



SASA

Save Ancient Studies Alliance



2023 ANNUAL REPORT





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Alexandrian World Chronicle,
circa 5th Century CE
Region/Culture: Egypt

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WELCOME

◀ Cuneiform Tablet, circa 2350 – 2150 BC
Region/Culture: Mesopotamia (Akkadian)

FOUNDER & DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the fourth Annual Report of Save Ancient Studies Alliance. In this pamphlet you will learn about our mission, vision, strategies, staff, and programs as of the end of our fourth year of operation, March 2024. Over the past four years, SASA has grown from an idea into an international organization.

Before reviewing our success of 2023, I am thrilled to announce that in April 2024 SASA was awarded a grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities! This grant will support the adaptation, development, and piloting of our Archaeogaming Education Program for the undergraduate level in 2024–2026. We are extremely proud to be recognized by the NEH, the major US government supporter of the humanities, as a key innovator in educational programming.



We are very excited about this coming year for SASA as we help promote, grow, and transform Ancient Studies. As you are guided through the many areas of SASA's extensive vision, community, and programming in this report, we hope that you are encouraged to support and become involved with our work and mission.

This past year was filled with many successes for SASA, especially in engaging a larger, wider, and more inclusive audience.

Reach

Our Virtual Conference brought together 17,000 people online to engage with academic Ancient Studies.

Coalition

Our Partnership Development has grown, as we now have relationships with 60 Ancient Studies-related organizations of all kinds and sizes.

Global

We are now working to embrace the multilingual nature of humanity and move beyond the English-speaking parts of the world. We have begun to engage Spanish and Arabic speakers worldwide, who are involved in Ancient Studies, exploring the deep heritage of their own places or others around the world.

Educators

Our educational outreach and support have continued to excel, which exciting new continuing education programming beginning this Summer 2024.

Students

The first fruits of our projects for access to Ancient Studies reached the public, with the growth of our database of quality online websites to 1,400 and the publication of our list of worldwide Ancient Studie conferences and events for 2024, numbering at over 300.

We are very excited about this coming year for SASA as we help promote, grow, and transform Ancient Studies. As you are guided through the many areas of SASA's extensive vision, community, and programming in this report, we hope that you are encouraged to support and become involved with our work and mission.

Also, check out the previews of projects that will be taking off in 2024 at the end of the report.



David Danzig

Founder & Executive Director



MISSION & VISION

1. Mission & Vision Statement
2. The SASA Arc
3. What Is Ancient Studies?
4. The Value of Ancient Studies
5. SASA's Core Values
6. How We Operate

◀ Alexander Mosaic, House of the Faun, Pompeii Battle of Issus Mosaic, circa 100 BCE
Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples
Region/Culture: Greek/Roman ▶





MISSION & VISION STATEMENT

Save Ancient Studies Alliance seeks to reverse the current downward trend in the study of the Ancient World. Building a grassroots movement through education, accessible mentorship, and public scholarship, we work toward our goal of inspiring a wider, inclusive community of learners and students. Save Ancient Studies Alliance envisions a world in which connection with the richness of deep human history and culture is shared by all people. Our vision for a new Ancient Studies will encompass...

▲ Alexander Mosaic, House of the Faun, Pompeii Battle of Issus Mosaic, circa 100 BCE
Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples
Region/Culture: Greek/Roman ▼



Broadening understandings of our pasts to help nurture cross-cultural awareness, curiosity, sensitivity, and an affinity for each other.

Engaging with our deep pasts in educational, public, and cultural spheres with widespread opportunities that emphasize openness and accessibility to all.

Sharing Ancient Studies scholarship as a community endeavor of lifelong learners, both inside and outside higher education institutions.

Capturing the active public imagination and exemplifying proactive inclusivity, interconnectedness, and cooperation through humanistic scholarship models of Ancient Studies.



THE SASA ARC

All of our projects and programming is aimed at achieving one or more of the goals that form the SASA Arc.



I Knowing What You Know

II Raising Awareness

III Supporting Education

IV Increasing Accessibility

V Forming An Alliance

VI Reenvisioning Post-Education Scholarship



I Knowing What You Know

Educational Sociology and Marketing research about Ancient Studies.

II Raising Awareness

Generate and harness interest in the Ancient World, while raising awareness for Ancient Studies as the source of our knowledge of the Ancient World.

III Supporting Education

Support formal and informal Ancient Studies learning at all educational levels.v

IV Increasing Accessibility

Increase access to Ancient Studies for all.

V Forming An Alliance

Encourage Ancient Studies Fields to come together and make public outreach a part of “what we do,” in addition to teaching and scholarship.

VI Reenvisionng Post-Education Scholarship

Create a wider, inclusive community of Ancient Studies scholars and students, integrating people of all backgrounds, and scholars employed in academia and in other fields.

- ▲
- ◀ The Creation with the Universe and the Cosmic Man.
The Universal Man, circa 1165
Liber Divinorum Operum of St. Hildegard of Bingen
Region/Culture: Italy ▶





WHAT IS ANCIENT STUDIES ?

The concept of “Ancient Studies” encompasses a variety of academic disciplines—and yet this larger framework is not widely accepted. SASA includes the following disciplines within Ancient Studies...

◀ Plato's Academy mosaic – Roman mosaic ▼
from Pompeii circa 1st century BCE
Museo Nazionale Archeologico, Naples
Region/Culture: Rome



- Ancient American & Indigenous Studies
- South Asian Studies
- Central Asian Studies
- East Asian Studies
- Oceania Studies
- Ancient Europe Studies
- Ancient African & Egyptian Studies
- Ancient Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
- Biblical Studies
- Ancient Greek & Roman Studies
- Arabic & Islamic Studies
- Late Antique & Medieval Studies
- Art History
- History of Science & Technology
- Preservation & Conservation
- Ancient Philosophy
- Ancient Music
- Ancient Religion
- General History
- General Archaeology

Ancient Studies is a dynamic and constantly evolving field, so SASA anticipates changing and growing this list in the future.

The concept of a deeper past exists in all disciplines of historical study. This is how history is meant to be encompassed with the term “Ancient.” The potential gains in accepting this moniker and associating these fields with one another is appreciable. The collaboration of our fields will allow for the creation of a larger niche for them within the Humanities, helping to prevent their downsizing and creating a unified advocacy platform within the Humanities.



THE VALUE OF ANCIENT STUDIES

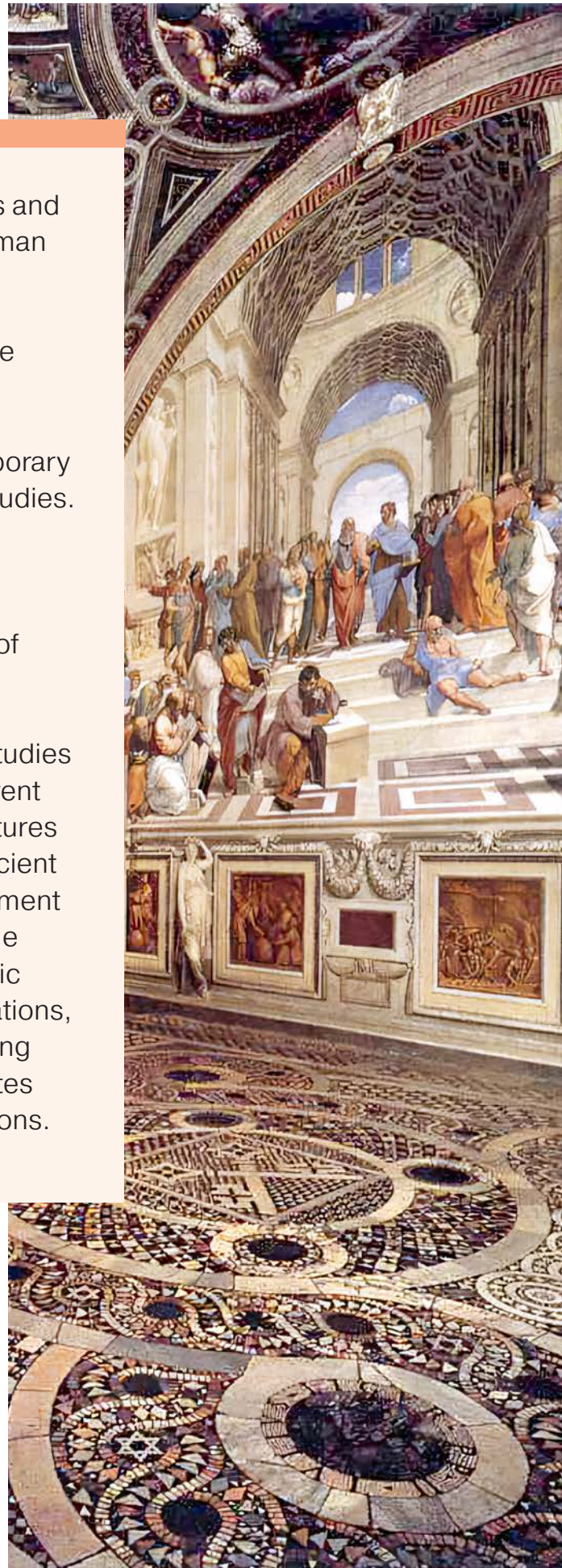
We believe the study of peoples, histories, and cultures distant from us in time is profoundly important and has significant contemporary relevance in the following ways...

- ◀ Stanza della Segnatura ("Room of the Signatura"), ▶
circa 1500s CE
Raphael Rooms. Apostolic Palace, Vatican City
Region/Culture: Rome ▶



- Learning about the socio-political dynamics and cultural mentalities which transcend the human experience across time and space.
- Studying the past as a mirror in which we are able to see ourselves with greater clarity.
- Informing the many aspects of our contemporary culture today through the lens of Ancient Studies.
- Influencing how we think about, study, and present Ancient Studies for vibrant interest in today's communities Fostering attitudes of cultural respect, empathy, and humility.

As the history of the human journey, Ancient Studies is the core of the Humanities. It brings an inherent understanding and affinity for peoples and cultures that feel markedly different from ourselves. Ancient Studies thereby serves as an inclusive environment to encourage cross-interaction between people of different languages, cultures, socioeconomic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, and skin colors. The empathy and understanding gained from studying ancient people ameliorates contemporary prejudices and intergroup tensions.





SASA's CORE VALUES

Education

We believe that education empowers individuals, communities, and societies. Liberal Arts and the Humanities, including Ancient Studies, is vital to fostering individuals and societies imbued with empathy, compassion, and altruism, as well as creativity, ingenuity, and innovation.

Accessibility

Everyone benefits from access to information, so we strive to make all of our content as accessible as possible. That is why SASA focuses on the digital. We provide virtual programming that is available from anywhere in the world. We are always looking for opportunities to reach outside of the stereotypical bounds of Ancient Studies, whether in topic, language, or diversity. Everyone has the right to learn, and everyone should be supported in this journey.

- ◀ Roman portraiture fresco of a young man with a papyrus scroll, circa 1st century CE
Region/Culture: Rome.

Lifelong Learning

Intellectual engagement is a lifelong pursuit, and we support this ongoing quest for knowledge, awareness, and meaning through Ancient Studies. Ancient Studies can be enjoyed and pursued by people of all ages and backgrounds, and should be accepted as participants in excellent scholarly discussion regardless of background, occupation, or means. The current model of restrictive membership must change to an open, inclusive community.

Quality

We aspire to the highest quality of content and education. By recruiting experts and insisting that the research and information we disseminate is evidence based and of a high educational standard, we ensure the most accurate possible representation and interpretation of past peoples and histories.

Mutual Aid

We highly value volunteerism as a means of giving back to one another and a community at large. We also believe that people who contribute to an organization in a regular and ongoing manner deserve financial support and recognition for their time and work. Currently most of SASA's staff, volunteers, and interns are unpaid. We are dedicated to providing all of our volunteering with the necessary tools to succeed, and so we will continue to seek funding to pay our talented and dedicated volunteers.

Inspiration

All of our volunteers have a deep-seated passion for the Study of the Ancient World. This passion permeates and drives all that we do. We hope to impart this passion, and inspire others with curiosity, positivity, and intrepid action in working toward positive change. Only by working together can we achieve our goals and Save Ancient Studies!



HOW WE OPERATE

In this current climate, where the perceived societal value of Humanities is waning, direct lobbying to institutional decision-makers to increase funding for Ancient Studies has proven ineffective. Therefore, the first step in reversing this trend is to raise a groundswell of interest in Ancient Studies. As we transform Ancient Studies into a shining beacon within the Humanities, changing attitudes towards Ancient Studies will lead to the promotion of formal educational engagement in Ancient Studies at all levels.

SASA seeks to translate academic knowledge to a wider audience, so that all generations will continue to learn about the ancient past. At SASA, we view all interest in Ancient Studies positively. Our understanding of the past is shaped by the popular media we consume, including comic books, films, novels, or even video games! Whatever sparks a desire to learn more about Ancient Studies is beneficial and valuable. Through our various grassroots projects SASA successfully harnesses the public imagination and love for the ancient world, creating a rising tide of engagement and bringing together scholars, lifelong learners, young students and enthusiasts from around the world.

Burial chamber of Sennedjem,
◀ Scene: Plowing farmer, circa 1200 BCE ▶
Region/Culture: Egypt



Education

Provide content, tools, and instructions online to make the study of the Ancient World more accessible

We provide Archaeogaming modules for schools which helps teach students about the past through interactive activities.

We house a resource database with more than 1,400 websites from all Ancient Studies fields.

We aim to continue to open the world of Ancient Studies to students in high school, college and beyond by offering monthly reading groups. Each group is led by a SASA Educational Ambassador, a dedicated PhD student specializing in that particular area of study.

Mentorship

Inspire a passion for Ancient Studies among high school, undergraduate, and graduate students.

At SASA, we recognize that many students interested in Ancient Studies might not have many opportunities to seek advice from experienced individuals within the field. We set up our mentorship program to empower our high school aged mentees by assisting them in making conscious choices regarding their education and future careers.

Each year at SASA we provide multiple internship opportunities for students to learn about and support our work through research, communications, outreach, fundraising, and access.

Accessibility & Public Scholarship

Develop, advocate, and support scholarly life for graduates of subjects related to Ancient Studies who work in non-academic fields.

Our ultimate goal is to create a wider, inclusive community of scholars and students, integrating people of all backgrounds. We engage with the community through our Public Scholarship events, where SASA Educational Ambassadors share findings and research from their specific fields of study.

Burial chamber of Sennedjem,
Scene: Plowing farmer, circa 1200 BCE ▶
Region/Culture: Egypt ▼





MENTE
E.A.D.E.XA

John G.

IMPACT

We are extremely proud of the wide appeal of our programming, as seen in nearly 200 countries represented among our website visitors. This reflects the truly global interest in Ancient Studies.

The following pages quantify and illustrate this phenomenon...

- ◀ The god Freyr stands with his sword and the boar Gullinburst, circa 1901 CE
Region/Culture: Norse



OUR GROWTH, QUANTIFIED

Since its beginning in Spring 2020, SASA has experienced significant growth of our audience and outreach, including...

388

Interns & Volunteers

60,000

Unique Website Visitors
From 198 Countries

3,500

Mailing List Members Added

4.75 mil.

Social Media Reaches

◀ Apotheosis of Venezia
by Paolo Veronese, circa 1585
Region/Culture: Greek ▶





DIGITAL OUTREACH

Social Media

Our social media impact alone has obtained over 7,000 subscribers with almost 70,000 regular engagements of liking, sharing, and commenting about ancient studies with social media across the globe.

7,000

Subscribers obtained from our social media channels



70,000

Likes, shares, & comments through social media

- ◀ Stern-mounted steering oar of an Egyptian riverboat, circa 1422-1411 BCE
Region/Culture: Egypt ▶

All Things Video

Videos are integral to SASA's mission as they open the ancient world in an exciting medium. In addition to housing recordings of our live events, our YouTube channel also features Inspire Campaign videos, including Ancient Kitchen, cooking videos of ancient recipes! We also have a series of videos from volunteers on why they love Ancient Studies.





HIGHLY DEDICATED VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteers and interns continue to play an instrumental role in SASA's reach and success. SASA has had over 260 remote volunteers and interns in our summer, fall, and spring internship programs and volunteering cycles, and that number continues to grow as students, graduate students, ABD's, PhD's, young adults, and adults looking for volunteering opportunities seek innovative internship and volunteering programs alongside and outside the academic world. Our interns are spread across over 200 countries, states, and provinces.

◀ The Dendera Zodiac. circa 305 BCE – 30 BCE
Region/Culture: Greco-Roman ▶

Our Volunteers & Interns By The Numbers

200

Countries, states, and, provinces represented by our interns and volunteers



388

Cumulative total of interns & volunteers that have participated in seasonal internship and volunteer cycles





אנחנו מצאנו אשה מצאנו טוב מזיו ובמזל נ

ועשרים יום לחודש חשק בשנת חמשת לפי ושש מ

ממזנין כאן במרתא דעל מינו בתרוד ונמעינו

שהן הכ הנעים א שמואל יצו אמר לכליתא ב

יצו הוילאנו. כממשו ונא כסיעתא דשמיא

יכילי כי כהלכת כל נוברין והודאין דפריזין ומזוקר

מדיהבנא ליכי מוהר כהוליי כי כסף זוי' מאתן דאנון נ

יהא ועלי מזוניי כי וכסותיי כי ופיפוקיי כי ומיעל לוהיי

דאנדוניא דהנעלה תלתא דאמכית אכזה בין כלכות

הוסים לה תוספת על עיקר כתובה סך עשרין או

כתובה סך ערבועין אדפד הכל קבל עתה חתן זה ונ

לזאת נאנת אחריות כתובה דא כלה עיקר תוספ

אי להתפרע מן כל שפר ארנ נכסין וקנינן דאית לי מתלזות כל ע

לי אנכי מקרקעי כולהון יהון אחר אין וארבעין לכתובה דא לא

ל

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Organizational Structure
2. Teams & Team Leaders
3. Internships
4. Remote Run Organization
5. Funding Model
6. Ambassador Program

◀ Ketubah, circa 1911
Region/Culture: Jewish ▶

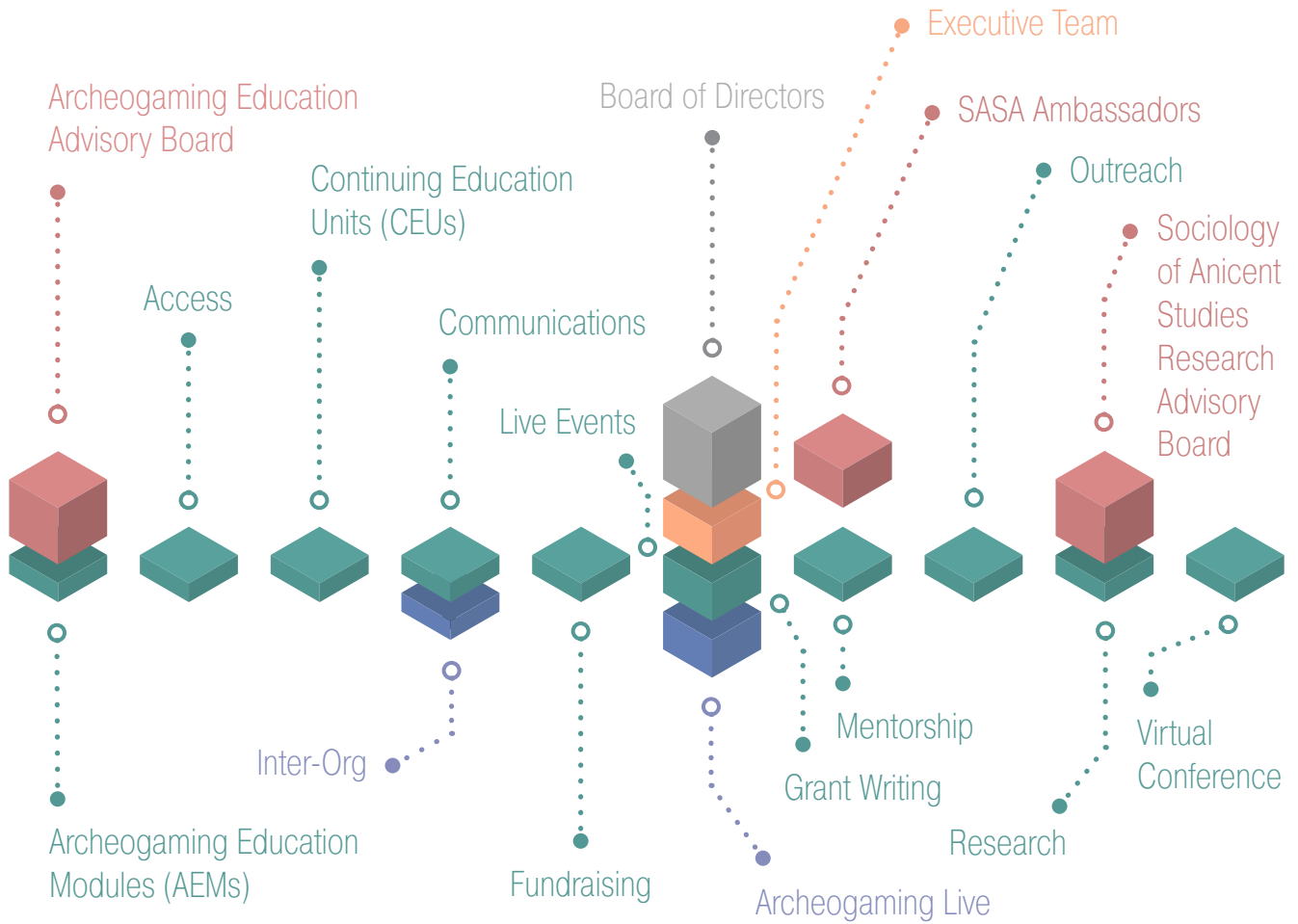




ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

SASA has many teams running independent projects, all managed by the Executive Team, which is responsible to the Board of Directors. In addition, there are three advisory groups which help to guide and support the organization and individual teams. These are the SASA Ambassadors, who work in an advisory capacity with the Board of Directors, the Research Advisory Board, and the Archaeogaming Education Advisory Board.

◀ The Edwin Smith Papyrus,
circa 1600 CE
Region/Culture, Egypt



TEAMS & TEAM LEADERS

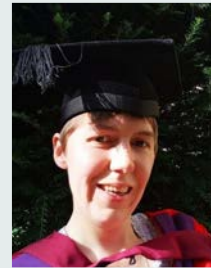
Executive Team

The Executive Team is the engine that keeps SASA running smoothly, handling SASA's administration, recruiting, finances, legal matters, productivity software, internal processes, and more. Since SASA is a fast-growing start-up organization, the Executive Team innovates new processes, procedures, and tools to support the development of all the other teams.

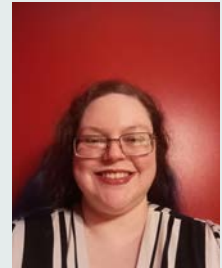
This year, some of our biggest projects included making our graphic design more professional, executing fundraising activities on a limited volunteer and staff time frame, streamlining our intern and volunteer onboarding and management process, and cleaning up our financial future.

Of all the teams, the Executive Team requires the most diverse and flexible set of skills in order to effectively manage all of our complicated administrative tasks.

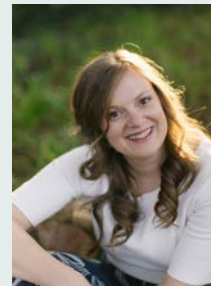
The Executive Team's daily operations are overseen by Martine Diepenbroek. The team also functions as an umbrella team governing the Executive Assistant (Tara Woodward), the Managing Director (Julie Levy), and the Recruitment Coordinator (Jacob Asher Lindbert).



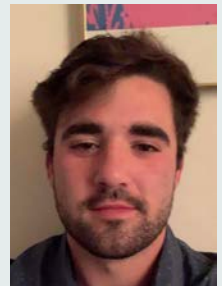
Martine Diepenbroek
Executive Team Leader



Julie Levy
Managing Director



Tara Woodward
Executive Assistant



Jacob Asher Lindbert
Recruitment Coordinator

Access Team

The Access Team oversees SASA's collection of publicly available resources for ancient studies enthusiasts, no matter their status.

This year, the Access Team has published translations of archaeological terms in four new languages (Arabic, Spanish, Japanese, and Hindi). The team has also revamped the Online Resources Database and Where to Study Ancient Studies database as well (with new user interfaces coming in 2024!). The Access Team's round-table discussion during the 2023 Virtual Conference on "Affordability and Accessibility" was a major success. Lastly, the team has begun new Intro Guides meant to be easy-to-read guides to various ancient studies topics.

The team is led by John Haberstroh. Under his leadership, Spring 2023 interns Summer Sekula and Andrew Bielecki won scholarships from their universities for their work on the Access Team.



John Haberstroh
Access Team Leader

Communications Team

The SASA Communications Team has been creating content on our social media channels to give the public an insight into all the exciting projects each of the Teams of SASA have been working hard on all year long. As the vanguard of SASA, it is our job to inspire the public to learn more about any and all fields of ancient studies, and provide open access resources to fulfill this mission. We do this not only by emphasizing what SASA has to offer, but also informing the public on where to learn more about ancient studies and get involved with other organizations and projects like NGOs, schools, youtube channels, podcasts, and much more.

The Team Leader for Communications is Lauren Kubosch.



Lauren Kubosch
Communications Team Leader

◀ The Jina Buddha Ratnasambhava Central Tibet, circa 1150-1225 CE
Region/Culture: Tibet



Inter-Organization Communications Team

The Inter-Organization Communications Team provides all our mass mailings, our newsletter, and our blogs. Everything that SASA does goes through here to come to you!

This year, Inter-Org started our brand new research blog, *Issues in Ancient Studies*, to showcase the work our Research Team is doing. We've also started sending out our newsletter, the Oracle, twice a month to keep up with the increasing output of our growing organization. We've been working on initializing a journalism project, too, focusing on universities closing their ancient studies departments.



David Danzig
Team Leader

David Danzig leads the Inter-Org Team

Continuing Education Units Team

Our Continuing Education team is working hard on the development of our new Teaching Ancient Studies Continuing Education (CE) program that will offer free CEUs (Continuing Education Units), vital for maintaining teaching credentials, while delving deep into the captivating world of ancient studies. We spent the year immersed in research, exploring existing programs and meticulously crafting a plan.



Kara Brown
CEUs Team Leader

We are currently creating the content for our new programming, and we are thrilled to announce the planned launch of our first CEU Reading Group in the summer of 2024. This initial program will pave the way for continued professional development opportunities within the field of ancient studies. As we look to expand our team, we are excited to delve deeper into building this valuable program and enriching the teaching experience for all.

The CEUs Team is led by Kara Brown.

Archeogaming Education Modules (AEMs)

SASA's Archaeogaming Education Modules, free to download classroom packs aimed at middle-grade education based on real history and popular video games, have been one of our greatest achievements to date. There are currently six completed AEMs on our website.

This year, we received another grant from NJCH to complete two new modules! The work on the first of those, Egyptian religion, is proceeding on schedule, and research is beginning into a second on Feudal Japan. Meanwhile, we have revamped and updated the exercises accompanying our older modules, granting even greater flexibility to teachers using our material!

The AEMs Team is co-lead by Paige Brevick and Emma Barbacini.



Paige Brevick
AEM Team Co-Leader



Emma Barbacini
AEM Team Co-Leader

Research

The Research Team is the factual foundation of SASA's mission. Our initial Downward Trend study proved that the rate of academic support for ancient studies was in sharp decline, and spurred our organization to set about building a better future for our past.

Our Research Team members work on a variety of projects looking into the way that ancient studies intersect with the modern world, from the ways in which our understanding of the past is colored by those who founded academic disciplines to the ways AI is reshaping the landscape of learning. Right now, the team is engaged in recreating our initial Downward Trend work in order to take a look at how things have shifted in the past four years, as well as looking at other metrics that more directly show SASA's impact on the landscape.

Rithik Pramod is joined by new Team Co-Leader, Paul Itodo (Not Pictured)



Rithik Pramod
Research Team Co-Leader

◀ The Jina Buddha Ratnasambhava Central Tibet, circa 1150-1225 CE
Region/Culture: Tibet



Mentorship Team

Mentorship is a new project, developed by Team Leader Agnieszka Arcisz from start to finish over the last two years. This program aims to pair students interested in ancient studies with mentors who will help them find the right level of support for their goals- and learn how to have a good relationship with other mentors in future!



Agnieszka Arcisz
Mentorship Team Leader

This year, the team finished our Guide to Mentoring, a product of many months of researching mentoring practices and determining the best approach for our program. The rest of the year has been dedicated to essential administrative tasks focused especially on developing a fair and thorough recruitment process for mentors and mentees. The team itself has grown, we were joined by amazing interns and volunteers and every one of them contributed to reshaping and improving our ideas and vision. We are very excited for our program to begin this year!

Recruitment Team

The Recruitment Team manages all of SASA's personnel needs, writing and maintaining job advertisements, onboarding new volunteers, and running our thrice-annual internship cycle.

In 2023, the Recruitment Team successfully brought on over 100 interns and volunteers! We have worked hard to streamline the recruiting process and practices that we follow by creating recruitment guides and informational sheets for internal use.



Jacob Asher Lindbert
Recruitment Coordinator

Recruitment is run by Jacob Asher Lindbert.

◀ The Jina Buddha Ratnasambhava Central Tibet, circa 1150-1225 CE
Region/Culture: Tibet

Fundraising Team

The Fundraising Team runs SASA's annual fundraisers, the Birthday Bash in spring and the Halloween Bash in the fall, as well as smaller events throughout the year. The Fundraising Team is also responsible for putting this Annual Report together and for brainstorming future funding possibilities. Donations are the lifeblood of a nonprofit like SASA!



Melanie Couzzo
Fundraising Team Leader



Tara Woodward
Fundraising Assistant

This year, the Fundraising Team brought back the Bazaar with new designs and implemented several giveaways that increased our fundraising opportunities. For the first time in SASA's history, we also set and met our fundraising goals for the Annual Conference and Halloween Bash. Our donor retention rate is high, and the feedback shows that those who do leave wish they could keep giving.

The Fundraising Team is led by Melanie Couzzo, with assistance from Tara Woodward and Amber Burns (Not Pictured).

Grant Writing Team

Our Grant Writing Team works in tandem with Fundraising to bring in the funding for our projects. The team also works closely with the Director, David Danzig, and our SASA Ambassadors to find new ways to reach out to organizations who want to work with us.

Over the last year, we've continued to secure several grants from organizations that have worked with us in the past. NJCH provided the funds for two new Archaeogaming Education Modules, and both the Society for Classical Studies and the Delmas Kriebel Foundation have continued to support our winter and summer free public reading groups and master classes. We also have an exciting new partnership with the Wenner-Gren Foundation to provide live Spanish and Arabic translation for our virtual conference, Opening the Ancient World, coming this July!



David Danzig
Grant Writing Team Leader

The Team Leader for Grant Writing is David Danzig, and was previously led by Marissa Chabon (Not Pictured).

Outreach Team

Our Outreach Team is dedicated to finding new partners and programs to work with SASA towards a common goal of making the ancient world open to all.

We've had an excellent year, signing up 26 partners overall (the highest rate since SASA's foundation).

These partners include several high-profile projects such as Let's Talk About Myths, Baby, the History of

Egypt podcast, Ancient History magazine, Heritage Daily, and The Hellenistic Age Podcast. We also partnered with Academic organizations, like Arion, a classics journal affiliated with Boston University, and the Classical Association of South Africa, showing ancient studies are thriving outside of America and Europe. We've been having unprecedented success finding partners from the Philippines and Arabic speaking world.

We also created an ever-growing Calendar of Ancient Studies Events, which currently includes 300+ events worldwide, as well as collaborated with Access Team to create our database of ancient studies in popular media.

Outreach is co-led by Sarah Richardson and Leon Corneille Cowell.



Sarah Richardson
Outreach Team Co-Leader



Leon Corneille Cowell
Outreach Team Co-Leader

The Jina Buddha Ratnasambhava
Central Tibet, circa 1150-1225 CE
Region/Culture: Tibet

Live Events Team

The Live Events Team develops, plans, and runs SASA's live events, including Book Clubs, Master Classes, and our popular Winter and Summer Reading Groups. We also coordinate events for the annual fundraising events like the SASA Birthday Bash and Halloween Bash. Members participate in the entire event creation and production cycle, from soliciting new presenters to organizing events, assisting in live event production, to post-event communications, video editing, and management.

SASA's Live Events Team worked hard throughout 2023 to provide open access streaming content to the public that highlights a variety of facets related to ancient studies. Including Book Clubs, Master Classes, Partnership Highlights featuring other organizations and projects related to ancient studies, and our popular Reading Groups. We are proud to have our Reading Groups funded, for a second year in a row during both Winter and Summer sessions by SCS - Society for Classical Studies and the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundations (respectively).

The Live Events Team is co-led by Lauren Kubosch and Cassandra May.



Lauren Kubosch
Live Events Co-Team Leader



Cassandra May
Live Events Co-Team Leader



Virtual Conference Team

Every year, SASA runs a public-facing, free virtual conference on ancient studies called Opening the Past. Our Virtual Conference Team is in charge of coordinating this grand undertaking, which involves not only arranging the speakers and technology, but also coordinating our messaging, working with video editors and field experts, and reaching out to scholars whose work is less visible to the academic circuit.

The 2023 virtual conference, *Discovery, Science, and Technology in the Ancient World: Traditions and Innovations*, was a huge success, with four keynote speakers and two days of panels discussing the science of antiquity and how ancient thinkers thought about progress and technology. We had over 17,000 views over the two-day event.

This coming conference, thanks to a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation, will be translated live into both Spanish and Arabic. Our team now has translators working in both languages to bring in papers and partners to stream to whole new populations. The upcoming topic is *Representations of the Past in Ancient and Modern Times*.

The 2023 Virtual Conference was led by Anh Nguyen, and the 2024 team is being led by Manmeet Kaur.

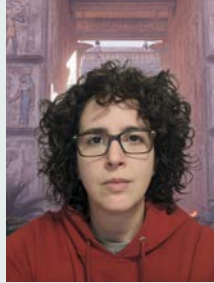


Anh Nguyen
2023 Virtual Conference
Team Leader

The Jina Buddha Ratnasambhava
Central Tibet, circa 1150-1225 CE
Region/Culture: Tibet

Archeogaming Live Team

Archaeogaming Live runs weekly Twitch streams where we play video games and talk about their ancient studies content with relevant guest experts.



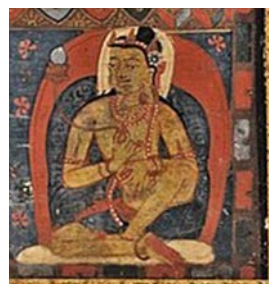
Kate Minniti
Archeogaming Live
Team Co-Leader



Alex Vandewalle
Archeogaming Live
Team Co-Leader

This has been our busiest year yet! Dr. Kate Minniti and Alex Vandewalle lead the team, and Dr. David Serrano-Lozano and Julie Levy have also joined. In addition, we welcomed back Dr. Briana Jackson as a recurring guest for a series of Total War: Pharaoh currently being played by Jacob Glenister and hosted by Dr. Kate Minniti.

We've played Stray Gods, Pentiment, Chants of Sennaar, and more, all available to watch on Twitch and YouTube. By the end of 2023, we had 488 Twitch followers and 40 episodes streamed for a total of 103 hours. On top of that, we also hosted specials with interviews with the publishers of books on historical video games, developers, and a roundtable on mythology in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.





INTERNSHIPS

Our internships offer a fantastic opportunity to get involved with a vibrant educational community outreach oriented nonprofit in the Ancient Studies sector.

SASA welcomes interns from a broad range of backgrounds who are interested in growing and developing their skills and making a difference. Although we are working on providing funds for internships in the future, the program is currently unpaid. SASA's internships are designed to be mutually beneficial. Our interns participate in various SASA projects ranging from fundraising to social media and Archaeogaming production.

In addition to learning new skills related to nonprofit work, we also encourage our interns to build connections within the ancient studies. Internships also include monthly professional development events.

Our annual internship cycle consists of 3 recurring periods programs:

- Autumn: September–December
- Spring: January–May
- Summer: June–August

SASA is committed to creating a diverse environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity organization. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for internships without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status. We also welcome applicants from diverse educational backgrounds, aside from Ancient Studies, and those on any career trajectory.



◀ Famous Pattachitra art of Odisha, circa 1500 CE
Region/Culture: India/Hindu ▶



THE POWER OF A REMOTE RUN ORGANIZATION

In our fourth year as a completely remote run organization we are continuing to grow, adding over 125 skilled volunteers and interns from countries all over the world.

This has caused us to be nimble and creative as we continue to work together across different departments, languages, time zones, and skill sets.

In order to accommodate our growing size and impact, team leaders have worked closely with the executive team to ensure that valuable volunteer time is used efficiently to further our mission.

SASA uses a variety of modes of communication in order to accommodate individuals with differing comfort levels. We rely on our custom portal within Google Workspace to provide all staff, volunteers, and interns access to the tools and information they need. On this model, we have supported extensive productivity and success.

◀ Relief Taq-e Bostan, circa 224 – 651 CE
Region/Culture: Iran ▶

FUNDING MODEL— GRANTS FOR PROJECTS, DONATIONS FOR OPERATIONS

This year we made great strides in our fundraising efforts and we hope to carry that momentum into 2024.

Donor Support

While we anticipate developing the relationships required to fund the majority of SASA's programming through Grants and Major Gifts, smaller sustaining donations are still vital to SASA's day to day operations. As such we have designed and begun to implement a new donor support and engagement system to increase transparency and engagement with our donors, so they can see how their support helps move us toward our goals. For example, our new Quarterly Donor Newsletter keeps donors up to date on our spending and securement of grants. Likewise, our new Sustaining Donors Program provides tiered benefits to all monthly recurring donors, helping our donors maintain their connections with SASA. In 2024, we anticipate an increase in Donor Events, and we hope to keep giving back to those who give.

Fundraising Projects

The SASA Bazaar has grown in its array of ancient-branded merchandise, which provides another stream of revenue toward SASA's operations. This has been an exciting avenue for our fundraising efforts and we plan to continually expand our offerings. We've undergone a strong shop overhaul and added many new designs, and we are working on plans to improve visibility and customer-end pricing to increase appeal.



Overview of Donations & Grants

\$20,000

Summer 2024
Virtual Conference



**Wenner-Gren
Foundation**

\$4,300

Reading Group grants for
2021 – 2023 combined



SOCIETY FOR
CLASSICAL
STUDIES

ΨΥΧΙΑΤΡΟΣ
ΤΑΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΑ

FOUNDED IN 1869 AS THE AMERICAN
PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

\$15,000

2021 Action Grant for Archeogaming Learning
Module Pilot Program in New Jersey

**NEW JERSEY COUNCIL
FOR THE
HUMANITIES**

\$12,000

*THE GLADYS KRIEBLE DELMAS
FOUNDATION*

\$12,000 for summer reading groups and Continuing Education Units for
2024 from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation

Spotlight Grant from the National
Endowment for the Humanities to
begin converting AEMs for college
use with HBCUs



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

\$6,052

Total Donations in 2023

\$157,000

Total Grants in 2023

◀ Mauryan Coin, circa 3rd century BCE
Region/Culture: India



SASA AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

This year, we were excited to launch our new SASA Ambassador Program. SASA Ambassadors are influential individuals tasked with raising awareness of the issues Ancient Studies faces and the ways SASA is combating them, as well as supporting our fundraising efforts.

Each of our ambassadors is incredibly accomplished, and we are ecstatic that they share our passion for saving Ancient Studies as we do! Together with our fundraising team they help us build connections with Ancient Studies institutions and organizations, engage with potential donors who understand the value of Ancient Studies, and strategize ways to create new and broader pathways between the many silos of Ancient Studies scholarship. Already, this has allowed SASA to pursue new opportunities and work towards our goals through collaboration and access to funding.

◀ Nile mosaic of Palestrina, circa 100 BCE
Region/Culture: Egypt ▶





ABOUT OUR AMBASSADORS

- ◀ Illustration showing a water clock given to Charlemagne by Harun al-Rashid, circa 786 – 809
Region/Culture: Iraq ▼



Charles E. Jones

Charles E. (Chuck) Jones, Tombros Librarian of Classics and Humanities at Penn State, Research Associate at the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures (former Oriental Institute) at the University of Chicago, Vice President of the American Society for Overseas Research, and creator of the Ancient World Online Blog. He has been at the forefront of Ancient Studies digital outreach for decades.



Barbara Porter

Barbara A. Porter is the former director of the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Jordan, has worked at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and taught at New York University. She has had an important role in protecting and supporting the cultural heritage of the Middle East for the last four decades. She is currently an Independent Scholar and leads archaeological tours to the Middle East.



Frederick Winter

Frederick Winter is Vice-Chair of the Board of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. He has taught and engaged in archaeology for many years. He helped found the Archaeological Institute of America's Committee on Professional Responsibilities and worked with the Association of American Colleges and Universities. He worked as a Senior Grant Officer for the National Endowment for the Humanities and as Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Hood College.





PUBLICITY— SHARING SASA'S VOICE

SASA has been increasing its presence at Ancient Studies conferences – and in the public eye through numerous public presentations and conference exhibits. The following pages detail our rising profile as such...



◀ A Reading from Homer, circa 1885 CE
Region/Culture: Greek ▶

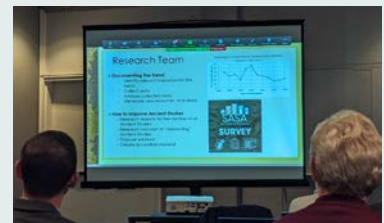


PUBLICITY— PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCE EXHIBITS

SASA was represented at no fewer than 12 conferences in 2023! We had tables or presentations at the following six...



The American Society of Overseas Research — including a presentation by Dr. Fred Winters!



◀ Pages 6 to 8 of the Dresden Codex, circa 1200 CE
Region/Culture: Mayan ▶



The American Research Center in Egypt



The Society for American Archaeology



The International Congress on the Archaeology of the Near East



The Society of Biblical Literature



The New Jersey Council for Social Studies





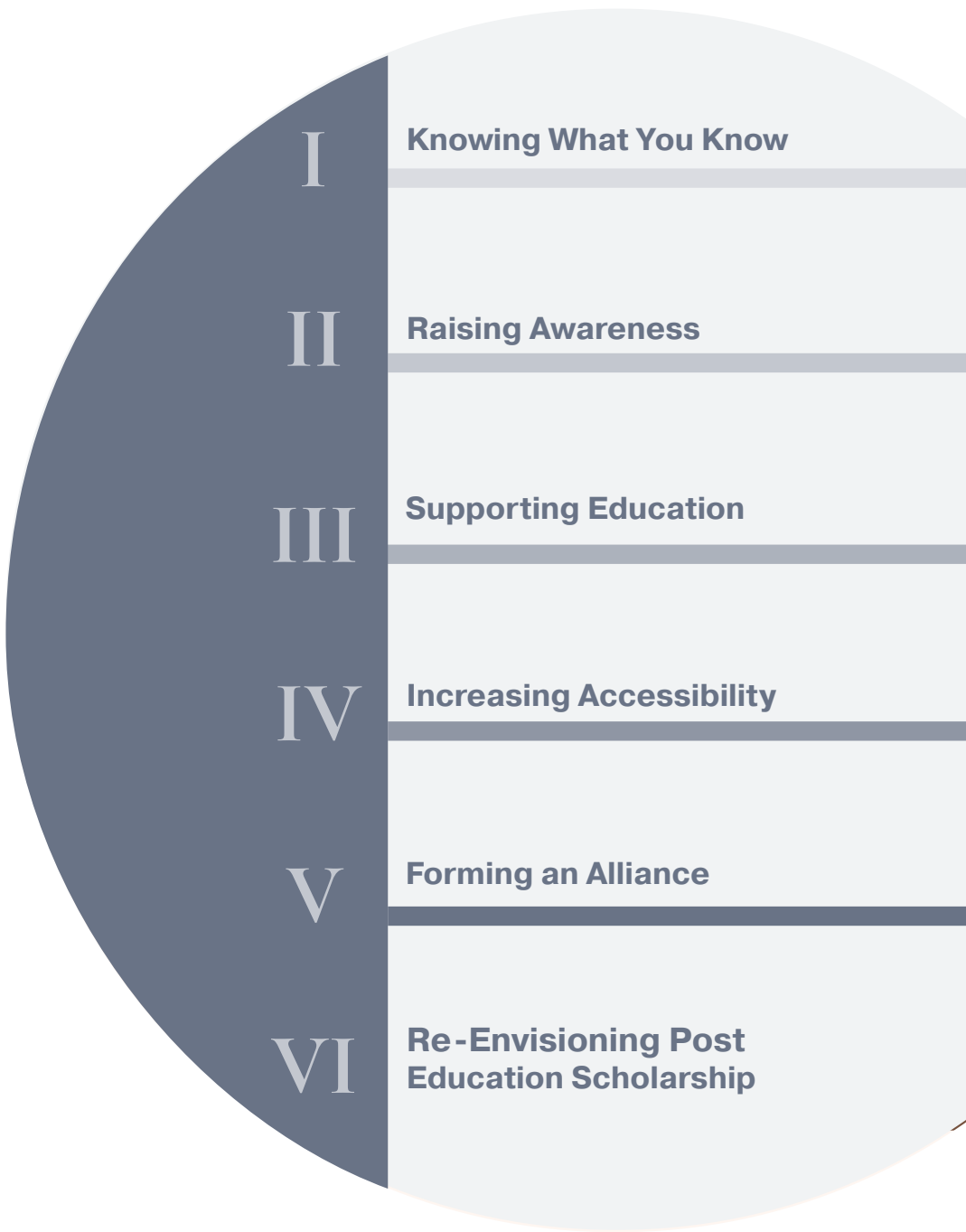
PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

One of SASA's core values is education, and we achieve that goal in many different ways. From live events to classroom modules to our virtual conference, we use our resources and connections to bring Ancient Studies to students, scholars, and the interested public around the world.

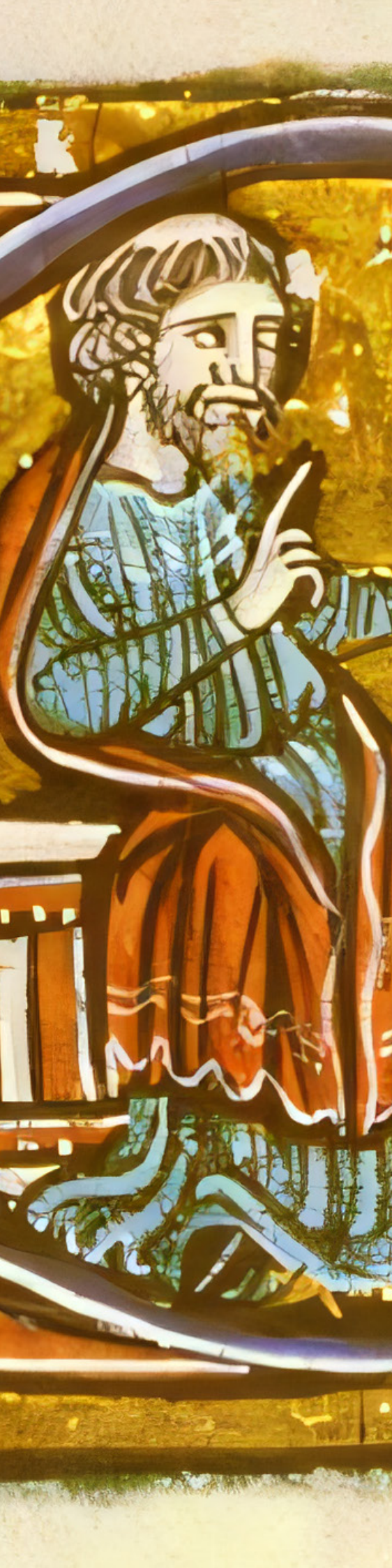
SASA offers a wealth of programs and projects, all of which fit into our various goals characterizing each of the six points that come together forming the SASA Arc!

By offering such a diverse range of opportunities, SASA has continued to meet internal goals and provide accessible Ancient Studies education and outreach opportunities for people of all backgrounds.





◀ Ideal Landscape with the Titus Arch, circa 1800s CE
Region/Culture: Roman ▶



KNOWING WHAT YOU KNOW

Researching the Downward Trend
and the Sociology of Ancient Studies

SASA is committed to ensuring the quality of the information we put out. Our ongoing research into the Downward Trend of available Ancient Studies degree programs and majors shows the clear need for our work. The data we collect in this research also aids in ongoing demographic and sociological projects, such as how gender impacts degree completions within Ancient Studies disciplines, a project completed in 2022.

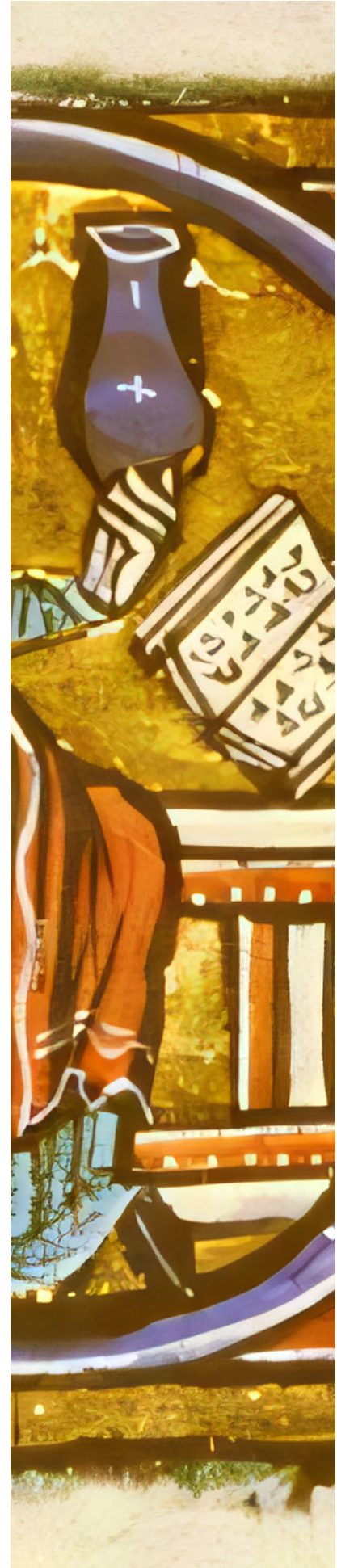
◀ Illuminure from the Hunayn ibn-Ishaq al-'Ibadi manuscript of the Isagoge, circa 800s CE
Region/Culture: Mesopotamia/Iraq ▶

Ongoing Research

In addition to the ongoing research in the Downward Trend, SASA fosters several Sociology of Ancient Studies projects each semester. In the past year, SASA researchers have looked at the political usage of ancient studies in several Indian states, the impact of AI for good and ill on the field of ancient studies, and the way social media can foster interest in the ancient world. We have also begun work on a partner project to the Downward Trend, which is SASA's Impact.

Conference Presentations

Our researchers' projects will be published on SASA's upcoming Research Blog, but many of them have already been presented at conferences around the globe.





RAISING AWARENESS

SASA's Expansive Outreach Programming

In order to reach such a large public audience, SASA maintains a substantial outreach program, including social media presence, mailing lists, and more.

Social Media Footprint



SASA's social media footprint is relatively large. We run a Facebook page, Instagram page, Twitter account, Twitch channel, YouTube channel, Discord server, and TikTok account. Social media posts go out regularly, reaching audiences of over 4.75M across all those platforms. Our Twitter, Twitch, and TikTok have been particularly successful in gaining attention and bringing people into our various events and courses. Some internship and volunteer projects include improving social media use Ancient Studies organizations from the user's perspective.

◀ Offering by Lund, circa 1777 – 1867
Region/Culture: Norse ▶

Annual Summer Inspire Conference

One great source of interest has been the Inspire campaign videos created in our opening year. Those videos continue to reach new people even now, and we hope to recreate the Inspire campaign in the summers to come.



Hybrid Conference Participation

SASA also partners with and participates in various Ancient Studies conferences around the world. In the past year, we had members attend the Annual Society for Biblical Studies conference, the International Society of Biblical Studies, and the American Society of Overseas Research conference. Here, we advertised to graduate students and professional scholars alike, with talks, posters, and tables with information about SASA. We have been very successful this way in bringing in new experts to help create the wonderful content that SASA provides.

Mailing Lists

We also keep several mailing lists in order to reach students, teachers, and other interested parties at various levels. When we send out our call for conference papers, for instance, we reach out to academic departments and ask them to pass it to their faculty and graduate students, and when we have an upcoming master class, we advertise it to the interested public who have signed up to be notified.





SUPPORTING EDUCATION

Aiding Students & Teachers at All Levels

While all of the above programs are focused on public access, we at SASA also reach out to students and teachers at various levels. Our winter and summer reading groups reach a wide range from high school, college, graduate, doctorate, post doctorate, and retired. One of our internship projects includes the hotly-debated topic of AI as a tool for studying Ancient Studies.

In the Classroom: Archaeogaming Education Modules

Our Archaeogaming Education Modules combine video game footage and scholarly expertise to create approachable, teachable, and fun educational content for middle and high school.

Each module is carefully designed to allow teachers to use our videos, lesson plans, and exercises to teach various ancient world subjects in an engaging way. In 2023, our work was focused on updating each of our six pre-existing modules to have even more exciting supplemental materials based on the latest research into educational development. Two new modules will be forthcoming in 2024!



Laptop Mockup Image by
Vectonauta on Freepik

First page of the book "Traité de l'espère,"
circa 1400 – 1420 CE

◀ Region/Culture: France

Online Access

- **Ancient Studies Events Calendar:**

Our website now hosts a calendar of ancient studies conferences, talks, digs, and other events from around the world. By collecting all these events into one, easy to search location, we hope to provide the public with access to ancient studies, no matter where in the world they are!

- **Ancient Studies Websites:**

Our website now hosts a calendar of ancient studies conferences, talks, digs, and other events from around the world. By collecting all these events into one, easy to search location, we hope to provide the public with access to ancient studies, no matter where in the world they are!

- **Ancient Studies How-to Guides:**

For some of the more prominent Ancient Studies websites, we are also working on partnering with the organizations behind them to create how-to guide videos to pair with the links in our database. These short video tutorials would demonstrate the best way to use the tools of a given website.

- **Ancient Studies Degree Granting Programs:**

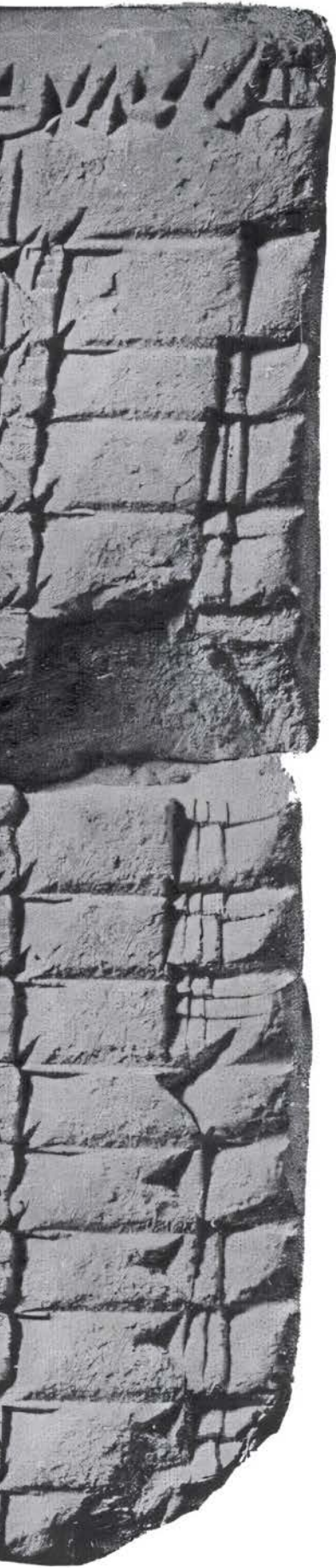
Another database under development is our Where to Study Ancient Studies page. This tracks degree-granting programs in all kinds of ancient studies around the world. Students looking to pursue bachelors or higher degrees in any kind of ancient world studies will be able to use this to find out what exists in their geographical area or desired field of study.

- **Archaeological Terms Translations:**

Meanwhile, we have created our own tool for archaeologists working in the field in places where they may have to use a language other than their native one. The Archaeological Terms Translations currently include English, modern Greek, German, Spanish, French, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, and Arabic versions, and we are in an ongoing process of increasing accessibility to other widely-used languages.

- **Mentorship Program in High School & Higher Education:**

2023 also saw the organization of our upcoming Mentorship Program for high school and undergraduate students interested in Ancient Studies. This program will pair students with mentors both in their academic fields and in related non-academic environments. The program aims to give students the chance to develop positive relationships to mentoring and to make connections in their field as well as to give mentors the opportunity to reach students they might otherwise never see. This program is slated to begin during 2024.



SUPPORTING EDUCATION

Archeogaming Education Modules

Program Description

Archaeogaming is a new field that integrates the methods of archaeological discovery with the environment of video games, using interactive and collaborative play to learn and to teach about the past. The unique and appealing nature of this program will provide an active learning experience for students and for teachers as well. SASA has developed a program that utilizes the power of entertainment-oriented video games for humanities education in the classroom.

We work off of video games that students play for fun that are designed in lavishly detailed historical settings, such as the Assassin's Creed series. We take content from these games and re-orient it in an educational fashion to produce classroom videos that teachers use in combination with our full suite of support materials. These "modules" purposefully dovetail with curricula across the United States.

Already, the educational impact of our modules has scored remarkably high in early implementation with teachers during the 2021-2022 school year. As we continue to create more modules, adapt them to different learning levels, and grow our network of teachers implementing the modules, the positive effects in history classrooms will exponentially increase.

Beyond that, students are being indirectly trained to actually see the content in the video games they play recreationally. We expect the impact on humanities engagement outside the classroom that this passive learning engenders will be truly staggering. SASA has been innovating this new technological approach to Ancient Studies education since the beginning of 2021.

Our first batch of 6 Archaeogaming Educational Modules (AEMs) has been supported by grants from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and the University of North Carolina's Humanities for the Public Good initiative. Each AEM we create is an all-in-one single-lesson bundle for teachers. It provides for a holistic, integrated lesson, revolving around a 10-minute video game-based multimedia lecture, along with interactive class activities and other supporting materials that teachers adapt to their teaching styles. Our AEMs explore historical concepts and practices such as:

- *Socio-economic themes, including religion, politics, warfare, and daily life*
- *Introduction to archaeology and excavation practices*
- *Identifying and discussing material culture, such as clothing, pottery, and architecture*
- *Exploring historical causation and personal agency by utilizing the games' non-linear narratives*

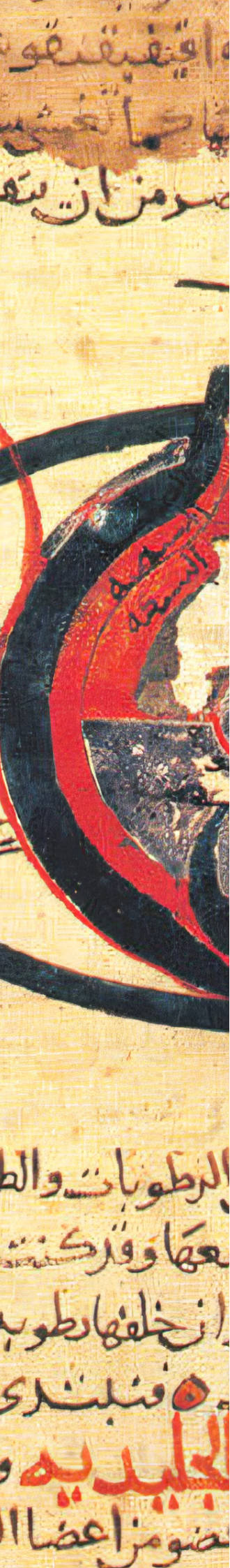
These topics stress the place of contemporary societies within the greater human journey, fostering inclusivity, empathy, and understanding of different cultures and communities.

SASA's Archaeogaming Project has produced our initial goal of six AEMs and has been well-regarded in middle school classrooms. These first six modules have been accessed by over 275 educators. Early feedback from teachers has been overwhelmingly positive.

We have an asynchronous introductory webinar on how to use AEMs available, as well as an upcoming program for live instruction with a Teacher Training Assistant. Our goal for the next few years of development is to create another 10 AEMs in line with the middle school Social Studies curriculum of the majority of US states. This will support a complete quarter of study, allowing teachers to employ this series as their major Ancient Studies teaching approach. Simultaneously, we are embarking on our next phase, which is to recontextualize each module to be usable in undergraduate classrooms, specifically targeting HBCUs, hispanic serving institutions, and small underserved community colleges, with the aid of the NEH's Spotlight grant.



Laptop Mockup Image by Vectonauta on Freepik



INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY

Live Virtual Events:

We run dozens of virtual events annually. Over the past year, we have had four book club events where authors of popular and scholarly books dealing with Ancient Studies come on our livestreams to be interviewed by our team members, including such writers as Natalie Haynes, Jennifer Saint, and Jane Draycott. The Port Ancient program has brought in many other types of creators and educators to show our audience all the various kinds of engagement they can do with Ancient Studies, from Learn Egyptology to The Asiatic Society for Social Science Research. Moreover, we have all kinds of special events, particularly during our Birthday Bash and Halloween Bash. These included a panel discussion on ancient monsters, a live class on writing in ancient scripts, and more.

Live Book Club

The Book Club series is a monthly project and live-streamed on SASA's social media platforms as well as those of our partner, World History Online when appropriate. Hosting both fiction and nonfiction books, the book clubs consist of a one-on-one author interview followed by an interactive Q&A with the audience.

In 2023 we hosted book clubs for *Stone Blind* by Natalie Haynes, *Alba* by Nicole Kovacheff, *Politics in the Roman Republic* by Cary Barber, *She Who Hunts* by Carla Ionescu, *Atalanta* by Jennifer Saint, and many more!

Cheshm Manuscript, circa 1200 CE ▶
◀ Region/Culture: Iraq

ArchaeoTours

One of our more occasional programs is the ArchaeoTours, a virtual guided tour of ancient sites around the globe. While this was on hold for most of 2023, this project is coming back in 2024, starting with a behind-the-scenes tour of Travelusion for donors of \$25 or more during the Birthday Bash!

Text-In Translation Reading Groups

In summer and winter, SASA has run intimate virtual courses of ancient texts in translation taught by experts and scholars from around the globe. This winter session, we had 6 courses and two Master Classes, including *Ābhūsasāni*—The Ancient Indian Ornaments and *She Who Wrote: Enheduanna and Women of Mesopotamia*. We ran 16 courses over the summer, including *Beyond the Silk Road*, *Curse Tablets*, and *the Alexander Romance*. These classes offer the public an opportunity to really engage with the writings of the ancient world.

Weekly Archeogaming Live

We also work in reception of ancient studies, and one major platform currently in ancient studies reception is through video games. Every Friday throughout most of the year, our team of archaeogaming professionals live stream themselves playing games that deal with the ancient world alongside scholars, game developers, and other experts who can explore the ways in which Ancient Studies permeates the most modern means of communication. This year, our livestreams covered everything from *Uncharted 4* to *Heaven's Vault*. The summer special in 2023 was *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild* and *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom*.





INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY

Port Ancient Partnership Highlights

Crewing the Ship

6 Streams highlighting our
Port Ancient partners

4,800+

Views between all the 2023 steams

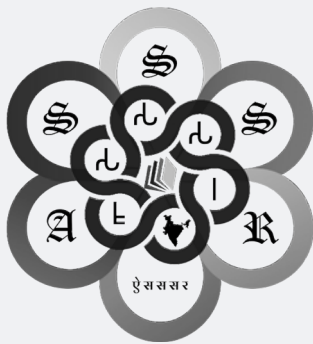
◀ Maya stucco glyphs, ▶
circa 250 – 1697 CE
Region/Culture: Mayan ▼



New Port Ancient Partners in 2023



Zylla's Athenaeum



Asiatic Society for
Social Science
Research



ISEGORIA

Making it Fair for Scholars Everywhere

Isegoria Publishing



Learn Egyptology





INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY

In-Text Translation Reading Groups

SASA launched our free online Text-in Translation Reading Groups in Summer 2020, creating an accessible means of studying ancient texts in synchronous informal discussion groups. Led by PhD students and Early Career Scholars, these groups cover a wide range of topics about different ancient cultures from around the globe.

Over the past three summers and Januaries, we have hosted over 500 participants in our Reading Groups, whose feedback is overwhelmingly positive. Almost all of participants offered 4-star or 5-star reviews! In continuing to improve on these learning experiences, we have received grants from the Society for Classical Studies and from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, in the amounts of \$8,000, \$10,000, and \$10,000, respectively.

This support ensures that we provide the best possible experience for Reading Group participants by encouraging excellent applications for Group Leader positions.



Nearly uniformly positive
feedback with 4-5 stars

\$28,000

Cumulative total in generous grants

Participant Testimonials

January 2023:

"I LOVED the topic of the group. I think it is important to discuss the legitimacy of Black concepts in relation/in conversation with Classics and literatures. I would have loved to learn more about how language influences the transition of these concepts specifically on the African-American side."

"I loved hearing about the research/analysis from the moderator and those participating."

Summer 2023:

"My favourite thing was the way participants took keen interest in discussion, put their point of view and also accepted other people's point of view. It was truly a discussion session."

"Kenny did such a great job bringing all of our observations together and giving additional context about the reading. I was so impressed at the depth of his knowledge."

"My introduction to and reading of Lucretius has always been from an Epicurean perspective, and I enjoyed hearing reactions to the material that were less biased than mine. Lots of food for thought!"



A Bible handwritten in Latin, ►
circa 1407 CE

◀ Region/Culture: Belgium



INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY

Destination SASA: Archaeotours

These partnerships virtually bring people into ancient sites, which they may never have an opportunity to experience otherwise. As such, these events raise awareness of the diversity and wonder of the ancient world, allowing us to increase exposure to the ancient world from an engaging, yet academic, perspective. In one of our latest collaborations, SASA has partnered with virtual tourism companies, to provide engaging specialist tours of ancient sites, including the American Institute for Roman Culture and Travelusion. These tours are run by experts who also work as local guides, and are tailored to the tours' participants as they engage.

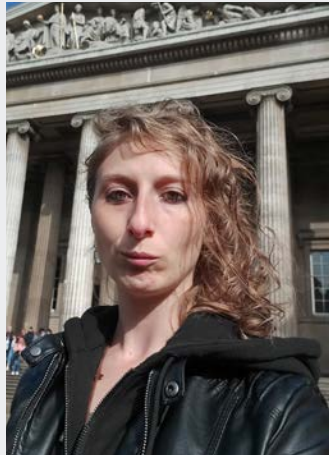


**THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR ROMAN CULTURE**



3

streams with
Dr. Lillian
Cespedes
Gonzalez



320

views between all 2023 streams

The Ziggurat at Kish, circa 6th century BCE ▶

Region/Culture: Mesopotamia/Sumaria

Author: Osama Shukir Muhammed Amin

Source: Wikimedia Commons

◀ License: CC BY-SA 4.0



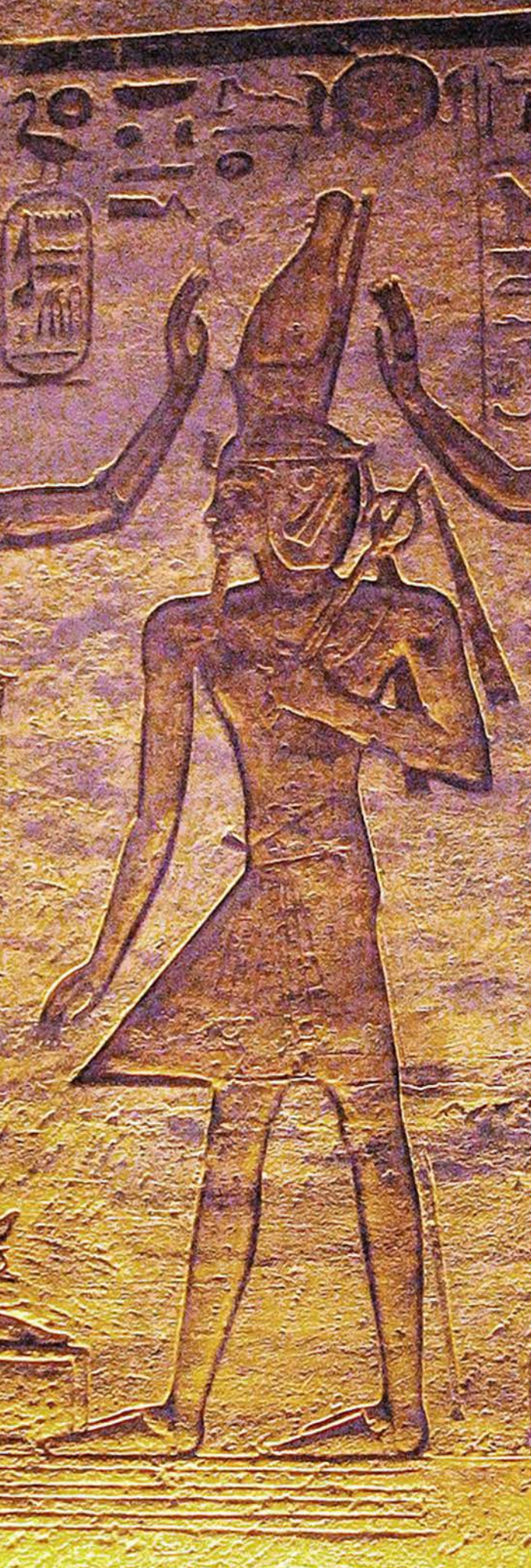


INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY

Mentorship Program

Coming in Summer 2024 will be our new Mentorship Program. It seeks to provide high school and college students who are interested in pursuing Ancient Studies direct access to mentors within Ancient Studies fields. These mentorships will help students understand the pleasures and difficulties of studying the ancient world and support their academic and professional growth, in order to set them up for long term success, whether they pursue careers in higher education or in any other field.

◀ Seth And Horus Adoring Ramesses
circa, 1279-1213 BCE
Region/Culture: Egypt ▶





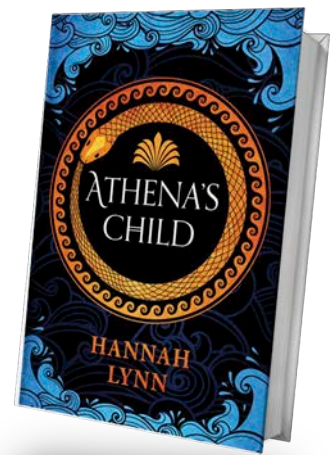
INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY

Live Book Club Series

The Book Club series is a monthly project and live-streamed on SASA's social media platforms as well as those of our partner, World History Online when appropriate. Hosting both fiction and non-fiction books, the book clubs consist of a one-on-one author interview followed by an interactive Q&A with the audience. In 2023 we hosted 10 book clubs and added all their books to our shop!

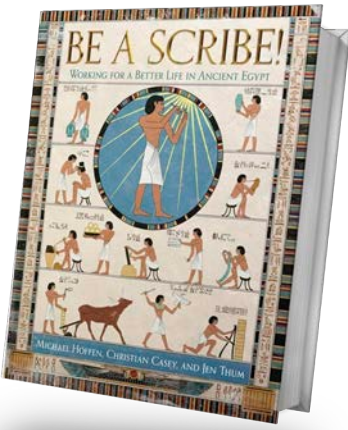


Atalanta
by Jennifer Saint

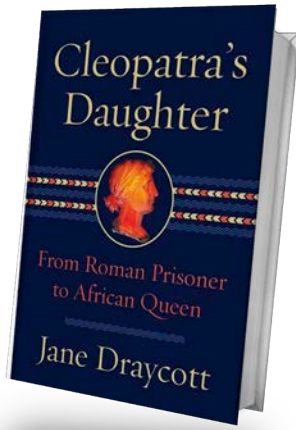


Athena's Child
by Hannah Lynn

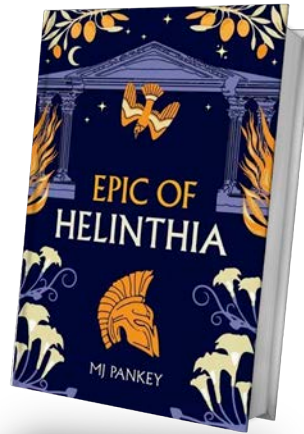
◀ British Museum Flood Tablet,
circa 7th century BCE
Region/Culture: Mesopotamia ▶



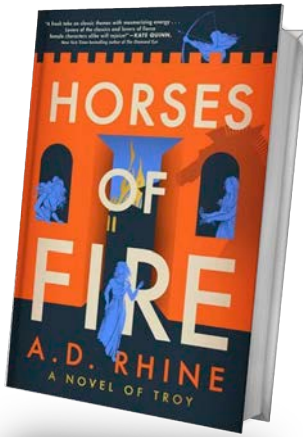
Be A Scribe!
by M. Hoffen,
C. Casey, & J. Thum



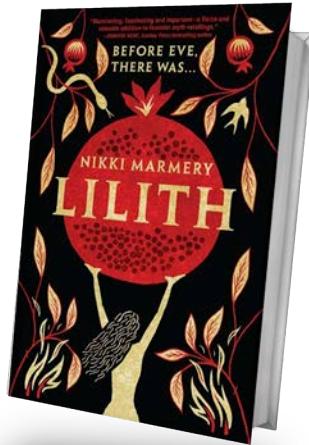
**Cleopatra's
Daughter**
by Jane Draycott



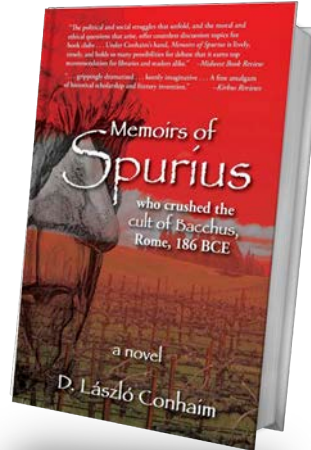
**Epic of
Helinthia**
by MJ Pankey



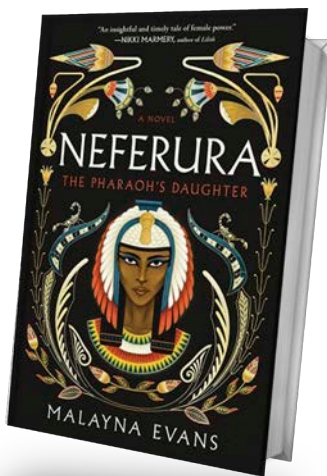
Horses of Fire
by A.D. Rhine



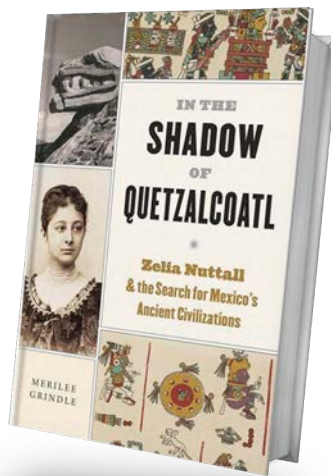
Lilith
by Niki Marmery



Memoirs of Spruius
by D. László Conhaim

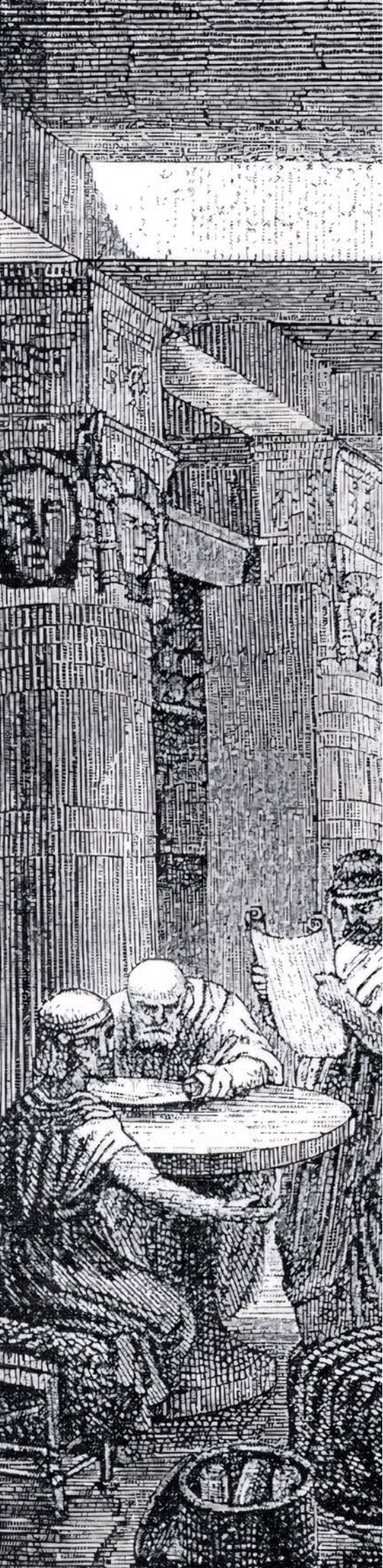


Neferura
by Malayna Evens



Shadow of Quetzalcoatl
by Merilee Grindle





INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY

Ancient Studies Resources

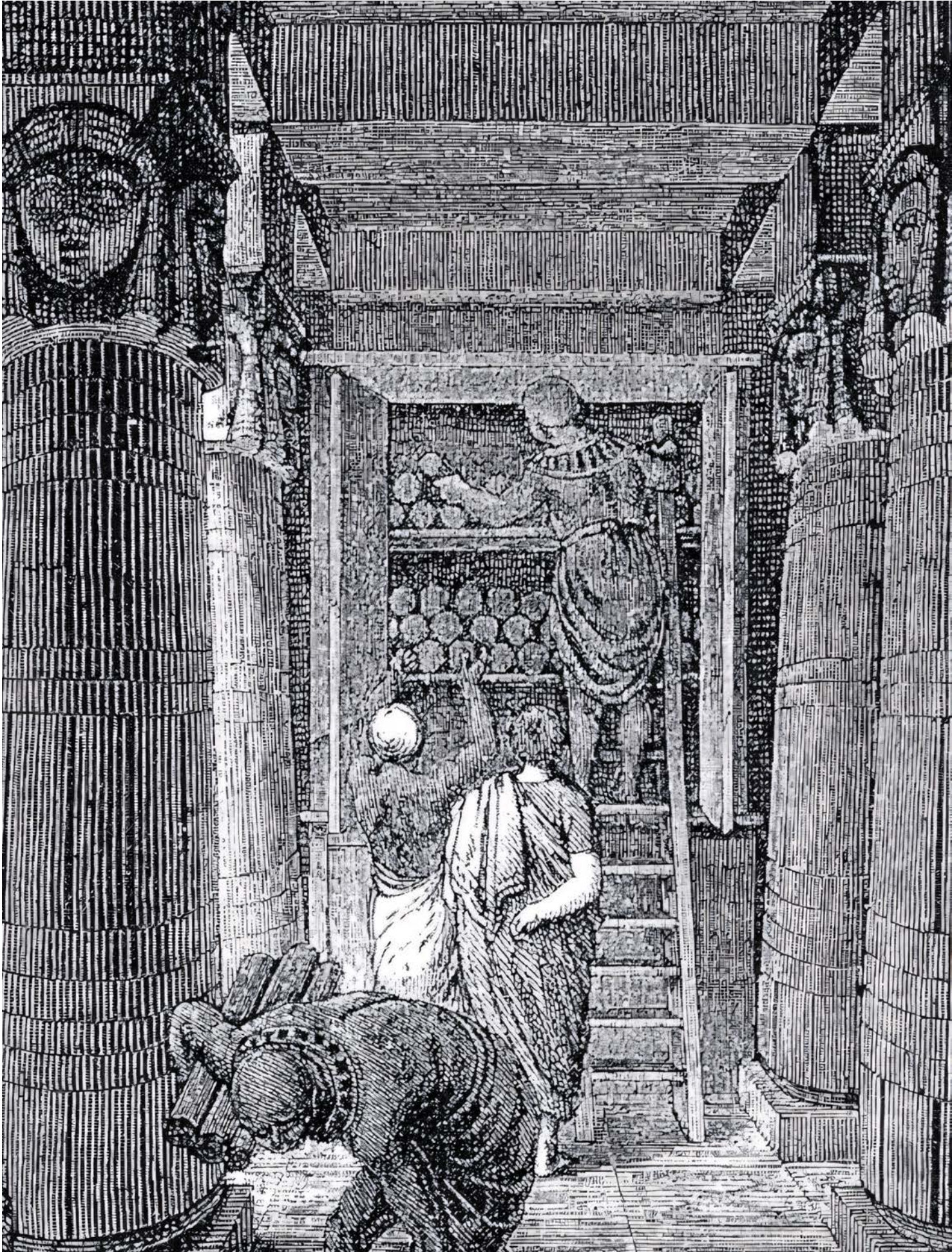
A collection of quality academic resources for students and scholars of all disciplines of Ancient Studies was previously unavailable. SASA is working to fill this gap by creating a new platform that presents important resources in all Ancient Studies fields and helps connect students and scholars with one another. In the first tier of this project, we have collected over 1,400 websites that in themselves contain tons of useful information. We published a revised version of our database this April, with a useful search tool.

We have also developed partnerships with various creative, open-access projects and media related to Ancient Studies and work to promote them through our social media outlets and partner project gallery, Port Ancient, to disseminate the fascinating, engaging products they have created. We are also working on producing these databases that are utterly crucial for Ancient Studies:

- *A calendar of conferences and other Ancient Studies events from all over the world.*
- *ALL available programs of study in ALL Ancient Studies fields at institutions of higher education in North America and beyond.*
- *Scholarships and fellowships open to Ancient Studies fields for students at all levels, from undergraduate to postdoctoral researchers.*

Artistic Rendering of the Library of Alexandria, ►
circa 1800s CE

◀ Region/Culture: Egypt





FORMING AN ALLIANCE

Building Community Both Among
Individuals & Organizations

Community building both among individuals and organizations is another of SASA's core values, and we have other programs which focus on this aspect of our work.

Partnership Development with Ancient Studies Outreach Organizations

We work with other outreach organizations within Ancient Studies to achieve this goal. Many such groups sign on to become Port Ancient Partners, but we are also affiliated with small publishers like Isegoria.



ISEGORIA

Making it Fair for Scholars Everywhere

Partnership Development with Ancient Studies Academic Professional Organizations

Furthermore, SASA is engaged in building connections among academic professional organizations, like the Society for Classical Studies, the Society for Biblical Studies, and more. One of our long term goals is to bring together the major institutions from across ancient studies around the world into our Coalition of Ancient Studies Organizations so that we can support partnerships and cross-disciplinary work.

◀ Disarblot by Malmström, circa 1900s
Region/Culture: Norse. ▶

Ancient Studies Alumni Community Building

When it comes to individuals, SASA is working not only with our independent scholars, but also with the alumni of Ancient Studies programs around the world. In the future, SASA plans to create events for networking, re-entry into the field, and other community building activities.

Coalition of Ancient Studies Organizations

CASO aims to bring together academic professional organizations to work on outreach and accessibility projects toward the mutual benefit of all Ancient Studies fields. The first official meeting was held on December 18th, 2020, with the member organizations: SASA, the Society for Classical Studies (SCS) and the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL). We are continuing to work together to attract more academic organizations to join CASO. The first joint project of CASO is underway. As a part of the alliance, we have worked on an Ancient Studies Advocacy Project, Lives in Ancient Studies. This project is collecting and publicizing video testimonials from alumni of closed or threatened Ancient Studies departments. The goal of this project is to freely distribute professionally edited video collections of these testimonials for use by currently threatened departments in combating the pressure on them by showing the vibrant, meaningful, and successful lives that their alumni have created for themselves. In addition, they will be used as general advocacy tools for Ancient Studies through our organizations.

Partnership Development: Port Ancient

Port Ancient is a web collection where SASA has shared information on a variety of projects that focus on different aspects of ancient studies. We believe that these projects will help pave the way to save Ancient Studies by bringing together a wide range of groups working on public outreach, accessibility and engagement with various audiences. Providing a broader platform for these projects will amplify their range and increase the strength of all member's messaging across a range of media channels.





REENVISIONING POST-EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

In addition to supporting students and scholars within the traditional bounds of academia, SASA takes great pride in creating a way for independent scholars to work in community.

Independent Scholars Working Group:

Our Independent Scholars Working Group fosters connections among those who are not working with the support of academic libraries and salaries. ISWG provides a space for those scholars to work with their peers, give and receive high quality feedback, and help each other get published.

Independent Scholars Networking

The ISWG hosts two events each month: one for networking and building community, and one to assist in scholarly works and publications. The monthly Community Building event invites scholars to form connections and share resources for their work. ISWG welcomes new members year-round.

Work-in-progress Online Forum

The other monthly event, the Work In Progress meeting, acts as a forum for these independent scholars to share their work at any stage, get professional-quality peer feedback, and work towards publication.

In addition to those outside academia, this space welcomes graduate students looking for additional resources in creating publishable Scholarship.

Resources for Independent Scholars

- Grants
- Scholarly materials access
- Affiliations
- Publishing options—including SASA Virtual Conference Proceedings

SASA maintains a number of resources that ISWG's access. These include access to scholarly materials such as they might have received from a university library, lists of grants available to unaffiliated scholars, and publication resources. Many of our ISWG members go on to present at scholarly conferences, including our own Virtual Conference, and also to get published either through conference proceedings or reputable journals.

National Coalition of Independent Scholars

Joining NCIS as a Partner Organization

Additionally, ISWG partners with the National Coalition of Independent Scholars, an organization dedicated to similar support of independent research, but with a focus on the U.S. market rather than the Ancient Studies disciplines. This allows even more reach and resources for unaffiliated scholars within the United States. ISWG is always interested in providing a wider base of support for its members.



Thoth-Baboon, circa 664 & 332 BCE ▶
◀ Region/Culture: Egypt



REENVISIONING POST-EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Virtual Conference: Opening
the Ancient World

SASA held their third annual free academic virtual conference Opening the Ancient World, which was live-streamed on July 23rd–24th, 2023. This year's theme was Discovery, Science, and Technology in the Ancient World: Traditions and Innovations. The goal of the conference was to present and support excellent scholarship by independent scholars. Over the course of the two-day conference, we had 17 presenters deliver insightful academic presentations from around the world, and three keynote speakers. In addition to the presentations, three special sessions were hosted to foster discussion and action regarding public outreach and scholarly inclusiveness. These sessions included a panel on Self-Publishing and Public Outreach and another on Access and Affordability.

Working with our partners, the conference was live-streamed over a variety of platforms with over 17,000 participants attending the presentations and sessions over the two-day conference. This success provides support for the live-streamed open-access conference model, encouraging participants and presenters globally to attend these events.

Virtual Conference Summary



20

PRESENTERS

17,000+

PARTICIPANTS

2

DAYS OF PRESENTATIONS
AND SESSIONS

Coronation of Harold Godwinsonm, ►
circa 13th century CE

◀ Region/Culture: England





NEW PROJECTS

Engaging the World

SASA aims to become the global hub for Ancient Studies. In support of our vision of this global community, SASA spent 2023 working to engage individuals, organizations, and schools in Arabic and Spanish speaking locations. Our website is in the process of upgrading to be available in those languages, and we are beginning to assert our presence on social media in these spaces as well! This initiative will reach its initial climax during our Fourth Annual Virtual Conference in July 2024. With the support of the Wenner-Gren Foundation, one of the world's premier supporters of anthropology and archaeology, SASA will create a multilingual environment in which speakers of English, Arabic, and Spanish will all be able to present and participate equally via simultaneous live interpretation.

Mentorship

Our targeted Mentorship Program, organized over the course of the last two years, will launch this year, bringing students interested in the ancient world together with professionals who can help them find their way. We believe in the importance of helping a new generation come into their scholarly careers with connections and confidence, not just in terms of the ancient world, but also in their own lives. Through connections with mentors in the field, they can learn both how to thrive in mentorship relationships and how to navigate the academic field of ancient studies.

Advocacy

2023 marked the beginning of SASA's engagement with the world of journalistic advocacy for the continuation of Ancient Studies. In collaboration with our partner academic professional organizations, we continue to build relationships with departments that are threatened and develop a program for supporting their employees and students. At SASA, we believe that no one is "at fault" for the current decline in Ancient Studies. Instead, we will begin to take a proactive approach to helping departments, professors, and educators effectively engage with administrators. We believe the value of Ancient Studies is not as exotica, but as a key element in understanding today's world and the totality of humanity in our many varieties. We will work to help decision-makers gain this understanding.

Continuing Education for Teachers

Summer 2024 will mark the beginning of SASA's Continuing Education Program for US teachers in grades 6-12 and informally for those at community or junior colleges. As part of our Summer Reading Groups, SASA was awarded extra funding by the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation to support extra groups only for teachers that will count toward their continuing education requirements in most states. These groups will be the first of other similar synchronous and asynchronous future programming for teachers, as we work to leverage our network of scholars and graduate students to support high quality education at the primary and secondary levels.

Archaeogaming Education for Undergraduate Humanities Courses

With the recent award of \$60,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, we will embark this fall on a two-year project to redevelop our Archaeogaming Educational Program for the undergraduate level. We will pilot the new modules in partner community colleges in the 2025-26 academic year. We are so excited for the opportunity this funding supports to create Open Education Resources that will support engaging learning in introductory courses to spark interest in the ancient world in collegiate freshman and sophomores.

◀ Gudea of Lagash, circa 2120 BCE
Region/Culture: Iraq

Want to get involved and help Save Ancient Studies? Check out the opportunities available at

saveancientstudies.org/get-involved



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