Not-So-Innocents Abroad: The Beginnings of American Biblical Archaeology

Sunday, October 28, 2012
3:00pm
Michael C. Carlos Museum, Reception Hall
Emory University

The history of archaeology in the Holy Land is commonly associated with the nineteenth century accomplishments of British and European explorers, while Americans are often left out of the narrative. Although American accomplishments were less obvious, early American biblical archaeologists were insightful as well as innovative, adapting new technologies and methodologies to the work of archaeological exploration. They also brought with them a uniquely American Protestant outlook on archaeological work. This talk will begin with Edward Robinson’s trips to Ottoman Palestine in the 1830’s and 1850’s, move through the formation of the American Palestine Exploration Society in the 1870’s, and conclude with the first large scale American excavation project in Palestine in the early years of the twentieth century.

The lecture is sponsored by: Program in Mediterranean Archaeology, Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies, and Michael C. Carlos Museum. The event is free and open to the public.