mark the 800th anniversary of the event. HCMH will sponsor two panels which include papers on diverse maritime topics.

Past Events

29th-30th November 2016 – Haifa Conference on Mediterranean Research: The History of the Mediterranean



The timing of has been designed to align with the official initiation of the Haifa Centre for Mediterranean History (HCMH), which has been announced in summer 2015.

The conference gathered 12 leading Mediterranean scholars from Israel and abroad, each gave an extended presentation, considering both the state of the field and broad thematic questions. The two main goals of the conference were to determine the methodological starting point for the activity of the HCMH; and to stir interest within an academic milieu so far mostly little concerned with general Mediterranean issues. The venue of

the Haifa Conference promises sufficient resonance and resources for bringing to Haifa both leading researchers, and interested audience from within Israeli academia. A sample of papers from the conference is prepared for submission to *Mediterranean Historical Review* as a special issue.

The conference allowed the University of Haifa to position itself as a rising leading institution in the international sphere of Mediterranean historiography, while, at the same time, it exposed local scholars from all universities in the country to the most recent developments in a burgeoning field so far insufficiently studied here in Israel.

31th November 2016 – launching of the *VIA MARIS* exhibition



As part of the Annual Haifa Conference on Mediterranean Sea Research, which took place in November 2017, we set up a small-scale temporary exhibition which accompanied the conference and which will remain in the Library until the end of the summer. The exhibition presents unique objects, hitherto un-exhibited in the Library (and some never shown anywhere else) – e.g. early maps and coins from the National Maritime Museum, rare books from the University of Haifa library, and ancient inscriptions. We presented a spectrum of Mediterranean vistas and itineraries, all linked by the term *Via maris*.

15st-18th May 2017 – Genizah Workshop



The University of Haifa is emerging as a serious Genizah studies center. Given the meaningful and long-established resonance between Genizah and Mediterranean studies, we are happy to continue this collaboration, which benefits all involved. HCMH sponsored a panel on "social and material history" in an international 3-day conference on Genizah research. The panel, chaired by Zur Shalev, included talks by Miriam Frenkel (Hebrew University), Oded Zinger (Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem), and Phillip Ackerman-Lieberman (Vanderbilt University).

The People

Meet Our New Post-doctoral fellows



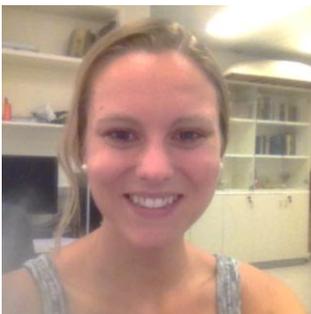
Oded Cohen, completed B.A and M.A in history at Tel Aviv University. The Ph.D dissertation, written under the supervision of Prof. Elchanan Reiner at The Chaim Rosenberg School of Jewish Studies at Tel Aviv University, examined the cultural spaces of the 18th century emissary Rabbi, Chaim Yosef David Azulai (HIDA).

Research Topic: **Rabbinic Emissaries and Wanderers as Transmitters of Knowledge in the Early Modern Mediterranean Basin**

Dana Katz, recently received her Ph.D. for her thesis on twelfth-century secular architecture in Norman Sicily in the Department of History of Art at the University of Toronto. Her extensive doctoral research in Palermo was supported by a Fulbright Award and a Samuel H. Kress Travel Fellowship. Further research areas include Crusader Jerusalem and the formation of medieval and Islamic art collections in Western Europe. Recent published work is on the exhibition of Islamic art in the nineteenth-century Museo Nazionale in Palermo, published in the *Mitteilungen des Kunsthistorischen Institutes in Florenz*.

During her time as a post-doctoral fellow at the HCMH, she will be preparing a manuscript on the royal parklands outside the medieval city of Palermo. A lost landscape of the medieval Mediterranean, the scope of the project includes a study of the relationship between the built environment and its surroundings as well as sources of water. Other work pursued at the Center is on the geographer al-Idrisi's geographical treatise completed in the Norman court in Palermo known as the *Tabula Rogeriana*. A shorter study is a reinterpretation of the circumstances around the creation of Peter of Eboli's epic poem, *Liber ad honorem Augusti sive de rebus Siculis*.

Meet Our New doctoral candidate fellow



Michelle Creisher, Originally from Maine, USA, arrived in Israel two years ago in order to pursue a Master's degree in the department of Maritime Civilizations here at the University of Haifa. After completing the MA, she will now be continuing on as a PhD candidate under the supervision of Dr. Deborah Cvikel and Prof. Michal Artzy. Her research focuses on re-evaluating the long-held belief that maritime trade networks in the eastern Mediterranean were drastically reduced following the transition from Byzantine to Islamic governance in c.640 CE. Through an in-depth study of the ceramics from the Ma'agan Mikhael B shipwreck and other contemporaneous sites along the Carmel coast, both terrestrial and maritime, she aims to shed new light on the true complexity of

maritime activity in the region during the 7th-9th centuries CE.

Opportunities for researchers

2017 – Calls for Tenure track positions and Post-doc fellowships

In January 2017 we have sent calls for applications for a tenure-track position, two one-year post-doc fellowships and one three-year doctoral scholarship. This round of applications has now concluded. Please stay tuned and look for new calls in 2018 and beyond.

HCMH plans to offer travel bursaries to advanced Israeli PhD students who plan to present their work abroad. Details regarding the scheme will be announced in due course.

Prize for Mediterranean-related final paper by high-school students:

As part of our outreach efforts, from next year HCMH will join the prize scheme for high-school history majors. The prizes, for works on different historical areas, are awarded by the Israeli Historical Society in collaboration with other sponsors, such as the School of History at the University of Haifa. The Center will fund one prize for an excellent final paper on the history of the Mediterranean.

To join our mailing list please email us at hcmh@univ.haifa.ac.il

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