



Issue 90 Spring 2022

Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology

Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE

The opening months of 2022 offered an unusual intersection of my role as SPMA president and my professional role as Chief Executive of Re-Form Heritage, the UK heritage charity that owns and operates Middleport Pottery – the last 19th-century Staffordshire pottery in continuous operation.



Back in early January, Stoke-on-Trent City Council proposed a range of £7 million funding cuts. While these also had significant impacts on the provision of children's centres and child and adolescent mental health provision, it was the proposed cuts to Stoke's heritage offer that really grabbed public attention – regionally, nationally, and internationally. The proposed heritage cuts included closing

the Gladstone Pottery Museum for five months a year (though remaining available for location filming and event bookings), reducing the opening hours of the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery (PMAG) from seven days a week to five, and eliminating both ceramics curator positions. Given that the PMAG ceramics collection is of global significance, underpinning research on 17th- through 20th-century ceramics in one of the most important centres of post-medieval pottery production for archaeologists, art historians, and others, the proposals to eliminate the curatorial positions caused particular concern.

Continued overleaf...

Following a discussion with other SPMA Council members, it was decided that I should engage with the proposals; I have a research background in 19th-century ceramics and a leadership position within the Stoke heritage sector. One carefully worded Twitter thread later, and I found myself being interviewed on national radio and in a national newspaper (as well as in local media), outlining my concerns over the loss of the curator posts, while doing my best to sound measured and not to cut my lines of communication with the city council. Just to complicate matters, the historic Leopard Inn in central Burslem (one of the traditional 'six towns' of Stoke-on-Trent) went up in flames. This 18th-century pub and hotel was where Josiah Wedgwood first met with Joseph Brindley, Thomas Bentley, and Erasmus Darwin to discuss the construction of what became the Trent and Mersey Canal. This tragedy further focused minds over the importance of preserving Stoke's heritage; and this time I found myself quoted on the BBC website over the fire at the Leopard.

The historic Leopard Inn, Burslem, Stoke on Trent, after the fire



After an extensive consultation exercise, the city council did announce a few changes to the heritage funding proposals. PMAG will remain open to school groups on Tuesdays. The Gladstone Pottery Museum will hold occasional special themed events during the five months a year it's closed to the public. While these adjustments are arguably cosmetic, the important change was that the curatorial cuts

were removed from the budget proposals. The world-leading curatorial expertise at PMAG therefore remains safe – at least for the time being. The council also announced a 'heritage congress' for major stakeholders in the city's heritage and tourism sector, designed to open the conversation about how to better manage and protect the city's globally important ceramics heritage. It's my understanding this will take place in June, and while I haven't received a formal invitation yet, I've been told via official channels that I will be asked to take part.

The situation facing heritage in Stoke is by no means unique. Hard-pressed local authorities across the United Kingdom are struggling with difficult funding challenges, and council-run heritage offers are often the first programmes to be targeted. What does make Stoke unusual is the significance of its ceramic heritage to post-medieval archaeology in the UK, in Europe, and across the world. I'm pleased that I've been able to bridge my SPMA and professional roles to draw attention to the funding proposals, and to help mitigate against some of the more serious impacts.

Elsewhere, our annual conference is online again this year – Omicron made planning for an in-person conference impractical, and we had to make the decision at the end of last year to move online again. But I hope to see many of you virtually, and we've already begun thinking about holding an in-person conference again (finally!) in 2023. So it's my hope that I'll get to see you in-person next spring.

Alasdair Brooks

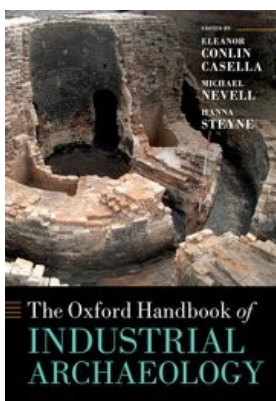
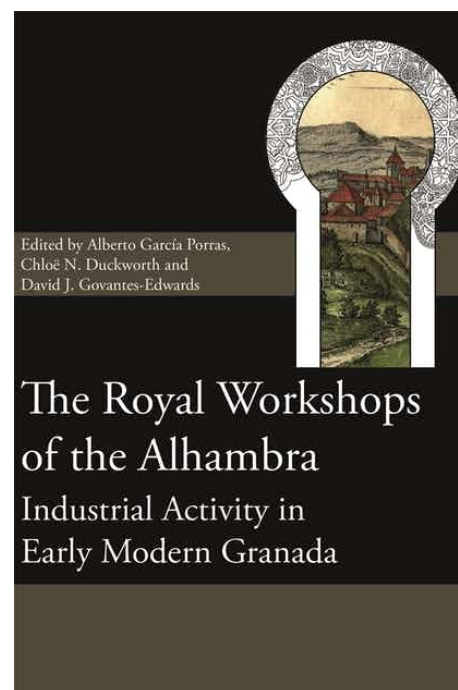
SPMA NEWS and EVENTS

NEW SPMA MONOGRAPH PUBLISHED BY BOYDELL

The Royal Workshops of the Alhambra: Industrial Activity in Early Modern Granada

Edited by Alberto García Porras, Chloë N. Duckworth and David J. Govantes-Edwards

The Alhambra is one of the most famous archaeological sites worldwide, yet knowledge of it remains very partial, focussing on the medieval palaces. This book addresses that imbalance, examining the adjacent urban and industrial zone, in particular the early modern period when the manufacture of ceramic, glass and metal reached their peak. Based on the recent *Alhambra Royal Workshops Project*, and chapters discussing the methodology and results this book provides an invaluable wide-lens picture of the palatial city. See <https://boydellandbrewer.com/9781783276813/the-royal-workshops-of-the-alhambra/> for more information



DUE OUT IN JUNE:

The Oxford Handbook of Industrial Archaeology

Edited by Eleanor Casella, Michael Nevell, and Hanna Steyne

Co-edited by SPMA Secretary Hanna Steyne and with forty three chapters on subjects ranging from temperance to nuclear archaeology this is the first major English language publication on Industrial archaeology in a decade. See <https://global.oup.com/> for more details.

THE SPMA PHD GROUP

The SPMA PhD group provides a place within the Society for members who are current research students to connect with other students around the world, while gaining skills useful for postdoctoral employment.

Offering experience in conference organisation and session chairing, book reviewing, publication and peer review, the Group's activities will also include workshop sessions on topics including adapting your thesis for publication, turning research into teaching, specialist subjects and more. Social and networking events for the Group include opportunities to present your research at work-in-progress seminars and to receive feedback from others, and events with other related societies.

For 2022 the SPMA PhD Group programme offers:

- May - Post-Med ArchSci evening with Blessing Chidimuro: present your research and discuss current post-medieval archaeological science
- June - Workshop: Post-Medieval Archaeology Outside Academia with Laura Hampden, Raksha Dave and James Dixon
- July - End of year social and planning next year's programme: current members to plan

Members from anywhere in the world are welcome to join the SPMA PhD Group and we look forward to meeting you soon. To sign up, email membership@spma.org.uk

SPMA NEWS and EVENTS

THE 2021 GEOFF EGAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

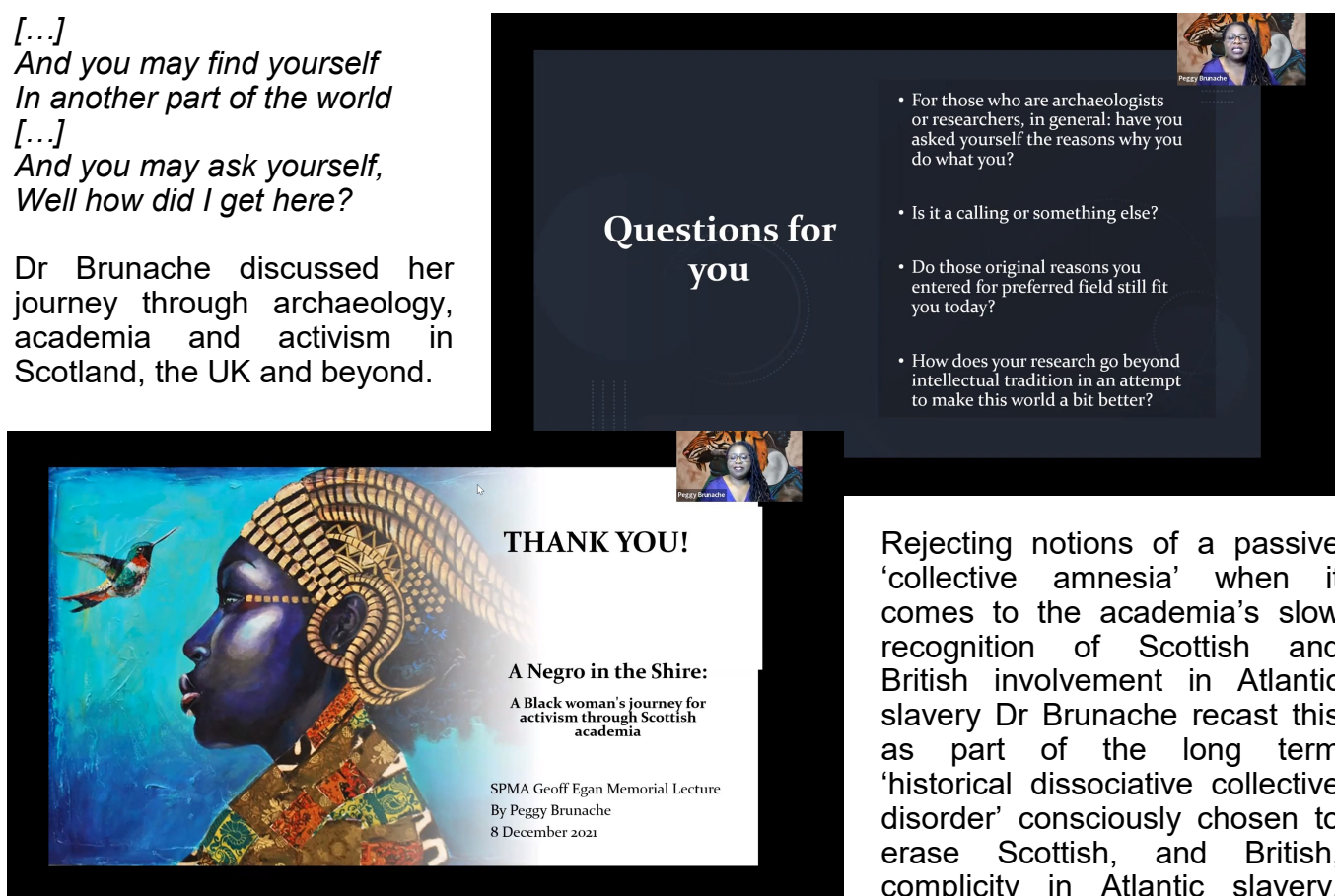
Dr Peggy Brunache, Lecturer in the History of Atlantic Slavery & Director of the Beniba Centre for Slavery Studies, University of Glasgow

A Negro in the Shire: A Black woman's journey for activism through Scottish academia

Dr Peggy Brunache's powerful lecture was a departure from the more usual emphasis on archaeological method and material culture for the Society's annual event. Starting with a clip from the Talking Head's song Once in a lifetime:

[...]
And you may find yourself
In another part of the world
[...]
And you may ask yourself,
Well how did I get here?

Dr Brunache discussed her journey through archaeology, academia and activism in Scotland, the UK and beyond.



Questions for you

- For those who are archaeologists or researchers, in general: have you asked yourself the reasons why you do what you?
- Is it a calling or something else?
- Do those original reasons you entered for preferred field still fit you today?
- How does your research go beyond intellectual tradition in an attempt to make this world a bit better?

THANK YOU!

A Negro in the Shire:
A Black woman's journey for activism through Scottish academia

SPMA Geoff Egan Memorial Lecture
By Peggy Brunache
8 December 2021

precarious academic contracts play in silencing debate and activism, and the personal toll that studying racialised violence can take, particularly when that legacy, and violence, is still ongoing. It was this, in part, that led to the co-founding of ESBA, the European Association of Black and Allied Archaeologists, in summer 2020, (Twitter: @ESBAArchaeology) mirroring the US based www.societyofblackarchaeologists.com

Dr Brunache also highlighted how deliberate and strategic working across disciplines and outside academia including, for her, presenting at food, science and music festivals, works to expand, support and diversify the communities of people interested and involved in discussing slavery and its legacies. Ultimately archaeologists' social position calls for dissemination of work in a manner that serves the public: a recognition that teaching the past requires looking beyond material culture, documentary sources and discrete instances in time and place to see that historical moments of racialised oppression are part of larger processes. It's only by engaging with this that there can be a substantial movement - and we can be a force - for long lasting social change.

It's impossible to evoke just how inspiring Dr Brunache's lecture was so if you missed it or want to watch it again you can via the SPMA YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iy-V35Zb-BQ>.

NEWLY AWARDED PhDs

In this occasional section we highlight newly awarded PhDs with the post medieval period as a focus. This time we have Emily Glass, who held the 2018 SPMA Paul Courtenay Travel Award (now Congress Bursary Award) for participation in the *New Approaches to Albanian Studies* international conference in Tirana (see the [Spring 2019](#) newsletter at spma.org.uk). We also have former SPMA Council member Christopher Booth. Congratulations to both.

If you, or someone you know, would like to highlight your recently awarded PhD in this section please email newsletter@spma.org.uk.

CHRISTOPHER BOOTH, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM FURNISHING THE SHOP: THE MATERIAL CULTURE OF APOTHECARIES IN BRITAIN AND THE ATLANTIC WORLD (C.1617-1815)

My thesis examines the material culture evidence for the apothecary shops of Britain, Ireland, and British North America between 1617 when the Society of Apothecaries of London was founded and 1815 when the Apothecaries Act made the apothecary a general practitioner of medicine. Given their ubiquity, and the centrality of material culture to both their medical practice and retail spaces, a thorough material assessment of apothecaries was a notable gap in the historiography of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries which this important, interdisciplinary thesis fills. The thesis concludes that apothecaries, although largely overlooked within medical, scientific, and social history, were important agents of historical change in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Making conscious use of material culture to create remarkably similar visual and material experiences, their shops were both a space of broad and unusual encounter with the products of the global trade in medicinal plants and knowledge, and a space of anxiety, where harm and healing were closely associated.

Christopher Booth

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Late eighteenth-century green and gold painted drawer fronts from the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop Museum, Alexandria, VA.

Top, RAD:MEZERE, roots of Mezereum, a flowering herb used to stimulate the kidneys and ease nausea and purging (Wood & Bache, 1849: 460-462).



Bottom, SAGO., a starch derived from a variety of Indian Ocean originating palms used to form the body of a sweetened and spiced drink for 'febrile' cases (Wood & Bache, 1849: 620-622).

Photographs by Author, courtesy of The Office of Historic Alexandria.

EMILY GLASS, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**A CHILD OF TWO WORLDS: MATERIALITY AND LANDSCAPE OF MUSHROOM-SHAPED BUNKERS IN ALBANIA**

This thesis used an interdisciplinary modern conflict archaeology and anthropology approach towards Albania's Cold War mushroom-shaped bunkers (MSBs) and their impact on people, culture, and the landscape. From 1944–1991, the Albanian population was indoctrinated towards a Marxist-Leninist ideology, led by the dictator Enver Hoxha. This set the tone for an atmosphere of paranoia, xenophobia, naivety, mistrust, and fear which became encapsulated by MSBs. These were installed from 1967 as part of a bunkerisation scheme that drew in much of the population and have endured for fifty-five years in the landscape and psyche of Albania. They crossed the communist collapse as uneasy objects and navigated functional re-uses until these eventually gave way to more active engagements, destructions, and recommodifications for economic purposes.



*A Type 1 MSB at an army base on the Ksamil Peninsula, overlooking the Corfu Straits, July 2010
Photo: Emily Glass*

Two border case study landscapes in southern Albania were examined: the Drino Valley land border and the Ksamil Peninsula coastal border with a view towards constructing MSB biographies. An MSB typology was created to map distributions and construct number estimates with communist military and daily life experiences drawn out through interviews. This illustrated differences in how people can view the same object, whether they be Albanian, foreign or members of the Albanian diaspora. Diversity of opinion is crucial when considering how and why people have engaged with MSBs if there is ever to be a discussion of MSBs as official heritage (currently not recognised) or for how this contested artefact might be of economic benefit in the future. For tourists, MSBs are often synonymous with modern Albania and been used, rightly or wrongly, to promote Albania to foreigners in ways that have sometimes been problematic. This thesis recognised that as Albania moves forward, values shift and further narratives develop, meaning that these MSB biographies are in no way complete.

Emily Glass

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SOCIETY PRIZES AND GRANTS

RESEARCH GRANTS For Society members. The maximum grant, and the total fund available in any single application round is £2000. Deadlines for applications: 1 March and 1 September.

UNDERGRADUATE AND POST GRADUATE DISSERTATION PRIZE Winners tba later this year. Both prizes are £250: departments can nominate one dissertation for each. Deadlines: 1 September and 15 December respectively.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD Up to £500 available to members and non-members, for innovative public-facing initiatives - maybe you have a digital initiative you'd like to seek funding for? Deadline for applications: 15 September.

PAUL COURTENAY CONGRESS BURSARY Enables students to participate in the SPMA's annual congress. Applicants need not be members of the Society and Council will prioritise the following groups: first time attendees, students, those on low-income and people who are traditionally underrepresented in archaeology (all self-defined). Deadline for applications: 15 February.

Recipients of awards and grants contribute a report to the Society website and newsletter. Recipients of the Dissertation Prizes are encouraged to contribute a short summary. Contact newsletter@spma.org.uk for details.

SPMA POSTGRADUATE PRIZE 2021

ROWAN PATEL, UNIVERSITY OF YORK **CHESHIRE GLASSHOUSE SITES: AN INVESTIGATION OF THE COUNTY'S FOREST GLASS INDUSTRY**

This dissertation studied the period when glass was manufactured as a forest industry, using wood as the fuel source, between the late 13th century and 1615 when wood was banned as a fuel for glass manufacture. Fieldwork was carried out, leading to the discovery of a rare glassmaking site of this period, which had not been



identified before, only one forest glassmaking site being previously known in Cheshire. The chemical composition of glassmaking waste from the site was analysed. This analysis showed the glass to have been made to the recipe used by French glassmakers, recorded to have immigrated to England from 1567 onwards, but who were not previously known to have operated in Cheshire. A fluxgate gradiometer survey carried out at the site identified the probable location of a glass furnace. Further work on Cheshire's forest glass industry is currently ongoing with the ultimate intention of publishing the results of this project.

Rowan Patel
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rowangp@yahoo.co.uk

Examples of window and vessel glass discovered at the previously unknown glassmaking site. The chemical composition matches that of glassmaking waste from the site, thus implying that these pieces were made at this location. The date is late 16th to early 17th century (scale: 50 mm). Photo: Rowan Patel

SPMA RESEARCH GRANT HOLDERS 2021

ROWAN PATEL, UNIVERSITY OF YORK

CHESHIRE GLASSHOUSE SITES: AN INVESTIGATION OF THE COUNTY'S FOREST GLASS INDUSTRY

Cheshire's forest glass industry has not previously been subject to study, and although historical references in the county provide the earliest documentary records of glassmaking in this country, only one site is known archaeologically. This dissertation aims to increase our understanding of glass manufacture in Cheshire between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries, through identifying and studying manufacturing sites where glass was produced. The historical evidence for forest glassmaking in Cheshire was assessed and considered in its national context. Potential glasshouse sites across the county were then located using field-name evidence, as recorded on estate and tithe surveys. Investigative fieldwork was conducted at the sites identified, leading to the discovery of a hitherto unknown glasshouse site, and thus doubling the number of archaeologically known sites in Cheshire. The assemblage of artefacts discovered at this important new site was evaluated and described. The chemical composition of glass from Cheshire's two known forest glasshouse sites was analysed, which has allowed these sites to be dated, depending on whether the glass conformed to a composition brought to England by continental immigrants at a known date. It is concluded that the forest glass industry would benefit from more intensive study in other areas of the country, and that the methods utilised in this work, if implemented elsewhere, have the potential to shed new light on this industry nationally.



RYAN K. MCNUTT, GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY CLYDEBANK AND THE CONFEDERACY: BLOCKADE RUNNERS AND GLOBALIZATION THROUGH MATERIAL CULTURE

This project will examine archival data from the archives at the University of Glasgow, and the Glasgow City Archives in the Mitchell Library are the records from the Clydeside shipbuilding firms who launched the vessels, and the blockade running companies set up to provide them with their cargo. An analysis of this data will provide an initial assessment of the types of cargoes, the market demand for items outwith the munitions of war. It will explore the agency of consumers in the South, including private individuals and government interests for goods necessary for supplying those functions not directly linked to combat, but deemed essential for support. These market choices, made on what goods to transport for the highest return will then be compared with the extent material culture excavated at Camp Lawton. This comparison would allow us to directly link the penetration of materials from blockade runners to terrestrial sites in the interior of the South along transportation lines. By focusing archival research through the variables of ports, it should be possible to generate a picture of the material culture entering the Deep South along the Atlantic coasts. Charleston, Savannah, and Wilmington were all accessible by direct rail links from Camp Lawton. Thus, it is probable that imported material culture would have entered south-eastern Georgia, and by proxy, Lawton, through the above-mentioned ports along the Atlantic seaboard. Furthermore, this research will be used as the basis to support further grant applications to examine other areas of shipbuilding/

Fort Monroe, Virginia. Blockade runner TEASER off Fort Monroe.
United States, 1864 Dec.

Photograph: <https://www.loc.gov/item/2018672333/>

TERENCE CHRISTIAN, PHD & AMANDA CHARLAND, PHD
THE FORT BEDFORD – RISING SUN TAVERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

The Fort Bedford – Rising Sun Tavern Archaeological Project explores the intersection of frontier military and civilian culture and mercantile activity during the French and Indian War / Seven Years' War through the lens of Fort Bedford (built 1758-c1765) and the associated Rising Sun Tavern (built c1760) in Bedford, Pennsylvania. The fort and military focused, civilian-run tavern were built to support the logistical operations of General John Forbes' 1758 campaign against Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania). Bedford subsequently became a major Mid-Atlantic economic engine during the post-French and Indian War period, especially from the Revolutionary era to the mid-19th century, linking the eastern coastal cities with growing westward expansion.



Photo: Terence Christian & Amanda Charland

The project records and dates significant built historic resources in Bedford, Pennsylvania including structures owned/occupied by prominent early American figures such as Thomas Smith (Delegate to the US Constitutional Convention, Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and President George Washington's personal lawyer), Arthur St Clair (Major General in the Continental Army and President of the Continental Congress), Col. Henry Bouquet (Commander, British Army 60th Regiment of Foot / The Royal American Regiment and key participant in Forbes' 1758 Campaign), and President George Washington (present during the 1794 Whiskey Rebellion).

Methods and procedures employed include archive, deed, and genealogy research; map regression analysis; Secretary of the Interior and Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission [PHMC]-compliant historic architecture assessments; building design, layout, fabric, and decorative motif studies; radiocarbon and thermoluminescence dating; XRF materials composition; materials analyses (e.g., nail, paint, wood, and wallpaper material assessments); and GIS-based phase modelling. This grant supports dating of the structure at 111-113 South Juliana Street via radiocarbon, thermoluminescence, and XRF testing of timber and brick samples. Presently, the grant subject property is owned by Walker-Lay LLC and houses Peppercorn Market, a boutique grocer. The property is undergoing historic rehabilitation by project co-funder Walker-Lay LLC. Our thanks to the SPMA for supporting this research into western Pennsylvania's earliest colonial military and economic history.

Terence Christian & Amanda Charland



*Photo:
 Terence Christian &
 Amanda Charland*

CONFERENCE DIARY

ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY ANNUAL CONFERENCE 17th – 19th June 2022, Liverpool

This year's conference will take the form of three days of visits and walking tours in the Merseyside area in conjunction with the Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society, including a transport day taking in trams, ferries and a trip to an aerodrome. See <https://industrial-archaeology.org/conferences/annual-conference/> for more details.



POST MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONGRESS

19-22 May 2022, online

As with last year there will be 15 minute pre-recorded presentations organised into YouTube playlists, Twitter papers and, following their successful introduction to the conference world last year (we *think* we were the first!) Instagram posters (left). Presenters and delegates then gather into live Zoom discussion sessions.

While we will miss the conviviality of an in-person event, we also recognise that holding our conference online can make it more geographically and financially accessible. We do however also recognise that fully digital experiences are not the whole solution, particularly with regards to digital divides, and are working to make our conferences more inclusive experiences, both now and in the future. See <http://www.spma.org.uk/news/post-medieval-archaeology-congress-2022-pmac22/> for more details – dedicated webspace coming soon.

CHAT POST MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONGRESS: 11-12 November 2022, Lisbon

DECOLONIZE! The next Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory meeting will be held in Lisbon on November 11-12, 2022. See [#CHATLisbon2022](https://twitter.com/CHATLisbon2022) on the CHAT Twitter feed [@CHATArch](https://twitter.com/CHATArch) to find out and keep an eye on chat-arch.org for further details.



CALL FOR NEWSLETTER COPY!

Calling all Early Career Researchers!

Want to write for publication but don't feel ready for peer review yet? Then get in touch: we'd like the newsletter to be a stepping stone for you. As with our prize winners and grant recipients, you could have two to three pages of A4 (depending on how much room we have) of A4 for text and images to share your research.

MA or PhD recently completed?

We'd love to hear about your research and help share it further with your 150-250 word abstract, an image, contact details and a link to your work.

Academics!

Do you have cohort of undergrad or MA students who'd like to do a takeover/partial takeover? We're open to suggestions for content!

All members!

Other news of interest is also very welcome: upcoming conferences, opportunities for Continued Professional Development, new university courses, fieldwork opportunities, opportunities for volunteers to get involved in your project.....get in touch!

Copy deadlines

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

OTHER NEWS and BACK MATTER



NEW MASTERS PROGRAMME WITH HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY PATHWAY

Building on our expertise in landscape archaeology and material culture analyses, Newcastle University is investing in post-medieval archaeology and has recently launched a new pathway in historical archaeology as part of its taught MA programme. The programme is highly flexible, allowing students to choose from a variety of modules to further develop their practical and research skills. Options now include courses in historic artefact analysis, the recording of historic buildings and graduate seminars discussing the latest theory and research in historical archaeology.

For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/38gfV7p> or contact Dr Eric Tourigny (eric.tourigny@ncl.ac.uk)



QR CODES TO ACCESS TO SPMA SOCIAL MEDIA



If you weren't familiar with QR codes before, what with Track and Trace, you may well be now. If you've a relatively new smartphone, open the camera then point it at the code. Your phone should read it. If it doesn't you'll need to download a QR code reader from your device's app store. Otherwise:

Instagram: [@soc_post_med_archaeology](https://www.instagram.com/soc_post_med_archaeology) Facebook: facebook.co.uk/postmedieval

Twitter: [@spma](https://twitter.com/spma)

BOOK DISCOUNT FOR SPMA MEMBERS

For discounts on SPMA monographs, see <http://www.spma.org.uk/publications/monograph-series>
For a generous 30% discount on physical or e-books published by Taylor Francis and Routledge use SOC21 (valid until 31 May, when a new one will be issued).

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP RATES

Ordinary members (25 years & older) £36/US \$69
Joint members (25 years & older) £40/US \$92
Young person (under 25 years old / full-time student) £20/US \$40

Membership services for the Society are provided by Taylor & Francis Publishing. Pay online using Visa, Mastercard, Maestro, AmEx or Solo.
Join at www.spma.org.uk

NEWSLETTER COPY

Deadlines February 1 for the Spring issue, August 1 for Autumn.

Copy and/or enquiries to the Newsletter Editor Lara Band newsletter@spma.org.uk

SECRETARY Hanna Steyne secretary@spma.org.uk

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