

Francesco de Angelis – Marco Maiuro

HADRIAN'S VILLA: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF AN IMPERIAL COURT

Summer Program (June 2-29, 2014)

*[Designator: CLST 4***]*

Course Description

Villa Adriana, the residence that the Roman emperor Hadrian (117-138 CE) built—and possibly personally contributed in designing—at Tivoli, near Rome, is arguably one of the most important archaeological sites of the ancient world. It is exceptional both in its size (originally ca. 120 hectares, i.e. twice as large as Pompeii) and for the quality and variety of its structures, which draw on the artistic and architectural heritage of Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Moreover, it has exercised strong influence on architects and artists from its rediscovery in the Renaissance through the 20th century, and down to today. Since 1999 it has been a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Despite its exceptional relevance and the vast amount of scholarship it has elicited, several aspects of Hadrian's Villa still wait to be properly addressed and analyzed. Among the most exciting issues is the day-to-day dimension of the Villa, under both Hadrian and successive emperors, as well as the relationship of this everyday aspect to the more ceremonial and official uses of the Villa. By combining architectural and spatial analysis with the study of the artifacts—both 'humble' and 'high'—yielded by the excavation, this project aims to shed light on the actual ways in which the Roman imperial court functioned and, more generally, to highlight the relevance of Hadrian's Villa for the social, political, economic, architectural and artistic history of classical antiquity.

Collaboration in the daily excavations (7 hours) as well as in the after-hours activities will teach students how to utilize the principles of the stratigraphic method and how to select, clean and catalog the findings. Participants will moreover become acquainted with the procedures of architectural survey and, finally, will be trained in the most advanced data-entry techniques. More advanced students may be asked to take on limited responsibility tasks, such as overseeing sub-teams of excavators. Late-afternoon workshops and seminars directed by faculty and guest specialists will provide the opportunity of further discussing key issues, from ceramics analysis to the artistic and socio-historical dimension of Hadrian's Villa. Weekend fieldtrips will allow participants to situate Hadrian's Villa within the broader context of the residential culture of Roman emperors, and to appreciate its impact on Renaissance architecture.

Thanks to its size and the breadth of its scope, the project is geared towards archaeological beginners and advanced students alike. Application required: preference will be accorded to those

who can demonstrate interest in the ancient world and/or in the history of architecture (e.g. through coursework) and give proof of academic excellence. Submit application form and two letters of recommendation by March 1, 2014. For further details, see:

http://columbia.studioabroad.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10577

The project takes place in the frame of the Advanced Program of Ancient History and Art (APAHA), created under the aegis of the Columbia's Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America and the Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" through its Honors Center for Italian Universities (H2CU).

Literature

(a) *Mandatory readings*: participants are expected to familiarize themselves with the following bibliography *prior* to their arrival at Tivoli:

- E.C. Harris, *Principles of Archaeological Stratigraphy*, London, 1989 (second edition).
- W.L. MacDonald and J.A. Pinto, *Hadrian's Villa and Its Legacy*, New Haven 1995.

(b) *Additional bibliography*: selected book chapters and articles, to be utilized for the seminar presentations and the final paper, will be available on Courseworks.

Requirements and Grade Breakdown

Fieldwork and related activities: 50%

(a) *Excavation, on-site interpretation of finds, data entry (20%)*. Performance will be assessed based on the effectiveness and intelligence with which participants will accomplish their assigned tasks (excavating, measuring, drawing, etc.), as well as on the accuracy and overall quality of their record-keeping and after-hours data-entry. The evaluation will thus be based on a combination of on-site observation and control on written records.

(b) *Exam: stratigraphy and artifact analysis (20%)*. In the course of Week 3 individual exams will take place in which each participant will be asked to analyze an actual stratigraphic section, as well as to provide a preliminary assessment of selected ceramic finds. This exam is meant to test the quality of the archaeological expertise acquired by the participants, and specifically their ability to successfully integrate the theoretical knowledge stemming from the workshops and the mandatory readings (Harris) with the hands-on fieldwork experience.

(c) *Cooperativeness and collegiality (10%)*. An archaeological excavation is largely teamwork. Being able to work collegially and following appropriate behavior rules are therefore essential components of this experience. (NB: Serious infringements of rules and disruptive behavior may result in expulsion from the program)

Seminar: 50%

(a) *Onsite seminar presentation (25%)*. Each participant shall give a 30-minute formal onsite seminar presentation in the course of Weeks 3-4. Presentations topics will typically concern architectural units of the Villa: a complete list of options will be made available at least two months before the start of the program, and individual topics will be assigned by the program directors at least one month in advance of the start of the program. Presenters are expected to prepare handouts, give an accurate and complete description of the assigned architectural unit, and discuss its possible functions, as well as its relationship to the other sectors of the Villa. To this effect, they shall rely on the mandatory readings (MacDonald and Pinto), the additional bibliography, and the faculty-led seminar sessions.

(b) *Final paper (25%)*. Each participant is required to submit (within four weeks after the end of fieldwork) a final paper of 2,500-3,000 words. This paper shall be an expanded and enhanced version of the onsite presentation, incorporating ideas and suggestions resulting from seminar discussions, faculty feedback, weekend fieldtrips, as well as from any further reading that the participant will have done.

Schedule

Week 1

- Introductory tour of Hadrian's Villa (Mo, 8 am - 4 pm) (F. de Angelis, M. Maiuro)
- Archaeological fieldwork (Tu-Fr, 8 am - 4 pm)
- Workshop (Mo-We, 5:30-7:30 pm): "Introduction to Stratigraphy and Archaeological Documentation" (field director)
- Seminar (Th-Fr, 5:30-7:30 pm): "Hadrian's Villa: Questions Old and New (1)" (F. de Angelis, M. Maiuro)
- Weekend fieldtrip (Sa, 10 am-4 pm): "Living Like an Emperor: The Palatine in Rome" (F. de Angelis)

Week 2

- Archaeological fieldwork (Mo-Fr, 8 am - 4 pm)
- Workshop (Mo-We, 5:30-7:30 pm): "Introduction to ceramics" (ceramic specialist)
- Seminar (Th-Fr, 5:30-7:30 pm): "Hadrian's Villa: Questions Old and New (2)" (F. de Angelis, M. Maiuro)
- Weekend fieldtrip (Sa, 10 am-4 pm): "History and Epigraphy: Hadrianic Monuments and Inscriptions in Rome" (M. Maiuro)

Week 3

- Archaeological fieldwork (Mo-Fr, 8 am - 4 pm)
- Seminar: onsite presentations (Mo-Fr, 5:30-7:30 pm)
- Weekend fieldtrip (Sa, 9 am-4 pm): Tivoli, Villa d'Este (guest fieldtrip leader)

Week 4

- Fieldwork (Mo-Fr, 8:30 am-4:30 pm)
- Seminar: onsite presentations (Mo-Fr, 5:30-7:30 pm)
- Wrap-up session (Sa, 10 am - 4 pm) (F. de Angelis, M. Maiuro, field director)