

Alexander/Alexandria

The Flowering of Hellenistic Culture



February 5 and 6, 2010 Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Co-sponsored by the Center for Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University

Presented with support from the Consul General of Greece in San Francisco; Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund; Bank of the West; UC Berkeley Center for Middle East Studies and Office of Resources for International and Area Studies (ORIAS); George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation; Stanford Humanities Center; Italian Cultural Institute; and individual donors.

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Alexander/Alexandria

The Flowering of Hellenistic Culture

Alexander conquered the vast Persian Empire and founded Alexandria before dying in his 33rd year in 323 BCE. In the three centuries that followed, Greek literature, learning, and art intermingled with Egyptian, Persian, Babylonian, and Hebrew cultures. The interplay of cultures caused ethnic, artistic, and religious conflicts and convergence, nowhere more dramatically than

in Alexandria, which became the royal seat of Hellenistic Egypt. Its Great Library and Museum and its Lighthouse—one of the wonders of the ancient world—became magnets for travelers from around the Mediterranean and beyond. Though the original Library was destroyed long ago, another has risen from its ashes, and the luster of Hellenistic Civilization after Alexander still endures.

William S. Greenwalt (Professor of Classics, Santa Clara University), Moderator

Introductory slide show courtesy of Melinda Roberts and Chuck Sieloff, PhD.

Background music: Alexandros: The Myth of the East, the Dream of the West, Stamatis Spanoudakis (1999)

Cover: Nile Mosaic of Palestrina. Circa 100 BCE

Friday, February 5, 2010

8:00 pm – 10:15 pm

Introduction to the Program

Patricia Lundberg (Humanities West) and **William Greenwalt**

Alexander the Great: Agent for Change? [EUGENE N. BORZA]

Two things are certain about Alexander the Great: that he is among the greatest military commanders of all time, and that the eastern Mediterranean and western Asian worlds were transformed because of his passage, resulting in the penetration of Greek culture into previously non-Hellenic parts of the world. To what extent was the introduction of Greek culture into Egypt and the East the result of a deliberate policy of Hellenization? Did Alexander, a pupil of

Aristotle who himself had made clear distinctions between Greeks and “barbarians,” have a deliberate policy of introducing Greek culture into the “barbarian” world? How do we go about attempting to answer these questions? And following from this, one must ask to what extent Hellenic culture—whatever its source—actually penetrated into native cultures such as Ptolemaic Egypt during the Hellenistic Era.

Intermission. Refreshments served in the lobby.

Picturing Ptolemaic Egypt: The Nile Mosaic from Praeneste [ANDREW STEWART]

The huge and spectacular Nile Mosaic from Praeneste (ancient Palestrina) in Italy was discovered in 1600, transferred to Rome in 1626, and returned in 1640. Now heavily restored, it remains our best guide not to Ptolemaic Egypt as such, but to Ptolemaic attitudes toward Egypt. Labeled in Greek, it faithfully pictures

many key elements of Ptolemaic material culture, from drinking vessels to temples, and must echo a Ptolemaic painting of the third or second centuries BCE. Professor Stewart examines its threefold image of the country: the Hellenized Delta; the Egyptian *chora*; and the wilds of Nubia.

Saturday, February 6, 2010

10:00 am – 12 noon and 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Introduction

William Greenwalt, Moderator

The Ancient Library at Alexandria: Facts and Fictions [SUSAN STEPHENS]

Founded by Alexander in his conquest of the eastern Mediterranean and ruled by a line of successors, the Ptolemies, Alexandria was the city from which Greeks now ruled over the land of the pharaohs. It was also a city in which Greek and Egyptian cultures must have mixed. The famous Alexandrian library is a case in point. To what extent was it inspired by Greek models? Could Egyptian temple

libraries have played a role? What was the scribal culture like that enabled the collection and maintenance of so many books? What roles did scholar-poets like Callimachus or Apollonius play in shaping the culture of the early city? What happened to the library? Did the Romans destroy it by accident? The Christians? The Muslims? Or simply time itself?

Jewish Culture in Alexandria: The Hebrew Bible in Greek [ERICH GRUEN]

A wonderful and witty legend has it that Ptolemy II, the Hellenistic ruler of Egypt, summoned the most learned Jewish scholars from Jerusalem to his court to render the Hebrew Bible into Greek. The scholars performed that task with precision, earning the gratitude of the Greek-speaking Jewish community, and Ptolemy added the sacred translation to the shelves of his magnificent library. This tale, however fictitious it may be, is an illuminating window on the place of Jewish culture in the life of Alexandria and on the relationship between Jewish intellectuals and the Hellenistic monarchy in Egypt.

Break for Lunch. Theatre closes 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. Program resumes at 1:30 pm.

Alexandria, the City of Imagination: Cavafy and the Ptolemies. Alexandria-born modern poet Constantine Cavafy's poetry set in Ptolemaic Alexandria. Readings and Translations by MARTHA KLIRONOMOS.

Alexander's Pictorial Legacy [ADA COHEN]

Textual and visual sources suggest that Alexander the Great was not just a brutal conqueror but that he also possessed and exhibited a certain human complexity. The impression that he aspired to the life of the mind contributes to his fame. Various layers of complexity are embedded within works of art depicting Alexander or other

"model" men of his cultural environment, which often highlight aggression. Professor Cohen also demonstrates the longevity of visual paradigms that became dominant in Alexander's era and explores aspects of the evolution of Alexander's image over time.

Synthesis and Panel Discussion with the presenters, Moderated by William Greenwalt

Questions from the Audience. With such a large audience, Herbst is not equipped for questions from the floor. Written questions will be addressed at the closing Panel Discussion on Saturday. Please fill out a card with questions for any of the presenters and leave it on the lobby table.

Please fill out your audience evaluation form and leave it at the theatre lobby table or mail by February 12. Thank you!

About Our Presenters



Eugene N. Borza (Professor Emeritus of Ancient History, The Pennsylvania State University) has held distinguished visiting professorships at University of Washington, Trinity University, and Carleton College, and has been a visiting professor and research fellow at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. He has lectured widely on the history and archaeology of ancient Macedonia and has chaired the Lecture Program Committee of the Archaeological Institute of America, for which he has been an annual lecturer since 1975. From 1984 to 1990 he was President of the Association of Ancient Historians. His publications include articles about the history and archaeology of ancient Macedonia and the history and historiography of Alexander the Great. He is the author of *In the Shadow of Olympus. The Emergence of Macedon* (Princeton, 1990, 1992), *Makedonika: Essays by Eugene N. Borza* (Association of Ancient Historians, 1995), and *Before Alexander: Constructing Early Macedonia* (Association of Ancient Historians, 1999).



Ada Cohen is Associate Professor of Art History at Dartmouth College, where she teaches courses primarily on ancient Greek, Egyptian, and Near Eastern Art, as well as theory and method. A native of Greece, she received

her BA from Brandeis University and her MA and PhD from Harvard University. She is the author of *The Alexander Mosaic: Stories of Victory and Defeat*, and co-editor of and contributor to *Constructions of Childhood in Ancient Greece and Italy*. Her book on *Art and Culture in the Era of Alexander the Great: Paradigms of Manhood and their Cultural Traditions* is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press, and a co-edited volume, *Assyrian Reliefs from the Palace of Ashurnasirpal II: A Cultural Biography*, is forthcoming from the University Press of New England. Her current project is on beauty and ugliness in ancient Greece.



William S. Greenwalt is Professor of Classics at Santa Clara University (BA, MA and PhD, University of Virginia). He received the Santa Clara Summer School Excellence in Teaching Award, the Santa Clara University Brutocao Award for Teaching Excellence, the Logothetti Award for Teaching Excellence in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Santa Clara University Brutocao Award for Curricular Innovation, and the Arnold L. & Lois Graves Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2005, 2001, 1999, 1995 and 1991. He is also a Professor (by courtesy) of History. He offers a number of courses from an introduction to classical culture to seminars in Greek and Roman History. His publications have focused on the early development of ancient Macedonia. He also serves as Santa Clara

University's Director of Honors, the Lead Scholars Program, and the Office of Fellowships. On February 4 he lectured at the Commonwealth Club on Cultural Policies of the Early Ptolemies: Alexandria and Beyond.



Erich S. Gruen, Gladys Rehard Wood Professor of History and Classics, UC Berkeley (PhD Harvard), was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, twice a Guggenheim Fellow, Member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and Visiting Fellow at Merton College, Oxford. His awards include Distinguished Teaching Award, UC Berkeley, and the James H. Breasted Prize (for *The Hellenistic World and the Coming of Rome*, 1984). Other publications include: *Roman Politics and the Criminal Courts, 149-78 BC* (1968), *The Last Generation of the Roman Republic* (1974, 1995), *Studies in Greek Culture and Roman Policy* (1990, 1996), *Culture and National Identity in Republican Rome* (1992, 1994); *Images and Ideologies: Self-Definition in the Hellenistic World* (co-ed.) (1993); *Hellenistic Constructs: Essays in Culture, History, and Historiography* (co-ed.) (1997); *Heritage and Hellenism: The Reinvention of Jewish Tradition* (1998); *Diaspora: Jews Amidst Greeks and Romans* (2002); *Cultural Borrowings and Ethnic Appropriations in Antiquity* (ed.) (2005).

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About Our Presenters continued from page 3



Andrew G. Jameson (PhD, History, Harvard; doctorate, History, The Sorbonne, Paris; MS, Library Science, Simmons; Archival Management, Radcliffe) taught Byzantine, Near Eastern, and African history at Harvard and UC Berkeley. He is Director Emeritus of Books for Asia of The Asia Foundation and President Emeritus of Academy of Art SF. He was advisor to the National Libraries of Nigeria and China, visiting professor at Bosphorus and advisor to the library of the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul-Constantinople. He lectures and writes on African and Asian cultures, on libraries, and on the Orthodox Church and monasteries; he is researching a book on the Nicene Creed and on the history and lore of the camel. He serves on Harvard's Graduate Council, as a trustee of the William Saroyan Foundation, and as historian of the Bohemian Club of SF. He was recently elected to the Explorers Club of New York, having climbed Mounts Kilimanjaro and Cameroon and trekked the Sahara with the Tuareg. A World War II infantry veteran, he earned a Bronze Star with Cluster and a Purple Heart with Cluster at the Battle of the Bulge. On February 2 he lectured on the Ancient Library and its Revival at Mechanics' Institute.

Martha Klironomos (PhD Ohio State University) is Professor of English and Modern Greek Studies and Director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies,



the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair, at SF State University, where she teaches Modern Greek language and literature as well as comparative and English literature. Previously she was Assistant Professor in Modern Greek literature at McGill University in Montreal and a Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellow at the Seferis Chair at Harvard. Her research areas include the poetry of Nobel Prize-winning authors George Seferis and Odysseas Elytis, British and American 20th-century travel writing to Greece and contemporary Greek American literature. She is working on a book-length study on memory and historicism in the work of George Seferis and his generation of writers. She is Associate Editor of Arts and Humanities of the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* and on the Executive Board of the Modern Greek Studies Association.



Susan Stephens is Professor of Classics, Stanford (PhD Stanford). Her current research is on the political and social dimensions of Hellenistic literature. Her publications include editions of literary and documentary papyri belonging to the Oxyrhynchus (P.Oxy. 45) and the Yale (P. Yale II) collections, *Ancient Greek Novels: The Fragments* (with Jack Winkler, 1995), and

Seeing Double: Intercultural Poetics in Ptolemaic Alexandria (2003). *Classics and National Cultures* (with Phiroze Vasunia) will appear this year.



Andrew Stewart, Nicholas C. Petris Professor of Greek Studies and of Ancient Mediterranean Art and Archaeology at UC Berkeley, directed the UC Berkeley excavation team at Tel Dor, Israel, 1986 -2006, and currently chairs UC Berkeley's Graduate Group in Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology. He specializes in ancient Greek art and archaeology, the Greeks in the East before and after Alexander the Great, and the Renaissance and later reception of Greek and Roman sculpture. His awards include UC Berkeley's Distinguished Teaching Award; Guggenheim, Getty, and American Council of Learned Societies Fellowships; and the Wittenborn and Association of American Publishers awards for *Greek Sculpture: An Exploration* (1990). Other publications include *Skopas of Paros* (1977); *Attika: Studies in Athenian Sculpture of the Hellenistic Age* (1979); *Faces of Power: Alexander's Image and Hellenistic Politics* (1993); *Art, Desire, and the Body in Ancient Greece* (1997); *Attalos, Athens, and the Akropolis: The Pergamene "Little Barbarians" and their Roman and Renaissance Legacy* (2004); and *Classical Greece and the Birth of Western Art* (2008).

Continue the Discussion with Humanities West

Alexandria Salon

The Commonwealth Club of San Francisco

595 Market Street. RSVP 415.597.6700 www.commonwealthclub.org

- **February 11, Reception** 5:30 pm, **Salon** 6:00 pm. Commonwealth Club Fees: \$8 Club members, \$15 non-members.

Related Events for *The Florence of the Medici*

The Commonwealth Club of San Francisco

595 Market Street. RSVP 415.597.6700 www.commonwealthclub.org

- **April 14, Book Discussion** of *The Montefeltro Conspiracy: A Renaissance Mystery Decoded*, by Marcello Simonetta. 5:30 pm. Facilitated by Humanities West volunteer Lynn Harris. FREE.
- **April 28, Refuge and Recognition: Artemisia Gentileschi in Florence, 1613–1620.** Andrea Husby (Fromm Institute). **Reception** 5:30 pm, **Lecture** 6 pm. Commonwealth Club Fees: \$8 Club members, \$15 public.
- **May 6, Medici Salon**, Reception 5:30 pm, Salon 6:00 pm. Commonwealth Club Fees: \$8 Club members, \$15 public.
- **June 16, Book Discussion** of *An Italian Renaissance Sextet*, by Lauro Martines. 5:30 pm. Facilitated by Lynn Harris. FREE.

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Event at the Mechanics' Institute

57 Post Street, SF, 415.393.0100 rsvp@milibrary.org

April 22, Francesca Caccini: Virtuosa to the Medici. Kip Cranna (SF Opera) & Richard Savino (CSU Sacramento). **Reception** 5:30 pm, **Lecture** 6:00 pm. Free to HW donors, \$15 public.

Event at the Orinda Library

925.254.2184

April 27, A Medici Preview with George Hammond. 7 pm. FREE

Event at the UC Berkeley Faculty Club

510.540.5678 berkeleyfacultyclub.com

April 29, The Rediscovery of Composer Alessandro Striggio's Great Mass. Davitt Moroney (UC Berkeley) introduced by Roger Hahn. 5 pm. FREE



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Alexander/Alexandria

The Flowering of Hellenistic Culture

All dates are BCE, Before Common Era

- 499–479 Greek-Persian Wars
- 480 Persia invades Greece
- 461–431 The Golden Age of Athens
- 431–404 Peloponnesian (Thirty Years) War
- 359–336 Reign of Philip II of Macedonia
- 356 (July 20) Birth of Alexander III, son of King Philip II and Olympias
- 343 Aristotle appointed as tutor to Alexander
- 342 Alexander acquires Bucephalas, his personal horse
- 336 Murder of King Philip II; Alexander ascends throne of Macedonia
- 336–323 Reign of Alexander the Great
- 333 Alexander solves riddle of the ‘Gordian Knot’; Battle of Issus: Alexander defeats Persian King Darius III; Alexander captures Persian Royal family
- 332 Alexander crowned Pharaoh in Memphis, Egypt
- 331 Foundation of Alexandria, Egypt
- 330 Alexander burns Persepolis, ceremonial Persian capital; becomes Lord of Asia
- 329 Alexander crosses Hindu Kush into Central Asia
- 327 Marriage to Roxane, daughter of Bactrian noble Oxyartes; Invasion of India
- 325 Alexander reaches Indian Ocean
- 324 Marriage to Statira, daughter of Darius III
- 323 (June 10) Death of Alexander after ten days of severe illness
- 323–27 The Hellenistic Age
- 321 Ptolemy hijacks Alexander’s sarcophagus and brings Alexander’s body to Egypt
- 310–09 Alexander IV through Satrapal governors
- 309–05 Satraps
- 304–221 Ptolemy I – Ptolemy III; Ptolemaic flowering
- 221–30 Ptolemy IV – Cleopatra VII; Ptolemaic decline
- 167 Seleucid king Antiochus IV issues decrees defiling Jewish temple, confiscating wealth and banning Jewish practice under penalty of death
- 146 Macedonia and Greece become Roman provinces
- 30 Death of Cleopatra VII

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Human Rights Advocate

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MAY 3-6, 2010

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SPECIAL OFFER: Humanities West has produced a special edition educational resource/reader for Alexander/Alexandria. It is free to attendees in PDF format via email at info@humanitieswest.org. A Resources List is at www.humanitieswest.org.



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Moderator: Theodore Rabb, PhD (History), Emeritus, Princeton Univ.

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April 29 & 30, 2011 Minoan Crete: *Dawn of European Civilization*

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1990 Amy Hoepfner (Administrative Assistant)	2007 Patricia Lundberg (Executive Director)
1991 Louisa La Farge (Associate Dir.)	2008 Monika Collins (Assistant to the Executive Director)

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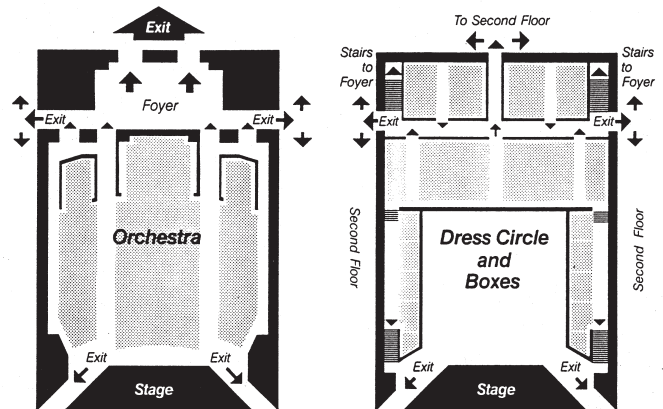
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A Sennheiser Listening System is installed at Herbst Theatre. Wireless headphones and induction devices (adaptable to hearing aids) are available in the main lobby of the theatre. There is no charge, but an ID deposit is required.



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There are sufficient exits in this building to accommodate the entire audience. The exit indicated by the lighted "EXIT" sign nearest your seat is the shortest route to the street. (Refer to Diagrams.) In case of fire please do not run — walk through that exit.