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*Power, Politics and Palaces: King Herod’s Building Campaigns*

Sunday, April 6, 2014
3:00pm
Michael C. Carlos Museum, Reception Hall
Emory University

When Caesar Augustus appointed Herod to be the King of the Jews, the political and physical landscape of Judea was bleak. Herod, however, crafted a personal agenda that was to transform his country and his place in history. Reviled for his great cruelty and cunning, this king is now also recognized for his daring architectural innovations. He rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem and created the thriving port city of Caesarea Maritima with its enormous Temple of Roma and Augustus overlooking a thriving harbor just up the beach from one of his most luxurious palaces. He strategically placed his other palace-fortresses throughout the country in order to construct a network of administrative centers for oversight of a people who clearly disliked this influential king. The archaeological evidence from his palaces at Caesarea, Masada, and Herodium reveal an architectural genius, each palace designed with breathtaking synergy with its natural surroundings and clearly intended to impress. Herod’s final project, his tomb at Herodium, further transformed the already remarkable site. These sites will be presented in light of current findings and analyses, revealing various aspects of this powerful ruler.

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