



ANNUAL REPORT

2020



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MISSION & VISION



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OUTREACH

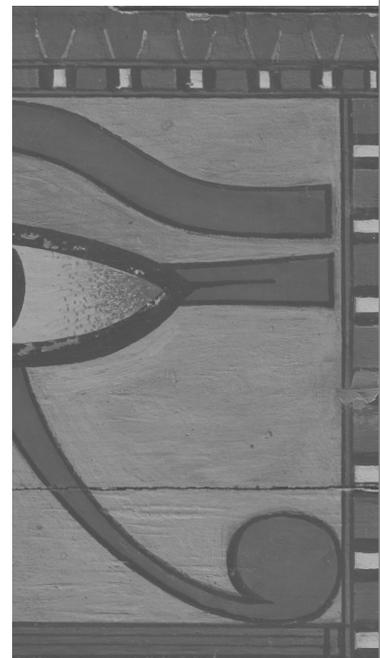
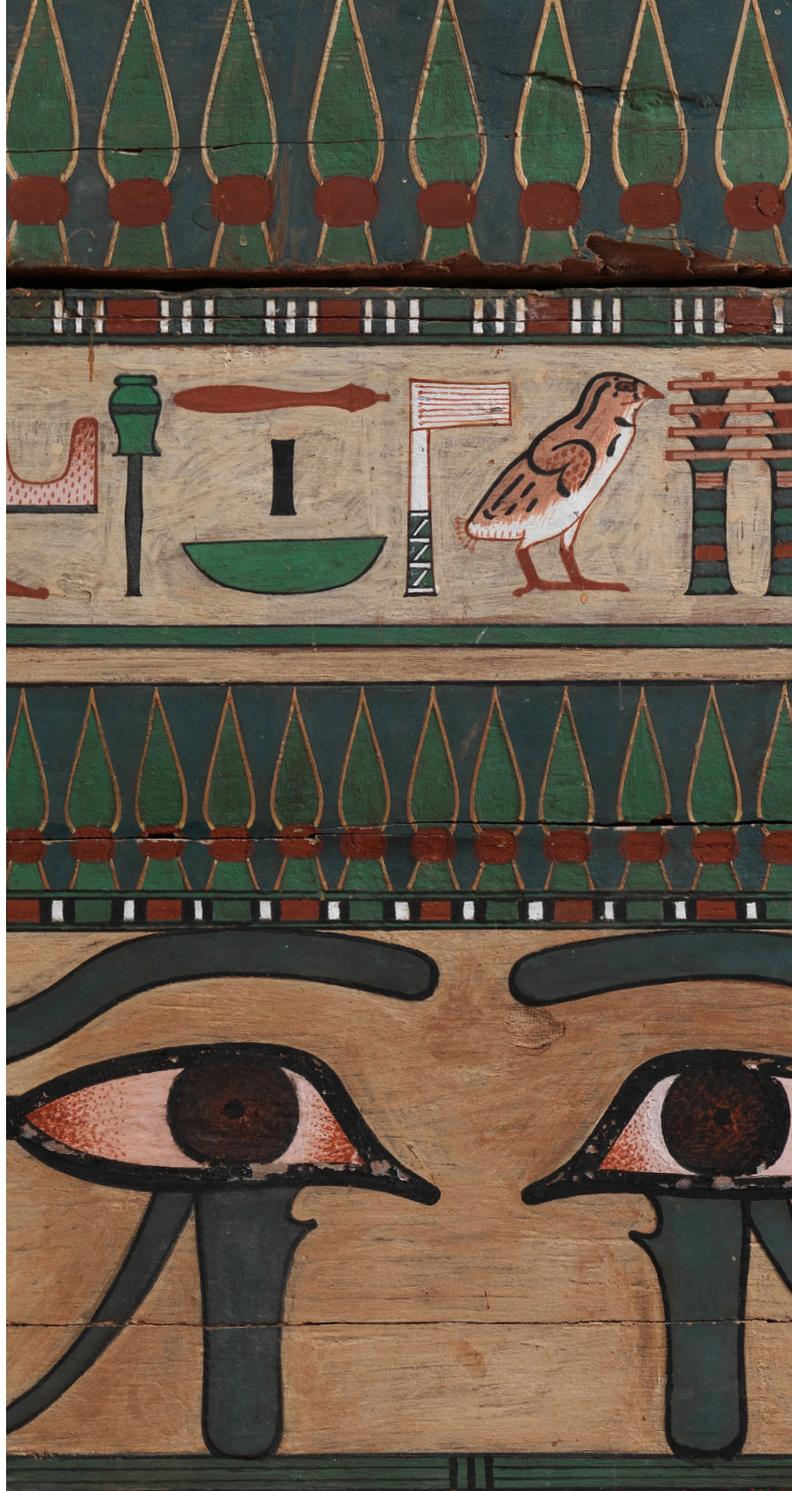
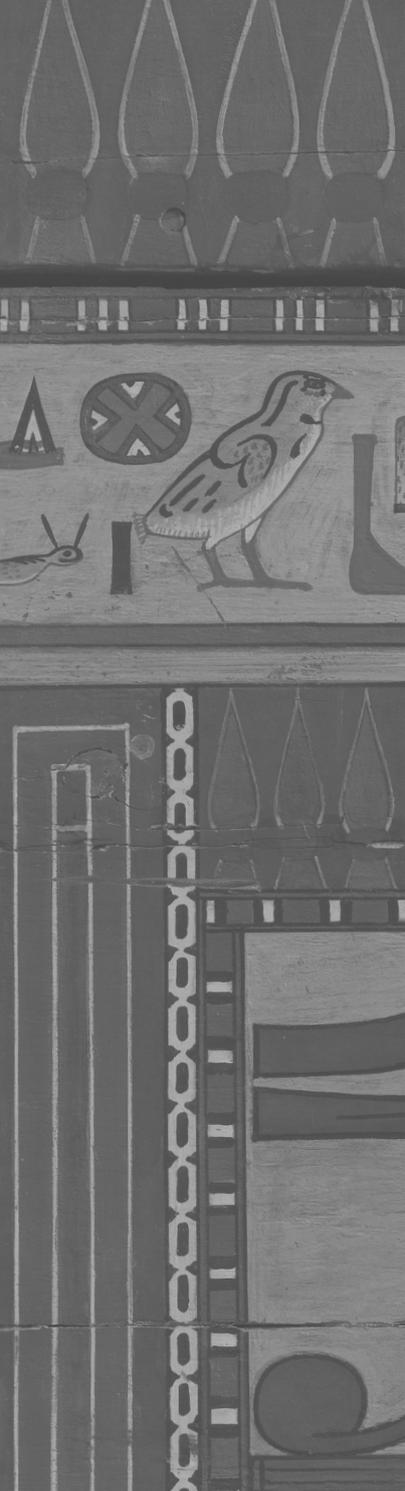


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**Coffin of
Khnumnakht**
ca. 1850–1750 BC
Egypt

MISSION

Save Ancient Studies Alliance works to reverse the current downward trend in the study of the Ancient World. Building a grassroots movement through outreach, collaboration, accessibility, and public scholarship, we work toward our goal of inspiring a wider, inclusive community of learners and students.

VISION

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:

- Broad understandings of our pasts to help nurture cross-cultural awareness, curiosity, sensitivity, and an affinity for each other.
- Widespread opportunities to engage with our deep pasts in educational, public, and cultural spheres that emphasize openness and accessibility to all.
- Ancient Studies scholarship is a shared endeavor in a community of lifelong learners, both inside and outside institutions of higher education.
- Ancient Studies is a model of humanistic scholarship that actively engages the public imagination and exemplifies proactive inclusivity, interconnectedness, and cooperation.

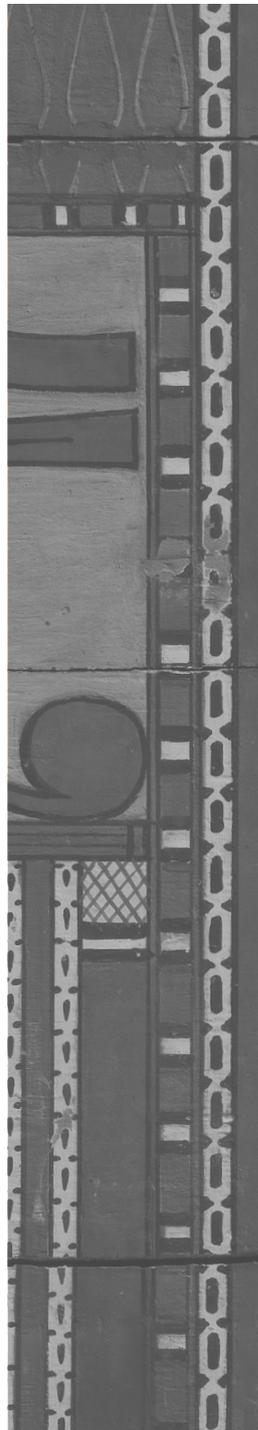
ANCIENT AMERICAN AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES
SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES
CENTRAL ASIAN STUDIES
EAST ASIAN STUDIES
OCEANIA STUDIES
ANCIENT EUROPE
ANCIENT AFRICAN AND EGYPTIAN STUDIES
ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS
BIBLICAL STUDIES
ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN STUDIES
ARABIC AND ISLAMIC STUDIES
LATE ANTIQUE AND MEDIEVAL STUDIES
ART HISTORY
HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
PRESERVATION AND 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 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.



I

Socio-political dynamics and cultural mentalities transcend the human experience across time and space. The study of the past is a mirror in which we are able to see ourselves with greater clarity, informing many aspects of our lives today. All contemporary cultures are reflections of the past, and as such, Ancient Studies continues to be a vibrant interest for communities. Likewise, it influences how we think about, study, and present, Ancient Studies themselves. As the history of the human journey, Ancient Studies is at the core of the Humanities.

II

Studying the ancient past fosters attitudes of cultural respect, empathy, and humility. Ancient Studies brings with it 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 peoples of different languages, cultures, socio-economic background, gender identities, sexual orientations, and skin colors. The empathy and understanding gained from studying ancient peoples ameliorates contemporary prejudices and inter-group tensions.

A vertical strip of ancient Egyptian wall painting on the left side of the page. It features a row of green lotus flowers with brown centers at the top, a central figure of a bird or deity with a white body and black wings, and a large, stylized eye with a black pupil and red iris. Below the eye are vertical bands of geometric patterns in green, white, and brown.

SASA'S CORE VALUES

EDUCATION

FOR ALL

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

We believe that education, knowledge, and understanding should be open and freely available to all. Our past is something that is owned by all of us. We endeavor to actively share this knowledge with all communities.

LEARNING & SCHOLARSHIP IS A LIFE-LONG ENDEAVOR

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 all 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.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

RESPECT, INCLUSIVITY & COMMUNITY

As an organization, we believe that regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, age, race, disability, religion, social or professional status, everyone must be respected for who they are. Everyone has a right to learn, and everyone should be supported in this journey.

“WALKIN’ THE WALK” AT SASA

As individuals and as an organization, the SASA Team values inclusivity, collaboration, diversity, compassion, integrity, respect, transparency, equality, innovation, and excellence in everything we do. SASA aims to model the behaviors and exemplify the attitudes that we wish to share with others.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

VOLUNTEERISM & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We highly value volunteerism as a means of giving back to one another and the 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 all SASA’s full-time staff and volunteers are unpaid. We are dedicated to providing all our volunteers with the necessary tools to succeed, and so we have been, currently are, and will continue to, actively seek funding to pay our talented and dedicated volunteers.

PASSION & INSPIRATION

All 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!

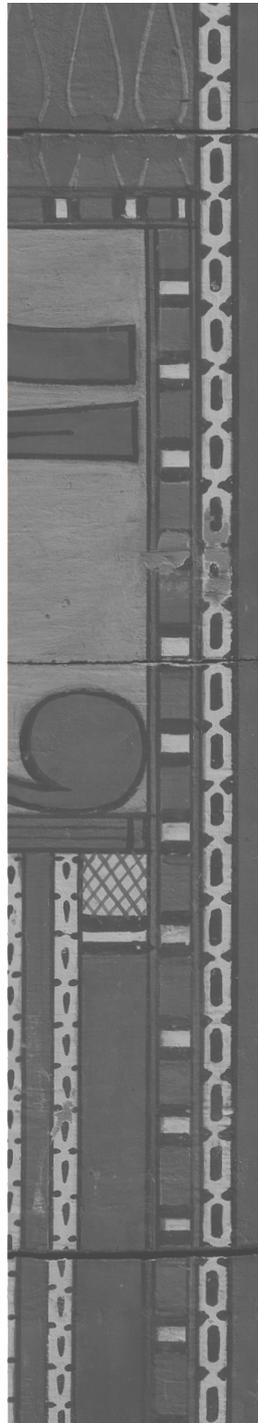


HOW WE OPERATE

MAIN APPROACH

Save Ancient Studies Alliance recognizes and reaffirms the high value of Ancient Studies for the contemporary world. We are also aware of the accelerating decline: in our fields; in enrollment numbers; in university, governmental, and non-profit support; and in the minds of potential participants. In this current climate, where the perceived societal value of Humanities is waning, direct lobbying to school decision makers for increased funding for Ancient Studies has proven to be ineffective.

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 toward Ancient Studies will lead to the promotion of formal educational engagement in Ancient Studies at all levels.



A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT THROUGH OUTREACH & EXPOSURE

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 as a positive. Our understanding of the past is shaped by the popular media we consume, including comic books, films, novels, or 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, life-long learners, young students and enthusiasts from around the world.

INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION

In order to thrive and grow, Ancient Studies must inspire a growing base of young learners. SASA works to reach and engage children and young adults of all ages in school and in their lives to activate interest and encourage further study.

ACCESSIBILITY

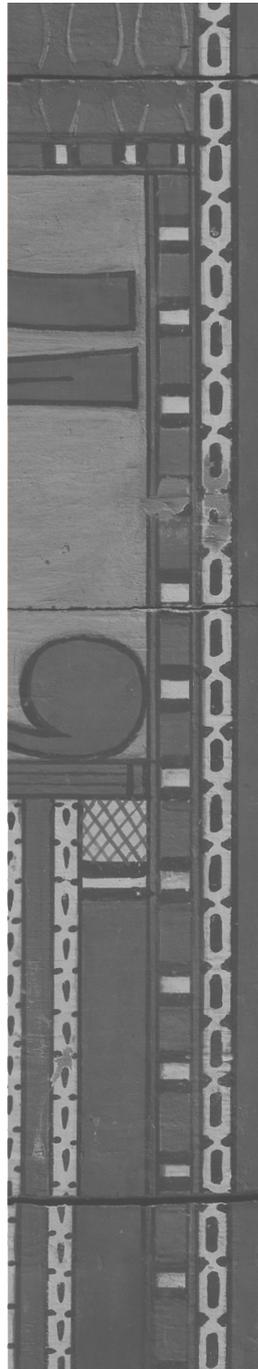
Our goal is to make the study of the Ancient World accessible to as many people as possible. We acknowledge that Ancient Studies fields have a long history of inaccessibility, posing financial and social barriers to disadvantaged communities. However, this climate is slowly changing. In order to realize our Vision for a New Ancient Studies, an active approach is necessary to reconfigure how scholarship is done, how it is made available, and how scholars engage with the public. SASA pushes to break down barriers to higher education, to democratize Ancient Studies, and to make it a welcome place for all. Therefore, the projects, events, and resources we create have an eye toward actively engaging all people in Ancient Studies.



HOW WE OPERATE

COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

We believe that bringing together students and scholars from all Ancient Studies fields is imperative for powerful and meaningful outreach. Although Ancient Studies encompasses fields ranging across the Sciences & Humanities, it remains a fragmented landscape. SASA works to enable collaboration, creating a coalition between people and organizations across Ancient Studies. Such partnership building is essential to SASA's mission and vision. Our combined outreach multiplies and amplifies the effectiveness of all.



PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

SASA is working to incorporate public-facing and open access scholarship as a normal and expected part of scholarly life. Too often, scholarly research remains confined within the walls of academia and is not readily disseminated to the wider public. What a shame! The wealth of knowledge modern scholars produce is incredibly rich and relevant to the public. Most scholars acknowledge the inherent merit of public outreach. Yet, effective public outreach in Ancient Studies fields is not prioritized within the academic community. This must change if Ancient Studies is to survive.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

At SASA, we model our organizational strategies and practices after that of social entrepreneurship, employing: a modified business model in our organizational planning; design thinking in our project selection and development; and impact measurement in our self-evaluations. As a novel organization, SASA's methods and programming are naturally experimental. By importing and adapting business best practices into a non-profit setting, SASA works to continue becoming more effective in Saving Ancient Studies.

DIGITAL INTERCONNECTIVITY

At SASA, digitality is central to our daily workflow and all of our outreach projects. SASA staff and volunteers work remotely, connecting a dedicated international team of individuals who want to bring Ancient Studies to as many communities as possible. The interconnectivity between people in different places and communities affords a tremendous opportunity for public engagement. SASA leverages digital networks to reach and engage as many people as possible about the Ancient World and Ancient Studies.



**Temple of Ramesses II
in Abu Simbel**
13th century BCE
Egypt

GOALS FOR 2020



In early 2020, David Danzig decided to start moving forward with the set of ideas he had for forming SASA. He established five main goals to accomplish in the first year of SASA's existence:

1. RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS
2. OUTREACH VIA ONLINE MEDIUMS OF SOCIAL MEDIA, A WEBSITE, AND EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS
3. DEVELOP ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROCESSES
4. IDEATE, PLAN, AND PROTOTYPE SEVERAL PROJECTS
5. FUNDRAISE

SASA HAS SUCCEEDED IN EACH OF THESE AREAS.



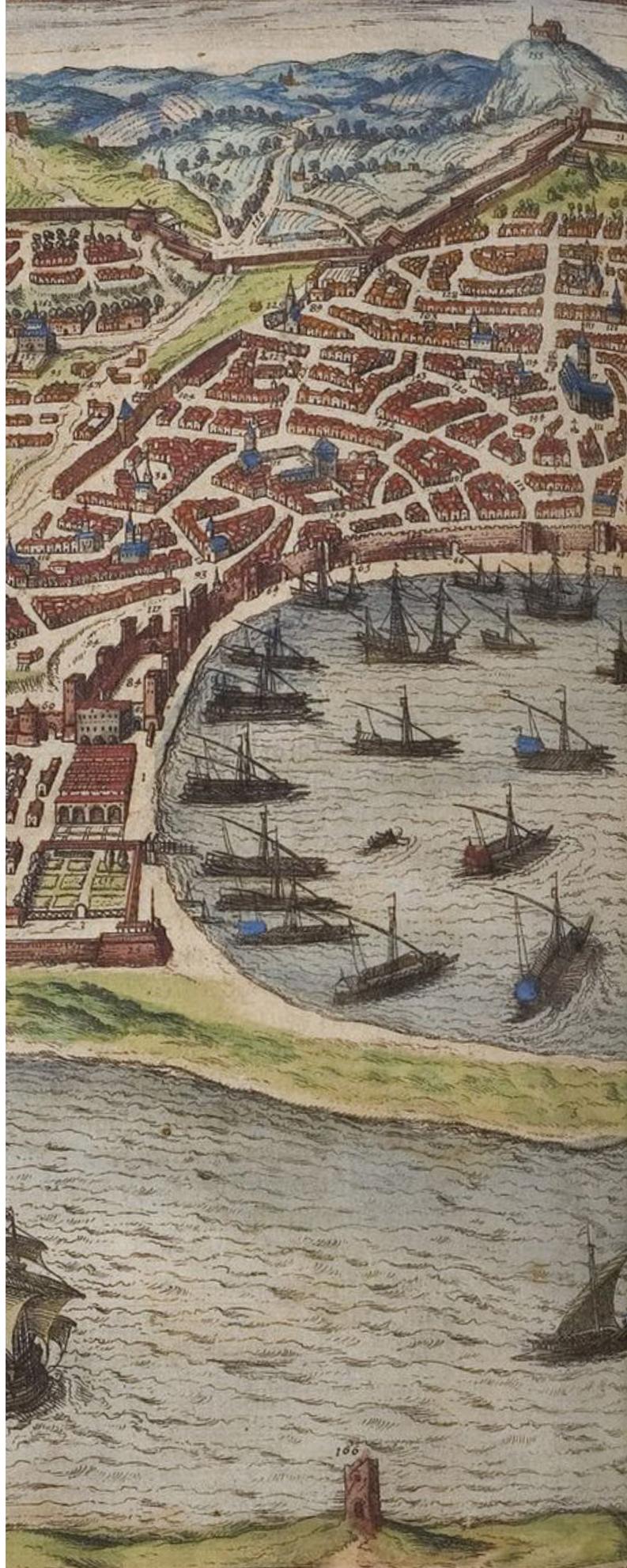
即又前住達仙人可
 而為說法降服其心
 又至伽闍山岩竹林中
 尼連禪河側靜坐思
 惟日食一麻一求介
 特白淨聞師大臣
 說彼使人如此語已
 心大悲惱舉驢戰掉
 身毛皆豎即語王師
 及大臣言太子遂捨
 轉輸王位父母親屬
 恩愛之樂遠在深山

**The Illustrated Sutra
of Past and Present
Karma**

13th century CE
Japan

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SASA's initial development in Spring-Summer 2020 aimed at early recruitment and publicizing SASA's goals. The first project SASA embarked on was to create free Text-in-Translation Reading Groups to enable participants from high school age and up to engage with a variety of ancient texts without requiring a background in ancient languages. The first groups in March-May 2020 enabled the first recruitment of participants and of academic early career scholars as volunteers to lead the groups. This was achieved through personal outreach and via SASA's nascent website and social media accounts. These groups led to the creation of ten 8-week Reading Groups over summer 2020 with over 150 participants. At the same time, SASA developed its Inspire Social Media Campaign, in which a team with 10 interns created a suite of original social media content during summer 2020 to be used over the course of September 2020 – August 2021. This suite was composed of 150 posts about fascinating ancient topics and are still rolling out, which has helped carry our social media general outreach.



**Port of Messina:
Braun / Hogenberg,
Civitates Orbis
Terrarum, Vol. 1**

1572

Germany

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 57. Santo Lio | 59. Marcelli di fora della porta | 61. Porta piccola del Palazzo | 75. Porta della |
| 58. Cataveri di Beluerde | 60. Macello della porta del Sale | 62. P. del Ponte nel palazzo | 76. P. delle |
| 59. Santa Barbara | 61. Orto del M. Sincile | 63. P. di S. Maria del Piliero | 77. P. di S. Gio |
| 60. El Spirito Santo | 62. Orto di S. Iuerti | 64. P. della Contaria vecchia | 78. P. del Sa |
| 61. S. Maria dell'alto | 63. Orto di S. Gioane habitato | 65. P. del Campo | 79. Porta |
| 62. S. Basilio | 64. Porta della Bozetta | 66. Porta della Piscaria | 80. P. Imp |
| 63. Alle ripette | 65. Porta del Pertulo | 67. Porticella | 81. Fin di p |
| 64. El moste di vergine | 66. Porta di Gentilione | 68. P. della dogana noua | 82. P. della |
| 65. S. Maria della | 67. Porta delle Gimatelle | 69. Porta del Sale | 83. P. della |
| 66. El di fora della Giudica | 68. Porta della Giudica | 70. P. della dogana vecchia | 84. P. della |
| | | 71. P. della dogana | 85. P. della |
| | | 72. P. della | 86. P. della |
| | | 73. P. della | 87. P. della |
| | | 74. P. della | 88. P. della |
| | | 75. P. della | 89. P. della |
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| | | 90. P. della | 104. Piazza d |
| | | 91. P. della | 105. Santo G |
| | | 92. P. della | 106. Santo G |
| | | 93. P. della | 107. S. Leon |
| | | 94. P. della | |
| | | 95. P. della | |

STREAMLINED DIGITAL OUTREACH HUBS

In line with our main objective of reaching many people of diverse ages, locations, and backgrounds, we focused on developing our website and social media pages, which have fueled our quick growth. To ease the management of our social media accounts, we implemented Hootsuite, an app that aggregates multiple social media accounts under one interface. In order to carry forward the positive outcomes from the summer Reading Groups, we decided to create an avenue for consistent “face-to-face” interaction with our audience, via weekly Live Events, beginning in September 2020. To maximize reach across multiple platforms, SASA implemented ReStream, a service that allows simultaneous live-streaming to multiple platforms, as well as aggregated chat. With these digital platforms in place, SASA is well situated to scale up our digital outreach as we build momentum in 2021.

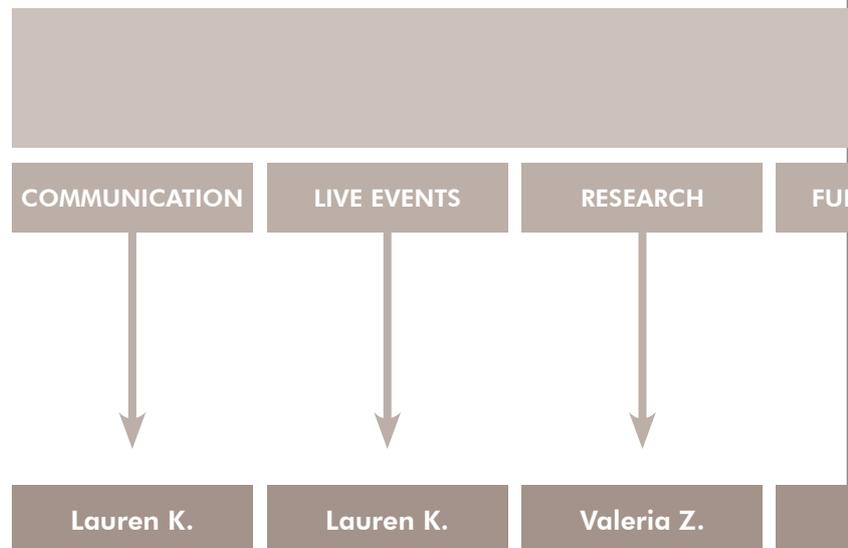


ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

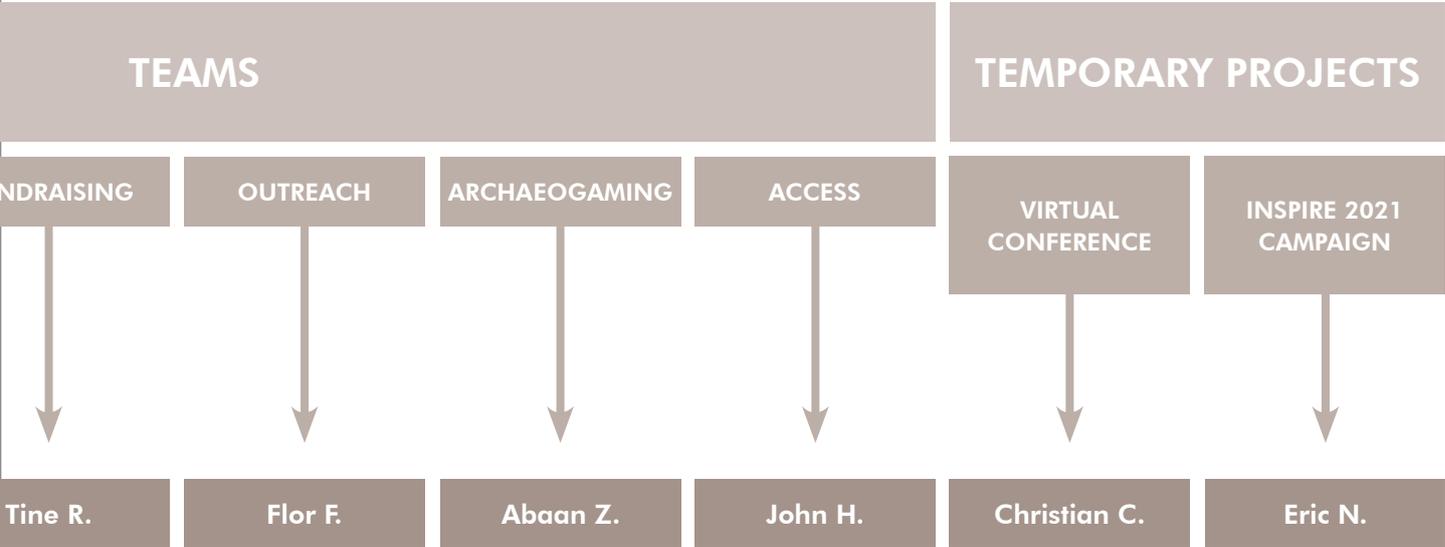
On the shoulders of successful early projects, the development of further organizational and digital infrastructure became imperative. Due to the remote nature of all SASA work, our early organic structural model needed to be overhauled quickly. To accommodate the multiplicity of projects already underway and in planning, SASA Director David Danzig adopted a hybrid divisional and project-centered organizational model. In this schema, Teams were created to support SASA's main areas of endeavor and early projects, as follows:

Plans of a six-room building

Late 3rd
Millennium BCE
Ancient Girsu,
Telloh, Iraq



SASA STAFF ORGANIZATION CHART



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



TEAM LEADERS

These are in addition to SASA's Executive Team of David and his assistant. SASA's leadership structure was created to foster deep engagement by our core volunteers. As such, the group of Team Leaders evolved into the core of SASA's leadership.

COMMUNICATIONS

Led by Lauren Kubosch, designed branding and sleek modern website, manages social media presence, and monthly newsletter SASA Oracle.



LIVE EVENTS

Led by Lauren Kubosch, develops a program of free virtual live events hosted on Facebook, YouTube, and Twitch with a selection of programming including Book Club with authors, Archaeogaming, and Ask an Expert Q & A sessions, as well as free Text-in-Translation Reading Groups in summer and winter.



INSPIRE CAMPAIGN

Led by Pinar Durgan during Summer 2020, designed over 150 unique social media posts on the ancient world to engage and promote ancient studies to a broad audience.



Will be led by Eric Nelson during Summer 2021.





RESEARCH

Led by Valeria Zupieta Lupo, researches and gathers evidence on the Downward Trend in Ancient Studies while creating materials on the importance and value of Ancient Studies.



ARCHAEOGAMING EDUCATION

Led by Abaan Zaidi, creates multimedia educational lesson plans by combining the vibrant world of video games with expert scholarly knowledge, bringing this medium into classrooms to help inspire the next generation of enthusiasts.



ACCESS

Led by John Haberstroh, started development on a web platform database to list online resources within Ancient Studies fields, including programs of study offered by universities, a general list of all Ancient Studies informational websites, a list of available scholarships, and listings of ancient-related public outreach projects.



FUNDRAISING

Led by Tine Rassalle, raises start-up funding, works to secure support for SASA's initial projects, and created the website Bazaar as an alternative to traditional giving campaigns.



OUTREACH

Led by Flor Fustinoni, seeks out partnerships with other organizations, including the formation of the Coalition of Ancient Studies Organizations, a group of Ancient Ancient Studies professional associations working together on outreach and advocacy.



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Led by Christian Casey, organizing a free, public virtual academic conference for Summer 2021 that targets the participation of scholars not on traditional career paths.



Great Wall of China

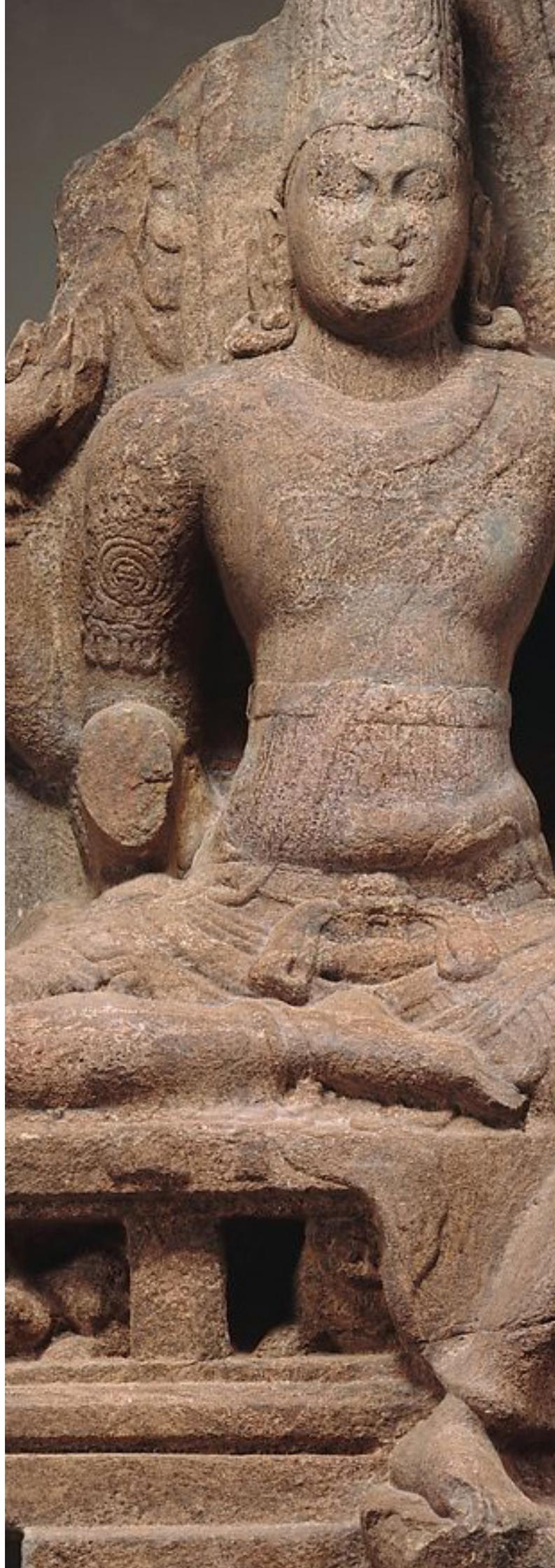
7th century BCE –
17th century CE
China

RECRUITING

SASA is always looking for new talented, passionate individuals to help further our mission. We are continually excited to bring in volunteers and share the wide diversity of our experiences, in terms of age, background, location, and profession. Our staff meets with new volunteers weekly and works to place them in SASA in consonance with their abilities and desired areas of growth. We have successfully filled several unpaid positions through a competitive, open hiring process. Already some of our staff, volunteers, and interns have gone on to secure quality paid positions at universities and non-profits.

In Summer 2020, SASA initiated an Internship Program that inducts new cohorts of interns thrice annually, according to the American academic cycle of Fall, Winter, and Spring semesters. Interns are embedded as members in one or more of our Teams. Although the nature of a remote work environment adds significant challenges to a successful internship program, our staff supports our interns as much as possible to ensure their growth and development within an apprentice-like educational work context.

Over Winter 2020, an official onboarding package was developed, comprising information about SASA, past Staff Newsletters, and detailed instructions and tutorials for our workspaces and project management platforms. This package helps familiarize our new volunteers and interns to the ongoing projects being carried out by different teams and streamlines their integration into SASA and their specific team.



Vishnu Statue
8th–9th century
India

SOLVING THE CHALLENGES OF A REMOTE VOLUNTEER-RUN ORGANIZATION

The combination of SASA's burgeoning growth and remote operating structure necessitated the development of excellent internal communications and productivity supports. SASA functions on a daily basis as a network of individuals working remotely across the globe when they have time that is not devoted to their family, careers, and other pursuits. So, we need an extremely flexible and layered system for different types of communication, collaboration, and production. Our approach has been to manage these issues as they arise and integrate solutions into our existing infrastructure, punctuated by periodic overhauls. To solve these problems, we developed and implemented a series of processes and digital solutions, the latter of which are generally available at no cost or low cost.

At the heart of SASA is Google Workspace, a free resource for non-profit organizations which facilitates email communications, document sharing and organization, and cloud storage. Use of Google Workspace ameliorates the challenges that accompany a growing team of academic and part-time volunteers whose boundaries of time commitments are respected and encouraged by management in balancing volunteering with their career, academic, and personal schedule. This ensures that as volunteers and interns come and go, new participants have access to what was created before them and build upon that legacy. To facilitate quick, conversation-style communication, we use Slack as a chat platform for open discussion. Some teams even conduct all their work there instead of corresponding over cluttered emails! We have also developed an internal bimonthly Staff Newsletter to help keep our variegated group of volunteers tuned in to all the news about SASA's speedy developments.

As a volunteer run organization, SASA management must walk the fine line between flexibility and accountability. We developed a work structure based around weekly Team Meetings supplemented by communication via email and Slack. Volunteers and interns track their time within Clockify, an app integrated into browser workspaces to understand how much time each individual is contributing to SASA and how much time is involved in realizing individual projects and tasks. The umbrella platform which enables team leaders to assign and track tasks over the internet ecosystem is ClickUp, ensuring that deadlines are not overlooked and that work is distributed appropriately across each team to promote collaboration.





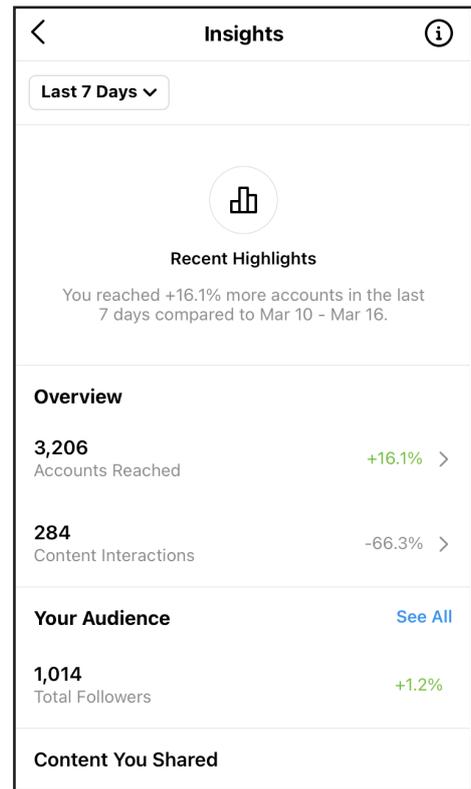

**Hieroglyphs from
Temple of Hathor,
Dendera**

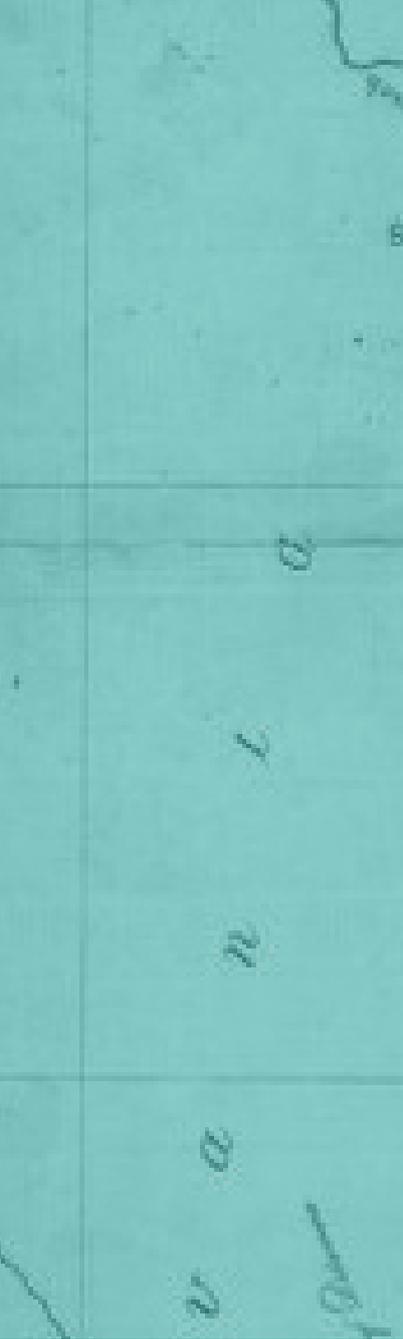
1st Century BCE –
2nd Century CE
Egypt

TRACKING & REPORTING

Consistent with one of the core tenets of social entrepreneurship by which we operate, monitoring the progress of SASA’s digital outreach and projects is key to our future success. As a groundbreaking, experimental enterprise SASA must continuously perform self-evaluation to maximize the potential impact of our efforts. Collecting and analyzing data on all phases of SASA’s operation allows for the proper evaluation of our approaches and projects.

To that end, we set up digital tracking of our website, social media, and advertising from the get-go. SASA performs periodic reporting on all of our performance, in synchrony with our internal Staff Newsletter. To improve tracking of our recruiting, fundraising, and partnerships, we secured a grant of the cloud software Salesforce Non-Profit Success Pack. Salesforce not only provides built-in gift history, account information, and intuitive reports, but also is a flexible platform with customizable fields that can be added to track whatever information may be needed on constituents. With this type of donation tracking software infrastructure in place, SASA is ready to undertake more ambitious fundraising campaigns in the years to come.





Map of the State of New Jersey 1778

DEVELOPING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS BEHAVIORS

SASA has worked on developing the requisite frameworks in support of safe, legal, equitable, secure, and transparent organizational practice. In conjunction with legal advisors, SASA developed and implemented legal documents for volunteering, contracting, intellectual property protections, and partnership development. SASA was incorporated in New Jersey early in 2020 and received tax-exempt status under IRS code section 501(c)(3). Accordingly, SASA governance, procedures, and financials are publicly available. To protect our volunteers, SASA maintains an internal complaint reporting procedure and records and archives work meetings with consent. SASA guards any personal information entrusted to us by our participants according to current data security standards. All SASA internal documents are available to other staff, volunteers, and interns in an appropriate, secure document storage structure that maximizes transparency while maintaining the security of important internal information. In general, SASA believes in open, transparent business practices so that anyone who is interested can join us in our mission.

PROJECTS STARTED & COMPLETED

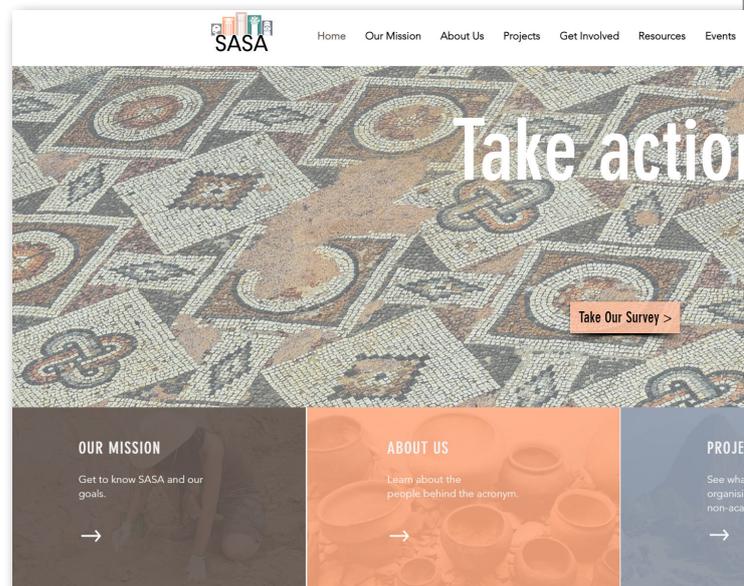
In 2020, SASA launched four major projects, which will have sustaining value as we turn them into long-lasting programs.

**Moai,
megalithic statues**
1250 – 1500 CE
Easter Island,
Polynesia

WEBSITE REDESIGN

I

Over the summer, our first group of interns worked to completely redesign our website and build our social media presence. The reorganized website efficiently and attractively publishes SASA's content, projects, and news.



II

TEXT-IN-TRANSLATION READING GROUPS

In the spring of 2020, we held four free, online, synchronous Text-in-Translation Reading Groups. In Summer 2020, we ran 9 simultaneous Reading Groups on a variety of topics, taking place weekly. The Reading Groups are led by Ph.D. scholars and doctoral students. Individuals from various backgrounds participated, discussing a wide range of texts and sharing their love for ancient studies. This project made in-depth discussion of fascinating Ancient Studies topics accessible to anyone anywhere and served as a springboard to recruiting volunteers for SASA.



SASA 2020 SPRING READING GROUPS

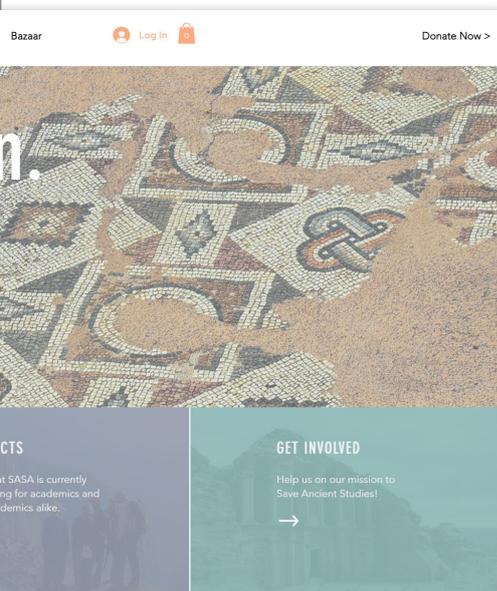
- Gender Identity and Sexuality in Greek & Roman Literature, led by John Haberstroh
- Tales of Magic and Wonder from Ancient Egyptian Literature, led by Christian Casey, PhD
- Playing with Death: Games in the Ancient World, led by Shane M. Tompson
- Exodus, Exile, and Immigration in the Old Testament, led by Eric Trinka, PhD

SASA 2020 SUMMER READING GROUPS

- The Ancient Library of the Dead Sea Scrolls, led by Tine Rassalle
- The Ancients Did It Too! Sex, Desire, and Seduction in Ancient India and Greece, led by Tuhin Bhattacharjee
- Pharaoh Triumphant: Power Politics in Ancient Egypt, led by Luiza Silva
- Roots, Seeds, and Trees: The Genealogies of Modern Racism & Ethnocentrism in Ancient Greece & Rome, led by John Haberstroh
- Long ago, in a Galaxy Called the Milky Way: Creation Stories from Around the World, led by Shane Thompson
- "In Their Proper Place:" Women in Ancient Egypt, led by Theresa Tiliakos
- Gods, Ghosts, and Graves: Archaeology of Religions, led by Bruno Soltic
- Silicon Valleys of the Ancient World: Ancient Technology, Metals and Mining, led by Sara Quaggio
- Secret Knowledge of the Doctor: Health and Medicine in the Ancient World, led by Casey Kirkpatrick, PhD

SASA 2021 WINTER MINI-READING GROUPS

- The Bacchae of Euripides: On Priestesses, Orgasmic Dancers, and Other Decadent Women, led by Alessandra Indelicato & Tuhin Bhattacharjee
- Gifts, Leadership, and Survival: A Journey Through the Persian Empire with Xenophon, led by John Haberstroh
- Women and Power in Ancient Turkey: Hittite Queens and Queenship, led by Michael Moore, PhD
- Gimme My Money! Lawsuits, Foreigners, and Maritime Contracts in Classical Athens, led by Anna Accetola
- Taking Care of Egypt, Taking Care of the Home: The Power of Elite and Royal Women, led by Luiza Silva & Theresa Tiliakos





Our year-long Social Media Campaign hopes to INSPIRE you to

BE CURIOUS ABOUT the Ancient World

ENGAGE WITH the Ancient World

LEARN FROM the Ancient World

ENJOY the Ancient World

III INSPIRE CAMPAIGN

Part of growing SASA's social media presence is the Inspire Campaign which was produced over Summer 2020 and launched in September and with a year's worth of posts. The campaign aims to inspire curiosity, engagement, education, and enjoyment in connection with the Ancient World.



IV

LIVE EVENTS

In the fall, SASA launched three types of Live Events, Archaeogaming, Book Clubs, and Expert Q&As, appearing almost every weekend. Archaeogaming features experts exploring video games that were inspired by the ancient world. During book club events, an author discusses a book they wrote that focuses on the ancient world and answers questions from the live audience. Expert Q&As mainly feature graduate students discussing their work and what you can do with a degree in ancient studies.



BOOK CLUBS:

- A Thousand Ships by Natalie Haynes
- Egyptologists' Notebook by Chris Naunton
- Heaven and Hell: A History of the Afterlife by Bert Ehrman
- The Lost Book of Moses by Chanan Tigay
- Wolf Girl by Theresa Tomlinson
- When Women Ruled the World by Kara Cooney

سبب في قلبك ففعل لا كحل

نشرأ

خند

الكرمة النخما وهو النشرأ ومن الثاين من سبب
وتو منهم من سبب في حكا اللدنيوك منهم من



وزق في حبوب الكرم في حذر منه الشراك
يقرب منه من الثراب وتعلوه وله ثمرة سبب
جلوده وقلوبه مسكا الجارية اوله سبب
وقوه ثمرة ووزنه وسبب

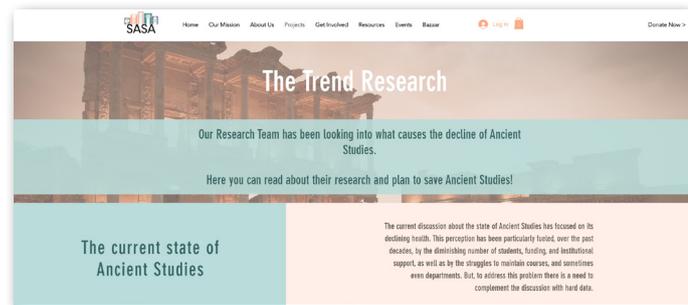
Arabic translation
of Dioscorides'
"De Materia Medica"
Circa 13th Century CE

PROJECTS STARTED

Over the course of SASA's inaugural year, many projects were initiated which will continue to develop during the coming year.

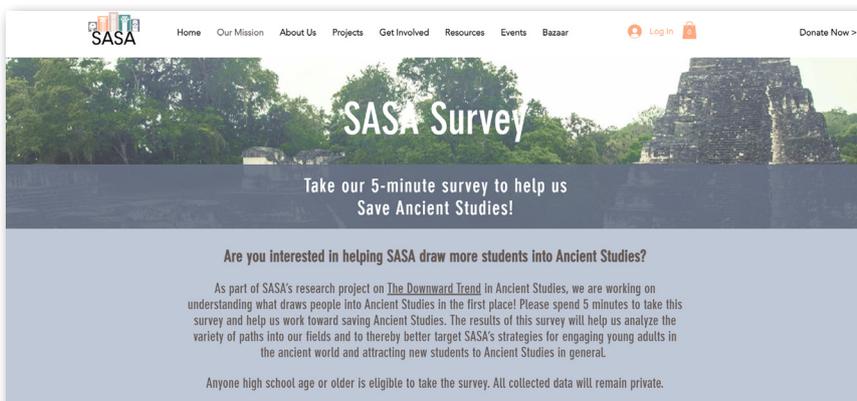
I RESEARCH ON THE DOWNWARD TREND

The Downward Trend Research Project aims to gather and analyze data to identify statistical indicators for Ancient Studies' prospects. These indicators include degree completion, language course enrollment, and hiring at higher education institutions, as well as funding for departments, learned societies, and individuals. This research allows us to map the recent trajectory of Ancient Studies in the United States and predict the future trend. Included in this work is the creation of a collection of academic disciplines that fall under a broad category of Ancient Studies.



II ENTRY PATHS TO ANCIENT STUDIES SURVEY

In an effort to understand how scholars and students currently in the Ancient Studies field began their path, we created a survey. The data we are accruing will help us understand the main pathways into Ancient Studies so that we can promote them, in addition to discovering less common entry points that may prove to be fruitful avenues for future students.

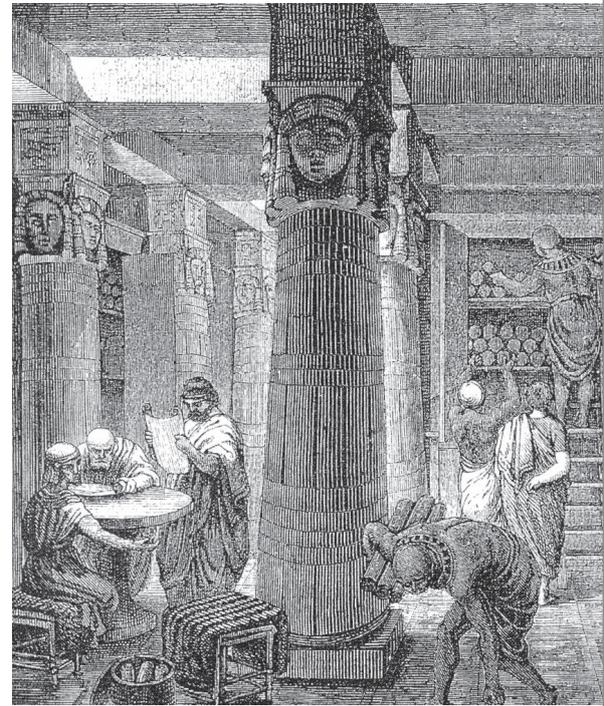




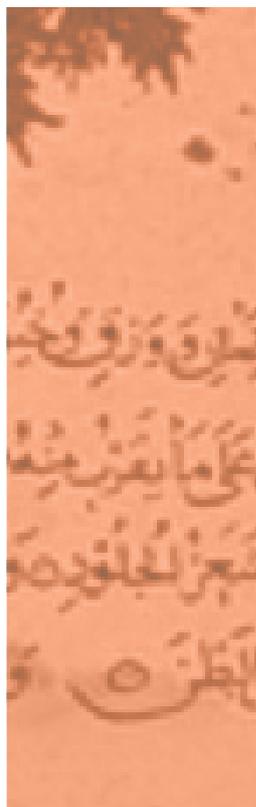
III

ANCIENT STUDIES RESOURCES DATABASE

Across the spectrum of Ancient Studies informational resources are currently lacking. 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 are working on



- Collecting all resource websites for all Ancient Studies fields.
- Collecting all available programs of study at institutions in North America and beyond. This will provide interested students, or those simply interested in taking courses, with a comprehensive list of the various available programs in the country.
- Another database will include information about scholarships and fellowships for students at all levels, from undergraduate to postdoctoral researchers.
- SASA is also developing the Port Ancient Database to promote various creative, open-access projects and media related to ancient studies.



IV

VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE

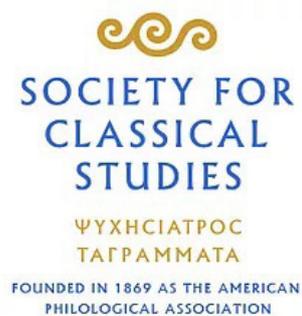
Digital Hammurabi and Save Ancient Studies Alliance have partnered to host and create the Opening the Ancient World, a free public academic virtual conference. Scheduled for August 15th and 16th, 2021, the conference will be livestreamed. The goal of the conference is to present and support excellent scholarship by scholars at the fringes of the academic community and researchers who have not followed the traditional tenure-track career path. Additionally, special sessions will be hosted, discussing issues of how to develop outreach by Ancient Studies scholars, further inclusiveness, and reimagining scholarship as a lifelong pursuit within a diverse yet inclusive scholarly community.

Opening the Ancient World
Virtual Conference

V

COALITION OF ANCIENT
STUDIES ORGANIZATIONS
(CASO)

The goal of this organization is 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, the Society for Classical Studies and the Society of Biblical Literature. We are working together to attract more academic organizations to join CASO. The first joint project of CASO will be to begin building a database of online resources for Ancient Studies, which will be further developed by SASA's Access Team and hosted on SASA's website.

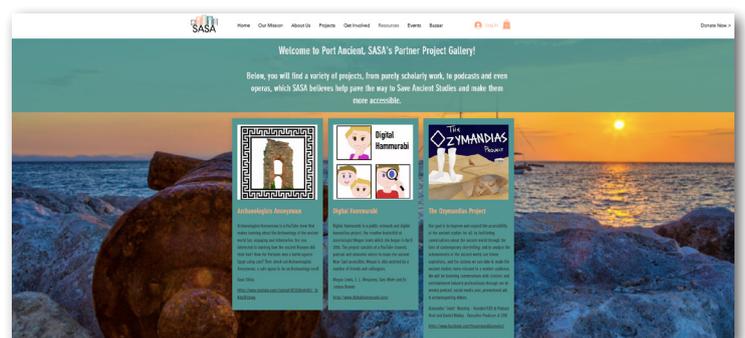


ORGANIZATIONAL OUTREACH

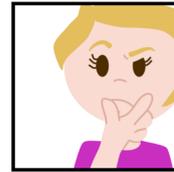
Temple of Castor and Pollux

5th Century BCE
Agrigento, Sicily

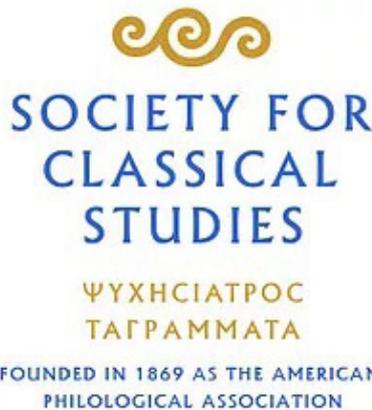
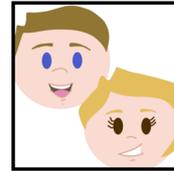
SASA leadership recognized that it was critical to connect with external organizations and form partnerships with those whose mission aligned with ours to gain footing and a place at the table as an NPO. An Outreach Team was created to spearhead this initiative, overseen by Florencia Fustinoni. Under Flor's guidance, a process was created to facilitate the outreach process, form relationships, and streamline official partnerships. In 2021 the Outreach team is creating Partnership Packages with sub-levels to further delineate and refine the relationships SASA has formed with these external partners. This initiative has already been wildly successful and is continuing to grow and develop.



SASA honors and thanks its partners to date:



Digital Hammurabi



Through the Outreach Team, SASA was ‘present’ with a Virtual booth at AIA/SCS Virtual Annual Meeting (100 hits) and conducted a presentation at SCS Classics Everywhere session of AIA/SCS VAM to promote who we are and what we are doing among peers. Outreach also met with the NYU SAS undergraduate conference presenters. The team also created a digital brochure on SASA and is currently exploring additional opportunities and links for the organization.



PEOPLE REACHED

600,000

SOCIAL MEDIA REACHES

SASA began tracking social engagement in September 2020, and have had over 600,000 reaches and almost 20,000 engagements across all platforms, including 6,900 video views. We are actively engaged and growing our audience of 2,900 followers across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Twitch.



20,000

ENGAGEMENTS

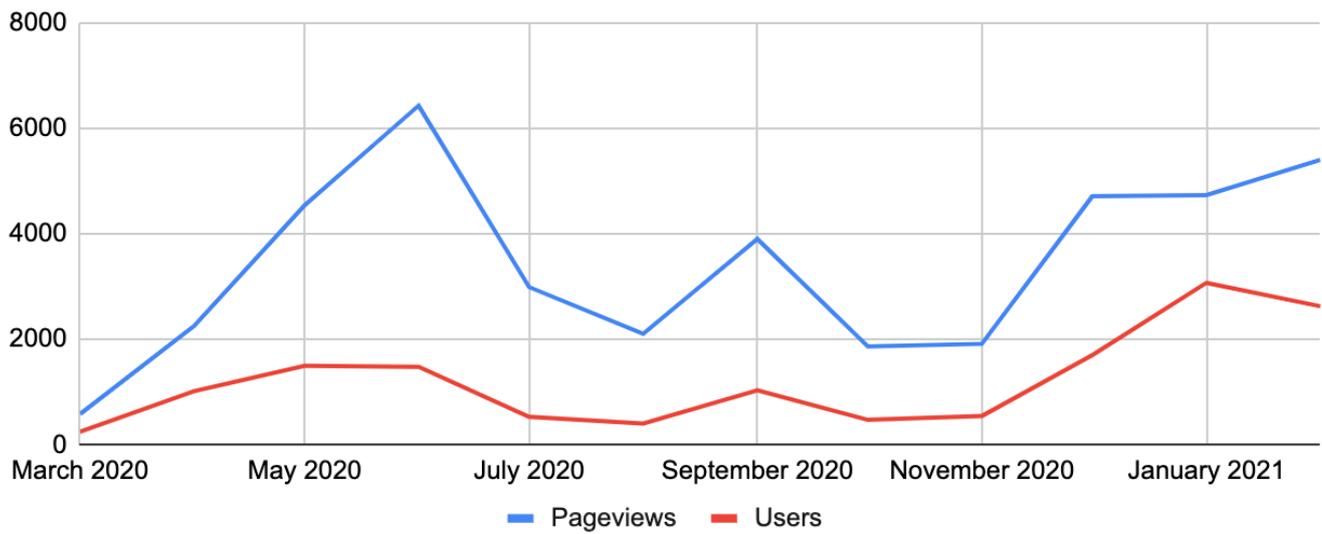
7,000

VIDEO VIEWS

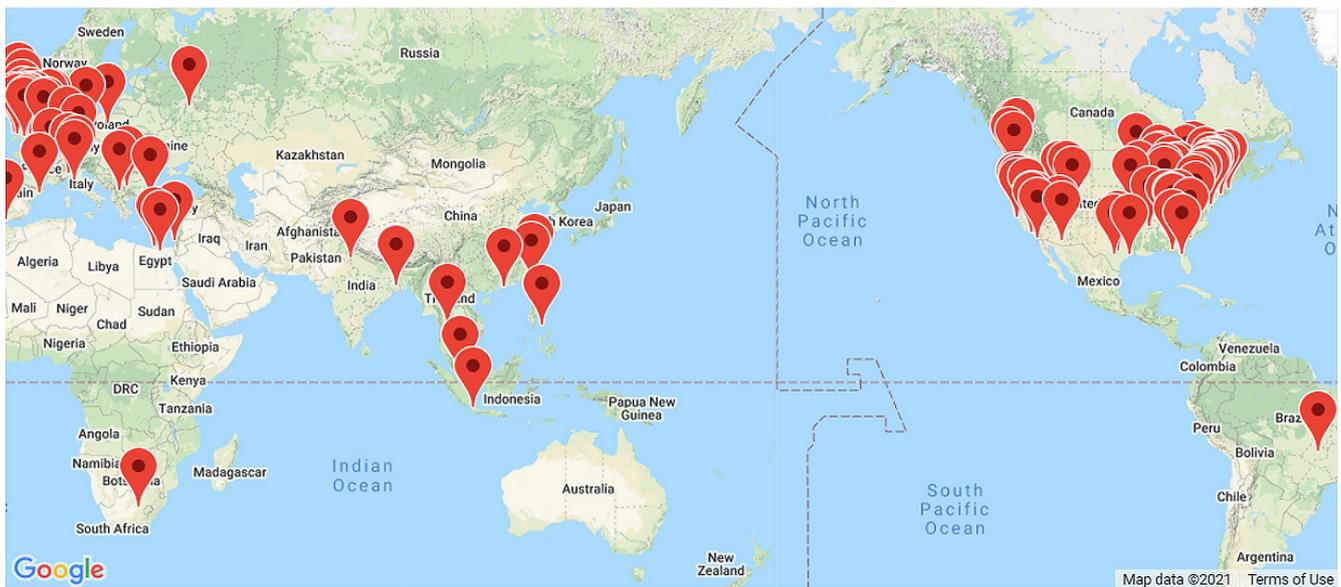
3,500

FOLLOWERS

SAVEANCIENTSTUDIES.COM TRAFFIC



USER GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS

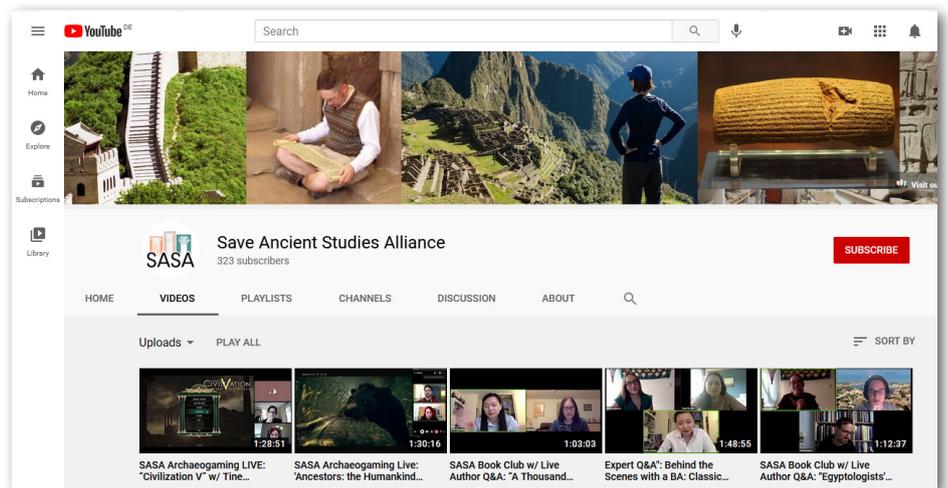


12,000

WEBSITE VISITORS

We launched our website **saveancientstudies.org** right along with the birth of the organization and have been able to build up our user base over time. In total for our first year, we have reached almost 12,000 unique users with a healthy average of 2.83 pageviews per user.

PEOPLE REACHED



7,000

VIDEO VIEWS

Sat Kaman, the "Seven Arches"

15th Century CE
Pavagadh, India

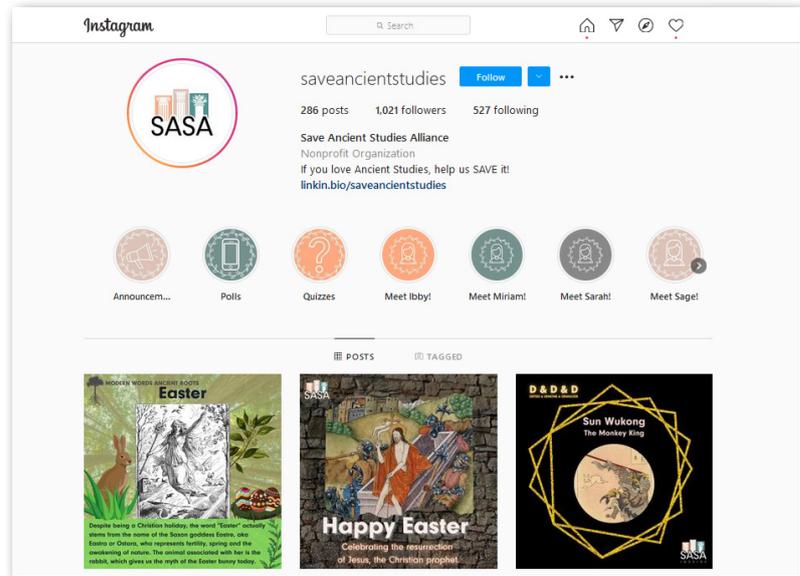
Videos are integral to SASA's mission as they open the ancient world in an exciting medium. In addition to housing recordings of our Live Events, our YouTube channel also features Inspire Campaign videos, including Ancient Kitchen, cooking videos of ancient recipes! We also have a series of videos from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

150

SASA

INSPIRE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Our Inspire Campaign creates shareable, engaging content around Ancient Studies subjects directed at social media, including historical facts, visuals, and commentary on Demons, Devils and Demigods. We have posted 119 posts so far, driving over 8,100 engagements.



500

LIVE EVENT ATTENDEES

We are working to build a community of participants from scratch through a series of Live Events, including book clubs, streamed archaeogaming events, Texts-in-Translation Reading Groups, and Expert Q&A sessions. In total we have had 600+ views of our videos and 52 live event attendees. This engagement was driven by 60+ posts to our social media audience and over 11,300 engagements.

FUNDRAISING & EXPENSES

Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates

4th Century BCE –
4th Century CE
Cyprus



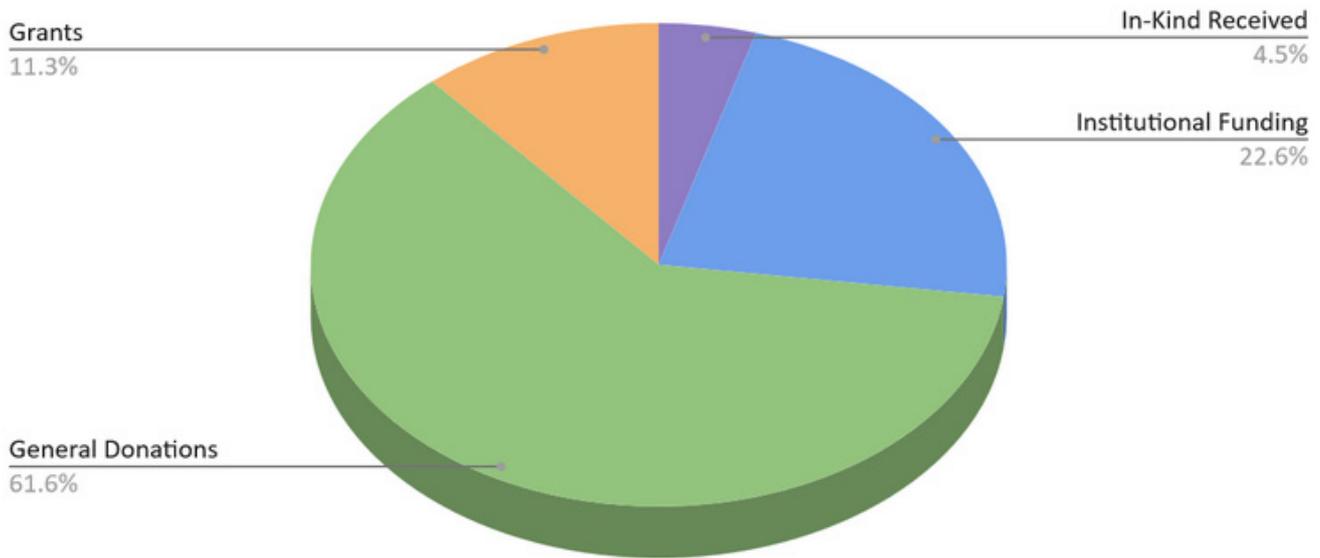
SASA seeks funding through multiple avenues, including fundraising campaigns, grant applications, and passive sources, such as our “Bazaar” and Amazon Smile. We launched three major fundraising drives in the first year. SASA received granted access to Google Workforce, a Google Ads Grant valued at \$10,000 per month, and a Salesforce Non-Profit database instance. SASA’s Fundraising Team wrote grant proposals for the Mellon Foundation, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, The Standard Foundation, the Pollination Project, and the Awesome Foundation. Several other applications are currently in the pipeline to fund projects for 2021-2023. We created our online store “Bazaar” by using dropshipping, offering items with SASA first generation Ancient Studies inspired graphics. Through the Bazaar, SASA offers donation opportunities aligned with contemporary sensibilities. We also implemented Amazon Smile, a program set up to allocate a small portion of funds when individuals shop using Amazon towards a non-profit of their choice.

In total, SASA received \$4225.88 from 26 individuals and organizations. We thank them all!

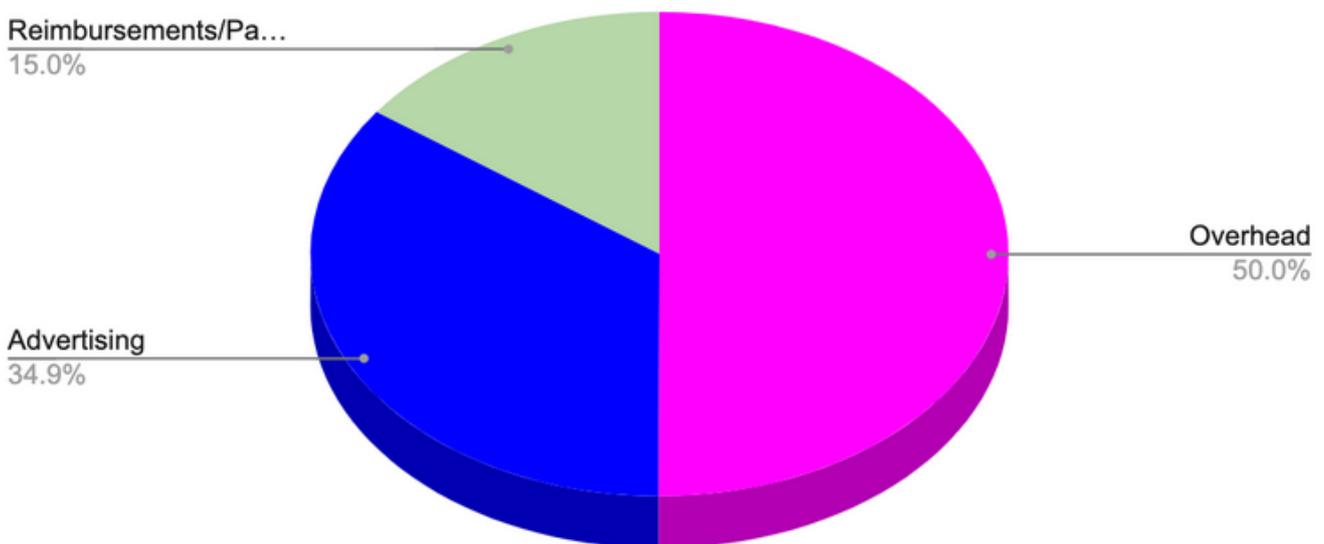
Through these fundraising projects we seek to support our organizational overhead, advertising costs, and our numerous engaging projects, including, for instance, Reading Groups, Archaeogaming

Education Project, Ancient Studies Resources Platform, and Downward Trend Research. We are also aiming to secure capital to begin hiring paid staff, who can give full dedication of their time to SASA.

YEAR 1 GRANTS AND DONATIONS



BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES OF 2020-2021



From incorporation in March 2020 through March 2021, we spent a total of \$4260.58.

PROJECTS FOR 2021



**Cosmological
Mandala with
Mount Meru**

14th Century, CE
Yuan Dynasty, China

ANCIENT STUDIES ACCESS PLATFORM

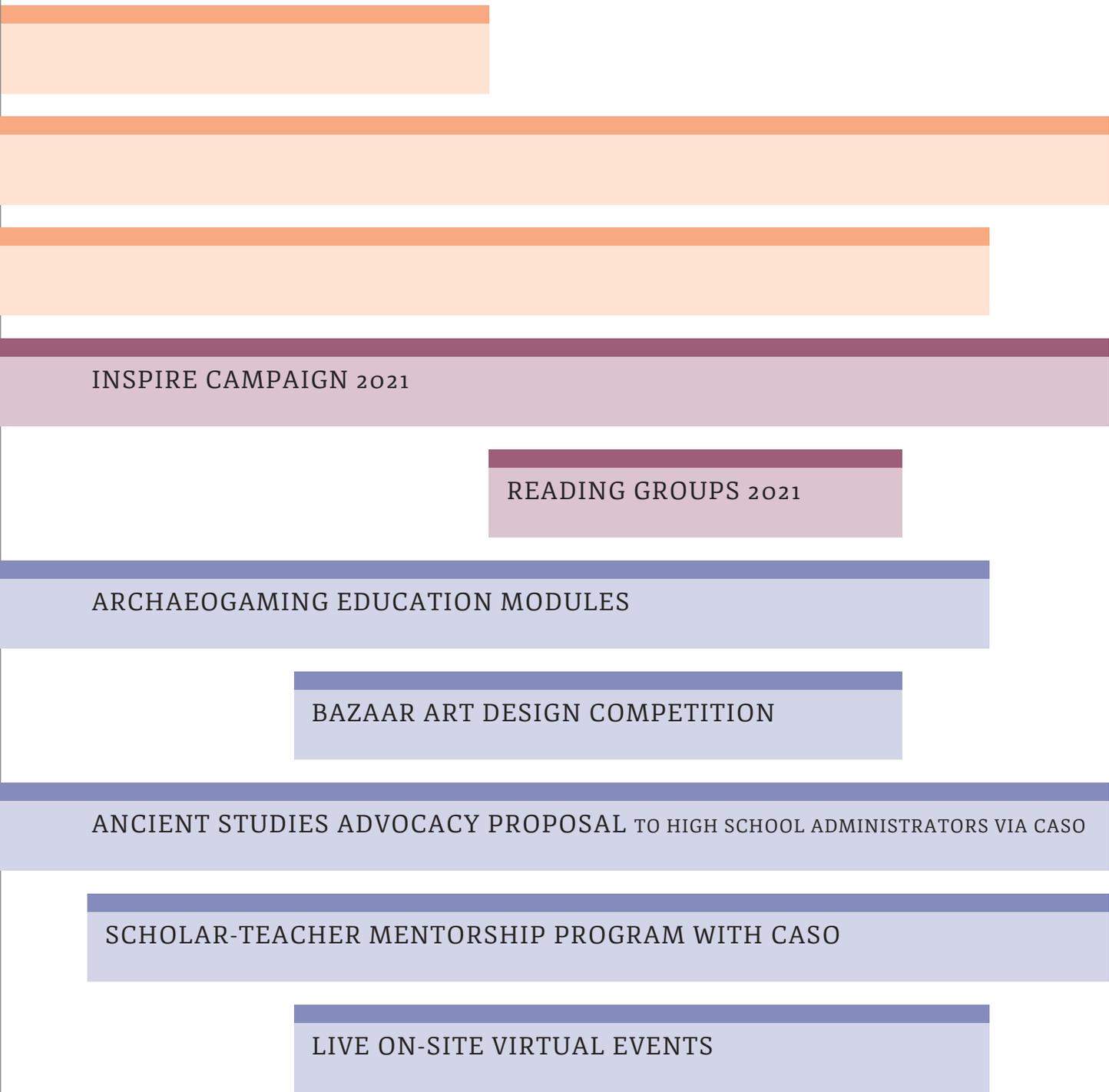
RESEARCH ON DOWNWARD TREND

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

INSPIRE CAMPAIGN 2020

READING GROUPS 2020

2020



CONTINUING

ANNUAL

NEW

2021



Statuette of Amun

10th Century BCE –
8th Century BC
Egypt

NEW PROJECTS

I

ARCHAEOGAMING EDUCATION MODULES

An exciting new project we have begun to develop is the creation of archaeogaming educational modules and their implementation in middle school and high school classrooms. Archaeogaming is the critique and study of portrayals of ancient people and places in video games. SASA is reformulating this concept to utilize the attractiveness of video games as a springboard for education about the ancient past.

This project is aimed particularly at students in underserved and underfunded communities with little access to Ancient Studies. We are working on creating a pilot program to be implemented in select schools in the 2021-2022 school year. If successful, this pilot program will be expanded and made available to teachers and schools around the world! Our newly hired project leader Abaan Zaidi who in collaboration with Tine Rassalle is building out the team that will create these educational modules.



SASA Archaeogaming w/ Experts Live: "Civilization VI" Hosted by Tine Rassalle, Shannon Martino & Aris...
[Sid Meier's Civilization VI](#)



SaveAncientStudies
 last live last month

NEW PROJECTS



[Home](#) [Our Mission](#) [About Us](#) [Projects](#) [Get Involved](#) [Resources](#) [Events](#) [Bazaar](#)

[Log In](#) [Donate Now >](#)

Categories
[SASA Swag](#)
[SASA Apparel](#)
[Sponsorships](#)
[Special Gifts](#)
[All Items](#)

Welcome to the SASA Bazaar

Support SASA by checking out our collection of merchandise below. Any purchase from the Bazaar is considered a donation to help SASA fund projects and events for the future and allow us to Save Ancient Studies!

USD (\$)

SASA MERCH



II

BAZAAR ART DESIGN COMPETITION

SASA will launch a competition by inviting applicants to submit new artistic designs to go on our items for sale on the SASA Bazaar, our eStore. This competition will promote creativity and engagement with Ancient Studies through art and graphic design. We invite artists and graphic designers of all ages to submit designs later this Spring!



III

ANCIENT STUDIES
ADVOCACY PROPOSAL
TO HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS VIA CASO

Leveraging the advocacy work already underway by Ancient Studies professional organizations, SASA will develop a program with CASO to involve CASO member organizations' members in producing and deploying a document that explains the multiple values of incorporating Ancient Studies in Elementary, Middle, and High School education.

IV

EXCHANGE
PROGRAM

Drawing on the outreach interest latent in Ancient Studies scholars, SASA will develop a mentorship program for college professors to work directly with high school teachers to help develop and refresh their Ancient Studies curricular lessons and extra-curricular activities.



V

LIVE ON-SITE VIRTUAL
EVENTS

Another exciting new project is the production of Virtual Live Events on-site in ancient ruins! Hosted by a specialist scholar and co-hosted by a SASA Educational Ambassador, these events will be piloted in Spring 2021 with three events taking place live on location in Rome with the inimitable Darius Arya as host and guide!





Two circular diagrams showing the division of the day and of the week

9th Century CE
Carolingian,
St. Emmeram Abbey,
Regensburg, Germany

GOALS FOR 2021



I

DOUBLING DOWN

For 2021, we have set high goals for our general public reach, volunteer recruitment, and general fundraising goal as double our accomplishments of our first year in operation.

- Engage over **40,000** people on social media
- Add **6,000** new followers
- Attract **20,000** website visitors
- Generate **14,000** video views
- Draw attendance of over **1,000** to our live events
- Raise **\$9,000** from donors
- Receive **2** grants to support specific projects

GOALS FOR 2021

II

PROMOTING ACCESS TO ANCIENT STUDIES

We will also take two large steps in promoting access to Ancient Studies. We intend to go live with the first tier of our Ancient Studies Resources & Accessibility Platform [link to description above] in June 2021, and we will host our first Virtual Conference [link to description above] jointly with Digital Hammurabi in August 2021.

To support our expected growth in Year 2, we are working toward generating and expanding engagement in three pools of potential collaborators:

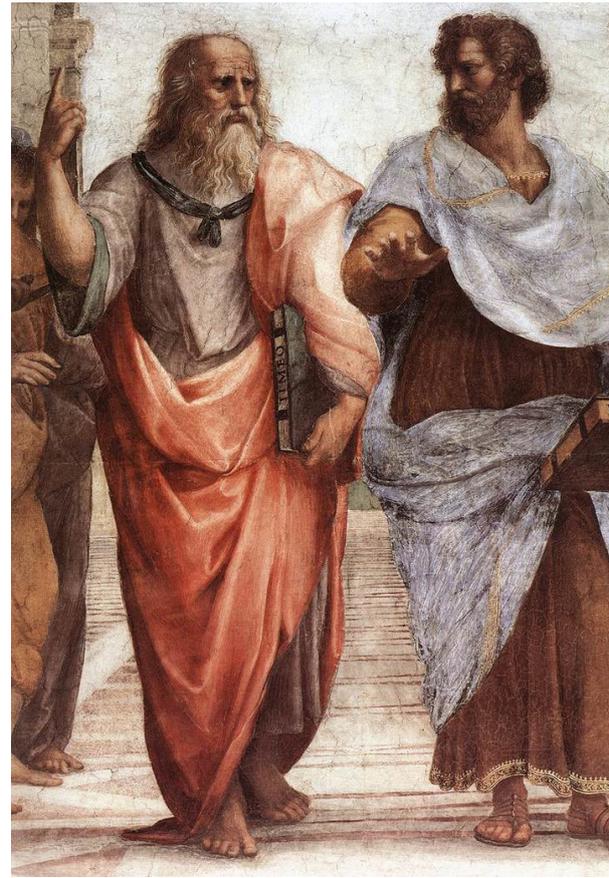
1. Ancient Studies Outreach Organizations and Projects
2. Enlisting Academic Scholars in Outreach
3. Developing SASA Teacher Ambassadors



III

PARTNERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

We have already laid the foundation for an extensive partnership development program, which we have just begun to implement. Our goal is to develop at least 30 new partnerships this year. The positive effects of accelerating our partnership development will pervade all areas of SASA, by adding expertise in project development, expanding our network of participants and volunteers, and supplying us with a growing stream of quality content output.



IV

COALITION OF
ANCIENT STUDIES
ORGANIZATIONS

The continued development of the Coalition of Ancient Studies Organizations and the planning and development of two public outreach projects through CASO this year will draw scholars' attention and participation toward SASA and Ancient Studies Outreach in general. The participation of university professors gives us greater legitimacy within Ancient Studies fields and helps us reach their collegiate students, one of our primary target audiences.





V

TEACHER AMBASSADORS

Engaging middle school and high school students is similarly important to our mission. Therefore, we are developing the concept of the “SASA Teacher Ambassador,” a teacher who actively includes the ancient world in their classroom and implements SASA projects. The first offerings we will provide to our Teacher Ambassadors will be our Archaeogaming Educational Modules, Scholar-Teacher Mentorship Program, and Ancient Studies Advocacy Proposal to School Administrators. By developing a network of teachers, SASA will generate a pipeline to young students and be able to effect change earlier in students’ educational development.

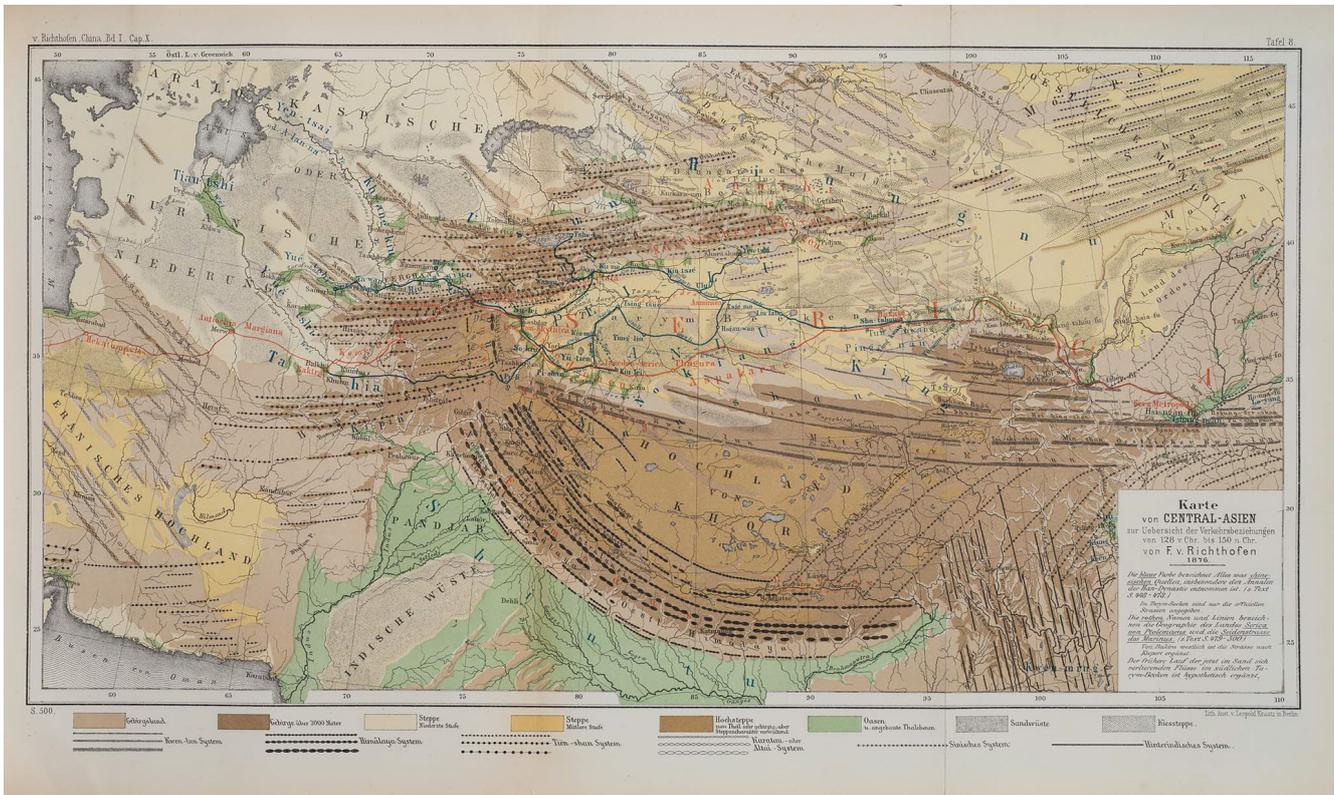
GOALS FOR 2021

VI

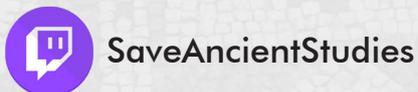
EXPANDING OUR AUDIENCE

SASA must engage several audiences at the same time, including middle school and high school students, college students, graduate students, college professors, teachers, enthusiasts, and potential donors. With the tightly interconnected group of initiatives we are continuing and developing in 2021, we are confident that we will succeed at engaging and growing our presence in all of these audiences.

Doubling the results in our second year of the programs we have created thus far, combined with the roll out of our new initiatives, will put us well on the way to becoming the primary outreach organization for Ancient Studies over the next 3-5 years. By producing high-impact projects, bringing together the disparate Ancient Studies fields, and amalgamating outreach efforts, we will Save Ancient Studies!



Want to get involved and help Save Ancient Studies? Check out the opportunities available at saveancientstudies.org/get-involved



For inquiries, please contact info@saveancientstudies.org



SAVE ANCIENT STUDIES ALLIANCE