

# Settlement and Sanctuary

on Cyprus from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages:  
Views from the Columbia University Excavations at Phlamoudhi

Symposium Program, January 20-22, 2005

*This symposium accompanies an exhibition of the same name in the:*

Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery  
8th floor of Schermerhorn Hall  
Columbia University in the City of New York  
20 January – 19 March 2005  
Open Wed-Sat 1-5  
[www.learn.columbia.edu/phlamoudhi](http://www.learn.columbia.edu/phlamoudhi)

*This symposium was made possible through the generous support of the:*

Columbia University Center for Archaeology  
Columbia University Center for the Ancient Mediterranean  
Department of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University Friends of Phlamoudhi  
Samuel H. Kress Foundation  
Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation  
Miriam and Ira. D. Wallach Art Gallery

Organizer: Joanna S. Smith

# PROGRAM

**Thursday January 20, 2005**

**First workshop program (workshop registration limited to 30 people)**

**[To register, please contact Joanna S. Smith (jss245@columbia.edu)]**

**Center for Archaeology and lab, 9th floor of Schermerhorn Extension**

- 1:00-1:30 Joanna S. Smith (Columbia University)  
Illustrated introduction to the workshop
- 1:30-3:30 Work with ceramics, small finds, samples, and records
- 3:30-4:00 *Coffee/tea break*
- 4:00-5:00 Discussion
- 5:00-7:00 *Opening reception for the exhibition* (8th floor of Schermerhorn outside the Wallach Art Gallery)

**Friday January 21, 2005**

**Lecture program (open to the public)**

**501 Schermerhorn**

- 9:00-9:30 *Coffee/tea welcome*
- 9:30-9:40 Jonathan Crary (Columbia University)  
Introductory comments
- 9:40-9:50 Joanna S. Smith  
Introduction to the sessions
- I. Phlamoudhi, Cyprus in its Mediterranean archaeological and geological context  
Moderator: Lee Z. Ullmann (Columbia University)
- 9:50-10:20 Despo Pilides (Department of Antiquities, Cyprus)  
Toward completing the puzzle: a history of archaeological research in Cyprus
- 10:20-10:50 Jay S. Noller (Oregon State University)  
Physical foundations of Phlamoudhi: its natural context and topography
- 10:50-11:10 Discussion
- 11:10-11:25 *Coffee/tea break*
- II. Excavations at Phlamoudhi: art, architecture, and life through the ages: Part One  
Moderator: Roberta Casagrande (Columbia University)
- 11:25-11:55 Allan S. Gilbert (Fordham University) The little expedition that could: an insider's view of Columbia's excavations
- 11:55-12:25 Joanna S. Smith  
Phlamoudhi-*Melissa*: from settlement to sanctuary
- 12:25-12:45 Discussion
- 12:45-2:10 *Lunch* (8th floor of Schermerhorn outside the Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University)

2:10-2:15 Joanna S. Smith  
Introduction to the afternoon sessions

III. Excavations at Phlamoudhi: art, architecture, and life through the ages: Part Two

Moderator: Todd A. Davis (Columbia University)

2:15-2:45 Mara T. Horowitz (Columbia University)  
Phlamoudhi-*Vounari*: new perspectives on a multi-function site

2:45-3:15 Kyle L. Killian (Columbia University)  
Hellenistic, Roman, and Medieval Phlamoudhi

3:15-3:35 Discussion

3:35-3:50 *Coffee/tea break*

IV. Plants, animals, food, and drink at Phlamoudhi

Moderator: Sandrine Larrivé-Bass (Columbia University)

3:50-4:20 Nancy M. Dammann Davis (Columbia University)  
From seeds to landscape: archaeobotanical evidence from Phlamoudhi

4:20-4:50 David S. Reese (Yale University)  
Man and animal on ancient Cyprus

4:50-5:10 Discussion

V. Historical Perspectives on the Columbia University Expedition to Phlamoudhi

Moderator: Joanna S. Smith

5:10-5:40 Robert S. Merrillees (France)  
Phlamoudhi *Vounari* and *Melissa*: 35 years and 35 centuries later

5:40-6:00 Discussion

6:00-7:30 *Reception* (8th floor of Schermerhorn outside the Wallach Art Gallery)

**Saturday January 22, 2005**

**Second workshop program (workshop registration limited to 30 people)**

**[To register, please contact Joanna S. Smith (jss245@columbia.edu)]**

**Center for Archaeology and lab, 9th floor of Schermerhorn Extension**

10:00-10:30 Joanna S. Smith  
Illustrated introduction to the workshop

10:30-12:30 Work with ceramics, small finds, samples, and records

12:30-1:00 *Lunch break*

1:00-2:00 Discussion

2:00-5:00 Opportunity to visit the Wallach Art Gallery

## ABSTRACTS

### **Despo Pilides**

*Toward completing the puzzle: a history of archaeological research in Cyprus*

The period of antiquarian activities of the nineteenth century was followed early in the twentieth century by an eagerness to put order to the chaos that prevailed in the archaeology of Cyprus, evident not only in the enforcement of the new antiquities law but also in the interest shown by both locals and foreign institutions in initiating scientific research. This paper deals with the history of archaeological research for the successive periods of the history of Cyprus focusing on (a) patterns of distribution of sites in each period, usually dependent on cultural and/or resource oriented factors, (b) areas of research and summary results, and (c) problems of either a cultural or chronological nature encountered during research, at the period prior to the events of 1974 that led to segregation and the cessation of archaeological research in the north part of the island. Immediately after these events, excavations of old or known sites of the corresponding periods in the south part of the island were either resumed or new ones were initiated located through surveys. With an average of more than twenty excavation teams per year, the corpus of archeological sites and resulting evidence have increased considerably; in conjunction with technological and methodological advances in both the practical and theoretical fields many long standing problems of Cypriot prehistory were clarified and afforded a better perception of the socio-political or economic organization of society through its various chronological phases. Political division affected archaeological research by prompting research in less well-known but equally important areas of the island, thus at least partly supplementing missing evidence, while preventing, on the other hand, contemporaneous comparison. Even though inaccessibility to sites discouraged publication, it was a pleasure to see the publication of various reports of such sites and it is an even greater pleasure to see that the material from Phlamoudhi is in preparation for publication some thirty-four years later.

### **Jay S. Noller**

*Physical foundations of Phlamoudhi: its natural context and topography*

In order to discuss why the environs of Phlamoudhi were chosen for settlement, this paper investigates the evolution of the landscape in the vicinity of Phlamoudhi in geological and physical terms as well as changes in scientific thought about that landscape over time. It focuses in at the scale of the sites themselves as well as the island of Cyprus for a discussion of the evolution of the landscape in geological time. Using a range of historical drawings from the earliest geological maps of the late 1800s to more recent, yet historical, landscape drawings of the site region as well as my own observations in the field, interpretations of satellite imagery and other technological advantages of our time, this paper considers what the inhabitants had at their disposal for earth, soil and water, including climate and vegetation.

### **Allan S. Gilbert**

*The little expedition that could: an insider's view of Columbia's excavations*

Over four seasons in the early 1970s, Professor Edith Porada pursued what was for her a new adventure, the full-scale excavation of two archaeological sites on the northern coast of Cyprus. Impelled by the need to provide her graduate students with field experience, she assembled specialists to complement her mostly neophyte academic charges, convinced Vassos Karageorghis with her energy and sincerity that the venture was professionally sound, and intrepidly set out to find ancient history in the ground rather than in the objects of art that had been the usual targets of her investigation. During the summers that followed, her students rose to the challenge. Exploiting the close proximity of Robert Merrillees, at the time stationed in New York with the Australian Mission to the United Nations, they were immersed in Cypriot archaeology during the school year, so that the details of Bronze Age pottery recognition and the broader view of the island's prehistory could be put into practice in the field. With the fanaticism of new converts, they applied excavation techniques recently learned in field methods courses taken in Columbia's Department of Anthropology, an orthodoxy that helped keep strata separated, aided in the translation of site structures from the trenches into the notebooks, and insured that finds never strayed far from their stratigraphic labels. Inspired by the rapid expansion of scientific techniques in archaeology, they laid elaborate plans for future analyses of a wide range of materials, in most cases oblivious to their lack of proper credentials to conduct such analyses, yet firm in the conviction that, somehow, the collected samples would provide a mine of information when

they eventually figured out how to extract it or found someone who could. Faunal remains were carefully recovered by screening, flotation was attempted with some success, and a rock assortment was accumulated from varied locations in order to document the petrological diversity of the local terrain for later comparison with the mineralogical constituents of ceramic pastes. Eventually, Phlamoudhi ceramics contributed to some of the earliest compositional provenience studies conducted at Brookhaven National Laboratory using neutron activation. A brief overview of these events will be presented by one of Phlamoudhi's fledgling explorers.

### **Joanna S. Smith**

*Phlamoudhi-Melissa: from settlement to sanctuary*

Phlamoudhi-*Melissa* was settled on the north coast of Cyprus in the eighteenth century BC by potters who worked in the red-slipped ceramic tradition shared by Cyprus and Anatolian regions across the Mediterranean to the north. The tradition of sharing a kiln at that place grew into a larger community enterprise of the shared storage of food and drink supplies as the site grew and developed over the next 550 years. By the thirteenth century BC, a monumental building at the site had grown to be comparable in size with similar large buildings at other urban centers on Cyprus. As the site expanded, new technologies were added including olive oil production and metallurgy. Further, as *Melissa* grew, its perspective on the Mediterranean world began to include contacts not only with places to the north, but increasingly places to the east in the Levant, places in the southern part of Cyprus, and eventually places to the west in the Aegean. By the time of *Melissa's* destruction by earthquake and fire, its inhabitants were full participants in traditions of hospitality that were understood across the Mediterranean world. The *Melissa* settlement was rediscovered in the sixth century BC, when it became the site of a sanctuary. Parts of old buildings were reused and new buildings were constructed. The practice of placing cult centers over the ruins of Bronze Age urban centers occurred in many places across the Mediterranean, suggesting at least some kind of cultural memories about important settlements of their past.

### **Mara T. Horowitz**

*Phlamoudhi-Vounari: new perspectives on a multi-function site*

Phlamoudhi-*Vounari*, on the north coast of Cyprus, is a small site with great potential. It has been variously identified as a sanctuary, a fort, or a lookout tower, and it may have been all these and more. First built at the dawn of the Late Bronze Age, its monumental form reflects the increasing organization and complexity of Cypriot society. After its abandonment in the Late Cypriot II period, the site decayed for nearly eight hundred years before being rebuilt, following the old plan, as a sanctuary in the Cypro-Archaic II period. New research suggests that, in the Late Bronze Age, the site functioned as a local cooperative or administrative node for the gathering and storage of agricultural surplus from the immediate region, with possible overland connections to an urban gateway center such as Enkomi. Ongoing work at Columbia University and in Cyprus is furthering the understanding of *Vounari's* phases of use, purpose, and context in the ancient landscape.

### **Kyle L. Killian**

*Hellenistic, Roman, and Medieval Phlamoudhi*

The post-Iron Age ceramics from Phlamoudhi-*Melissa* are a diverse assemblage. Fine wares, tablewares, storage vessels, and kitchenwares are all represented in the Hellenistic, Roman, and Medieval periods. Although there is a broad range of material, the assemblage is also fragmentary. There are fewer than ten instances where fragments from the same vessel could be reassembled, and most of these represent post-deposition breaks. Furthermore, many vessel types are represented by only one example. In part the fragmentary nature of the assemblage is due to both its context within the site and to collection strategies. Taking each period in turn, this paper will develop interpretations of the late Hellenistic, Roman, and Medieval material from Phlamoudhi-*Melissa*, first in relationship to its archaeological context and to the methodology of the excavators and second to the broader historical and archaeological context of northern Cyprus. In doing so, it builds on many of the organizational and analytic strategies of the preceding treatment of the Bronze and Early Iron Age in order to provide continuity to a body of material that is by nature fragmentary. In particular, the relationship between locally made and imported ceramics and the social and political position of the site will form important avenues of interpretation.

Nancy M. Dammann Davis

*From seeds to landscape: archaeobotanical evidence from Phlamoudhi*

The study of ancient landscapes often provides keys to previously overlooked aspects of ancient societies and as such allows archaeologists to gain a deeper understanding of the dynamic between cultural and environmental variables as well as sources of stability and drivers of change. Landscape history, when viewed holistically, provides a new lens through which to analyze social history. Archaeobotanical analysis of the floral finds at Phlamoudhi has led to greater understanding of the Late Cypriot landscape, local sources of food and shelter, and potential site activities. Nine hundred and eight fragments of seeds, seed kernels, carbonized fruit flesh, and carbonized wood were found. Investigation revealed 306 olive seeds, fragments, and kernels along with five almond seeds and seed fragments, and twelve fig seeds and kernels. The identification of fig seeds and carbonized fleshy fruit parts makes Phlamoudhi only the fourth Bronze Age Cypriot site to report the presence of figs. The bulk of all the floral finds occurred in the layers of the burnt destruction of the north, south, and western parts of the building at the *Melissa* site. The majority of the olive and other seeds were found in three high-density deposits among large pithoi. The high density of olive seeds in close association with the storage vessels, suggests that *Melissa* may have served as an olive processing or least storage area. Pinewood makes up the majority of carbonized wood finds, but olive, almond and other hardwoods also occurred in lower densities. Analysis suggests that the wood was used as timbers (long beams made of pine and smaller/shorter beams of hardwood). Together, the analysis suggests a more densely wooded but intensively managed landscape dominated by olive and pine trees with at least small sections devoted to more diverse orchards. In total, floral analysis suggests that this highly managed landscape provided the basis for Phlamoudhi's regional role as a site for food production and storage.

**David S. Reese**

*Man and animal on ancient Cyprus*

This paper will provide an overview of animal life on the island, from the Late Pleistocene pygmy hippopotami and pygmy elephants to the recent fauna. It will survey the hunting of hippos and elephants by the first inhabitants and later Neolithic arrival with domestic animals (including recent evidence for domestic cat). Particular attention will be given to the Late Bronze Age and the speaker's research on faunal remains from Phlamoudhi, Kition, Hala Sultan Tekke, Enkomi, Episkopi-*Bamboula*, Athienou-*Bamboulari tis Koukounninas*, among other sites. In addition to the expected domestic and a few wild animals (particularly deer) the paper addresses presence of Late Bronze Age exotic fauna: raw hippo and elephant ivory, ostrich eggshells, possible camel remains, fish from the Nile River, Red Sea shells, and worked bones and shells. It also mentions the Iron Age use of animals, including horse burials and sacrificed fauna from religious sites.

**Robert S. Merrillees**

*Phlamoudhi-Vounari and Melissa: 35 years and 35 centuries later*

Thanks to the initiative of Professor Edith Porada and the benevolent intervention of Ms. Daphne Achilles and Dr. Joanna Smith, the material recovered by the Harold Weekes Expedition of Columbia University to the Bronze Age sites of Phlamoudhi-*Vounari* and *Melissa* can now be thoroughly studied and its contribution to the history of Cyprus at this time fully evaluated. Located in an isolated part on the northeast coast of the island, Phlamoudhi remains the only place of this period and area which has been scientifically excavated, and it fills a large geographical and cultural gap in the archaeological record of the second millennium BC. According to the ceramic evidence, *Vounari* and *Melissa* belonged to the cultural zone characterized by the Red-on-Black Ware which had its home in the Karpass peninsula. While the remains of *Vounari* in the eighteenth through fifteenth centuries BC look to the east both inside the island and externally, those from *Melissa*, which was occupied from the eighteenth to the thirteenth centuries BC, show the progressive change from an almost exclusively regional orientation to a more uniform, island-wide civilization and external contacts with the Aegean. *Melissa* which is located close to the sea also conforms to the pattern of settlement typical of the Late Cypriote period when maritime trade broke down the barriers to cultural integration and led to a far greater homogeneity in indigenous ceramic production than had existed at any other stage in Cypriote prehistory. Phlamoudhi is therefore a key site for illustrating the way human activity in the second half of the second millennium BC in Cyprus reacted to changing circumstances wrought by trade and other economic factors.

## **Program Participants**

Professor Jonathan Crary  
Department of Art History and Archaeology  
826 Schermerhorn Hall, MC 5517  
Columbia University  
New York, NY 10027  
jkc4@columbia.edu

*Professor Jonathan Crary is Chair of the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University. He specializes in nineteenth-century art, theory, and criticism.*

Roberta Casagrande-Kim  
Department of Art History and Archaeology  
826 Schermerhorn Hall, MC 5517  
Columbia University  
New York, NY 10027  
rc2022@columbia.edu

*Roberta Casagrande is a graduate student in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University, where she specializes in Roman and Early Christian art history and archaeology. She has served as the assistant in the Phlamoudhi archaeological research lab and has participated in one study season on finds from Phlamoudhi.*

Nancy Dammann-Davis  
Center for Environmental Research and Conservation  
1004 Schermerhorn Extension, MC 5557  
Columbia University  
New York, NY 10027  
nmd2001@columbia.edu

*Nancy Dammann-Davis is a graduate student in the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation at Columbia University, where she specializes in the botany and environment of the Amazon. As an internship she studied the botanical remains from the excavations at Phlamoudhi. The results of her study will appear in the Phlamoudhi series to be published by the American Schools of Oriental Research.*

Todd A. Davis  
Department of Classics  
617 Hamilton Hall, MC 2861  
Columbia University  
New York, NY 10027  
tad2003@columbia.edu

*Todd A. Davis is a graduate student in Classical Studies at Columbia University, where he specializes in Iron Age and Classical history and archaeology. He participated in two study seasons of work on finds from Phlamoudhi.*

Professor Allan S. Gilbert  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
Fordham University  
Dealy Hall, Room 407  
Bronx, NY 10458-9993  
(718) 817-3854  
gilbert@fordham.edu

*Allan S. Gilbert is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Fordham University, where he specializes in the archaeology of the United States and Middle East. He was a member of the original Columbia University Expedition to Phlamoudhi. His analysis of ceramic thin sections and the chemical analysis of ceramics from the excavations will appear in the Phlamoudhi series to be published by the American Schools of Oriental Research.*

Mara T. Horowitz  
Department of Anthropology  
452 Schermerhorn Hall, MC 5523  
Columbia University  
New York, NY 10027  
mth21@columbia.edu

*Mara T. Horowitz is a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University, where she specializes in studies of the Middle and Late Bronze Age eastern Mediterranean. She has been a significant contributor to the Phlamoudhi Archaeological Project since its inception. Her dissertation on the Phlamoudhi-Vounari excavations will appear in the Phlamoudhi series to be published by the American Schools of Oriental Research.*

Kyle L. Killian  
Department of Art History and Archaeology  
826 Schermerhorn Hall, MC 5517  
Columbia University  
New York, NY 10027  
klk57@columbia.edu

*Kyle L. Killian is a graduate student in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University, where he specializes in the art history and archaeology of Medieval France. He has served as the assistant in the Phlamoudhi archaeological research lab and participated in two study seasons on finds from Phlamoudhi. His study of Hellenistic, Roman, and Medieval finds from the excavations at Phlamoudhi will appear in the Phlamoudhi series to be published by the American Schools of Oriental Research.*

Sandrine Larrivé-Bass  
Department of Art History and Archaeology  
826 Schermerhorn Hall, MC 5517  
Columbia University  
New York, NY 10027  
ssl40@columbia.edu

*Sandrine Larrivé-Bass is a graduate student in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University, where she specializes in Chinese art and archaeology. She has served as the assistant in the Phlamoudhi archaeological research lab and participated in one study season on finds from Phlamoudhi.*

Dr. Robert S. Merrillees  
“Le Mimosa”  
3 place de la République  
89660 Mailly le Château  
FRANCE  
phmrsm@free.fr

*Robert S. Merrillees is a past director of the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute, before which he served in many countries as an Australian Ambassador. His academic specialties are in the art*



*and archaeology of the Bronze Age Mediterranean and Near East. He was an original member of the Columbia University Expedition to Phlamoudhi, where he served as a consultant on the ceramic finds.*

Professor Jay S. Noller  
Department of Crop and Soil Science  
Oregon State University  
3017 Agricultural and Life Science Building  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
jay.noller@oregonstate.edu

*Jay S. Noller is an Assistant Professor of Crop and Soil Science at Oregon State University, where he specializes in the geology and geomorphology of the Mediterranean, the United States, and South America. Jay's pioneering work on the integration of geological landscape change with archaeology on Cyprus led him to study both the Troodos and the Kyrenia Mountain ranges of the island. His work on the geology of Phlamoudhi will appear in the Phlamoudhi series to be published by the American Schools of Oriental Research.*

Dr. Despina Pilides  
Department of Antiquities, Cyprus  
Cyprus Museum  
1 Museum Avenue  
Nicosia 1516  
CYPRUS  
despo\_pilides@hotmail.com

*Despo Pilides is a Senior Archaeological Officer of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus. She has contributed significantly to studies of the Late Bronze Age with fundamental monographs on pithoi and other ceramics of Cyprus. Among her excavations is her work at the St. George's hill site that has uncovered unique information about the ancient city of Ledra. This project informs us about Nicosia's past even as its present changes rapidly with new construction.*

Dr. David S. Reese  
Peabody Museum of Natural History  
Yale University  
PO Box 208118  
New Haven, CT 06520-8118

*David S. Reese is an independent scholar affiliated with the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University, where he specializes in the shell and bone of animals native to the ancient Mediterranean and Near East. His study of the archaeozoological remains from Phlamoudhi will appear in the Phlamoudhi series to be published by the American Schools of Oriental Research.*

Professor Joanna S. Smith  
Department of Art History and Archaeology  
826 Schermerhorn Hall, MC 5517  
Columbia University  
New York, NY 10027  
jss245@columbia.edu

*Joanna S. Smith is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University, where she specializes in the art and archaeology of the Bronze and Iron Age eastern Mediterranean. She is the Director of the Phlamoudhi Archaeological Project and is currently working on the publication of the excavations at Phlamoudhi-Melissa, which will be published by the American*

*Schools of Oriental Research. She is also the curator of the Settlement and Sanctuary show, of which this symposium is a part.*

Lee Z. Ullmann  
Department of Art History and Archaeology  
826 Schermerhorn Hall, MC 5517  
Columbia University  
New York, NY 10027  
lzu1@columbia.edu

*Lee Z. Ullmann is a graduate student in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University, where he specializes in the art and archaeology of the Bronze Age eastern Mediterranean and Near East. He has been a significant contributor to the Phlamoudhi Archaeological Project since its inception and has participated in two study seasons on finds from Phlamoudhi.*