

Tasha Vorderstrasse

In 2013–2014, **Tasha Vorderstrasse** began her excavation work in Armenia with Kate Franklin at Ambroyi (see separate report). The first short season identified the importance and date of the medieval village of Hin Bazarjugh, which is located at the village of Arai in Aragatsotn, Armenia. This work resulted not only in the archaeological excavations but also a publication in *Oriental Institute News & Notes* (no. 220: 19–21). It also formed the basis of several lectures that she gave with Franklin for the Oriental Institute Brown Bag series in February, the Armenian Circle (in Armenian) in March, and the Late Antique and Byzantine Workshop in June.

In addition to these lectures, Tasha also presented on other topics. In September, she gave two lectures: the first on Chinese sources for reconstructing the landscape of Balkh at the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS) in Sarajevo, Bosnia, and on Byzantine and Early Islamic Coins from the Excavations at Jericho at the Seventh-Century Syria Numismatic Round Table, 14th Meeting in Worcester, United Kingdom. In November she presented on her forthcoming work for the Amuq Survey at the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) and on the medieval Armenian Artsruni family and their creation of historical memory in what is now eastern Turkey for the Society of Biblical Literature. At the ASOR meeting, she also chaired the session on Byzantine Archaeology of the Near East.

This past year she worked on two exhibitions at the Oriental Institute Museum. The first is a mini-exhibition that runs from February to September 2014 entitled *Silk Road and Indian Ocean Traders: Connecting China and the Middle East*. This was the topic of her gallery talk in May and she also gave a presentation on the Silk Road to Chicago Public School teachers in May and for high school students attending the Graham School in June. The other is the forthcoming Fustat exhibition that she is co-curating with Tanya Treptow. This exhibition will open in February 2015 and highlights the different communities who lived in Fustat. She also continued her work in the Museum on the Islamic collections in the Oriental Institute. She will continue this in the coming year.

She also made one research trip in January to Princeton in order to look at the objects from the Antioch excavations. She worked primarily on the glass from the excavations. Since the glass was largely unpublished, it was necessary to examine all of it in order to situate and contextualize the material from the single sector that she is currently preparing with other scholars. All the glass from the Hellenistic to Islamic periods was photographed in preparation for this. In addition, she also looked at some of the small finds.

The following articles appeared: “Reconstructing Houses and Archives in Islamic Egypt,” in *Documents et histoire Islam, VII^e–XVI^e siècle*, edited by A. Regourd (*Hautes études orientales* 51;

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Geneva: Libraire Droz, 2013); K. Franklin and T. Vorderstrasse, "The Project for Medieval Archaeology of the South Caucasus, Armenia," in *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 220 (2014): 19–21.
