

The following invitation is being extended to all members of the Friends of ARIT. May 27 is the deadline for reservations, and space is strictly limited, so please make your reservations by return e-mail as soon as possible (aritevents@gmail.com).

The Sardis Expedition: Restoration of the Roman-Era Synagogue, and other Recent Developments by Professor Nicholas Cahill

Date: Wednesday 29th June, 2022

Venue: British Consulate General (Pera House), Tepebasi, Beyoglu

Time: 18:30 (arrival); 19:00 (lecture start); 20:00

ARIT is delighted to welcome Professor Nicholas Cahill, Director of the Archaeological Exploration of Sardis ("Sardis Expedition"), for the second Sardis Lecture to be held at Pera House.

Located about 70km inland from Izmir and spanning from the 3rd millennium BC to late Byzantium, Sardis is one of the longest continuously settled urban environments in the Ancient, Classical, and Medieval worlds.

It was populated by successive arrivals from the Bronze Age onwards, through diverse peoples including Lydian, Greek, Persian, Roman, and Byzantine. Each proceeded in their settlements as seemed practical – occupying, rebuilding, and repositioning/replacing their own dwellings and monuments alongside or on top of their predecessors', often recycling building materials. Perhaps most famously, it was the capital of the Lydian Empire, the seat of King Croesus, and the place where coinage was first invented and used.

This rich backdrop makes Sardis a dream location for the archaeologist-detective interested in dissecting the inflections and continuities of its multiple overlain civilizations.

A key theme almost since the launch of the Sardis Expedition in 1958 has been the late-Roman Synagogue: its un-earthing, preservation, and physical structure, as well as the clues it provides about community and society – even about periods long prior to its construction. It is the largest classical Synagogue discovered to date and is also home to one of the most substantial collection of mosaics in the Roman world.

This Lecture will recap some of the recent exciting finds at Sardis, with a special emphasis on the Synagogue's modern rebirth, from its un-earthing and initial restoration 1962-1974, to a second restoration starting 2008 - capped by a protective roof completed in December 2021.

Registration:

RSVP to aritevents@gmail.com : Please kindly let us know, by Friday 27th May, if you wish to join us for this event, and names of participant(s). We will thereafter be delighted to issue you a formal personalized Consulate invitation, needed for Security at Pera House.