



Niki Savvides recording a school group visiting the Herculaneum site in May 2009 and mapping the route they took (see page 5).

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2010-11 Friends of Herculaneum Society Bursary Award holder

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The entrance to the Museum

Romans - The Founders of the City

On the 18th June, 32 members of the Society, many of whom had travelled great distances to attend, visited the Museum of London in order to see the work of the Museum. We started the day, as we were to continue, by splitting into two groups of a more manageable size.

A Database of Bones

The Museum has created and maintains a massive database of all of the bones which it stores from the archaeological digs within the M25. The bones are indexed by type, the location at which they were found and, where possible, by date. Any interesting features are also noted.

Chronic disease was a particular speciality of our guide, Jelena Bekvalec. The Romans showed signs of tooth decay which resulted from eating a refined diet whilst it was noticeable that in the post-Roman period the diet was coarser and that this resulted in more wear on the teeth. There was also considerable wear and tear on the joints of some of the bodies and many of the bones revealed the signs of a hard and active life. It was evident that people were capable of recovering from breakage of major bones as was shown by a femur which today we would consider should be repaired with a surgically implanted plate.

We were also able to examine the remains of lady, who, whilst she had been born in Rome, had died in London. She had been buried in a lead lined sarcophagus, was lightly built and showed no obvious signs of the cause of her death. These were evidently the remains of a person of high status.

The Amphitheatre

After a short walk with our guide Jackie Keily through the steel and glass cityscape of the Square Mile and a brief stop to view the city wall, we went on to London's Amphitheatre. It was a small amphitheatre holding perhaps 5,000 of London's population of 25,000 and had the design with which we are familiar including a descent to the surface of the arena through a stone lined archway with gates at the bottom. There was a gladiators' room on the right as you entered the arena. On the left was an equivalent room which, it may be deduced from the liftable door, contained the animals used for the spectacles.



The Amphitheatre

Of particular note was the drainage system which would have been so important in the damp climate of London, a fact of which we were reminded by the sunshine and heavy showers of the day. The drains were lined with wood and had a trap so that any sand from the arena would not escape to block the underground sections of the drain which conducted the water away from the building. For the many members who are familiar with the great amphitheatres of Rome, Pozzuoli and Pompeii it was an interesting insight into the response to the more severe weather and less wealthy environment of Britain.

The personal selection by the conservators included some fascinating items. Each person will have left with an image of their own favourites. The Roman leather tent must have been the mainstay of the Roman army on the move, and very dark inside. The writing tablets and styli were reminiscent of the busy city workers on the move before the era of iPhones and tablet computers. There was one stylus which was described as the Mont Blanc of its era due to its having an eraser for smoothing out errors in the wax tablets on which the notes were taken.

There was also a collection of small knives which again will be familiar to those of us who, even today, carry a pocket knife with us.



Roy Stephenson introducing Society members to the Archive

The Archive

After an enjoyable lunch we went on to the Museum of London's archive at Eagle Wharf, a building which had the familiar feel of a place of work. Again we were split into two groups with one group being shown the archive whilst the other was taken to see some of the more interesting Roman finds.

The Museum's archive, which is maintained by a very small staff, with the assistance of volunteers, stores the preserved remains and documents from all of the digs within London and out to the M25. The majority of the material comes from digs undertaken before sites in the City were redeveloped. It is stored in an enormous array of rolling shelf units which seem to form a solid mass of history. Effectively it is a gigantic filing cabinet of remains in which each dig is concentrated into a single location for the major material types and all of it is easily accessible to researchers. It is all packed for conservation in standardised containers which are known to offer excellent protection for the items. The finds which were available for us to view included the Drapers Garden hoard of metal ware and a range of items selected according to the conservation team's personal preference.

The Drapers Garden hoard was found at the bottom of a well and comprised a large number of objects made from a copper alloy which would have permitted them to be polished to a rich, golden sheen. There was an interesting discussion concerning the reason why they may have been deposited in the well with the possibility of the ritual decommissioning of the well or a temple, or both, which was the archaeologists' favourite. The possibility they may have been artifacts from a temple was reinforced by their size and quality.



A selection of pieces from the Drapers' Gardens Hoard



Angela Wardle talking about The Drapers' Gardens Hoard



Glynn Davis explaining the process of cleaning finds before they are catalogued (left) and describing the origin of certain Roman finds held at the Archive (right)

The Friends of Herculaneum Society would like to sincerely thank the staff of the Museum of London: Jenny Hall, Roy Stephenson, Jelana Bekvalec, Jackie Keily, Angela Wardle and Glynn Davis for their time and efforts to make our visit a very enjoyable and informative one.

*Caring for Herculaneum's mosaics
Niki Savvides, research student, Institute of Archaeology, University
College London*



A school group visiting the 'House of the Beautiful Courtyard'. Most of the rooms in this house are paved with mosaics, which are impacted by high visitor numbers, which peak during the period between March to May, when most school groups come to the site.

My research addresses the complex issue of managing access and preservation at large archaeological sites with mosaic floors, against the background of increased tourism. Thanks to the studentship received from the Friends of Herculaneum Society and the Herculaneum Centre, I was able to complete the collection of data related to my research project at Herculaneum in the summer of 2011, which also forms part of my research internship with the Herculaneum Conservation Project (HCP)1. In fact, the invaluable support by the HCP and the Herculaneum Centre2 has immensely benefitted my research, not only in the data collection process, but also from project team input and ten years of project results.

The research project focuses on Herculaneum as an example of a large complex urban landscape site with an abundance of mosaic floors threatened by an increasing number of visitors, which if uncontrolled, can have detrimental effects on the condition of tessellated pavements. Through the selected case study the research evaluates the role of conservation and access to the fabric and significance of mosaic floors open to the public, and the factors that contribute to this impact within the broader management context of the site. In doing so, it explores all facets related to these issues, and thus gains a holistic understanding of the complex mechanisms that control these practices. The thesis starts from the premise that direct access to the mosaics is not necessarily solely negative, as it can have positive effects to the visitor experience of the site, by contributing to its sense of place. The assessment of the role of direct physical access to the way visitors experience Herculaneum will lead to sustainable approaches for managing access against the protection of the mosaic floors, which is the ultimate scope of the research. An array of qualitative and quantitative research methods have been adopted for the collection and interpretation of data drawn from the fields of mosaic conservation, museum studies, urban planning and ethnography. Most data were collected in the last two years of fieldwork, ranging from visitor interviews and questionnaires, interviews with guides and custodians, and observations concerning onsite visitor movement and behaviour.

During this year's fieldwork the collection of all data relevant to the assessment of visitor impacts, a major component of the research, was completed. This included the assessment of visitor movement in relation to the buildings with mosaic floors, through the recording of an equal sample of routes for the main visitor types: independent, school groups and organised guided groups. In addition, the methodology of the vulnerability assessment of the mosaics open to access was finalised and relevant data were collected. Following the identification of the main conditions likely to instigate or accelerate damage by foot traffic, each mosaic was surveyed and these conditions were mapped on 1:50 m scaled maps. The insertion of these data on the Geographic Information Systems platform of the site will allow their spatial correlation and their assessment in terms of potential visitor impact. An additional assessment of the values of the mosaics (archaeological and educational) and their correlation with the already collected data of visitor access patterns and mosaic vulnerability will form the basis for developing visitor management and mosaic conservation and interpretation strategies, such as mosaic

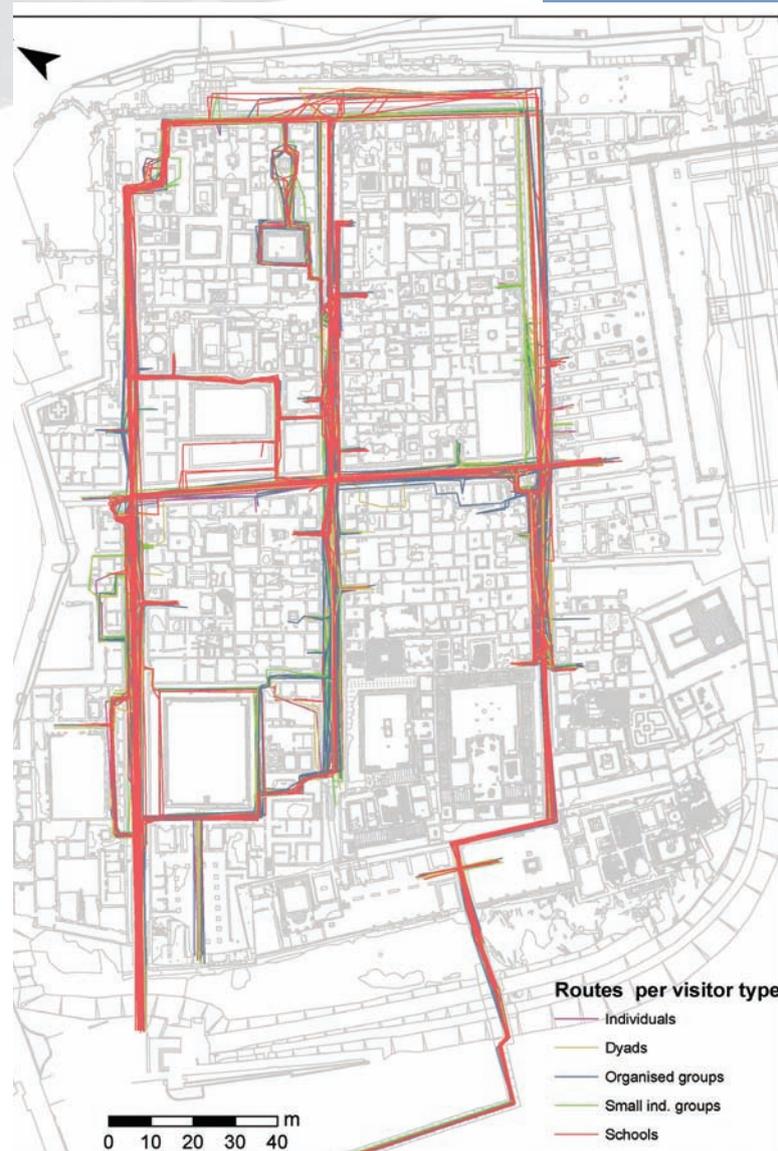
maintenance, alternative itineraries, controlled access to selected buildings with mosaics, control of visitor flows and numbers or seasonality.

It is hoped that the research will contribute, not only to the future sustainable management of Herculaneum, but also to the wider field of mosaic conservation, through the development of a methodology for assessing and controlling the impact of visitors on in situ mosaic floors, applicable to other sites similar to Herculaneum. From this perspective, the research acquires a wider significance in the Mediterranean region where complex archaeological sites with in situ mosaic floors are threatened by increased and uncontrolled visitor numbers.

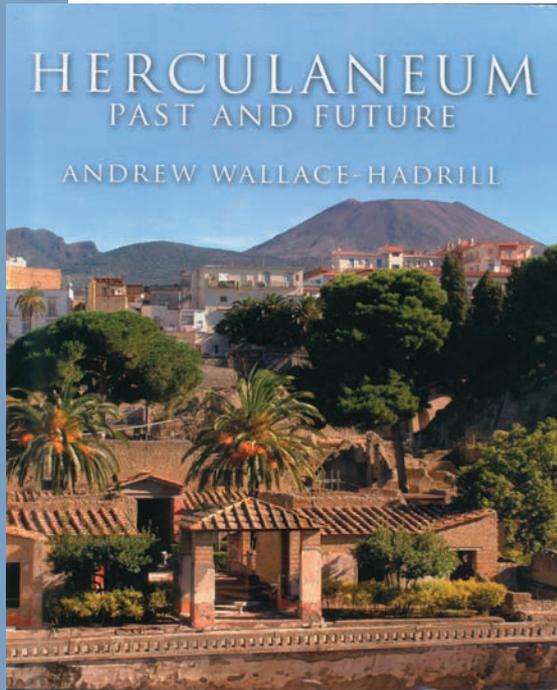
1 The Herculaneum Conservation Project is a Packard Humanities Institute initiative for the site's conservation in collaboration with the Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Napoli e Pompei and the British School at Rome; www.herculaneum.org.

2 The Herculaneum Centre has a mission to facilitate people's involvement in Herculaneum's heritage; to know more see www.herculaneumcentre.org.

Map showing the 120 recorded visitor routes around the site of Herculaneum for the years 2009-2011. Colours refer to different types of visitors



Book Reviews

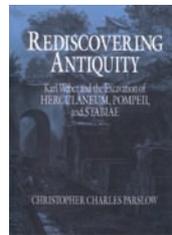
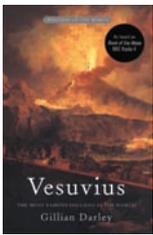


Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, *Herculaneum Past and Future*. Frances Lincoln Ltd., in association with The Packard Humanities Institute. Los Altos, CA 2011. ISBN 978-0-7112-3142-9. UK £40, US \$60

Andrew Wallace-Hadrill is well known to Friends as former Director of the British School at Rome, a speaker at Society meetings, and head of the Herculaneum Conservation Project. This book is the fruit of his decade of labour at Herculaneum. It is a detailed and authoritative overview of the site, presented in a lively, easy style and enriched by hundreds of sumptuous illustrations, including many quadruple-page fold-outs and a huge plan. Though it is deliberately not a guide to the site, as a comprehensive discussion it is the first in English in decades and will clearly be the standard reference. The price is not at the bottom end, but so glossy a book would normally sell for much more. Those who can should buy it, and get it into school and university libraries. The title is an echo of Charles Waldstein's *Herculaneum: Past, Present and Future* (1908). Waldstein was an American-born Cambridge professor who tried to mount an international campaign to excavate Herculaneum. He was unsuccessful, encountering many problems of a sort still familiar today. He lived to see Amedeo Maiuri begin the dig under purely Italian auspices (Mussolini), and visited him on the site. When Waldstein died shortly thereafter, in 1927, Maiuri sent his widow a Roman funerary urn from Herculaneum, 'in which the ashes lie still'. Maiuri realised some of Waldstein's dream, but not all. Individual chapters discuss geology, the history of the excavations, the details of Maiuri's restorations, the town and its people, public buildings, standards of living, 'high life' and 'low life', differences from Pompeii, and future prospects. There is a mountain of high-quality information here, valuable to the professional and accessible to the

amateur. Throughout the book the collaborative approach of the HCP demonstrates its benefits, combining the knowledge of historians, archaeologists, conservators, engineers, architects, physical anthropologists, chemists, geologists, and others, in cooperation with civic authorities, national cultural agencies and international funders. It is a good story, well told. Wallace-Hadrill stresses again and again the priority of preservation. The horror-stories of neglect (and worse: the Bourbon king ordered the gouging of frescoes left underground, so that the workers could not sell them on the black market) are heartbreaking, and still in the news owing to recent events at Pompeii. The reversal of the trend at Herculaneum is one of the great successes of recent times. As Wallace-Hadrill says, however, preservation cannot stop the deterioration of what is excavated; it can only slow it down. Therefore before undertaking new excavations the urgent question is 'why'. He would not, I believe, favour the answer 'to find the lost library of the Villa'. He does, however, favour excavation where there are unanswered questions or unfinished business (the Villa fits both bills), if it can be done in an appropriate manner, with due regard to preservation, the surrounding modern environment, and the funding of ongoing maintenance. The gap between the southern edge of the Villa and the beginning of the town needs to be explored, and the excavation of the Basilica Noniana is rightly proceeding. Regarding the Villa it seems to me that an underground, gallery-style excavation of the atrium quarter would fit all requirements. There is no need to expose the whole building to the elements, and the long peristyle may be left to sleep. What we need is Part II of the feasibility study, which explored such possibilities and was reportedly ready for publication some years ago. The part of the atrium quarter where Weber did not go with his tunnels in the eighteenth century probably contains the rest of the library; and now there are the lower layers to look into as well. For some of us, this is a good answer to 'why'. Describing the catastrophic effects when the 1990s excavations stopped without adequate conservation measures in place, Wallace-Hadrill refers to international alarm at the time; 'voices from abroad,' he writes, 'the modern successors of Charles Waldstein, pleaded desperately for the excavations to continue'. What they did not understand is that 'excavation, in itself, does not save a site: it subjects it to the risk of destruction'; the challenges of conservation need to be solved at the same time. As one of the voices (how pleasing to be called a successor of Waldstein), I might point out that the notorious letter to the Times of 12 March 2002 spoke of excavation and preservation. I am sure we can do both. Wallace-Hadrill deserves warm congratulations on this achievement. For further information please consult the reviews and comments on Blogging Pompeii (www.bloggingpompeii.blogspot.com), including a discussion of the Villa by Friends member la McIlwaine.

Robert Fowler



Gillian Darley, *Vesuvius*, (London, Profile Books, 2011). Pp. 245, with a map and 35 illustrations in black and white. £15.99

This volume in pocket-sized format appears in a series called “Wonders of the world”, in which almost all the other titles deal with outstanding architectural monuments. As the sub-title indicates, this is “the most famous volcano in the world”, a status guaranteed by its frequent, if chronologically irregular, eruptions and by the fact that one of the most destructive was memorably described by the Younger Pliny. Since Naples was a staging-post on the Grand Tour, the volcano engaged the attention of a galaxy of writers, scientists and other distinguished figures, whose visits are admirably chronicled in highly readable style. Some of the scientists attempted to replicate volcanic activity on a miniature scale for the benefit of audiences who could not conveniently travel and with a view to explaining the geological processes that led to eruptions; the account of proceedings conducted by Humphry Davy at the Royal Institution is a treat. Larger scale imitations for public entertainment have also been successful and still take place occasionally at Schloss Woerlitz near Dessau in eastern Germany. The development of the modern tourist industry is described, and though the book is largely historical the author has an eye for current realities and future prospects; she has no illusions about the ill-coordinated measures of various Italian agencies which are meant to protect the population when the next emergency occurs. The main text ends with a telling quotation from Susan Sontag’s *The Volcano Lover*: “what happens once can happen again. You’ll see. Just wait.” Members of the Society will be pleased to learn that the author thinks Herculaneum “more atmospheric than Pompeii”. The book is nicely produced, even if some illustrations are rather severely reduced because of the small format; the reference to Martial’s poem (p.15) should be to Book IV.44.

Nigel Wilson.

Christopher Charles Parslow, *Rediscovering Antiquity: Karl Weber and the Excavation of Herculaneum, Pompeii, and Stabiae* (Cambridge University Press 1995; pb. 1998, reissued 2011).

By now this book, reissued by the publisher, has restored the fame of its hero Karl Jakob Weber, whose plans of the Villa dei Papiri are still used and admired, whose representation of the Praedia Iuliae Felicis in Pompeii is the first axonometric plan in history, and whose arms (azure, on a bend argent three trefoils vert) appear at the head of every chapter. It is not only a biography, but an account of the excavations, ill-conducted even in contemporary eyes and aimed at satisfying a king interested in antiquities rather than antiquity, and the squabbles and intrigues that attended them, in particular but far from exclusively the conflict between Weber’s concern for understanding the sites in their entirety and the treasure-hunting of his jealous superior, Roque Joaquín de Alcubierre. Weber’s ideas were too much ahead of their time even for the Accademia Ercolanese, but not for Winckelmann, who denounced Alcubierre even more vigorously than he deserved.

Readers may pass over a few misprints: ‘Palestra’, ‘extravagent’, ‘Felippe’, but be startled to find on p. 191 Helle’s brother Phrixus becoming a feminine Phryxis and drowning in her stead, which would have left the Hellespont in search of a name.

Leofranc Holford-Strevens

*For more information about the Society, or if you have any comments, suggestions or ideas for articles for the next edition of *Herculaneum Archaeology*, please feel free to contact the editor. We hope you have enjoyed this edition, and thank you for your interest.*

Dirk Obbink - Editor

Krystyna Cech - Production Editor

*The Friends of Herculaneum Society, The Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies,
66 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LU, United Kingdom
Tel: (+44) (0) 1865 288260; Fax: (+44) (0) 1865 288386
Email: herculaneum@classics.ox.ac.uk
Website: <http://www.herculaneum.ox.ac.uk/>*



MEMBERS' CORNER

Leofranc (centre) at the Villa dei Papiri during the 2010 Society visit to Herculaneum with Director of Excavations Dr. Maria Poala Guidobaldi on the right

Leofranc Holford-Strevens and his wife Bonnie Blackburn have been loyal members of the Friends of Herculaneum Society since its inception in 2004. After 40 years' service, Leofranc Holford-Strevens retired from OUP earlier this year where he was a consultant scholar-editor. An article in the *Oxford Times* (*The Last of the Romans* 19 May 2011) gives us an overview of his remarkable career. Leofranc arrived in Oxford in 1963 to read *Literae Humaniores* at Christ Church, where he stayed on to complete his doctorate. In 1971 he began at OUP in the printing division as a graduate proof reader. He excelled in languages. As well as Latin and Greek, he reads all the Romance languages (French, Italian, Spanish, Romanian) and the Germanic ones, along with Russian. In total, he can handle about 40 languages. As a scholar in his own right, he has published: *Aulus Gellius. An Antonine Scholar and his Achievement*, OUP 2003, a comprehensive study which examines the life and writings of Aulus Gellius, a second century writer who originated the modern use of "classical" and "humanities."; *The History of Time: A Very Short Introduction*, OUP 2005, a fascinating study of time using a range of examples from Ancient Rome and Julius Caesar's imposition of the Leap Year to the 1920s' project for a fixed Easter and with Bonnie Blackburn, *The Oxford companion to the year*, OUP, 1999, an exploration of calendar customs and time-reckoning. He has just copy-edited for OUP a commentary on Julius Caesar's *De Analogia*, the treatise on Latin that the great warrior found time to write in the middle of a bloody campaign. In retirement Leofranc is editing one of his favourite subjects, the 2nd century Roman writer Aulus Gellius who took a particular interest in questions of grammar and literary style – subjects Leofranc is something of an expert in himself!

Other News

The Herculaneum Society Schools Competition 2011

We are pleased to announce the results of this year's Schools Competition which was judged by Nigel Wilson (Trustee of the Herculaneum Society) and Krystyna Cech (Administrator of the Friends of Herculaneum Society). It was a delight to read the entries (especially the Brochure ones). Overall, the judges thought that the standard was very creditable. Congratulations to all! We Look forward to the next competition and hope that more schools will get involved. Suggestions for the next competition are very welcome from all our members.

11 -13 Age Group – Create a Roman holiday brochure for the town (class entry)

1st Prize (£50) St Paul's Girls' School, London

14-16 Age Group – My top three finds at Herculaneum and what I would like to find at Herculaneum and why

Joint 1st Prize (£30 each)

Pippa Hampton, Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls, Elstree

Zac Smith, Birkdale School, Sheffield

3rd Prize (£20)

John Raybould, Birkdale School, Sheffield