

Frank H. McClung Museum Associates BULLETIN

March 2002

Wit and Wine

Opening an International Success

Wit and Wine: A New Look at Ancient Iranian Ceramics from the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation opened to a crowd of over 200 on Friday, February 22. Dr. Trudy Kawami, curator of the exhibition, came from New York to instruct the Museum docents about the exhibition and stayed over to be at the opening.



Musicians
Koorosh Jamalpur and
Brandon Johnson

The Museum was especially pleased at the large number of attendees from the local Iranian community. Many brought traditional Persian dishes to add to the reception table. A short concert of Persian music was presented in the Museum auditorium by Koorosh Jamalpur accompanied by Brandon Johnson – an exquisite treat! Exhibition and reception sponsor Persian Galleries

filled the gallery and the lobby with wonderful rugs, adding color and another visual dimension. The rugs will remain the gallery for the duration of the exhibition and some show exhibit figures and animal motifs that can be seen on the ancient pottery.

The Museum thanks Persian Galleries and the families that shared their cooking for the wonderful evening. The Museum also thanks the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation for sharing the exhibition that brings examples of one of the world's great ceramic traditions to East Tennessee.



Left to right: Max Kashani,
Mostafa Rahbar, Exhibition
Curator Trudy Kawami, Armin
Ansari

Iranian Ceramics Curator To Speak

Dr. Trudy S. Kawami, curator of the current temporary exhibition *Wit and Wine: A New Look at Ancient Iranian Ceramics from the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation*, will give an illustrated lecture at the Museum on Sunday, April 7 at 2 p.m., eastern daylight savings time.

Dr. Kawami's subject is "Ancient Iranian Ceramics as Art." Drawing upon years of research into the ceramics of the ancient Near East and the collections of the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation in particular, Dr. Kawami explores the very long and fruitful ceramic tradition of ancient Iran, beginning in the sixth millennium B.C.E. and continuing for at least five thousand years. She will discuss form as a means not only of function but also of artistic expression and surface treatment, including burnishing, painting, and surface color as produced by the manipula-

tion of firing conditions. All of these variations in ancient ceramic art can be seen in the beautiful vessels on display in the gallery. The artistic achievements of the ancient potters are what marks Iranian ceramics as one of the great ceramic traditions of the ancient world.

Trudy S. Kawami received the Ph.D. in art history and archaeology from Columbia University. She has conducted studies in Turkey, Iran and Israel, as well as researching collections now in major European museums. She is the author of *Monumental Art of the Parthian Period in Iran*, and *Ancient Iranian Ceramics from the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation*, as well as numerous articles. In addition to being the Director of Research for the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation, New York, she teaches at Fordham University and the School of Visual Arts.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Upcoming AIA Lectures

Two interesting lectures remain in the annual Archaeological Institute of America, East Tennessee Society, series. On Monday, April 1, 7:30 pm, Jeffrey S. Soles will speak on "Minoan Palaces, Imitations of a Cosmological Center." Professor Soles has spent many seasons excavating in Crete, and he is currently the American Director of excavations at Mochlos, where he is concentrating on a town site and cemetery. Soles also teaches in the Classical Studies Department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

On Tuesday, April 9 at 7:30 pm, James Russell, Professor of Classics at The University of British Columbia, will give an illustrated lecture entitled "Chasing Roman Soldiers." Russell's "chase" begins with the discovery

of two bronze tablets during excavations at Anemurium in southern Turkey. The tablets, though fragmentary, proved to be diplomas issued to non-citizen soldiers of the Roman auxiliary army, certifying the granting of full citizenship rights awarded to soldiers upon their discharge. The tablets provided such a wealth of information that Russell could use them to trace the careers of these two individuals from the time of their enlistment during Trajan's reign, their various postings throughout the eastern Mediterranean, the campaigns in which they fought, and finally, their discharge and retirement 25 years later.

Each lecture, free and open to the public, will be in the Museum auditorium. A reception will follow in the Museum lobby.

