



The Study Group for Roman Pottery

NEWSLETTER 51

May 2011

S.G.R.P. Website - www.sgrp.org.uk

Remember to use our website for information and queries. If you would like to add an item, or suggest how the website may be developed, please contact

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News from the Committee



✓ President's note

Thanks to Gwladys for producing another full newsletter. We need **nominations for the post of treasurer** and someone to come forward to take over **Ted's role as the Website Manager**. Both roles are crucial to the Group and its future so please make time to consider how you could help.

We realise that a number of members will have difficulty getting to the AGM in Amsterdam. If there are any important decisions to be made, we will make sure information is circulated beforehand.

Details of the conference in Amsterdam are included below; it should be a great experience and I look forward to see you there. For our meeting in Amsterdam, Joanna Bird reminded the Committee that it might be a good idea to advise anyone taking pottery to Amsterdam to get some sort of formal note from the museum or unit that owns it, giving them permission to take it abroad for purposes of study. It is doubtful that you will have any problem at customs but it is better to be safe than sorry.

For those of us who cannot make it to Amsterdam, Chris Lydamore is organising a Regional Meeting on the 3rd of September in Harlow so there is another opportunity for us to meet this year.

The Study Group Website Manager

As most of you know, Ted Connell has created and looked after the Group's website for many years. We are all immensely grateful to him for singlehandedly managing this resource. Ted is now ready to step down and hand over the website and its maintenance. The Committee is therefore looking for a Study Group Member, with relevant IT skills and an interest in the future of our website, to take over its maintenance and development. It is not necessary to be elected to become Website manager, it is nonetheless an important post since the manager is involved in every committee meetings, all important decisions taken on behalf of the Group and promotes our Group on the Web. Ted is more than happy to assist with the transition.

If you are interested in this role, please contact Gwladys Monteil before the 20th of June 2011 (gwladys.monteil@nottingham.ac.uk).

If no-one comes forward before the AGM in Amsterdam, the Committee will look at external providers.

✓ Elections 2011

Treasurer

Louise Rayner has now completed three terms in office as Treasurer, making an enormous contribution to the Group. Louise, understandably, now feels that it really is time to pass the post of Treasurer/membership Secretary on. **We therefore URGENTLY need nominations for the post of Treasurer, as the post will become vacant at the AGM in June.** Please give some serious thought to this.

You will need good maths skills and a good working knowledge of MS Excel, a familiarity with the workings of SGRP projects and committee work. Year round duties involve paying in subs and cheques, processing new members, checking bank statements, keeping accounts and membership database up to date, preparing interim accounts for committee meetings and presenting annual account at the AGM, liaising with the Secretary and members of the committee as needed and looking after some aspects of the JRPS production and stocks. Louise will do a full handover and will be happy to help the new Treasurer whilst they get into the role.

If you think you might be interested in taking on the role Louise would be happy to informally discuss the responsibilities involved and provide more information on the specific aspects of the post (louise@lourayner.freeseve.co.uk).

Please take some time to consider this post, the success and future of the Group depend on the commitment of its members and committee members.

SGRP COMMITTEE NOMINATION PAPERS 2011

Treasurer (Louise Rayner term of office expired)

Nomination.....

Proposed by

Seconded by

Please complete the form above, print and return, with the nominee's permission, to Gwladys Monteil, Hon Secretary, 21 Wilberforce Road, Wisbech, PE13 2EX before the 20th of June 2011.



SGRP 2011 conference-Amsterdam



organised by
the VU Free University Amsterdam & the University of Amsterdam
Friday 24th - Sunday 26th June 2011

Provisional Programme

Friday 24th of June

10.30-12.30: registration (Allard Pierson Museum-TBC)

11.00-12.15: **AGM -SGRP members only** (Allard Pierson Museum-TBC)

Lectures will take place in Allard Pierson Museum (TBC. no. A on map)

12.30: start of conference

12.30-12.35: Welcome (Julie Van Kerckhove and Mark Driessen)

Session 1: Production sites on both sides of the Channel and the distribution of their wares

Chair: Steven Willis

12.35-13.05: The city of *Forum Hadriani*: a supply base for the military on the Dutch coast (Julie Van Kerckhove and Mark Driessen)

13.05-13.35: The North-Menapian coastal pottery tradition in the Roman period: a military-native interaction? (Sofie Vanhoutte and Wim De Clercq)

13.35-14.05: The distribution of Northern French pottery to Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands: a distinct choice of forms and categories (Sonja Willems/Stéphane Dubois/Cyrille Chaidron)

14.05-14.30: The Lower Nene Valley Ware: a major local and regional production centre (Rob Perrin)

14.30-15.00: *tea and coffee*

Session 2: Production and distribution of samian ware

Chair: Louise Rayner

15.00-15.30: A third century samian shop group from Nantes (Loire-Atlantique, France) (R. Delage, G. Monteil, N. Rouzeau & J. Pascal)

15.30-15.45: A late samian dish from Surrey (Joanna Bird)

15.45-16.15: Getting Samian Ware to Britain: routes and transport possibilities (Allard Mees and Geoff Dannell)

16.15-16.45: Distribution of *terra sigillata* from La Graufesenque to the Northern Provinces (Allard Mees and Rien Polak)

16.45-18.45: time to check in at hotel before meeting at 18.45 at the entrance of Allard Pierson Museum to walk to venue for dinner at 19.00

19.00: *dinner at Haesje Claes (No D on map)*

Saturday 25th of June

Lectures will take place in de Oudemanhuispoort 4 (no. B on map)

Session 3: The major wares in the Rhineland and Eifel region

Chair: TBC

9.00-9.30: Cologne products (Constanze Höpken)

9.30-10.00: Emergence of an industrial landscape: the Roman pottery centre Urmitz-Weissenthurm (Sibylle Friedrich)

10.00-10.30: The latest Roman pottery production at Mayen/Eifel (Germany). Archaeological findings and scientific analysis results (Lutz Grunwald)

10.30-11.00: tea and coffee

Session 4: Pottery production in the Batavian and Tungrian civitates and pottery consumption in the Dutch river area

Chair: TBC

11.00-11.45: Fluctuations in Roman pottery production in Nijmegen (Harry van Enckevort, Elly N.A. Heirbaut, Joep Hendriks)

11.45-12.15: Early Roman pottery production in the *civitas Tungrorum*: towards an integrated approach (Barbara Borgers)

12.15-12.45: A chronology of late-Roman ceramics imported to the Dutch River Area. The case of Wijk bij Duurstede-De Geer (Stijn Heeren)

12.45-13.45: lunch

Session 5: Pottery consumption in Britain and methodology in pottery studies

Chair: TBC

13.50-14.20: Trends in the presence of amphorae at sites in Roman Britain (Steven Willis)

14.20-14.50: Sub-Roman pottery production in South-eastern Britain (Malcolm Lyne)

14.50-15.20: Methodologies shedding light on the deposition of Roman pottery: Case Studies from the Lincolnshire Wolds (Emma Jackson)

15.20-15.50: Roman pottery studies in Britain: current practice and future strategies (Jane Evans)

15.50-16.05: An update on the Kilns digitization Project (TBC)

16.05-16.35: tea and coffee

16.35-17.45: workshop/studying pottery production.

The following delegates have agreed to bring pottery from production sites: Sofie Vanhoutte/Wim De Clercq, Sonja Willems/Stéphane Dubois/Cyrille Chaidron, Rob Perrin, Constanze Höpken, Sibylle Friedrich, Lutz Grünwald, Barbara Borgers, Annick Lepot (Tongeren), Harry van Enckevort.

The following delegates have agreed to bring pottery from consumption sites: Julie Van Kerckhove, Stijn Heeren.

17.45-18.45: Time to return to hotel before meeting at 18.45 at the entrance of Allard Pierson Museum to walk to venue for dinner at 19.00

19.00: gin tasting and dinner at De Admiraal (no. E on map)

Sunday 26th of June

9.00-13.00: Excursion. Please be at the entrance of Allard Pierson Museum for 8.45.
Boat trip along the river Rhine on a replica of the Roman shipwreck De Meern 1 that was found in Woerden. We will also visit the military sites of Woerden and Leidsche Rijn.

13.05 Excursion returns and Conference closes

Acknowledgments

The conference organizers wish to thank the following institutions for their help and contributions:

Universiteit van Amsterdam
University of Kent
VU-Free University Amsterdam
Study Group for Roman Pottery
ACVU-HBS (Archeologisch Centrum Vrije Universiteit - Hendrik Brunsting Stichting)



University of
Kent



As the SGRP-conference 2011 will take place in Amsterdam we will follow a programme around a theme broad enough to interest all delegates, whether they are working in the UK, the German Rhineland, the Low Countries or in France. This theme will be: 'pottery productions transported by the North Sea and the river Rhine'. Lectures will mainly be focussed on the production of pottery and the trading routes/mechanisms of these productions. A workshop will be organised where pottery (production material) will be displayed so delegates will have an opportunity to handle a range of fabrics that they might encounter on their excavations.

The conference organizers and the Study Group for Roman Pottery Committee have made considerable efforts to keep costs down by sourcing grants and help across the board. We particularly wish to thank the **Universiteit van Amsterdam**, the **VU-Free University Amsterdam**, **ACVU-HBS** (Archeologisch Centrum Vrije Universiteit-Hendrik Brunsting Stichting) and the **University of Kent** for their contribution.

Transport (airport)

The nearest airport is Schiphol (Amsterdam), where you can take the train to Amsterdam-Centraal (see F on Map. Then you can walk (15 minutes) to the Ibis-hotel: Hotel Ibis Amsterdam City Stopera, Valkenburgerstraat 68, 1011 LZ Amsterdam (see C on map) or you can take the subway (Waterlooplein, line 51, 53, 54).

The conference

The conference will take place in the **Allard Pierson Museum** (Oude Turfmarkt 127, Amsterdam-see **A on map**), see <http://allardpiersonmuseum.nl> and in the **Oudemanhuispoort 4-6** (see **B on map**). Both museum and lecture hall in the Oudemanhuispoort are within walking distance of the hotel.

Registration

Registration is now closed.

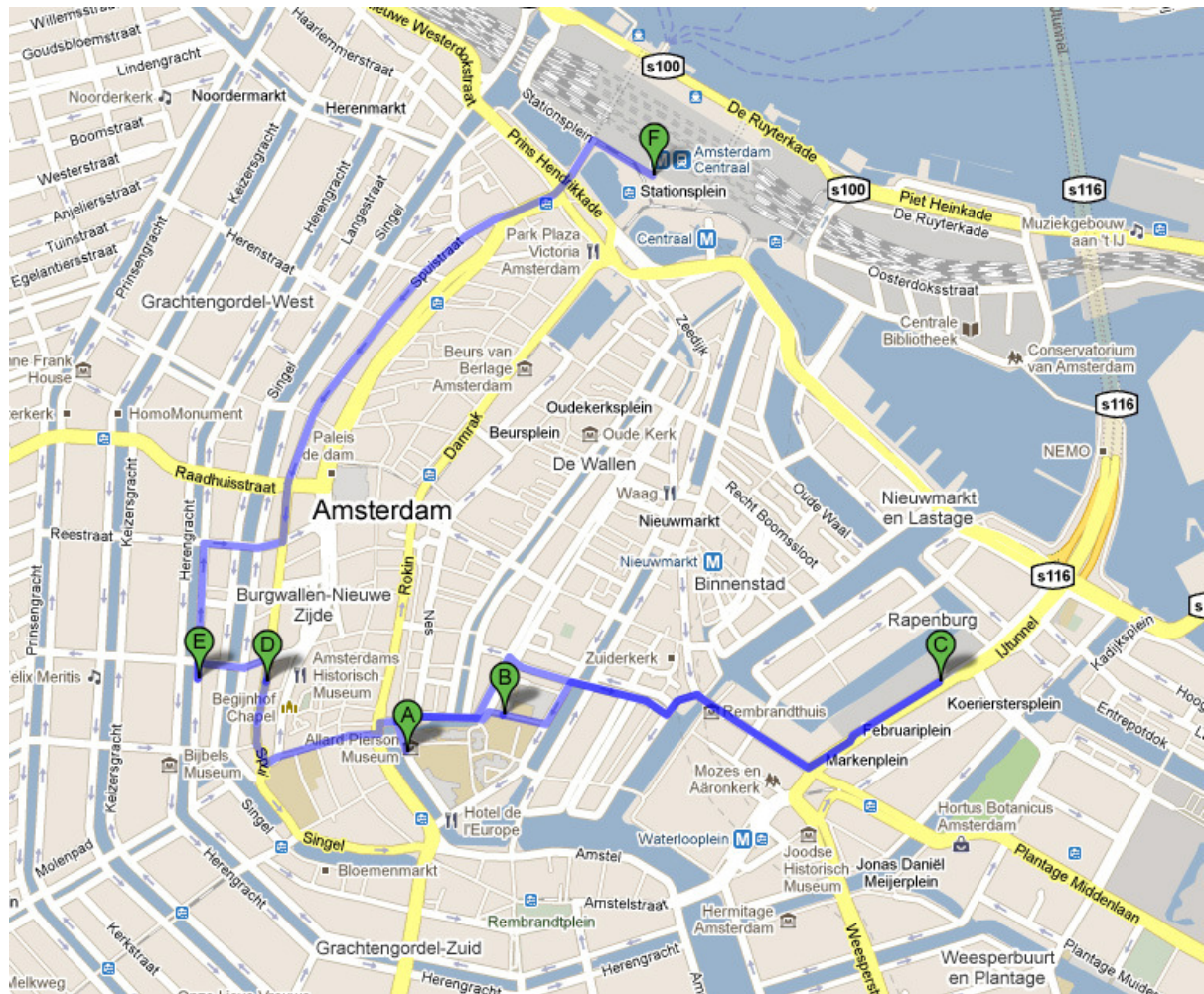
Dinners and gin tasting in distillery De Admiraal

The first evening (Friday the 24th) we will dine in Haasje Claes (see D on map). "Haasje Claes" is a restaurant situated in the historical centre of Amsterdam, between the Spui and the Dam square, across from the Amsterdam Historical Museum. The restaurant occupies six epic buildings, in which the original architectural features such as little steps, corridors and hallways all have been preserved. Likewise, the exterior of the building is a beautiful example of traditional Dutch architecture. See http://www.haesjeclaes.nl/?language=en_EN.

The second evening (Saturday the 25th) we will taste several gins in the authentic distillery De Admiraal (see E on map). Afterwards there will be a buffet at the same location. See <http://www.de-ooievaar.nl/english/>.

Excursion

On Sunday morning we will depart from the entrance of the Allard Pierson Museum for the excursion, which is a boat trip along the river Rhine on a replica of the Roman shipwreck De Meern 1 that was found in Woerden. We will also visit the military sites of Woerden and Leidsche Rijn.





Some recent research



✓ Roman fish sauce: an experiment in archaeology- by Sally Grainger

Many of you are I am sure aware of my work in Roman food. I have been demonstrating Roman food techniques and studying the ancient texts concerning the recipes and wider food ways of Rome for many years. Experimental archaeology has also played its part in this research. I recognised that I needed to acquire wider skills in archaeology, particularly since I wished to get to the bottom of the problems associated with understanding Roman fish sauce. It was clear that wider knowledge of fish sauce amphorae, the processing sites in Spain and North Africa, fish bone studies and also shipwreck archaeology was required.

Consequently I acquired an MA in Archaeology at the University of Reading and in the summer of 2009 I began extensive experiments to manufacture various kinds of Roman fish sauces and salted fish in order to observe the products in manufacture and the residue formation for my dissertation. This observational study would I hoped answer some of the more complex questions concerning fish sauce and particularly, in relation to the SGRP, the purpose and function of the various different amphorae shapes associated with fish products.

Among the many questions to answer, I hoped to be able to determine the nature of *allec*: the fish sauce residue and consider its role in the function of the hollow spike associated with the Dressel 7-11 and Beltran 2B forms of amphorae. Why some of these distinctive amphorae could also come with solid spikes was of particular interest.

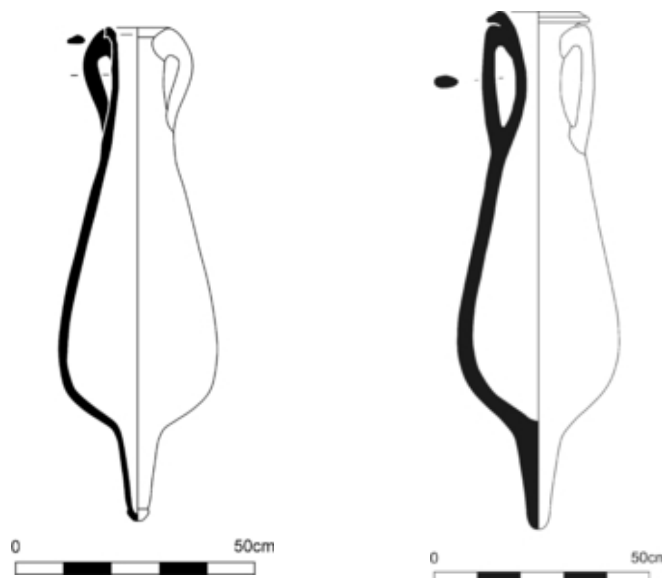


Fig. 1 The two types of Beltran 2b spikes: hollow and solid.

http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/archive/amphora_ahrb_2005/drawings.cfm?id=44

When *allec* was considered a paste suitable to serve at dinner parties and also as a food for slaves, how could it apparently contain large amounts of bone rendering it unfit for consumption? This type of fish sauce debris (in the form of sardine, anchovy, mackerel, sprat and herring bones) is often found identified in ship wreck amphorae and also associated with amphorae at processing or distribution sites throughout the Roman world. Fish bone experts, assuming fish sauce was a clear bone free product, have questioned why this cheap and commonplace product was being shipped so widely when it appears so economically irrational (Van Neer and Ervynck 2002: 208). These

questions as well as the wider issue of how to distinguish between the different types of fish sauces served as my main aims in conducting the project. It was also my objective to merge all the literary and archaeological evidence in a synthesis of fish sauce knowledge.



Fig 2 Fully disarticulated sardine bones within their *altec*.

My experiments are now concluded and I have been able to get up close and personal with quite a considerable amount of *altec*! I am in a position to offer some empirically-supported judgments and explanations for the design features of some fish sauce amphora. I will report on these findings at the next SGRP meeting at Harlow on the 3rd of September 2011.



Fig 3 The bones have been filtered from this protein rich sardine sauce and the *altec* or fish paste floats above the liquid which has a high density.

Reference:

VAN NEER, W. & A. ERVYNCK. 2002. Remains of traded fish in archaeological sites: indicators of status or bulk food?, in Sharyn Jones O'Day *et al.* (eds.), *Behaviour behind bones*: 203-14. Proceedings of the 9th ICAZ conference, Durham.



News and Updates



✓ The Roman Society first eNewsletter

The Roman Society's Archaeology Committee is currently preparing the 1st issue of a biannual eNewsletter that will be sent out to all Society members by email and also made available through the Society's website. We would like the eNewsletter to include a variety of features about the history, archaeology, literature and art of the Roman world, including new discoveries and research, forthcoming exhibitions, lectures and conferences, as well as archaeological excavations in Britain and beyond.

If you would like to inform fellow members about something newsworthy related to any aspect of the study of Rome and the Roman Empire, please send a summary to: office@romansociety.org. The editors request that contributions are informative yet succinct and that, where possible, items include an image or two as well as links to websites where members will find further information.

The deadline for submission of items for the 1st issue is **Monday 6 June**.

Peter Guest & Fraser Hunter
Editors

✓ Recent conferences and workshops by Jane Evans

The Roman Finds Group held their spring meeting at the Museum of London on 19th March. The meeting, titled 'Life in Roman Britain- every object tells a story,' marked the publication of 'Roman Artefacts,' edited by Lindsey Allason-Jones, to which the speakers were all contributors. Themes ranged from domestic life, through lighting and heating to medicine and death, and covered a range of materials...everything but pottery! There was an opportunity to look round the Roman galleries and, of course, buy the book! The day proved very interesting and was enjoyed by those who attended. It reminded me that it would be interesting to have more joint meetings. But the day ended on a more dispiriting note, with Jenny Hall discussing the potential of the Roman gallery, but also hinting at the very real impact of cuts.

The IFA conference, held this year in Reading in April, often provides a reminder of where we as pottery specialists fit in to the bigger archaeological picture, though sometimes we seem pretty marginal in the main debates. With the development and application of an SGRP strategy in mind, it was particularly useful to catch up on broader archaeological politics: the 'Southport Group' (see the piece below) and the National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP). The session on the NHPP focussed on understanding the significance of the historic environment, in the context of planning and protection. It promised to reflect 'the spectrum of historic environment assets from artefact to landscape' but, from my perspective at least, the emphasis was very much on landscapes and standing monuments, rather than buried archaeology, let alone artefacts. Both sessions highlighted the importance of engaging local communities, and this seemed to me an important point for the Study Group. One of our great strengths is the number of 'amateur' members we have, alongside those professionally employed in archaeology. Many of us will also have benefitted from the dedication of volunteers, processing vast quantities of Roman pottery from excavations. This is perhaps a strength we need to build on. From the point of view of the Study Group strategy, I found the session on 'Training: promoting best practice' very interesting. The sharing of expertise between specialists, and the training of future generations of specialists are both key issues coming through

the strategy document. Anthony Sinclair of the Higher Education Academy covered 'student learning, employability and the role of the academic sector.' The humanities and social sciences are particularly badly affected by the government cuts. He felt that, as a consequence, all but Winchester and Worcester amongst the universities teaching archaeology will be charging the full £9000. He also noted that those undertaking a humanities degree are likely to earn only c £54,000 more than non-graduates over a life time...basically the cost of doing the degree in the first place! With regard to future research funding, he felt that there will be less funding for research that is 'only' nationally recognised, it will need to be internationally recognised. He did feel that an archaeology degree provides a very useful set of transferable skills, but this is perhaps little compensation for those of us who would wish to see graduates staying in to archaeology. There was talk of the difficulty of persuading A level students to go to university, given the costs, and the fact that even highly qualified graduates do not have sufficient practical experience in the job market. Training placements and NVQs were suggested as a way of getting appropriate practical, vocational experience and skills, perhaps even done before a university degree.

I am ashamed to say I didn't make it to the session on 'New possibilities for old finds,' which I am told was very good. Unfortunately this clashed with a tour of Silchester led by Mike Fulford, which never having been there seemed an opportunity not to be missed!!

✓ Upcoming conferences, courses and workshops

- **SGRP REGIONAL MEETING AT THE MUSEUM OF HARLOW- 3rd of September 2011**

Chris Lydamore writes:

We will be looking at pottery from the late Iron Age through to the early Saxon period from the South Essex/Herts area.

So far the confirmed speakers are Isobel Thompson, Amy Thorpe, Sally Grainger, Nicky Metcalf, Lyn Blackmore and Simon West. We will also have table displays of local RB pottery.

Further details will be released when the final programme is settled.

- **EMAC 2011-11th European Meeting on Ancient Ceramics, Vienna- 29th of September to 1st of October 2011**

The 11th European Meeting on Ancient Ceramics, organized by VIAS - Institute for Archaeological Science, University of Vienna the Departement of EarthScience, University of Vienna and the Natural History Museum Vienna will be held at the Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria.

For more information: <http://emac2011.univie.ac.at/>

- **Kent Archaeological Field School**

Some of the courses and field trips organized by the Kent Archaeological Field School for 2011 might be of interest to some of you (see below for a short selection). For further details on all the courses and trips see their website: www.kafs.co.uk

1st August to 19th August, Excavation of Roman Town Houses and Cemetery near Syndale, part of the site of the Roman Town of Durolevum.

The site of the lost Roman town of Durolevum is now established at Syndale, near Faversham.

The town appears in the Antonine Itinerary, but its location was later forgotten, until it was re-discovered and confirmed as the site of the town by the activities of the Kent Archaeological Field School. This year we will spend two weeks excavating and recording Roman remains on the west side of the town. KAFS member's special fee £30 per day, non-members £35 per day.

September 10th, Roman Cookery

The course, led by food historian Sally Grainger, will introduce students to the art of Roman cooking. Sally is well known for her book 'Cooking Apicius: Roman recipes for today'. Working with replica Roman equipment such as mortarium and testum (a portable oven) the course will demonstrate a number of recipes and allow students to participate in the production of a small Roman feast which can then be consumed. An apron and comfortable shoes are recommended. This is a practical course and numbers are restricted to eight people. The dishes prepared will not be suitable for people who don't eat fish. Cost for the day is £60 (No discount for members).

September 17th & 18th, How to Identify Roman Pottery

A course led by Malcolm Lyne is for those who want to distinguish the many types of Roman pottery found on British archaeological sites. On Sunday there will be a hands-on session followed by a visit to the Ospringe Museum to view with Malcolm Lyne Roman pottery from the cemetery of the adjacent Roman town of Durolevum. Cost for the weekend is £75 (10% KAFS members discount).

October 1st & 2nd, Archaeological Drawing

A beginner's and refresher course introducing participants to drawing archaeological artifacts. The reasons for drawing artifacts and the principles of archaeological illustration will be explained. There will be practical sessions each day demonstrating how to illustrate pottery, bone, metal and other artifacts found on archaeological sites. Course led by Jane Russell, who was senior illustrator of the UCL Field Archaeology Unit. Cost is £75 (10% discount for KAFS members).

September 23rd, 24th, 25th, Field Trip to Imperial Rome

An informal tour with Dr Paul Wilkinson of the glories of this ancient capital, centre of one of the greatest Empires in the world.

October 8th to 13th Pompeii, Herculaneum, and the Bay of Naples

This trip is for the cognoscenti who have been before but want to spend more time at Pompeii and Herculaneum. Staying at Stabiae in a four star hotel overlooking the Sorrento Coast we will travel by exclusive private coach to all of the archaeological sites. A free copy of Dr Wilkinson BBC book- 'Pompeii' is part of the package. Saturday: Flight to Naples, transfer to the hotel and a tour of the Amalfi coast. Sunday: Naples archaeological museum and the Roman villas at Stabiae.

December 3rd to 8th, Winter trip to Roman Germany

A two-centre trip to the heart of Roman Germanica, the hard-won frontier of the Empire. Who can forget the opening scene of the film *Gladiator*, set in the Teutoburg forest? This trip will coincide with the Christmas markets.

✓ Improving historic environment practice-consultation

Recommendations for improving historic environment practice – the Southport Group seeks your views. The Southport Group has launched an online public consultation to gather opinion on a ground-breaking draft report that outlines recommendations and products for improving historic environment practice to ensure delivery of consistent excellence in public benefit.

The consultation officially launches at the IfA Conference on 13 April and runs until 3 June 2011. All content can be found on the Southport webpage: <http://www.archaeologists.net/southport>

The draft report considers key areas of planning-led investigation of the historic environment, identifies obstacles to optimum delivery in the past, presents a vision for new ways of working under PPS5 principles, and makes detailed practical recommendations to reach that vision. The impetus for change stems from the 2010 publication of Planning Policy Statement 5, which offers an extraordinary and rare opportunity for the historic environment sector to ensure its work is truly driven by the interests of what has been discovered or lost and that its overall purpose is the realisation of public benefit. The consultation asks historic environment professionals to provide written feed-back on whether they endorse the report visions, recommendations and proposed products, and to suggest any changes or additional commendations/products before the June deadline. Comments will help to shape the final report due to launch in July 2011.

Organisations assigned with actions in the report recommendations will be approached over coming weeks and asked if they wish to endorse the visions and commit, insofar as resources allow, to the recommendations subject to any changes they propose. The intention is for key sector bodies to indicate, at the launch of the final report in July, their intention to implement the report's recommendations.

This is the best opportunity for the sector and those it serves since 1990, and it could well be another 20 years before another chance like this comes along. Please do make this consultation count. Comments on the report should be emailed to southport@archaeologists.net

✓ Names on Terra Sigillata-volume 7 is now published

Supplement 102.7 Names on Terra Sigillata Vol.7 is now published. This volume is priced at £84 full price with an introductory price of £70.

If you would like to order a copy please get in touch with:

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