

Society for Medieval Archaeology

Society for Medieval Archaeology Student Colloquium

3rd-5th November 2016

Free University of Brussels



Table of Contents

Welcome and Sponsors details	2
Locations and Maps	3
Programme	7
Abstracts	12
Poster Session	38
Keynote Speaker & Local Host	39

Welcome from the Society for Medieval Archaeology

Marit Van Cant (PhD student Free University of Brussels (VUB) and the University of Sheffield) –
Student Representative of the Society for Medieval Archaeology 2016-2017

Dear participants,

I would like to welcome you to the 2016 Society for Medieval Archaeology Student Colloquium, this year to be held in the capital of Europe, Brussels. I truly hope that its international and cosmopolitan environment will foster the debate on medieval archaeology, and that it will stimulate you to continue the discussion and to expand your network. Above all, I hope you will enjoy the rich culture that the city of Brussels has to offer, and that you will have the opportunity to explore a few of our other historical cities in Belgium such as Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp,...

My sincere appreciation goes to Prof. Dr Dries Tys and Dr Pieterjan Deckers for their input and suggestions!

Thanks are due to our keynote lecturer Dr Anton Ervynck, session chairs, Doctoral School of Humanities (VUB), Dawn Hadley, Helena Hamerow, Sarah Semple, Duncan Sayer, Emma Lockwood, Sarah Kerr, Emma Green, Rory Sherlock, Alexandra De Poorter, Britt Claes, Jan Huyghe, Frederik Roelens, Mathieu de Meyer, and to each presenter/participant who travelled to contribute to this stimulating discussion of medieval archaeology.

I am also grateful to our VUB (Free University of Brussels) Art&Archaeology students-volunteers: Ella De Gregorijs, Alix Elslander, Rone Fillet, Mathias Hermans, Rosalie Hermans, Sarah Marsman, Rachel Spros and Elise Van Bosch for their eternal enthusiasm and ideas!

I would also like to thank our sponsors for this year's event:

Society for Medieval Archaeology
<http://www.medievalarchaeology.co.uk/>

Free University of Brussels
<http://www.vub.ac.be/>

Raakvlak (Intermunicipal Service for Archaeology in Bruges and the Surrounding Area)
<http://www.raakvlak.be>

Visit.Brussels
<https://visit.brussels/en/>

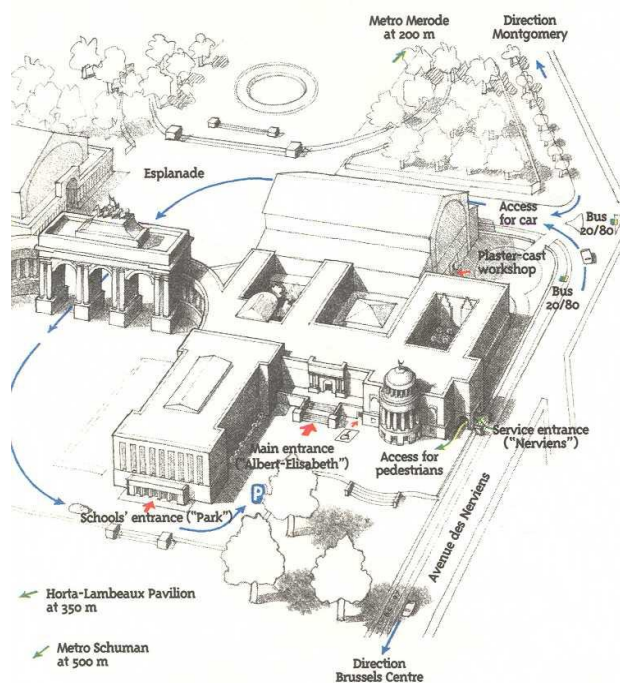
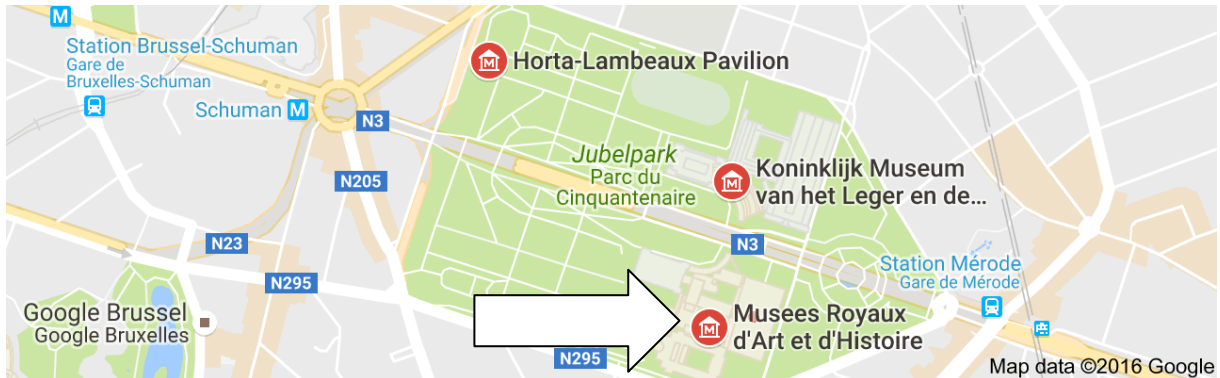
Beta Analytic
<https://www.radiocarbon.com>

Cinquantenaire Museum (Royal Museums of Art and History)
<http://www.kmkg-mrah.be/cinquantenaire-museum/>

Best wishes, and have a fantastic and inspiring Colloquium in Brussels!
Marit (mail: marit.van.cant@vub.ac.be, or mobile: 32477660368 – in case you did not like our beer!;)

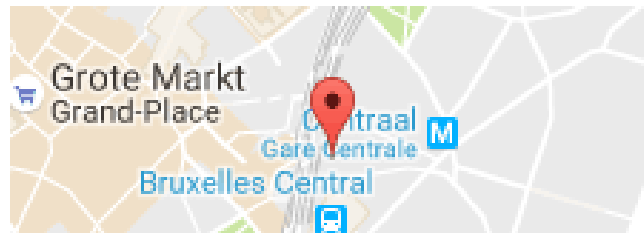
Locations and Maps

Paper and poster presentations on **Thursday, Nov. 3rd** and **Friday, Nov. 4th** will be held in the auditorium of the **Cinquantenaire Museum**, Parc du Cinquantenaire 10, 1000 Brussels.



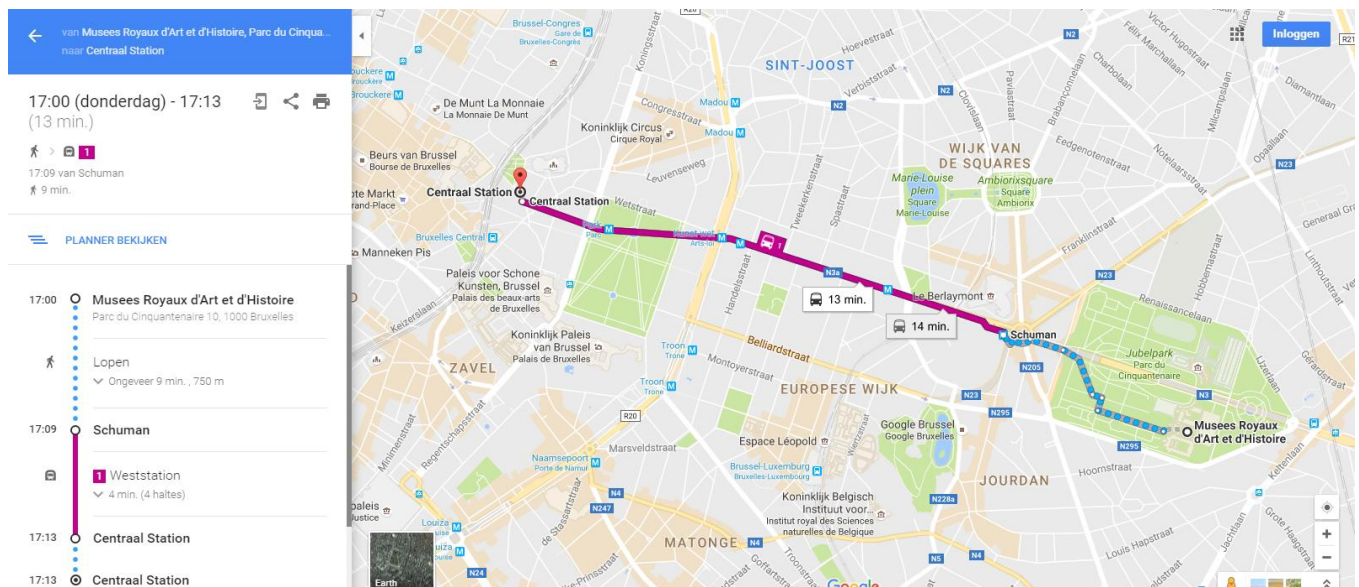
Royal Museums for Art and History (MRAH-KMKG)
Cinquantenaire Park 10 – 1000 Brussels

Early registration on **Wednesday Nov. 2nd** will take place at **BrewDog Cafe** (next to Central Station), Putterij 20, Brussels, from 18.00. At 19.00, we will assemble opposite the cafe at the main entrance of the Central Station to start the walking tour through archaeological Brussels by our local host Prof. Dr Dries Tys.

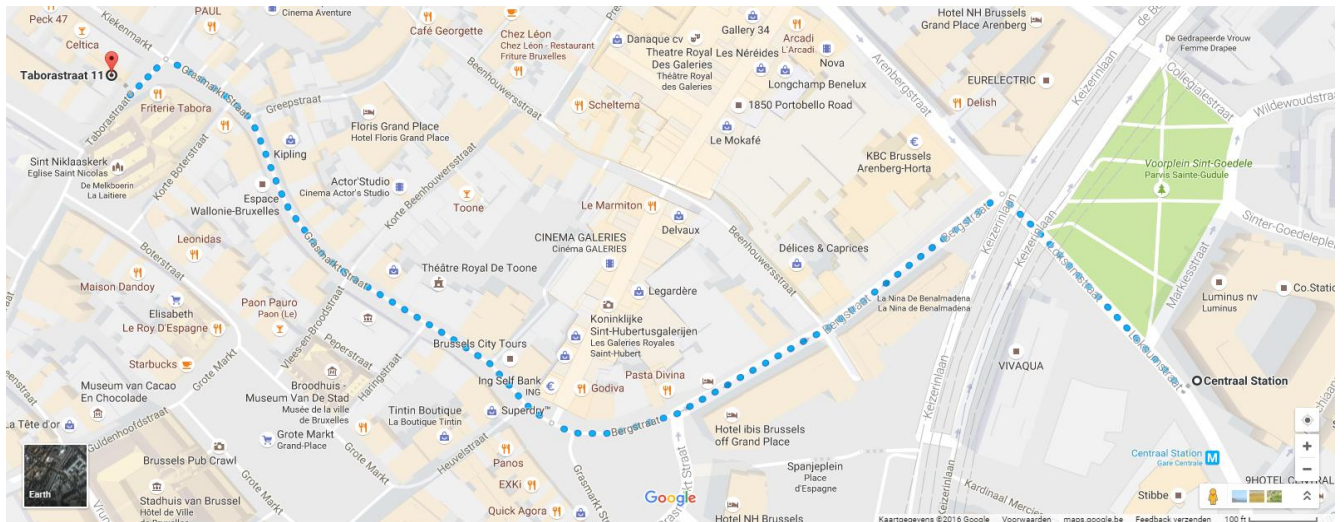


The keynote lecture by Dr Anton Ervynck on **Thursday evening Nov. 3rd, 18.00**, will be held at **A la Becasse (first floor)**, Taborastraat 11, 1000 Brussels, followed by our Belgian Beer&Nibbles Tasting Reception.

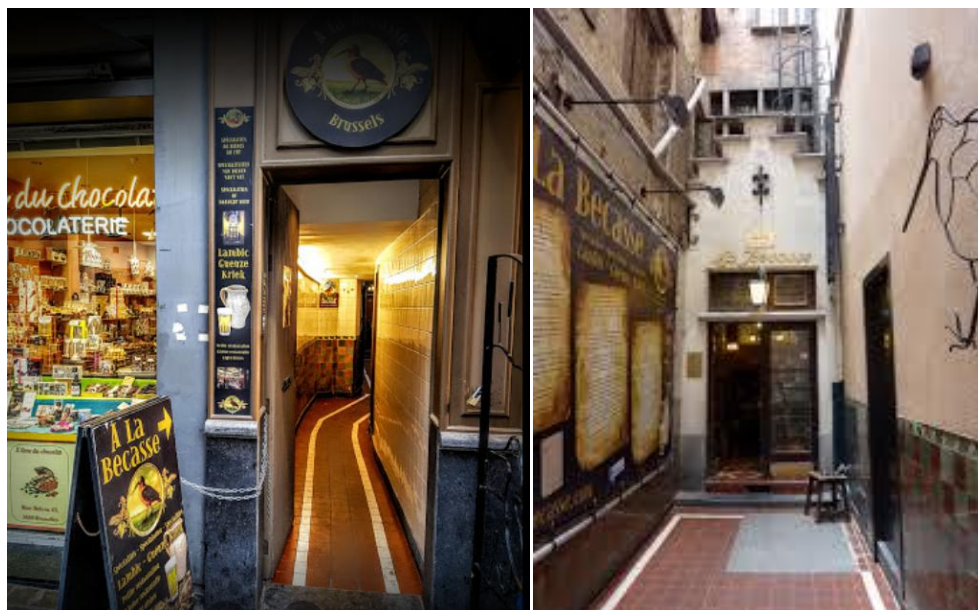
Our student volunteers will guide the group from the Cinquantenaire Museum to 'A la Becasse'. In case you got lost, or want to travel by yourself, the easiest way to go there is to take Metroline 1 at Schuman (direction: *Weststation/Gare de l'Ouest*), and get off at *Centraal Station/Gare Centrale* - 4 stops)



Take the main exit at the Central Station. It's app. 7 minutes by foot from the train station to *Taborastraat* 11. (when you are in the *Grasmarktstraat*, the *Taborastraat* will be the 5th street on the left).



You will find '**A la Becasse**' on the right side where you enter a small corridor. At the end, you'll arrive in one of the oldest establishments of Brussels (founded in 1877!), and renowned for its tradition of Belgian beers - some of them (the famous Lambic, Gueuze and Kriek or cherry beer) are even served in stone jugs!



The keynote lecture and beer reception will take place in the lounge on the first floor.

The conference dinner on **Friday Nov. 4th at 19.00** will be served in **Volle Gas**, Fernand Cocqplein 21, 1050 Elsene.

Programme

Wednesday 2nd November

- 18.00 Registration desk open for early registration at
BREWDOG café, Putterij 20, 1000 Brussels (close to Central Station)
- 19.00 Guided tour through archaeological Brussels by **Prof. Dr Dries Tys** (professor
Medieval Archaeology, Free University of Brussels) (meeting point: CENTRAL
STATION MAIN ENTRANCE, opposite BrewDog)

Thursday 3rd November

- 08.45-09.10 Registration and refreshments
- 09.10-09.20 Welcome address from Dr Duncan Sayer
Honorary Treasurer of the Society for Medieval Archaeology
- 09.20-10.35 **Session 1 – Early Medieval Cross-sea Connections**
Chaired by Britt Claes
- Connectivity and the Exchange of Ideas in Early Medieval Europe: Burial
Transition in Alemannia and Anglo-Saxon England*
Emma Brownlee, University of Cambridge
- Cross-Channel Interactions before Quentovic: a View from the Pas-de-Calais*
Irene Bavuso, University of Oxford
- Antiquity and Affiliation: Roman Objects and Identity in Anglo-Saxon and
Merovingian Graves 5th to 7th centuries AD*
Indra Werthmann, Durham University
- 10.35-11.00 Coffee/Tea Break
- 11.00-12.30 **Session 2 – Landscape Dynamics**
Chaired by Barbora Wouters
- Socio-economic Changes in the Landscape of Early Medieval Ireland c.AD300-
1000*
John Tighe, Trinity College Dublin
- Régime domanial classique and incastellamento at S. Salvatore on Mount
Amiata (9th-10th centuries). The Written Sources*
Lorenzo Tabarrini, University of Oxford

Land Clearances and Historical Farms. An Archaeological, Palaeo-ecological and Historical Inquiry into Medieval Clearances in the Ghent area (East-Flanders, Belgium)

Ewoud Deschepper, Ghent University

Topographic Analysis and the Concept of Horizontal Stratigraphy: Problems and Solutions

Benjamin Morton, Newcastle University

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.00 Session 3 – Urban Formation

Chaired by Prof. Dr Dries Tys

Domestic Architecture and Urban Fabric in Chateaufort (Tours)

Emeline Marot, Université François-Rabelais de Tours

Explaining Urban Fabric on the Long-term through the Case Study of Vendôme (Loir-et-Cher, France)

Gaël Simon, Université François-Rabelais de Tours

Who Were the Urban Liao? - The Cultural Salience of 'Urban' Identity in a Mobile Society

Lance Pursey, University of Birmingham

Middle Islamic Ceramics from the Northwest Quarter of Jerash

Alex Peterson, University of Aarhus

15.00-15.25 Coffee/Tea Break

15.25-16.40 Session 4 – Travel and Seafaring

Chaired by Prof. Dr Dries Tys

Neighbouring Realms: Cartographic Traditions of the Medieval European and Arabic Worlds. Untangling a World View: The Stories Maps Can Tell

Aiko Uytterhaegen, University of Leuven

The Zeebrugge-Wreck. A Forgotten Early 16th-century Merchantman off the Belgian Coast

Hendrik Lettany, University of Southern Denmark

Travel and Trade: Migration in Medieval Ipswich

Eleanor Farber, University of Oxford

16.40-17.00 Information and 'sailing out' to the other venue...

'A la Becasse', Taborastraat 11, 1000 Brussels (1st floor)

CHANGE OF VENUE:

- 18.00-19.00** Keynote lecture by **Dr Anton Ervynck** (Flanders Heritage Agency)
The Food that Mattered: A Reality Check on Changing Post-Roman Consumption Patterns
- 19.00-** Belgian Beer&Nibbles Tasting Reception

Friday 4th November

09.15-09.30 Registration and refreshments

09.30-10.45 **Session 5 – Landscape and Beliefs**
Chaired by Dr Sarah Kerr

Myth or Reality? Re-thinking the Early Medieval Monastic Landscapes in Britain

Beatrice Widell, Uppsala University

One more for the Ancestors: House commemoration in Viking-age Iceland
Timothy Carlisle, University of Aberdeen

“Gyda Tells You To Go Home”—Text Messaging and Archaeology
Elisabeth Magin, University of Nottingham

10.45-11.05 Coffee/Tea Break

11.05-12.35 **Session 6 – The Biography of an Artefact**
Chaired by Maxime Poulain

The Individual Behind the Artefact: How Can Objects and Their Landscape Associations Illuminate Early Medieval Identity in Suffolk?

Justine Biddle, University of Central Lancashire

Copper-alloy 'Binding Strips': a 12th-Century Pan-European Object Type

Rob Webley, University of York/the British Museum

Microwear Analyses on Early Medieval Combs

Nathalie Pil, Free University of Brussels

A Bright Breaking. The Goldsmithing Techniques of the Discoid Brooches Between the 6th and the 7th Centuries in the Northern Merovingian Gaul

Valentine De Beusscher, University of Louvain

12.35-14.05 Lunch (+ free museum visit)

14.05-15.00 **Session 7 – Landscape and Defence**

Chaired by Dr Duncan Sayer

Messages at Light Speed: Communications and 'Landscapes of Defence' in Anglo-Saxon England

David Stone, University of Exeter

Society and Warfare in Viking Age Iceland: a Brief Study

Pablo Barruezo Vaquero, University of Granada

Iris Baena Jiménez, University of Barcelona

15.00-15.20 Coffee/Tea Break

15.20-16.35 **Session 8 – Commemoration**

Chaired by Marit Van Cant

Donor Portraits: Motives for and Modes of Prayer in Byzantium: a Study of Their Chronological Evolution

Maria-Nectaria Antoniou, University of Oxford

'Orate Pro Nostris et Oravimus Pro Vestris'. Promised Prayers for an Anniversary of Death. The Case of Elisabeth 'sConincs' Mortuary Roll (1458-1459)

Maria Mejia Sian, Free University of Brussels/University of Leuven

'Monuments of Memory: Books of Hours and the Commemoration of Loved Ones'

Sumner Braund, University of Oxford

16.35 Information

19.00- Conference dinner at 'Volle Gas'

Saturday 5th November

08.45 Assemble at **Arc de Triomphe** (Parc du Cinquanteaire or Jubelpark), Brussels

10.30-12.00 Visit to the medieval fishing village of '**Walraversijde**'

12.30-13.30 Lunch in Bruges (optional)

13.30-15.30 Guided archaeological tour in Bruges

Meeting point: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Burg 10

15.30-17.00 Free time in Bruges

Abstracts

Session 1: Early Medieval Cross-sea Connections

Emma Brownlee, PhD Researcher, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge

Connectivity and the Exchange of Ideas in Early Medieval Europe: Burial Transition in Alemannia and Anglo-Saxon England.

This paper will look at the transition from furnished to unfurnished burial in seventh century Europe. Previous research on this topic has been extensive, but mostly constrained by national boundaries, looking at regions individually. This misses one of the most important aspects of the transition, though, that it takes place very rapidly over a broad geographical area. We therefore cannot look to localised explanations, such as Christianisation, but have to think in terms of long-distance interaction and communication within mainland Europe, and between the mainland and the British Isles.

This paper will compare the nature of the transition in Alemannia, and Anglo-Saxon England. By considering the speed and nature of the transition in these geographically separate regions, it will be possible to speculate on how interconnected they were; how well the motivations behind the transition were transmitted, and the extent to which local factors had an effect.

Keywords: Burial, Connectivity, Europe, Christianisation

Irene Bavuso, PhD Researcher, University of Oxford

Cross-Channel Interactions before Quentovic: a View from the Pas-de-Calais.

This paper discusses the evidence for connections between the two shores of the Channel before the flourishing of the major trading sites known as emporia. The web of long-distance connections linking Merovingian Francia and Anglo-Saxon England in the fifth to seventh centuries is investigated through the archaeological finds recovered from the coastal area of the Pas-de-Calais, a territory of fundamental importance for cross-Channel interactions during the Early Medieval period. To shed light on these interactions, the paper examines the crucial link between proximity to the sea and presence of wealth as seen in cemeteries, by drawing a comparison with regions of Southern England. In addition, the written sources are considered in order to understand the later development of the coastal lands of the Pas-de-Calais, which is necessary to compound a complex picture of the long-distance interactions across the first centuries of the Middle Ages.

Keywords: Cross-sea interactions, Pas-de-Calais, Grave Goods, Merovingians, Anglo-Saxons

Page Break

Antiquity and Affiliation: Roman Objects and Identity in Anglo-Saxon and Merovingian Graves 5th to 7th centuries AD.

The occurrence of Roman objects in grave assemblages in Anglo-Saxon England and Merovingia is a recognised phenomenon and has been explained in terms of identity creation during a time of transition (Eckardt, Williams 2003; Mehling 1998; White 1998). However, little attention has been given to evidence for changing patterns in the use of Roman items in funerary rites across the 5th to 7th centuries AD and those studies which have been carried out, were undertaken from an insular perspective.

This paper examines the significance of reused Roman objects as personal items in Kentish and Merovingian cemeteries. The low number of graves including Roman items in Kent suggests that the use was confined to distinct groups and similar patterns can be discerned from Merovingian cemeteries, which may reflect cultural affiliations and communication across the Channel. Thus, these connections and the intentions and perceptions signalled by wearing Roman objects will be explored.

Keywords: Reuse, Material Culture, Cultural Affiliation, Communication, Identity

Page Break

Session 2: Landscape Dynamics

John Tighe, PhD Researcher, Trinity College Dublin

Socio-economic Changes in the Landscape of Early Medieval Ireland c.AD300-1000.

The early medieval period was a time of great socio-economic change in Ireland and this had an impact on the landscape. The agricultural milieu, while seemingly dominated by cattle, as shown through the law tracts and literary accounts, was supplemented by an increase in tillage, which can be seen in the pollen record, which transformed both the landscape physically and demographically. The secondary production of grains at watermills was important, particularly at ecclesiastical sites and Ireland has one of the greatest corpuses of early medieval watermills in Europe.

This increase in tillage had an important impact on the social landscape, both in life and death. The increasing population meant that it was harder to maintain social ties, and during this process the main unit of familial relations changed from the derbhfine to the gelfhine which concentrated power in a smaller number of groups.

Keywords: Production, Ireland, Death, Farming, Church

Régime domanial classique and incastellamento at S. Salvatore on Mount Amiata (9th-10th centuries). The Written Sources.

The archive group of the monastery of S. Salvatore on Mount Amiata preserves the only private charters which have survived from high-medieval southern Tuscany, but, with the exception of some surface excavations, no archaeological campaign has been conducted in the area around the Mount. In 1989, on the basis of written sources, Chris Wickham has studied the way in which, between the 10th and the 11th centuries, the network of open settlements on the Amiata turned into a new landscape, characterised by the predominant presence of castles.

In this paper I will analyse how this process of *incastellamento* was influenced by the pattern of rural estates which emerges mostly from 9th-century documents; specifically, the features of the *regime domanial classique* amongst the properties of S. Salvatore help to explain why the later castles hid completely the pre-existing group of open villages.

Keywords: Mount Amiata, Castles, *Régime Domanial Classique*, High Middle Ages

Page Break

Ewoud Deschepper, Master of Arts in Archaeology, Ghent University

Land Clearances and Historical Farms. An Archaeological, Palaeo-ecological and Historical Inquiry into Medieval Clearances in the Ghent area (East-Flanders, Belgium).

The classic story of the 'great clearances' is well known, but has never been archaeologically tested. The main obstruction was the lack of palaeo-ecological data. However, this data is now present to archaeologically and palaeo-ecologically evaluate this historic thesis of the 'great clearances', for Flanders written down by the late AdriaanVerhulst.

This masterthesis has done so for a small study area around the city of Ghent. The conclusion is that the historiographic theory is correct, but that some nuances must be made, especially for the period of the Early Middle Ages and also concerning the nature of the clearances: it appears that intensification rather than grand-scale cultivation of *wastinae* are characteristic for the Middle Ages in the study area. Other questions that are addressed, are the connection between historic and archaeological settlements and the problem of the archaeological 'disappearance' of rural settlements in the Late Middle Ages.

Keywords: Middle Ages, Landscape Evolution, Great Clearances, Ghent, Rural Archaeology

Topographic Analysis and the Concept of Horizontal Stratigraphy: Problems and Solutions.

Models of medieval landscape change have arisen to a large extent from the analysis of topography. In particular, this approach continues to heavily influence debates over continuity and discontinuity in the historic landscape. Topographic analysis involves dating boundaries and other features on the basis of horizontal stratigraphy. For instance, where co-axial field systems have been 'slighted' by Roman roads the field system is seen as dating from before the road. Alternatively, where boundaries share a common orientation they are generally seen as sharing a common origin; perhaps the result of large-scale landscape planning. Cartographic sources or aerial photographs provide the evidential base for topographic analysis, however, these sources can only ever be synchronic in nature. This paper will therefore examine the potential pitfalls of modelling diachronic change in the landscape from synchronic sources, while also proposing ways of overcoming potential pitfalls.

Keywords: Landscape, Field Systems, Topographic Analysis, Horizontal Stratigraphy

Session 3: Urban Formation

Emeline Marot, Doctor in History/Archaeology, Université François-Rabelais de Tours

Domestic Architecture and Urban Fabric in Châteauneuf (Tours).

The town of Châteauneuf was Tours' rival until the 14th century and has developed through Saint Martin pilgrimage in the early Middle Ages. The area had a complex organisation due to the inhabitants' diversity : canons south of the collegiate, and secular population on the other side, partly surrounded by a 10th century fortification. The remaining medieval constructions (military, religious and domestic architecture) allowed the study of the formation and modifications of the urban fabric, as well as the social interactions in the 10th-13th centuries.

The particularities of the burghers' houses, such as 12th century tower houses, demonstrate the social rise of this population and the affirmation of their identity as a group. However, religious and secular population equally participated in the formation of Châteauneuf, linked by the figure of Saint Martin and their will to develop the town.

Keywords: Urban Fabric, Medieval Fortifications, Domestic Architecture, Tower Houses, Tours

Explaining Urban Fabric on the Long-term through the Case Study of Vendome (Loir-et-Cher, France).

The study of urban morphology has long focused on extensive development projects. However, understanding spatial organization on the ancient cadastral map requires taking into account the results of the long-term processes. Through the example of Vendome, a small French town and archetype of the medieval town with its castle, abbey and "*burgus*", we will deconstruct those dynamics.

We will highlight the elements that bring out the origin of the shape (anthropogenic or natural) and processes that have maintained or not the morphological characteristics. The use of the concept of *morphological hybrid objects*, resulting from the convergence of three factors : the site, the situation and the former human choices, will be necessary to understand the permanence of forms during 800 years.

In the case of Vendôme, we will see what is the importance of the river, of pedestrian flows and socio-spatial choices made during the 10th century, in the constitution of the urban form.

Keywords: Urban Archaeology, Urban Fabric, Dynamic Morphological, Hybrid Objects, Nature and Culture

Who Were the Urban Liao? - The Cultural Salience of 'Urban' Identity in a Mobile Society.

Recent insights into how urbanism can be integrated into mobile societies have overturned the notion that human societies 'progress' from mobile forms of production through irrigated agriculture to urbanism. Indeed the Liao Empire (907-1125CE) of Northeast Asia shows how these three modalities can be interdependent. City and kiln sites, standing architecture and tombs are distributed extensively through the former Liao territory, and yet in a society that encompassed sedentary and mobile populations the cultural salience of an 'urban' identity remains unexplored or presumed homologous to those of Tang (619-907) or Northern Song society (960-1125).

This paper uses textual geographical data found in published sources from the Liao period, combined with the archaeological context of Liao epigraphy to map the movements and political networks of Liao elites over the Northeast Asian landscape, with an aim to elucidate what it meant to be 'urban' in the Liao.

Keywords: China, Liao, Urban Identity, Kitan, Epigraphy

Page Break

Middle Islamic Ceramics from the Northwest Quarter of Jerash.

Scholars researching the ancient city of Gerasa, modern day Jerash in Jordan, have typically focused on settlement patterns along its main street and/or on the city's development during antiquity. This paper discusses how recent excavations in the Northwest Quarter of Jerash have contributed to the understanding of the Middle Islamic period, which in this area is much better represented than previously thought. Past campaigns have documented an extensive Middle Islamic building complex across the hilltop of the Northwest Quarter. The architectural layout and the extensive construction effort suggest that the complex must have been the product of a sizable community. This activity is reflected in the material culture through handmade geometric painted ware (HMGP) and other Middle Islamic ceramic forms, both locally made and imported. The research presented is a work in progress and part of a PhD research effort with the *Ceramics in Context Project*, which is embedded within a larger excavation initiative called the *Danish-German NW Quarter Project*. By analyzing the ceramics both empirically and contextually, this project aims to better understand the settlement history in the Northwest Quarter of Jerash during this less well understood period of Islamic settlement in Jordan.

Keywords: Middle Islamic, HMGP, Mamluk, Ayyubid, Pottery

Page Break

Session 4: Travel and Seafaring

Aiko Uytterhaegen, Advanced Master in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of Leuven/MA
Archaeology, Free University of Brussels

***Neighbouring Realms: Cartographic Traditions of the Medieval European and Arabic Worlds.
Untangling a World View: The Stories Maps Can Tell.***

This paper examines the extent to which evidence of cosmological similarities and differences between medieval Europe and the medieval Arabic world can be deduced from the study of medieval cartography. These two distinct cultures were selected due to their shared cartographical ancestry. An analysis and comparison was made of the idiosyncrasies between cosmological elements in a corpus of maps covering the European and Arabic worlds during the same time-frame.

Maps provide significant information and clues on how these two cultures saw the world and depicted themselves and their culture in it. Therefore maps are important tools in the broader scope of archaeological and historical research. Ancient and medieval maps were visually analyzed, and literature on the subject of cosmological knowledge and on beliefs of both the European and Arabic worlds was researched. Through this research conclusions were made concerning religious involvement of cartography in both studied areas of the world.

Keywords: Cartography, Cosmologies, Religious Impact, Cultural Divergence, Shared Ancestry

The Zeebrugge-Wreck. A Forgotten Early 16th-century Merchantman off the Belgian Coast.

In the early 1990's large quantities of mainly metal objects were recovered by amateur-archaeologists from a wreck-site, discovered off the Belgian coast near the port of Zeebrugge. Such undertaking was without precedent in Belgium and no appropriate legislation for such an initiative was in place at that time. Mainly due to these circumstances, the archaeological data from this excavation ended up rather dispersed and inaccessible to the maritime archaeological community.

This paper aims to bring together the available data retrieved from this excavation, and to present a substantiated interpretation of these data. The exhaustive analysis of the actual archaeological finds combined with information about the excavation project obtained by means of archival research and oral history, did allow us to appreciate the available data within its own limits and to propose a substantiated interpretation of what became known as the Zeebrugge-wreck.

Keywords: Early 16th-century, Shipwreck Cargo, Metal Ware, Maritime Archaeology, Belgium

Travel and Trade: Migration in Medieval Ipswich.

The emergence of Ipswich and other North Sea emporia after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire signified a rebound in international trade, which in the later Middle Ages included networks like the Hanseatic League. Studying individual life histories at medieval trading sites provides insight as to how these international developments impacted local demographics.

Here, we present the results of a pilot study on migration at the Saxon burial landscape (6th-8th cen. AD) and medieval cemetery (10th-14th cen. AD) at Stoke Quay, Ipswich. From a collection of 1,162 burials, we selected 15 individuals for tooth enamel strontium and oxygen isotopic analyses. Comparing our results to published isotopic ranges, we interpret 7 individuals as likely migrants, with potential places of origin including France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia. These results are an important first step toward uncovering the story behind this remarkable site and its ties to overseas trading centres.

Keywords: Migration, Strontium, Oxygen, Isotopes

Page Break

Session 5: Landscape and Beliefs

Beatrice Widell, MA Archaeology, Uppsala University

Myth or Reality? Re-thinking the Early Medieval Monastic Landscapes in Britain.

The literary descriptions of monastic landscapes in hagiographies have usually been labelled false and imaginative, in relation to the archaeological evidence and the physical landscape. However, it must be remembered that hagiographies depict the worldview of medieval individuals, which suggests that the narratives must be contextualized. This paper argues that hagiographies can be used in order to understand the archaeological monastic remains, by mapping the religious experiences, spiritual memories and sacred topography from the text.

This hypothesis is explored in a case study where the phenomenological and hagiographical landscape is merged with the physical landscape in order to identify potential monasteries, thus what motivated the monks to found their monasteries in certain parts of the landscape. It is also argued that we must re-define the monasteries as *places*; beyond the material evidence we must involve the senses and narratives of the place in relation to the surrounding landscape.

Keywords: Hagiography, Landscapes, Monasticism, Phenomenology, Archaeology

Page Break

One more for the Ancestors: House commemoration in Viking-age Iceland.

There has recently been a growing awareness of special deposits that appear in houses from the Viking Age in Iceland. These appear to be evidence of house-rites that were associated with events in the house's life-cycle. Special deposits have been associated with the construction, remodelling, or abandonment of homes and out-buildings. This presentation will focus on deposits that appear within abandonment of houses from Viking-age Iceland. Previous studies and traditional ritual archaeology frameworks would argue that these were votive offerings to ancestors or deities. While this is a potentially part of the story, an examination of select case studies will suggest alternative interpretations within a revised framework. This presentation will argue that the slaughter and deposition of domestic animals during the abandonment of houses were partially dedicated to formally closing the buildings and partially dedicated to commemorating the importance of the building; preserving associations made during the house's life.

Keywords: House-rite, Abandonment, Commemoration, Viking Age, Iceland

Page Break

“Gyda Tells You To Go Home”—Text Messaging and Archaeology.

Contrary to modern beliefs, sending short written texts to other people is not a novel invention, as about 700 short runic inscriptions from medieval Bergen (Norway) show. Written by people from different social classes, including the king’s son and an angry wife, these messages provide direct insights into town life in Bergen between 1100 and 1400 ranging from scandalous revelations to prayers for help.

The objects these inscriptions are written on are archaeological finds—wooden sticks, a play sword and even the remnants of shoes, all of which were found during excavations in the 1950s-70s. As actual physical finds, these objects can be located in the broader context of Bergen as an early trading centre.

In my paper I will exemplify how textual analyses in combination with GIS mapping can provide unique insights into a medieval town landscape and its development.

Keywords: Runic Texts, Text Messaging, Town Development, GIS Mapping, Norway

Session 6: The Biography of an Artefact

Justine Biddle, PhD Researcher, University of Central Lancashire

The Individual Behind the Artefact: How Can Objects and Their Landscape Associations Illuminate Early Medieval Identity in Suffolk?

Can artefacts and their landscape associations help us consider socially negotiated identity? Can a brooch, pair of tweezers or belt fitting found by a metal detectorist in a field, tell us anything about the person who lost, discarded or deposited it? Is it possible to infer social exchanges or status from these artefacts?

Archaeological theories and methods come in and out of fashion, but can the application of Assemblage Theory and object biographies help elucidate links between objects, people and their surroundings? This paper will employ a multiscalar approach to test these methods and examine the suitability of applying these theoretical approaches to early medieval artefacts from Suffolk.

Keywords: Identity, Assemblage Theory, Object Biographies, Artefacts, Suffolk

Page Break

Robert Webley, PhD Researcher, University of York/part time employee of the British Museum

Copper-alloy 'Binding Strips': a 12th-Century Pan-European Object Type.

Though isolating material culture dating to the 12th century remains a challenge in England, decorative 'binding strips' have long been considered a characteristic object type of this and the following century. However, despite a long historiography, no systematic survey has been attempted of such mounts until now. The survey re-examined their high status connotations through an appraisal of find locations. It also brought their cross-sea currency into sharp focus, that is, the use - across a significant area of northern Europe - of the objects to which they were attached (over which there remains debate). This paper proposes to reinvigorate discussion of binding strips, by presenting the above findings, and use them as a point of departure to contribute to wider debates regarding non-ferrous medieval metalwork, particularly its apparent dearth in the 12th century followed by its ubiquity across Europe by the 13/14th.

Keywords: Artefacts, Connections, Metalwork, Status, Cross-sea

Microwear Analyses on Early Medieval Combs.

The typological study of combs gives useful information about their chronological and regional diversity. Macroscopic research and chemical analyses on the other hand can help us answer questions about the origin of the raw material, the native aspect of the combs, their function and their production tradition.

Through microwear research, an attempt is made to reconstruct the production of the comb, as well as its possible life biography.

The method contains three stages. First an experimental program is established. Secondly, usage traces, developed on the experimental samples and archaeological samples are recorded with low and high power magnification. Finally, the traces on the experimental and archaeological objects are compared. The interpretation of the production techniques in chronically and regional different contexts can so confirm or refute typological subdivisions. The maintenance of local techniques can be explored, distinct ruptures in used techniques may be associated to other context-based roles.

Keywords: Combs, Medieval, Microwear Analyses, *Chaîne Opératoire*, Quentovic

Page Break

A Bright Breaking. The Goldsmithing Techniques of the Discoid Brooches Between the 6th and the 7th Centuries in the Northern Merovingian Gaul.

The Merovingian's world of the seventh century is marked by several changes, as it is attested by the archaeological and historical sources. Those changes reflect a considerable transformation of the society. For these reasons, the scientists often called this century a period of breaking. The typological and technical evolutions of the discoid brooches are among the early evidences of that evolution.

By studying theoretically and practically a limited corpus of discoid brooches, the purpose of our study is to illustrate the new socio-economic framework of the seventh century in northern Merovingian Gaul. Scrutinizing its production techniques and the new emerging fashion, I intend to understand in what way these objects are symptomatic of such a period of change.

Furthermore, the study of the Merovingian jewelry and of their techniques can extend our knowledge of goldsmithing. The analysis of these artefacts will, indeed, help us to understand how the smith realises his brooch. We will also debate about the status of the goldsmith, often described as « elusive ».

Keywords: Goldsmithing, Brooches, 7th-century, Evolution, Workshop

Page Break

Session 7: Landscape and Defence

David Stone, PhD Researcher, University of Exeter

Messages at Light Speed: Communications and 'Landscapes of Defence' in Anglo-Saxon England.

Recent history has reinterpreted the function of the Anglo-Saxon network of *burhs*, fortified centres built in the ninth and tenth centuries during the defence and later expansion of England against the Vikings. This paper examines the ways in which these sites co-operated for the mutual defence of England, and in particular investigates the ways in which the Anglo-Saxons made use of the landscape for the purposes of communications and territorial control, including the surveillance of frontiers and transport routes, and the establishment of a network of surveillance and signalling sites. Focusing on the Mercian border with the Danelaw, it makes use of archaeological, literary historical and toponymical methods to investigate the landscape and physical legacy left by the Mercian defensive network, and aims to illustrate the extent to which sophisticated landscape control was central to Anglo-Saxon civil defence.

Keywords: Landscapes, Defence, Communication, Anglo-Saxon

Pablo Barruezo Vaquero, MA History, Researcher of FP7 Memola Project, University of Granada
Iris Baena Jiménez, MA Archaeology, University of Barcelona

Society and Warfare in Viking Age Iceland: a Brief Study.

The main aim of this study will be to show, by combining archaeological interpretation and written sources, that the Vikings who settled in Iceland brought (by a process of diaspora) and developed a society much more free and equal than the rest of medieval Europe. At the same time, they maintained another fundamental characteristic of the Viking culture: the violence and warfare in the society, with a high control over it. The “free and ordered” social structure it’s reflected in the settlement and land claims processes and in the settlement landscape (distribution of farmsteads). Moreover, it’s reflected in the law, and in the person of the law speaker (lǫgsögumaðr). The importance of the warfare it’s seen in the role of the blacksmith inside society and in the inner social status of the weapons. Aswell, the legislation of blood feuds shows the violence and its regulation in this unique society.

Key words: Viking Age Iceland, Settlement, Weapons, Feud and Law

Page Break

Session 8: Commemoration

Maria–Nectaria Antoniou, MSc Archaeology, University of Oxford

Donor Portraits: Motives for and Modes of Prayer in Byzantium: a Study of Their Chronological Evolution.

This paper discusses the evolution of donor portraits in mural decoration in Byzantine churches from the 6th to the 15th centuries. It explores two themes discernible in these portraits, prayer for the salvation of the donor's soul and prayer for the protection of the church financed by the donor. Both themes are portrayed by the acts undertaken for their realisation: the first is initially expressed by depicting humility on the one hand and philanthropy on the other, while the second by depicting the entrustment of the church in the hands of a holy person. The iconography of the first theme is observed to change over time, and these changes reveal shifts in the popular perception of the best mode of praying for salvation. The iconography of the second theme remains stable over time, but the changes in the first at times bring the two themes closer together.

Keywords: Byzantium, Donor Portraits, Prayer, Evolution

'Orate Pro Nostris et Oravimus Pro Vestris'. Promised Prayers for an Anniversary of Death. The Case of Elisabeth 'sConincs' Mortuary Roll (1458-1459).

Mortuary rolls are medieval manuscripts that announce the death of a member of a monastic community to other (associated) religious houses; they include a request for prayer with the promise that these prayers would be returned. Messengers carried the mortuary roll to abbeys and monasteries of different orders, and to chapters and churches. Mortuary rolls serve as means of monastic commemoration. A general overview of medieval mortuary rolls is presented and the particular example of the mortuary roll of abbess Elisabeth 'sConincs (d. 1458) of the Benedictine abbey of Forest, Brussels is explored, both in its physical appearance and in its function as carrier of *Memoria*: the remembering of the dead by the living. A data-set of 54 Latin entries or *tituli*, concerning the promised prayers, in the Old County of Flanders was selected. Mortuary rolls are usually studied by historians but merit the attention of medieval archaeologists as well.

Keywords: Commemoration, Anniversary of Death, Prayer-Exchange, Spiritual Networks

Monuments of Memory: Books of Hours and the Commemoration of Loved Ones.

The book of hours participated in a medieval consumer culture, it was a mass-produced object and in high demand, yet it was not an object carelessly disposed of. Bequests in wills and inscriptions in the books themselves reveal that they were actively preserved and that their owners wished them to be in use beyond their own lives. Indeed, the invocations to prayer in MS Gough liturg. 19, a standard fifteenth-century book of hours produced in England, reveal that John Iwardby expected an unknown reader to possess his book.

The invocations to pray for him and his family are strategically placed within the book and an analysis of their presentation reveals that their placement articulates a complex self-memorialization strategy which anticipates future readers.

This paper uses MS Gough liturg. 19 as a representative example of a basic assumption held by medieval book owners and it will consider the ways in which annotations and invocations in books of hours were purposeful acts of communication from one book owner to the next.

Keywords: Urban Fabric and Identity, Commemoration in the Middle Ages, Artefacts, Crafts and Society

Poster Session

Hannah McGlynn, MSc Biological Anthropology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Palaeopathological Comparative Study of Populations of Medieval England, Scotland and Spain.

Keynote Speaker: Dr Anton Ervynck (Flanders Heritage Agency)

The food that mattered: A reality check on changing post-Roman consumption patterns in the southern Low Countries.

The archaeology of the post-Roman period provides a wealth of ecological study material, enabling to investigate food consumption patterns in north-western Europe. A survey of numerous site reports from Flanders, Belgium, produces a general image of a society relying more and more on fish consumption, eventually leading to the full exploration of the open sea, and oceans more abroad. At the same time, the relative importance and the feeding regimes of the main domestic meat suppliers (pigs, cattle and sheep) are changing, altering the meat supply on the market. Wild animals are disappearing, human environments change drastically, food fashions evolve while ideological concepts frantically try to impose food rules. One would think that all this is reflected into the consumers' bones, and into the food waste they produced. But is this really so? The answer is as intriguing as confronting.

Biography

Anton Ervynck (° 1961) is a biologist who started his scientific career by developing theoretical models for the feeding behaviour of oystercatchers. He shifted to palaeontology, producing a PhD at the University of Amsterdam about the distribution history of the black and brown rat. This brought him to the field of environmental archaeology where he is mainly studying Roman to postmedieval sites from Flanders, Belgium. Field work abroad involved campaigns in Spain, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan and the Crimean Peninsula. Methodological work concentrated on the history of domestic pigs. A close collaboration with Wim Van Neer (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences) resulted in a reconstruction of the development of marine fishery in the southern Low Countries.

Local host: Prof. Dr Dries Tys (Free University of Brussels)

Dries Tys is professor Medieval Archaeology and Landscape Archaeology at the Free University of Brussels (VUB). He is specialised in the research of Trade and Connections in the Early Medieval North Sea-area, including coastal landscapes and the origins and characteristics of trade settlements. He is also the Chair of Medieval Europe Research Community (MERC), which is the Association of medieval archaeologists that contributes to the EAA, and a Member of the Flemish Heritage Commission.

http://www.vub.ac.be/SKAR/wie-is-wie/dries_tys.html

Page Break

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