

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**American Academy in Rome Appoints Caroline Goodson as
Next Andrew W. Mellon Humanities Professor**

NEW YORK (April 12, 2024) – Caroline Goodson, a professor of early medieval history at the University of Cambridge and a 2003 Rome Prize Fellow in medieval studies, has been appointed the next Andrew W. Mellon Humanities Professor, with a two-year term starting on August 21, 2024. The appointment was announced by AAR President Peter N. Miller and based on the recommendation of a search committee. Goodson succeeds interim Mellon Professor Allison L. C. Emmerson (2019 Fellow).

“Caroline Goodson’s eminence as a scholar of late antique and early medieval Europe signals our commitment not only to this field, but to promoting the highest quality scholarship,” said **AAR President Peter N. Miller**. “The perspective she brings as an archaeologist enriches her work on material culture and the environmental humanities and will help the Academy push forward its work in these areas.”

Goodson has taught at Cambridge since 2017, where she is also a Fellow in History at King’s College. Her scholarship bridges the disciplines of history, material culture studies, and archaeology, with a focus on the rise of early medieval polities in the Western Mediterranean, particularly in North Africa and Italy. She is interested in the nature of power in the early medieval world, and how various groups claimed to be successors to the Roman Empire.

Goodson’s first book, *The Rome of Pope Paschal I: Papal Power, Urban Renovation, Church Rebuilding, and Relic Translation, 817–824*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2010, considered the city of Rome and its governance in the early ninth century. Her second book, *Cultivating the City in Early Medieval Italy* (Cambridge, 2021), examined the phenomenon of urban gardening and the ways in which it provided opportunities for social negotiation. In addition to these monographs, Goodson has contributed to several excavation projects and their publication, most recently *Villa Magna: An Imperial Estate and Its Legacies* (London, 2016), and is the author of numerous scholarly articles.

Goodson received a BFA at the Rhode Island School of Design in 1997 and earned her PhD at Columbia University in 2004 in the Department of Art History and Archaeology. Prior to Cambridge, she was a member of the Department of History, Classics, and Archaeology at Birkbeck College, University of London. She was elected as a fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 2010.

“I am delighted to return to the American Academy in Rome in this role,” said **Caroline Goodson**. “Rome has been the problem which shaped me as a thinker. Working in Rome teaches us how to look beneath the surface: to go underground, around the corner, and to ask what came before and how it shaped what came after. In my own work, I have a forceful commitment to interdisciplinarity and will use this experience to bring Fellows together and create bridges between them and the intellectual richness of scholars and colleagues in Rome and across Italy.”

About the American Academy in Rome

Since 1894 the American Academy of Rome has functioned as a residential center for research and creativity. Its purpose has always been to enable highly motivated scholars and artists to immerse themselves in the experience of Rome, ancient and modern, and to be inspired by daily exchange with the other members of this creative community. The Academy has made an outsized impact on the intellectual and cultural life of the United States, and its Fellows and Residents have been recognized with 622 Guggenheim Fellowships, 74 Pulitzer Prizes, 53 MacArthur Fellowships, 26 Grammy awards, 5 Pritzker Prizes, 9 Poet Laureate appointments, and 5 Nobel Prizes. Approximately 35 Fellows are selected as winners of the Rome Prize each year by rotating juries in the different fields.

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