Galatian Gordion: A Celtic Town in Central Anatolia

by Professor Mary Voigt

In the early third century BC, Celtic groups moved out of their homeland in central Europe, through the Balkans and into Anatolia. Historical sources tell us that one of their major centers was Gordion, the ancient capital of Phrygia. Excavation at the site has exposed large areas of a settlement with monumental buildings as well as houses, workshops and ritual areas with evidence for human sacrifice. This lecture will describe the archaeological finds and how material culture can be used to understand migration and ethnicity.

Dr. Mary Voigt is currently the Chancellor Professor of Anthropology at the College of William and Mary. She received a BA in History and English from Marquette University and her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. She has taught at Vanderbilt University, Bryn Mawr College, and the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Voigt came to The College of William and Mary in 1990 from the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology, where she had served as editor of Expedition magazine and research assistant to the Museum's director, Robert H. Dyson.

Her research focuses on the prehistory and early history of the Middle East. She has conducted fieldwork in Iran and Turkey, and currently directs excavations at Gordion. She has also written on the social and economic organization of early communities in the Middle East, and the reconstruction of ideology from archaeological data. Recent publications include archaeological analyses of ethnicity, migration, urban organization and ritual practices.