

THE TOPIC

The Roman city of Cosa (near modern Orbetello) was founded in 273 BCE and the excavations of this site have produced key data for our understanding of Republican period archaeology and Roman urbanism. Excavations there have been carried out by the American Academy under Frank Brown in the 1940s, and subsequently by archaeologists from the American Academy in Rome, other international projects, and now Florida State University. This conference honors the life, scholarship, and academic contributions of Russell T. Scott, Andrew W. Mellon Professor-in-Charge of the School of Classical Studies from 1984–88) and longtime director of the Cosa excavations. Former students, colleagues, and archaeologists active at Cosa will convene at the American Academy in Rome on 29 May and the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut on 30 May to celebrate the legacy of Professor Scott and present new research on Cosa.

The scope of the conference is the site of Cosa, and the central place it continues to occupy in Roman republican archaeology. It is a small site with an impressive record of research and publication that began more than seventy years ago under the leadership of Frank E. Brown, whose team was also responsible for the creation of a tourist itinerary and, what was still something of a novelty in Italy, an on-site museum. Although Professor Scott was central to this legacy, he always looked toward the future. In 2013, he spearheaded the Cosa Excavations consortium, fostering collaboration between US and German institutions, leading archaeological exploration of key sites and introducing a range of scientific approaches that have greatly advanced our understanding of the colony and its evolution. The conference will highlight emerging data from the site while also providing an opportunity to discuss them with our Italian colleagues, who have played an equally important role in bringing Cosa back into focus.



CONFERENCE VENUES

American Academy in Rome
Via Angelo Masina 5
00153 Roma

Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Rom
Via Sardegna 79/81
00187 Roma

Please register online for your attendance via zoom:
<https://aarome.org/events/cosa-past-present-future-conference-honor-russell-t-scott>
For the Friday session at the DAI:
<https://fsu.zoom.us/j/91390193480>

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COSA: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE A CONFERENCE IN HONOR OF RUSSELL T. SCOTT

Rome, 29–30 MAY 2025

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME and
DEUTSCHES ARCHÄOLOGISCHES INSTITUT ROM



Cosa. Arx from South. Photo: Matthew Brennan (Courtesy of Cosa Excavations)

Organizers: Andrea U. De Giorgi, Maximilian Rönnerberg

THURSDAY 29 MAY 2025

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

16:00 Tea, Biscuits, Welcome

16:30 Opening Remarks
Aliza Wong and Caroline Goodson, AAR

Session 1: Remembering Darby Scott (Chair: Caroline Goodson)

16:35 *Darby Scott, Cosa and the AAR*
Michelle Hobart, AAR

16:45 *Darby Scott e il mondo accademico italiano*
Lorenzo Quilici, Università di Bologna, and
Stefania Quilici Gigli, Università della Campania
Luigi Vanvitelli

16:55 *Darby Scott as a Guide to Rome*
Celia Schultz, University of Michigan

17:05 *Darby Scott as Boss, Mentor, and Friend*
Bernie Frischer, Indiana University (via Zoom)

17:15 *Personal Recollections of Darby Scott,
from Bryn Mawr College and the
American Academy in Rome*
Corey Brennan, Rutgers University (via Zoom)

Session 2: Cosa: Past, Present, and Future (Chair: Andrea De Giorgi)

17:30 *Il Parco Archeologico di Cosa*
Leonardo Boichicchio, Parchi Archeologici della
Maremma

18:00 *The Cosa Archives at the AAR*
Valentina Follo, AAR

18:20 *The Cosa Database and the New Collections*
Rebecca Frank, Colby College, and
Christina Cha, Florida State University

18:40 *Un progetto per il Museo di Cosa*
Susanna Sarti and Alessandro Nocentini,
Direzione regionale musei nazionali della Toscana

19:00 Aperitivo

20:00 Dinner at the AAR (for Speakers)

FRIDAY 30 MAY 2025

DEUTSCHES ARCHÄOLOGISCHES INSTITUT ROM

Session 3: The Site and its History (Chair: N.N.)

9:30 Opening Remarks
DAI

9:35 *The Geoarchaeological and Palaeoenvironmental
Project in the Coastal Areas Surrounding Cosa*
Cécile Vittori, CNRS, Adele Bertini, Università di
Firenze, Matteo Pili, Università di Firenze, Gilles
Brocard, Université de Lyon, Federica Badino,
Università di Firenze, Gabriele Niccolini, Univer-
sità di Bari, Andrea De Giorgi, Florida State Uni-
versity, and Jean-Philippe Goiran, CNRS

10:05 *The Geophysical Survey*
Luisa Balandat, University of Bonn, Maximilian
Rönnberg, University of Freiburg, and Richard
Posamentir, University of Tübingen

10:25 *A Labor-Cost Analysis of Cosa's Colonial Walls*
Seth Bernard, University of Toronto

10:50 *The Monumental Arch of Cosa*
Richard Posamentir, University of Tübingen

11:10 Coffee break

Session 4: Results of Current Excavations (Chair: Richard Posamentir)

11:40 *The Bath and its Use*
Allison Smith, Davidson College

12:05 *The Many Lives of Cosa's Architectural
Terracottas: New Evidence from the Bath Complex*
Sophie Crawford-Brown, Rice University

12:30 *Ten Seasons of Cosa Excavations*
Andrea De Giorgi, Florida State University

13:00 Lunch break

14:00 *The Excavations in the »Horreum« and the
Northern Area, 2023–2024*
Maximilian Rönnberg, University of Freiburg

14:30 *Incroci di vie, incroci di storia. Cosa nel medio
impero tra vecchie e nuove ricerche*
Ilaria Romeo and Martina Rodinò,
Università di Firenze

15:00 *The Mercantile Infrastructure of Cosa*
Clara Schmidt, University of Freiburg

15:25 Coffee Break

Session 5: Material Culture (Chair: Maximilian Rönnberg)

15:55 *The Brick Stamps*
Christina Cha, Florida State University

16:15 *The Inscriptions*
Christie Villarreal, Bryn Mawr College

16:35 *The Coins*
Melissa Ludke, Florida State University

16:55 *Zooarchaeological Data*
Jill Weber, Museum of Anthropology and
Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania

17:05 *Archaeobotanical Data*
Mette Marie Hald, National Museum of Denmark
and Maximilian Rönnberg, University of Freiburg

17:25 General Discussion

18:00 Aperitivo (for Speakers)