



Issue 86 Spring 2020

Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE

As we start a new year, the Society can look back over a number of exciting events, and at the same time look forward to important opportunities to collaborate with other societies whose principal focus is historical archaeology. This newsletter carries reports on the Geoff Egan Memorial Lecture, held in December last year, when we were delighted to be addressed by Tânia Manuel Casimiro, as well as on SPMA's presence this January at the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) conference in Boston, on the theme of historical and underwater archaeology.

A major forthcoming event is the fifth Post-Medieval Archaeology Congress, which this year is being held at Plymouth University on 17–19 April. More details can be found within this newsletter, but we are very excited that a major theme (although by no means the only one) is the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the voyage of the Mayflower, arriving in Plymouth, Massachusetts in the autumn of 1620. In association with CNEHA and SHA, your Society will be taking an active role in the anniversary conference organized in the 'other' Plymouth for the fall. This is not the first time these major British and American post-medieval/historical archaeology societies have collaborated in this way, but such opportunities are always to be welcomed and prove a fertile ground for sharing research. We would encourage as many of our members as possible to come along to one or the other, or even both!



Most of your Council members at the SPMA AGM and Geoff Egan Memorial lecture, December 2019

SOCIETY NEWS

THE SPMA AGM 2019

New members on the council Welcome onboard Anton Larsson, William Noah Todd and Roberto Valcarcel Rojas.

In a bid to reduce waste and following requests from SPMA membership we've been discussing alternatives to the padded envelopes with Taylor and Francis. They have already been trialing different packaging and offered us the opportunity to try 'naked mailing'. Less racy than it sounds, here's a note of explanation from Taylor & Francis:

Taylor & Francis Alternative Mailing (AMP) Trial

For many years, biodegradable polywrap has been the industry standard for packaging periodicals. This has now been proven to break down into microbeads of plastic, contributing to the plastic in the oceans and causing health issues with animals. At Taylor & Francis, we take our contribution to the well-being of the environment seriously. As a result, in 2019 we conducted an Alternative Mailing Packaging (AMP) trial to ensure that we are able to make informed decisions that are right for our customers and our environment. In an initial internal trial, we mailed copies around the world using multiple methods of packaging. We found that copies mailed completely 'naked', that is with no packaging at all, arrived in excellent condition overall – this was the favoured method with our test recipients. Our belief is that mailing with no packaging is the only permanent way we can truly guarantee we are not further damaging our environment.

At the SPMA AGM a unanimous decision was made to trial naked mailing: this newsletter should arrive nude. We welcome your feedback which we'll share with Taylor & Francis. Email newsletter@spma.org.uk with comments.

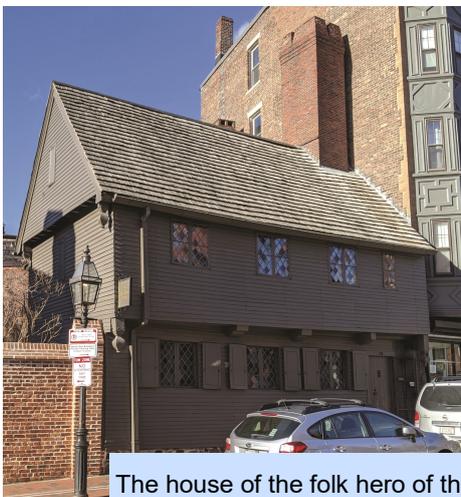
THE GEOFF EGAN MEMORIAL LECTURE, 2019

Following the AGM, Tânia Manuel Casimiro (IHC-NOVA University of Lisbon) gave a fascinating lecture on *Material culture, trade and globalization: Portugal's role in the making of a multicultural Europe (1500-1700)*. Following the AGM, Tânia Manuel Casimiro (IHC-NOVA University of Lisbon) gave the annual Geoff Egan lecture, this time on *Material culture, trade and globalization: Portugal's role in the making of a multicultural Europe (1500-1700)*. Through a wealth of excavated artefacts with origins in Portugal and its overseas territories in Africa, South America and Asia the lecture looked at the flow of ideas in and out of Portugal as the artefacts were traded and consumed across the Atlantic world. These commodities left their mark not only by influencing changes in aesthetics but by changing, in part, how Europeans perceived the world, its dimensions and cultural variability. Read more on Tânia's research at

<https://fcsh-unl.academia.edu/TâniaManuelCasimiro>



Black pepper found on a shipwreck: Tânia Manuel Casimiro gives the Geoff Egan Memorial lecture



The house of the folk hero of the American Revolution, Paul Revere, in Boston winter sunshine. Image: Christopher Booth

THE SOCIETY FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONGRESS, JANUARY 2020, Boston, Massachusetts

Boston, 'the birthplace of the American Revolution' provided the conference theme: revolution in its broadest terms of inclusivity and diversity, in rebellion, resistance, survival and commemoration, plus methodological and theoretical revolutions in archaeology. SPMA Council Member Christopher Booth co-chaired and presented in SYM-12 *"And in his needy shop a tortoise hung": Construction Of Retail Environments And The Agency Of Retailers In Historical Archaeology*; PMA Editor Katherine Fennelly presented in SYM62 *Women's Work: Archaeology and Mothering* and SPMA Secretary Emma Dwyer presented in SYM15 *Slow Archaeology + Fast Capitalism: Hard Lessons and Future Strategies from Urban Archaeology*. SPMA Vice President Harold Mytum chaired and presented SYM41 *Mortuary Monuments and Archaeology: Current Research*. For abstracts see www.conftool.com/sha2020/sessions.php. Harold Mytum also joined

on of the tours organised by the SHA, see page 3 for his report.

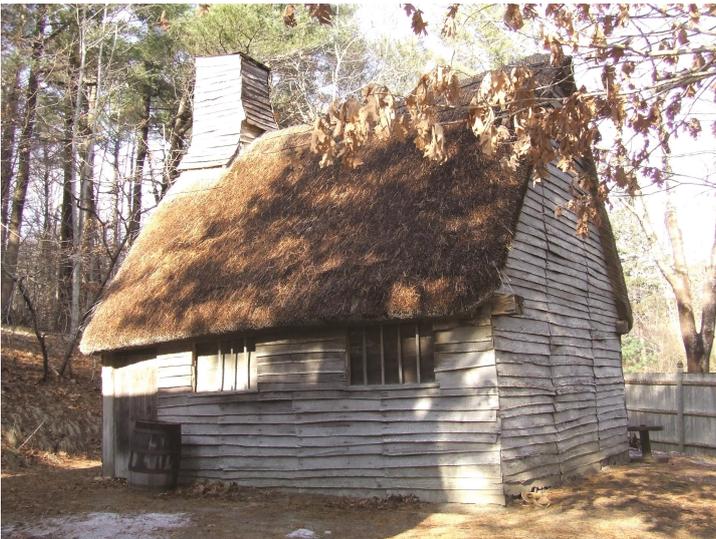
SOCIETY NEWS

SHA 2020

A taster from Plymouth, Massachusetts

SPMA vice president Harold Mytum joined the Plymouth/Plimouth Plantation tour organised by the Society for Historical Archaeology as part of their 2020 conference this January and sends the following report.

Plymouth has changed in many ways between that initial British settlement 400 years ago, on a site already long-occupied by the native Wampanoag peoples. However, its many guises and changes in topography were enthusiastically explained by our guide David Landon, Associate Director of the Fiske Center for Archaeological Research, University of Massachusetts, who is directing the excavations that are uncovering fragments of the very first settlement. The palisaded settlement stretched up a hill-slope from the sea, and it is near the top of the - in parts of the burial ground where no interments have taken place that the remains have been found.



There is lots to see at Plymouth - including many of the famous death's head, cherub and urn and willow designs of Puritan gravestones in the burial ground next to the excavation site - the Plymouth graveyard was one of the sites used in the original, seminal, study by Deetz so has a special place in the development of historical/post-medieval archaeology.

So, lots to see and experience at the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology conference, which will also serve as a joint meeting with the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology and the Society for Historical Archaeology, in Plymouth, Mass., this November!

Harold Mytum



Results from the excavations were on show in a gallery at the Plimouth Plantation heritage site, which we were allowed to see even though it is unfinished. Both native and colonial artefacts are displayed, together with some videos of the excavations created by some of the students (see <http://blogs.umb.edu/fiskecenter/category/plymouth>). By November these displays will be complete. Although the interpretive site was closed to the public, we were allowed to go round the reconstructed settlement, a distance away from the actual Plymouth town. It has the same topography, with the houses running down the hill to the sea. The reconstructed native Wampanoag settlement is where an original settlement has been found.



SOCIETY NEWS

COUNCIL MEMBER DR NATASCHA MEHLER RECEIVES THE SOCIETY FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY JOHN L. COTTER AWARD

SPMA Council member Dr Natascha Mehler has been chosen as the recipient of the Society for Historical Archaeology's 2020 John L. Cotter Award. The Cotter Award is one of SHA's top four awards, and recognises outstanding achievement by an individual at the start of their career in historical archaeology. Natascha's award was in recognition of the cumulative impact of the first decade of her professional career since the completion of her doctorate, particularly her work in growing historical archaeology in Central Europe, the excellence of her research, and her international engagement across the North Atlantic region. The award was presented by Council Member Alasdair Brookes at the conference banquet on Friday 10 January.



Dr. Mehler holding the award with Mark S Warner, SHA president 2018-2019 and SPMA Council Member Alasdair Brookes. *Image: Hannah Rucinski/SHA*

SOCIETY PRIZE WINNERS AND GRANT HOLDERS 2018-2019

UNDERGRADUATE DISSERTATION PRIZE 2019

Melissa McCready-Shaw, Queen's University, Belfast

Who were the seventeenth-century ceramicists of the Killyneese Settlement? Read about Melissa's research on Pages 5 and 6.

POSTGRADUATE DISSERTATION PRIZE 2019

The deadline for the 2019 Postgraduate Dissertation Prize was 15 December. The winner will be announced in the Summer 2020 newsletter.

PAUL COURTNEY STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD 2019

Established to enable student members of the SPMA to participate in European conferences, a particular enthusiasm of our late Membership Secretary and joint Editor of *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, Paul Courtney. The deadline for applications is 15 February each year. See <http://www.spma.org.uk/prizes-and-grants/courtney-travel-award/> for more details and do email prizes@spma.org.uk if you have any questions about applying for this award.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD 2019

Marc Chivers & Esther Renwick, Moder Dy CIC for the Burra Noost Project, Shetland. For more details of the project see www.moderdy.org/shetland-noost-project

The deadline for applications for the Community Engagement Award is 15 September 2019 and the Award is open to applications from Society members and non-members.

RESEARCH GRANTS 2019

Sarah Ward, Dalian Maritime University, China, towards the project *Sino-Foreign Maritime Exchange in the Gulf of Thailand c. 1500-1800*

Dr Letty ten Harkel, University of Oxford, towards the project *The archaeology of an endangered Late Ottoman productive landscape in Mount Lebanon*

Applications for research grants are considered twice a year, with deadlines for submission on 1 March and 1 September. **For details of all SPMA prizes and awards, including how to apply visit www.spma.org.uk/prizes-and-grants**

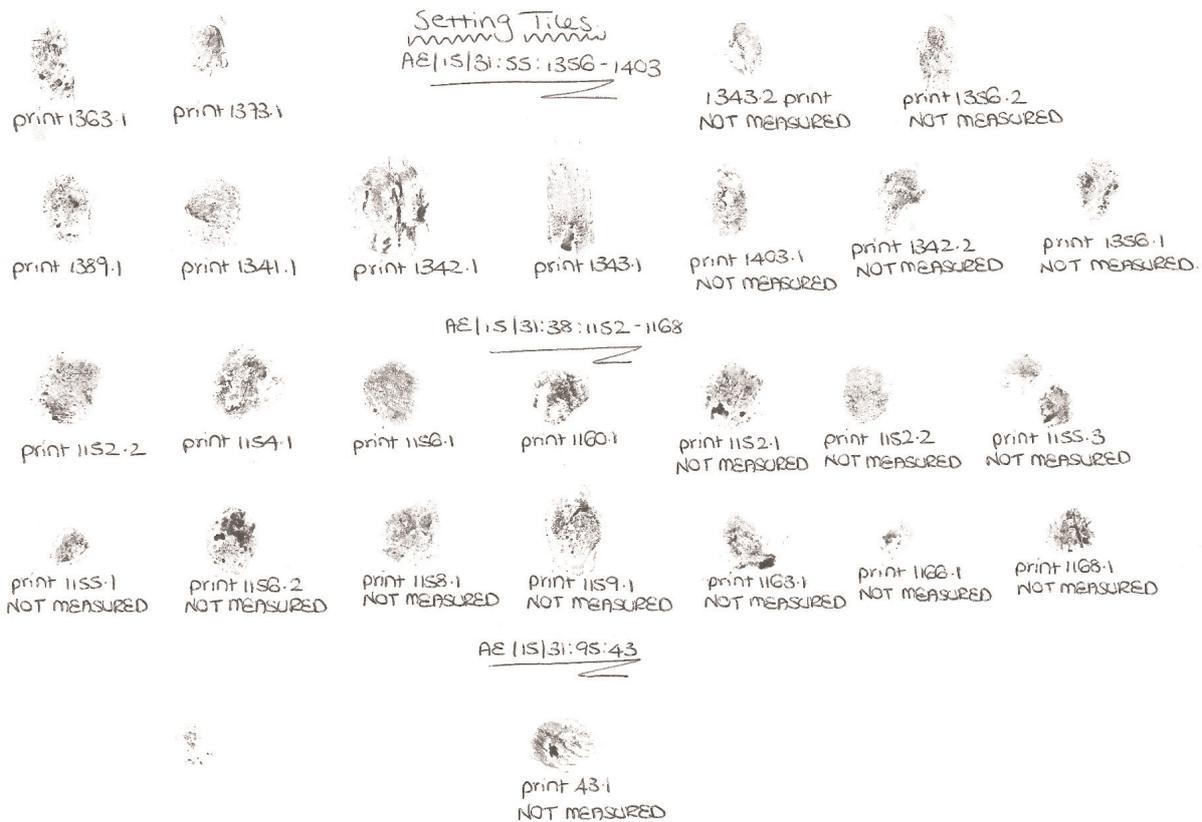
REPORTS

UNDERGRADUATE DISSERTATION PRIZE 2019

MELISSA McCREADY-SHAW, QUEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST
Who were the seventeenth century ceramists of the Killneese settlement?

In the thesis I embarked on a personal and emotive investigation of the ages of the Post-Medieval ceramists of Killyneese, Co. Londonderry, based on a dermatoglyphic study of the ceramics recovered from this rural pottery manufacture site. The site was discovered during excavations on the Magherafelt bypass undertaken by Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, under the direction of James McKee, from February to May 2017. Much of the pottery recovered from the site dated to the seventeenth century and it is possible it had been associated with a Plantation settlement.

A substantial quantity of the pottery sherds displayed finger prints but the research focused on a sub-sample of 72 ceramics, that represented pots, setting tiles and saggars. Using methods previously advanced by scholars, such as Kamp et al. (1999), Králík and Novotný (2003) and Blaževićius (2019), it was determined that the majority of prints (51.4%) belonged to those of children from the ages of 0-12 years old, with a further 38.4% belonging to teenagers aged 13-17 years, and 9.7% having been made by adults. Four theories were advanced to explain the somewhat surprising findings – the theory of child education, in which a parent or guardian skilled in the craft of ceramics starts teaching from a very early age. The theory of apprenticeship, is similar to that of child education, only this time the children are aged from around five to 17 years, just before adulthood. The third theory is that of signatures, and involves children and teenagers deliberately stamping their crafts with a fingerprint. Finally, the theory of accidents, which involves the inexperienced children and teenagers leave their prints on the ceramics



The full sample of prints taken from the setting tiles. This was done via SILMARK paste. The imprints in the SILMARK were transferred onto paper via an ink pad.
 Image: M McCready-Shaw

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I am grateful to my thesis supervisor Prof. Eileen Murphy, PhD researcher Naomi Carver and Mr. David Brown, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast, who all helped a great deal in the creation and implementation of the thesis. I would also like to thank Dr. Povilas Blaževičius, National Museum – Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, Vilnius, who generously provided methodological advice during the thesis. This was the first time that a dermatoglyphic study has been undertaken on archaeological ceramics from Ireland and, while the experience was at times challenging, it was also very rewarding. I am very grateful to the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology Committee for selecting my thesis for the Undergraduate Dissertation 2019 prize.

References:

- Kamp, K., Timmerman, N., Lind, G., Graybill, J. & Natowsky, I. 1999. Discovering Childhood: using fingerprints to find children in the archaeological record, *American Antiquity*, 64:2, 309-315.
- Králík, M. & Novotný, V. 2003. Epidermal ridge breadth: an indicator of age and sex in paleodermatoglyphics, *Variability and Evolution*, 11, 3-30.
- Blaževičius, P. 2019. Child labour based on dermatoglyphics research of ceramic objects, *Childhood in the past*, 12:1, 6-17.

Melissa McCready-Shaw, Queens University Belfast

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PAUL COURTNEY STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD 2019



Image: Luisa Nienhaus

LUISA NIENHAUS, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LONDON INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

25th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists – Beyond paradigms, Bern, Switzerland, 5-7 September 2019

My attendance at last year's European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) meeting in Bern, served two main purposes: first of all, the co-organisation of session #68 *15 years after Merriman – Public Archaeology: looking back and thinking about the future* with Mark Oldham from the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (NIKU).

It was the session's aim to discuss the wider developments in the field of Public Archaeology since 2004. We deliberately chose the edited volume *Public Archaeology* by Merriman, as its publication date makes it not too distant in the past to render it irrelevant, but distant enough to have allowed for shifts and changes to have taken place as well as being clearly identifiable. The observation of changes is of particular interest, considering the leaps in technology, change in attitudes, ethics and general awareness which has furthered in the past 15 years. It was our desire to discuss these changes and suggest where the next steps within the field of Public Archaeology could take us.

In his edited volume, Merriman defines public archaeology as the study of processes and outcomes through which archaeology becomes part of a wider public culture. However, since there is not a single public entity, public archaeology exists in the realm of contestation. Public archaeology is a participatory discipline for the 'active citizen', and not just outresearch and dissemination. However, tensions between 'mental' and 'physical' involvement in archaeology, as well as the relationship between the academic 'expert' and the layperson, not to mention relations between indigenous and majority populations continue to persist.

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Right from the start we raised the fundamental question of “What is Public Archaeology”? However, we did not just ask the question but made use of an app which allowed everyone to participate and automatically create this word cloud. The aim behind this was not only to break the ice and make everyone feel comfortable, but also to get everyone thinking and to actively participate in the discussion as well as to have a red thread that would guide us through the session.



During the session a number of papers were presented not only presenting case studies from various parts of the world but also reflecting on past projects as well attempting to challenge the present and look into the future. The first project was presented by colleagues from Chile on a project of public education and archaeology in the Comuna de Taltal, building their approach both on Merriman’s publication as well as the work of some Latin American Social Archaeologists.

Another paper took us to Italy and the Archaeological Museum of Naples which worked together with their local Chinese community in order to re-think the museum’s communication material specifically designed for Chinese visitors.

The case of the Belo Monte hydroelectric plant in the Brazilian Amazon discussed whether, retrospectively it would have been possible to apply a public archaeology approach to the preventive archaeology program by involving the communities whose heritage was and is effected by the construction of the hydroelectric plant.

A call for action was made in the next paper. It reminded us of the radical principles and concepts which surrounded public archaeology and warned that they have been diluted and that the discipline lost some of its edge. Therefore, it is necessary to reintroduce the idea of public archaeology being the critical conscience of archaeology, which is grounded in activism, research and praxis.

The final paper allowed us to cast a glimpse into the crystal ball. The paper reflected upon the contemporary national monument selection processes in the Netherlands and discussed the possibility of using public archaeology to complete the holistic approach, while also thinking about future generations which we wish to bequeath and their interest and values on the heritage we leave behind for them.

Luisa Nienhaus, UCL Institute of Archaeology

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RESEARCH GRANT HOLDERS, 2018

JOHN FISHER, SOUTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY and
GILES DAWKES, ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH-EAST, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LONDON

From American Revolution to Civil War: The fort of Castle Pinckney, Charleston, South Carolina

The inaugural season of excavation at Castle Pinckney, Charleston, South Carolina, USA, was undertaken in August and September 2019 by staff, students and volunteers from South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) and the University College London (UCL). This was the first of three-year planned internationally collaborative effort, funded by the Archaeological Research Trust (ART) and the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology (SPMA) in an attempt to excavate, survey and document an at-risk American National Register site.



Castle Pinckney from the harbour. *Image: Giles Dawkes*

Castle Pinckney is a brick gun fort located in the harbour of Charleston, a colonial city founded by the British in 1680, which eventually earned the moniker the 'London of the South' due to its thriving mercantile trade particularly in slaves. The small island the fort was built on, Shute's Folly, had previously been used for a variety of purposes including a likely place of execution for pirates, an orange grove and an earlier wooden fort built during the American Revolution. The island is also close to where General Benjamin Lincoln sank eight ships in the harbour to deny access to British warships.

The final military use of the island, which is the focus of the ongoing survey, was the construction of Castle Pinckney. Built in 1809 alongside Fort Moultrie, now a National Park Service site, Castle Pinckney was constructed to protect Charleston harbour during a period of rising tensions with European powers. The fort was a second system two-tiered masonry fort, built as part of a co-ordinated campaign of seacoast fortification and is one of the last of its kind that did not undergo serious alteration or dismantling. It was designated as a National Monument in 1922 by Calvin Coolidge, although it lost this protected status in 1954 after falling into disrepair and continues to be at risk to environmental and trespassing threats.

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The fort was occupied until 1835, when the garrison was removed and transferred to St. Augustine due to the outbreak of the second Seminole War. The fort then largely fell into disrepair until 1855, when Congress appropriated funds for repair and it served as Charleston's powder house until the outbreak of the American Civil War. Castle Pinckney would continue to serve a multitude of purposes during the American Civil War that are of interest to this project. During the American Civil War, Castle Pinckney served as the home for the first Union prisoners of the war, captured at the Battle of First Manassas, also known as 'Bull Run'. It was during this phase that the fort became a source of armament for surrounding batteries. Their outdated ordnance was quickly outdated with the appearance of iron-clad ships and most of the fortifications at Charleston were reworked with larger earthworks and larger smoothbore and rifled guns, like that of the Columbiad and Brooke Rifle. Castle Pinckney was updated in 1864, being reinforced and filled with sand to create a barbette battery of three 10-inch Columbiads and one 7-inch Brooke Rifle.

In 1865, the fort was abandoned by Confederate troops and then reoccupied by Union forces. Castle Pinckney would go on to serve as a prison once again for blockade runners and other enemies of the state. In 1878, the fort was transferred to the Treasury Department in order to build a lighthouse. In order to raise the height of the lighthouse the fort was backfilled, unintentionally preserving the interior and creating a form of 'time capsule'.

Although a preliminary survey had been undertaken in the 1970s, Castle Pinckney has never been archaeologically excavated until funding by ART and SPMA allowed this project to begin in 2019. We were especially fortunate to get the local help of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Scott Harris, from the College of Charleston, who together provided transport to and from the island. Unfortunately, due to Hurricane Dorian, the team was only allowed five full days for excavation. These five days, however, led to three trenches being started and a wealth of information being gathered. The trenches were targeted to investigate the barracks, the magazine, and on the 1809 parapet, and all were successful in identifying Civil War period artefacts and structures. One of the fort's garrisons known from the early nineteenth century was the First and Second Battalions of Artillery and a pattern 1821 artillery button displaying an American eagle and shield design with an enclosed 'A', likely belonged to a member of one of these battalions.



Through these efforts we hope to add greatly to the understanding of this fort in particular and to early Federal seacoast fortifications in general. We are especially thankful to the members of the Castle Pinckney Historical Society, the Archaeological Research Trust, the Society for Post Medieval Archaeology, and all the participating volunteers and students.

John Fisher and Giles Dawkes

An 1821 pattern artillery button recovered from Castle Pinckney. *Image: John Fisher*



CONFERENCE DIARY

SOCIETY FOR POST MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONGRESS

17-19 April, 2020 at the University of Plymouth, Devon, UK

PMAC 2020 will be held in two venues as part of the celebrations for the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's landing in the New World. The first part will be hosted by SPMA in Plymouth, Devon. The second part will be held in November, in Plymouth, Massachusetts and hosted by the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA), in conjunction with SPMA and the Society for Historical Archaeology, see below. More details coming soon at www.spma.org.uk/events.

Image: *Near Plymouth by George Hayter, 1857* (Public domain)



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS CONFERENCE

20 August 2020, in Budapest, Hungary

SPMA is sponsoring the session Post-Medieval People and Things: exploring networks of agency (Session #322). Organised by SPMA Council members Sergio Escribano-Ruiz (University of the Basque Country) and Harold Mytum (University of Liverpool) this session will facilitate exchange of theoretical and methodological insights in the relationship of people with things, including documents as well as other artefact categories. The session will explore networks of agency over many different scales, and with a variety of theoretical perspectives regarding the application of network theories. See www.e-a-a.org/ea2020 for full conference details.

NORDIC UTILITY GLASS CONFERENCE

22-23 October 2020 in Holmegaard Værk, Næstved, Denmark

Crossing borders - influences between the Nordic glassworks in terms of work force, technology and design

Over the past two centuries glass workers have travelled between Nordic glass works, crossing borders in search of employment and bringing new technology and skills. Factories have translated trends into new ranges for local consumers and looked to neighbouring countries for inspiration and aesthetic ideas. This annual conference is a forum for sharing knowledge about the history, manufacture and aesthetic developments in utility glass in the Nordic countries, and a network and venue for inspiration for new researchers, collectors and designers. Abstracts to mbr@museerne.dk by 1 August 2020. The venue, the new Danish glass museum at Holmegaard Works, will open in May 2020, see www.facebook.com/holmegaardvaerk. More details will be available in August 2020.

COUNCIL FOR NORTHEAST HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY MEETING

5-8 November, 2020 in Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA

The CNEHA will be holding its annual meeting in Plymouth, Massachusetts, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Plymouth Colony. The conference will serve as a joint meeting with the SPMA and the SHA. It will focus on the colonial encounters that took place in Massachusetts and associated material culture, landscape, and environment. More information available at <https://cneha.org/> soon.

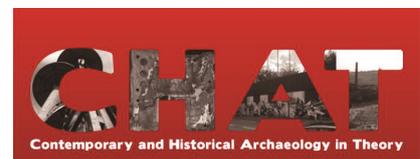


CNEHA
Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology

CHAT 2020

6-8 November (provisional) 2020 in Santiago, Spain

The Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory conference will be held in Santiago, Spain and hosted by CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas-Spanish National Research Council) and the Institute of Heritage Sciences (Incipit). The theme of the 2020 meeting reflects the location: 'PilgrimsCHAT' and will be discussing the theme of 'Movement.' Further details to follow at <http://chat-arch.org>.



SHA 2021 – REVISITING GLOBAL ARCHAEOLOGIES

6-9 January 2021 in Lisbon, Portugal

This Society of Historical Archaeology conference references the international location and outlook of the meeting, the history of Lisbon as the center of one of the most significant early modern global European empires and the transformation of historical archaeology into a truly global discipline. It will address the increasingly global character of the discipline in the past, present and future; themes of movement and diaspora; industrialization and mechanization as well as the different definitions of 'historical' archaeology. See <https://sha.org/conferences>



REVISITING
GLOBAL
ARCHAEOLOGIES

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POST MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY ONLINE

Searching for that reference but can't remember what issue it was in? Want to have a look at past research? Online access to Post Medieval Archaeology from Volume 1 (1967) is available to all SPMA members via Taylor & Francis. See www.tandfonline.com/loi/ypma20 and contact support@tandfonline.com if you need help with access.

WE WANT YOUR COPY!

Calling all Early Career Researchers! If you've recently completed a PhD send us an abstract of 150-300 words, an image, contact details and a link to your research. Other news of interest to our members is also very welcome.

Copy deadlines

February 1 for the Spring issue, August 1 for Autumn . Send news and/or enquiries to the Newsletter Editor Lara Band newsletter@spma.org.uk

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