
Canberra Archaeological Society/Centre for Archaeological Research
Public Lecture

Wednesday October 19
7.30pm
Manning Clark Theatre 6, ANU

**Archaeology as Place Memory:
Comparing archaeological place-making in north eastern United States, Quebec and
Australasia**



The President's House, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA:
Photograph Tracy Ireland April 2011

In this paper I explore how urban archaeological places are created and experienced in the north eastern United States and Quebec, and compare this with recent research on comparative sites in Australia and New Zealand. While there is extensive international literature on best practice for archaeological conservation and preservation in situ, there is more limited discussion of the meanings of the places created and how they are experienced and understood by communities. I have been working towards understanding how people experience and understand these historical archaeological sites and how this intersects with place and identity in postcolonial contexts—where historical solid ground is so often sought in the context of political and cultural debates about the meaning of the past in the present.

Dr Tracy Ireland

Tracy is an archaeologist, heritage researcher and has been Convener of the Cultural Heritage Program and Director of the Donald Horne Institute for Cultural Heritage University of Canberra, since 2009. Tracy previously led the Canberra office of Godden Mackay Logan, Heritage Consultants. She is currently working on a project looking at the conservation of historical archaeological remains in situ called 'Material Memories', funded by a UC Deputy Vice Chancellor's Fellowship. As part of her research, Tracy visited the United States, Canada and Denmark in April and May 2011.

AGM

Canberra Archaeological Society

Wednesday November 23

7.30pm

Manning Clark Theatre 6, ANU

followed with a presentation by

Professor Graham Connah

Changes in Archaeology 1948 – 2011



In this issue:

ANU Classics Friends notice	3
Jill Downer FCM Memorial Fund	4
Exploring Australia's indigenous Watercraft	5
Ötzi and his bad teeth	6
Archaeology in Art—'Core'	8
Roman civilization travelled further than history books tell us	9



Due to an absence overseas by the editorial staff last month's issue was unable to be produced. We apologized for any inconvenience.



The Friends of the ANU Classics Museum

8 pm, Friday 21 October 2011
The Tank (Haydon Allen Lecture Theatre),
Australian National University

Deficient in logic, but with the gift of inference : Pioneering Women of Ancient World Studies Inaugural Beryl Rawson Memorial Lecture by Dr Lea Beness

An illustrated lecture examining the lives and careers of pioneering women of ancient world studies from 1683 to today, closing with a very particular concern aired at the 142nd Meeting of the American Philological Association in San Antonio this year. It will also ask the question: are readings of the past subject to a gendered perspective?

Educated at the University of New England, Lea is Lecturer in Macquarie University's Department of Ancient History. With research interests on the politics of the Late Roman Republic, she is also chief investigator of the *Macquarie Dictionary of Roman Biography* with her colleague Tom Hillard. Apart from writing extensively on women's roles in ancient history, Lea has also taken part in underwater excavations at Caesarea Maritima in Israel and at Torone, northern Greece.

The lecture will be preceded by a short address on Beryl Rawson's life and work by Bruce Marshall, former Associate Professor at the University of New England. Bruce has been honorary secretary of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies for almost 20 years, and was made a Member in the Order of Australia this year for services to the humanities and education.

Supper in the Museum will follow, where our new items of merchandise will be on sale, all proceeds of which help us acquire further items for the Museum.



Many people in the Canberra community and beyond have been greatly saddened by the recent untimely death of Jill Downer. Jill was an indefatigable organiser in many cultural fields, as well as a warm and generous friend to many people; few of us touch as many lives as she did. Among Jill's many passions was the ANU Classics Museum, where she worked tirelessly on the Committee of the Friends. We will especially miss her commitment, her organisational energy and her enthusiasm in promoting all things classical. Several people have suggested that Jill's unique contribution should be honoured in some appropriate way by the FCM. As the development of the Museum was so dear to Jill, it seems fitting to set up a memorial fund in her name, with a view to purchasing something special for the Museum collection. When the funds have been raised and the purchase made the Committee



Image: © Billy Missi

Nawi : Exploring Australia's Indigenous Watercraft

Conference

Australian National Maritime Museum

30 May to 1 June 2012

Sydney Aboriginal people used the word *nawi* to describe the bark canoes that plied their harbour. Early European colonists remarked how the craft were 'most perfectly adapted' to their functions. Across Australia there is a widespread variation in type, materials and construction technologies. However there has been no significant typological study of traditional indigenous craft across Australia, and no survey of craft in museum and other collections today. There is no national picture of such a significant area of more than 40,000 years of Australia's maritime history.

In 2012 the Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM) will host a two-day national conference on Australia's indigenous watercraft. This, the first major conference on the watercraft of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, seeks to bring together practitioners and theorists from a range of institutions, groups, communities and individuals interested in the history, conservation, construction, interpretation and presentation of indigenous watercraft. Demonstrations and talks by traditional canoe builders and people engaged in reviving canoe building practices and knowledge will be a highlight.

Call for papers and presentations

The conference steering committee is calling for papers, presentations, displays, demonstrations and performances that explore the history, diversity, significance and interpretation of indigenous watercraft.

Sessions will be held on stories and traditions, diversity and design, imagery, trade and navigation, materials and techniques, interpretation, collaboration and outreach.

Papers might address the role of watercraft and waterways in historical trade routes, the revival and continuity of traditional canoe-making skills, European and Indigenous views of watercraft, and histories of rivers and oceans as nodes of cultural exchange.

From the bound bark and reed canoes of Tasmania, the flat bark canoes of the Murray- Darling, to the fan-shaped Bardi rafts of north-western Australia and the double outriggers of Torres Strait, the conference will be an important and vibrant exploration of the wonderful array of traditional craft, their continuity and revival.

Proposals - Please submit either a written abstract of maximum 300 words, images or a short description of the activity you would like to present.

If you would like to be on our conference mailing list please send your email address to

nawi@anmm.gov.au or visit the website at www.anmm.gov.au/nawi

Registration forms will be available on the ANMM website on the events page by 1 December 2011

Ötzi and his bad teeth

Remember Ötzi the Iceman? In September 1991 two German tourists in the Alps on the border between Austria and Italy found what first was thought a modern body emerging from the edge of a glacier. The body was lying on its front with the upper torso exposed. The clothing on the body and associated equipment - an axe, dagger, bow, quiver, arrows, net & backpack, soon lead to the realisation that it was not a modern body but perhaps a hunter from the distant past.



Ötzi as he was discovered in 1991.

The body was crudely removed by the Austrian authorities using a small jackhammer and ice picks which punctured the hip area; but before it was removed from the ice it became a bit of a local show piece with over-curious people removing portions of clothing and tools as souvenirs. What followed was a political tiff between Austrian and Italian government authorities over who could claim the body, where it should be stored and who should manage the research opportunities. Eventually it was Italy who established their legitimacy as the body (when found) was lying just inside the Italian border. The body now rests on display at the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology in Bolzano.

Since those early days Ötzi, as he become know, has been extensively studied both anthropological and medically with numerous popular and scientific books and papers published about him. It has been established that Ötzi lived around 5,300 years ago in what was the European Chalcolithic Age (or Copper Age). He is Europe's oldest natural human mummy (in the broad sense of the term) and has offered an unprecedented view into human life at that time.

A recent study using the latest computer tomography (CT scan) technology has revealed that Ötzi had rather bad dental health. Although he had all his teeth at time of death, at about the age of 40 years, he had advanced abrasion on his teeth, profound carious lesions, and moderate to severe periodontitis (gum disease).

The molars of the upper jaw also showed substantial loss of alveolar bone (the jaw area housing the teeth).

But the most surprising thing about Ötzi's teeth was the high frequency of cavities.

Now, this description of dental health in a modern 40 year old who was not fussy about a toothbrush and didn't visit a dentist would not be unusual. Our dietary choices are often high in sugars and sticky carbohydrates.

But in Ötzi, whose diet would not have contained the sugary foods we know, it is unusual. The examiners consider that this type of dental health 5,300 years is an indication of dietary change. It would appear that grains such as einkorn or emmer, the early cultivated forms of wheat, were a big part of Ötzi's diet. They

contained high levels of carbohydrates and that seems to be the cause of his dental problems, particularly the high incident of cavities. It would seem then that Ötzi' may have spent more time in an agricultural community than as a hunter as was originally considered.

Ötzi now has his own Facebook pages (<http://www.facebook.com/OetziTheIceman>)

Would you like to see Ötzi?

Then come on a tour to Italy in September 2012

This tour will experience the long history and archaeology of Italy from the Neolithic Age 6,000 years ago by concentrating on many of the **UNESCO listed World Heritage places**.

Your group leaders will be Dr Peter Dowling and Dianne Dowling

Beginning in Rome the tour will take in the famous sites of the capital city including the Coliseum, Roman Forum, Vatican City and St Peters Basilica. While based in Rome we will take a step back into the ancient past by visiting the mysterious Etruscan sites, the precursors to Roman civilization. We will later journey further back into the past by visiting the famous rock engravings at Valcamonica which date from the Neolithic Age (6,000 years ago) to the Medieval and Roman periods. We will also make a special visit to see Ötzi the 5,300 year old 'Iceman' who was found



preserved in an alpine glacier. We will visit the famous archaeological sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum where a devastating volcanic eruption destroyed the city in AD79; take a day trip to Naples to visit the National Archaeology Museum where many of the artefacts from Pompeii are housed; and take a drive along the world famous Amalfi coast. Along the way we will enjoy the more recent history, culture and delights of Venice, Umbria, Pisa, Florence, Alberobello and Sorrento. Sicily is next where we will be exploring the history and culture of the island including Syracuse, Palermo and the archaeological area of Agrigento founded as a Greek colony in the 6th century B.C. Agrigento became one of the leading cities in the ancient Mediterranean world.

Contact the ACT National Trust on: (02) 6230 0533 Monday – Friday info@nationaltrustact.org.au
National Trust of Australia (ACT) in conjunction with Travelscene Canberra City



Archaeology in Art—'Core'

by Martin Rowney

Local archaeologist Martin Rowney who works at Godden Mackay Logan's Canberra office is also a student of sculpture at the ANU. Last month he exhibited his latest work, titled 'Core', for the Willoughby Sculpture Prize, held at the incinerator of that name in Sydney. Rowney states that "Core is a response to the history and archaeology of the Willoughby Incinerator and its relationship to rubbish disposal. It reflects the development of the site and changing approaches to consumerism, materialism and waste by showing imagined layers and strata that could conceivably be in the ground at the Incinerator." Core mixes art and archaeology to draw people into thinking about the nature of archaeological sites and the specific nature of the debris we leave behind—the individual cultural signature of a place as present the archaeological record. Every place will have a unique signature like this, some having a more tangible and realisable mark than others.



Core is a 2.5 metres high column constructed from concrete (cement), earth and sand with objects sourced from family, friends and charity shops embedded at different depths. The layers have been carefully graded to particular periods; oldest at the bottom, youngest at the top; to relay both changes in material used for household goods and consumer taste. The viewer can ponder our consumer throw-away culture, the journey from desirable new object to cast-off rubbish, or be transported back into a half forgotten past by the once familiar patterns on shattered china or the several dented broken toys embedded in the column. Rowney himself admitted that in sourcing household china for his sculpture he was transported back in time to realise how his parents had been fashionably modern in their taste. Core is a fascinating sculpture which combines artistic response, history memory and archaeology.

Martin's next venture will have another archaeologically inspired theme. We will keep you posted.

Roman civilization travelled further than history books tell us

(Credit: Portable Antiquities Scheme and the University of Exeter)

A University of Exeter archaeologist's research has uncovered the largest Roman settlement ever found in Devon. The discovery could force us to rewrite the history of the Romans in Britain.

The discovery of a large Roman Settlement in Devon was the result of a chance metal detecting coin find. Danielle Wootton, the Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and archaeologist at the University of Exeter was called on to investigate further.



Two metal detectorists discovered nearly a hundred Roman coins in a series of fields a several miles west of Exeter. This would not be unusual in other parts of Britain but it has always been thought that Roman influence never made it this far into Devon as there is little evidence of Romans in the South West Peninsula of Britain.

After the results of a geophysical survey Wootton was astonished to find evidence of a huge settlement including roundhouses, quarry pits

and track ways. The site covers at least thirteen fields and is the first of its kind for the county.

Wootton received funding from the British Museum, the Roman Research Trust and Devon County Council Archaeology Service to carry out a trial excavation on the site in June. This has uncovered evidence of trade with Europe, a road possibly linking to the major settlement at Exeter, and some intriguing structures, as well as many more coins.

University of Exeter archaeologist Danielle Wootton said: "This is a really exciting discovery, but we are just at the beginning; there's so much to do and so much that we still don't know about this site. I'm hoping that we can turn this into a community excavation for everyone to be involved in, including the metal detectorists. I am very grateful to Earthwatch for funding next year's excavations, but we still need more funding to run the excavation.

"Most exciting of all, we have stumbled across two burials that seem to be located along the side of the settlement's main road. It is early days, but this could be the first signs of a Roman cemetery and the first glimpse of the people that lived in this community."

Sam Moorhead, National Finds Adviser for Iron Age and Roman coins for the PAS at the British Museum, believes that this is one of the most significant Roman discoveries in the country for many decades. He said: "It is the beginning of a process that promises to transform our understanding of the Roman invasion and occupation of Devon. I believe we may even find more settlements in this area in the next few years."

Future excavations at the site are being funded by Earthwatch, Devon County Council and the University of Exeter, and will be directed by Danielle Wootton in conjunction with the University's Roman archaeology specialist, Dr. Ioana Oltean. The project will provide the wider community and University students with an exciting opportunity for fieldwork experience and training.

<http://www.physorg.com/news/2011-08-roman-civilization-history.html>