Waiting for the End of the World: Perceptions of Disaster and Risk in Medieval Europe

FRIDAY 2 – SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 2016

The Society for Medieval Archaeology Conference
Open to all

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What happened when natural disasters affected medieval European societies (AD 500-1550)? The roll-call of disasters during this period is lengthy and their effects were sometimes felt across the whole of Europe in a way that has not been observed in modern times. In 1258 the largest volcanic eruption of the last 7,000 years affected the entire continent, while in 1315-1321 the most serious famine in recorded European history was driven by a prolonged period of low temperatures and heavy summer rainfalls associated with abnormally warm North Atlantic sea temperatures. Other events such as the most powerful earthquake in central Europe in 1356, river floods, tsunamis in the Mediterranean and sea surges along north-western coastlines all affected specific regions so that responses by different communities can be usefully compared.

How did hazards become disasters, how did societies perceive these events, and how did they react and evolve to reduce their vulnerability?

This weekend conference is the annual conference of the Society for Medieval Archaeology, but is open to all.

FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 2016

6.15pm Registration
7.00pm Dinner
8.15pm-9.15pm Fire, flood and famine: the archaeology of natural disasters in early medieval Europe

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 2016

8.15am Breakfast (residents only)
9.15am Social instability and coping with extremes of drought, wet and cold in medieval Ireland

10.00am Extreme winds and high tides: responses to storms in medieval England

11.00am Coffee/tea

11.30am The experience of disaster in late medieval England: resilience and recovery

12.15pm Fear and miracles: coping with disasters through material culture in the Middle Ages

1.15pm Lunch and course disperses

SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 2016

8.15am Breakfast (residents only)
9.15am The ArMedEa project. Recent work on the archaeology of medieval earthquakes in Europe (AD 1000-1550)

10.00am Medieval earthquakes in Italy. Perceptions and reactions

11.00am Coffee/tea

11.30am The experience of disaster in late medieval England: resilience and recovery

12.15pm Fear and miracles: coping with disasters through material culture in the Middle Ages

1.15pm Lunch and course disperses

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FEE OPTIONS (Please tick ALL relevant options)

Tuition only £132.00
Dinner (Friday night) £18.25
Lunch (Saturday) £13.00
Baguette Lunch (Saturday) £4.40
Dinner (Saturday night) £18.25
Lunch (Sunday) £13.00
Baguette Lunch (Sunday) £4.40
Single Room B&B (Fri & Sat) £145.20
Twin Room B&B (per person) (Fri & Sat) £104.20

TOTAL (PTO for payment details) £

Vegetarian or other special dietary requirement?
Do you have a disability or special need?
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