

**CSIG MEETING, ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING,
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, JANUARY 7, 2011**

Minutes

Present:

- Caitlín Barrett: caibar@sas.upenn.edu, caitie937@gmail.com
- Clarissa Blume: blume@uni-heidelberg.de, clarissa.blume@gmail.com
- Theo Kopestonsky: tkopesto@csc.edu, tkopesto@gmail.com

Agenda item 1: governance structure

- Much of the CSIG membership comprises graduate students and those recently awarded their doctoral degrees, who would like to take a more active role, but who are somewhat constrained in this by their lack of permanent, stable appointments. We feel that it would be somewhat difficult for many of us to participate more substantially in the governance of the CSIG until we have more stable, tenure-track positions from which to do so.
- However, that said, we are in hearty agreement that it would be an extremely good idea to establish a more developed governance structure, so that the work does not continue to fall solely on one individual.
- We agreed that it would be very useful to elect officers to the following positions:
 - o Webmaster
 - o Treasurer
 - o Secretary
 - o Newsletter publishing
 - Clarissa stated that she was interested in getting involved with the newsletter further.
- We then discussed some ways to enlist people to fill these positions.
 - o Perhaps Jaimee might send out an email to the group, listing the positions available, and asking for volunteers.
 - o If we get more than one volunteer for a position, some sort of balloting procedure would then have to be established.
- We also agreed that having a more developed governance structure in place would be an extremely useful first step before embarking on some of the other agenda items below.

Item 2: dues

- We agreed that nominal dues could be a good idea, although we did express some concern about the price not being too high, as many of us are required to enlist in numerous academic organizations which all require dues.
 - o Some also questioned the necessity of relying on PayPal; while it can be very useful to use PayPal, some would prefer to have an alternative form of payment as well.
- It was the consensus of all present that CSIG should appoint a treasurer in order to handle funds, should dues be instituted.
- We discussed several possible ways of using the resulting money:

- Awards for notable publications in coroplastic studies
 - Even if the monetary value of the award were not very high, it would still be advantageous for the awardee to be able to list such an award on their CV. In fact, we might consider instituting awards for notable publications whether or not we institute dues; even if the awards did not have a grant attached, they might still help advance the awardee's career and thus serve a very useful purpose to the awardee.
- Research grants
 - Again, even if the grant were not very large, it could still be useful. For example, even if the grant would not necessarily cover a large expense, such as a season of field research, it still might help defray smaller expenses, such as paying for copies of archival photos.
- We also questioned what procedure would be put in place to choose the recipients of these awards or grants. Would a committee be established, and if so, how would it be chosen?
 - The awarding of funds seems, in a sense, to presuppose the existence of a more developed governance structure, so it might be best to first appoint officers before instituting dues and disbursing funds.

Item 3: regional associations

- Given that all three of the members present at this meeting are in the early stages of their careers, we are all likely to be moving from place to place for the foreseeable future, so our regions may change.
- We felt that some regions might be better able to support regional associations than others. For example, places with many universities and museums – New York, for example – could support such associations easily. But in some places – say, some parts of the Midwest – scholars might be much more dispersed, and it would be harder to have local meetings/lectures.
- We like the idea of regional associations sponsoring lectures, but this seems to presuppose the existence of some funds with which to pay the lecturers. We felt that this agenda item might therefore be most profitably discussed in the future, when dues have been established and the CSIG has a treasury.
- As an alternative to regional associations, we talked about some alternative forums for discussion: for example, the discussion board on the website, or the email list.
 - The maintenance of a discussion board would not require as many financial resources.
 - We proposed the idea of enabling comments for the discussion board on the website, rather than asking people to email the originator of the question; in this way everyone, regardless of region, could see the answers.
 - In order to ensure that all remarks would be appropriate for the list, it might be necessary to insert some sort of moderator approval for a comments-enabled discussion board. This could be done in several ways:

- The discussion board could take a blog format, with comments enabled, but moderator approval required for all comments.
- The discussion board could take the format of a password-protected wiki site, to which only CSIG members could post.
- The discussion board could be moved to Facebook, and only those people approved for membership by the page administrator could comment.

Item 4: strategies for assembling information

- We agreed that a discussion board could play a role in disseminating information, as well as providing a forum for discussion.
- Additionally, if the CSIG appointed a secretary, disseminating information could be part of that person's job responsibilities.

Item 5: creation of a journal

- We expressed great interest in the creation of a peer-reviewed journal, but with some caveats:
 - The maintenance of a journal seems to presuppose dues and a treasury; maybe this point could be addressed again after the institution of those things.
 - Many of the CSIG's members are not yet in stable tenure-track positions, and it would be easier to participate in the organization of a journal once those positions have been achieved.
 - We shared some of the concerns expressed in Arthur Muller's notes from the Athens meeting, raising questions about whether the existence of a coroplastic journal would ghettoize the articles within it. Would it be better for the field if such articles were scattered within other journals of ancient art history, archaeometry, etc., so that specialists in other fields would read them too?
 - We also questioned whether we would have enough article submissions for a yearly publication of a full-length journal.
- As an alternative proposition to a research journal, we discussed the possibility of a book-reviewing journal, similar to the Bryn Mawr reviews but focused on coroplastic studies. We had great enthusiasm for this idea.
 - The reviews could be posted online, which would require relatively few resources.
 - Such reviews would be a very useful resource for scholars within coroplastic studies.
 (Editorial note: this has already been established by the CSIG)

Item 6: New business

- Theo, Clarissa, and Caitie agreed to organize another colloquium panel for the next AIA conference.
 - This panel would focus specifically on the *ritual* use of terracottas in votives, household cult, burials, etc. It would thus focus on a more specific

- topic than the last CSIG AIA colloquium, which provided a more general overview of the state of coroplastic studies today.
- Rather than inviting speakers, we propose to hold an open call for papers. This could be publicized in the following ways:
 - Jaimee could send the call for papers to the CSIG email list.
 - Also, we wondered if Jaimee has a list of contact people in other countries who might distribute the call for papers further, each within his/her own country.
 - Other options for publicity include:
 - AIA website?
 - AegeaNet
 - Agade
 - ASOR
 - ASCSA email lists
 - Facebook
 - Academia.edu
 - the people who are on the Izmir Terracottas Conference circular – we could ask Arthur or Erguen to forward the call of papers to this list
 - foreign schools in Athens
 - CSIG members' local universities
 - We would ultimately like to submit the proceedings as an edited book, perhaps a supplement to Hesperia.
 - This should be a refereed publication, so we will have to do more research on the procedures involved in assembling referees.
 - Our timeline is as follows:
 - End of January: send out call for papers
 - Theo is writing up a draft of the call for papers and will solicit comments from Clarissa and Caitie within the next week or so.
 - Feb. 28: paper proposals due
 - We will set up a Gmail account to which people can submit their papers. Theo, Clarissa, and Caitie will all share access to this account.
 - Mid-March: submission of colloquium to AIA
 - We would like the colloquium to include about 4-5 papers. These should include international scholars if possible, not just Americans.
 - We would like to invite Jaimee Uhlenbrock to serve as our respondent.