

2012 PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

THE NEAR EASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY FOUNDATION'S
"ARCHAEOLOGY OF RELIGION"



Archaeology and the Bible in Jordan: Sanctuary of Lot

By Dr Konstantinos Politis

Lecture will be from 6.30-7.30pm followed by a light supper



DATE & TIME
TUESDAY
15th May 2012
6.30pm
Women's College
University of Sydney

Bookings are essential for this event. We prefer prepayment.

All prepaid tickets will be available at the door.

Please pay by 7th May 2012

The Monastery of Aghios Lot is located at the south-eastern end of the Dead Sea on a steep mountain slope overlooking the modern town of Safi (biblical Zoara) in Jordan. As revealed by the excavations, the Monastery of Aghios Lot consisted of an early Byzantine monastic complex with a number of hermits' cells above it. The focal point was a triple-apsed basilica church built around a natural cave that early Christians believed was where Lot and his daughters took refuge after the destruction of Sodom (Genesis 19). It is flanked to the south by a large reservoir and to the north by a refectory with an oven, a communal burial chamber and a pilgrim's hostel. The church is adorned by five mosaic floor pavements inscribed in Byzantine-period Greek and dated to A.D. 572/3, April 605/7 A.D. and May 691 A.D. Three other Greek inscriptions on stone which invoke Aghios Lot, confirm the Christian identification of the site as Lot's Sanctuary.

Konstantinos D. Politis is an archaeologist educated in Greece, the United States, Belgium and Britain. His early fieldwork was in Greece and Liechtenstein. Since 1988, he has been based at the British Museum which has been the principal sponsor of his excavations in Jordan and Oman. He specialises in the Early Byzantine/Christian and Early Islamic periods. Dr Politis' most important work was the discovery and subsequent excavation of the Sanctuary of Lot on the south-eastern shores of the Dead Sea, publishing a major report on that project with the British Museum (2012) and the more popular "Holy Footprints across the Jordan. A Journey to the Ancient and Religious Sites on the Eastern Side of the Jordan Rift Valley" (2010).

Archaeology and the Bible in Jordan

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