

IN THE NEWS

Just before Christmas the Superintendency of Archaeology of Pompeii held a press conference in Rome and made a spectacular announcement: the discovery of the first preserved ornamental throne from the Roman world, decorated with exquisite bas-relief figures, including Attis the ill-fated devotee of the mountain mother Cybele. The throne was found during new work on the Villa of the Papyri. The story shot round the world within a day (we have put a few links on the Society website for Friends to follow).

Some of the coverage blared that the Villa was now finally being excavated. Astonished, your trustees got in touch with the colleagues at Herculaneum to find out what was going on: unsurprisingly, the truth was rather different. The Superintendency was undertaking preservation work on the Villa, and in that context was carrying out some limited excavation. This includes some areas around the base of the Villa, where the throne was found, and also some further exploration of the first lower level of the Villa itself, uncovered in the 1990s.

It is unclear whether the throne was originally part of the Villa or some other building; the volcanic flow caused massive displacements. Whatever its provenance, it can be but a small foretaste of what a full-scale excavation would bring in this fantastic site. The conservation work is picking up pace and, we hope, will soon yield the results required for further development. As ever, the Friends support a comprehensive and well-resourced approach to the complex problems of the site and do all we can to keep it on the public agenda.

Meanwhile the turmoil at the Superintendency shows no sign of diminishing. At the time of writing, the new combined superintendency of Naples and Pompeii, meant to come into being on 1 January, is still in its birth throes, and it is unclear who will be in charge of what. In the midst of this however it is of great significance that a small but lavish book (in Italian) was published just

before Christmas entitled 'Herculaneum and the Villa of the Papyri: Archaeology, City and Landscape', edited by architects Vieri Quilici and Giovanni Langobardi (Italianate Friends can order a copy from www.ebshop.it). The book has the imprimatur of the Superintendency and is in fact part of the long-awaited feasibility study, the part addressing the environmental impact of the excavations. As this Newsletter is going to press, a copy has reached the Society office; by the time you receive it, a precis of key findings will be posted on our website. Another recent development is the appropriation of land around the site, which is a necessary preliminary to any further development. So there are encouraging signs, and we hope that work may proceed expeditiously.

We have been in touch with the Director of the archaeological site of Herculaneum, Dr Maria Paola Guidobaldi, who addressed the Society at its meeting in the British Academy, to express our congratulations and best wishes, and to inquire if she might be willing to tell the Friends about this wonderful recent work. We have suggested an appearance at the upcoming Naples meeting, in the hope that the work will have yielded clear results by then. Finally, the new International Centre for the Study of Herculaneum is ready to open its doors, and to advertise the studentship which the Friends have offered. The Centre is a collaborative effort between the Superintendency, the Comune of Herculaneum, and the British School at Rome, with aims very similar to those of the Society. At its AGM in 2006, the Society expressed its wish to collaborate with the new entity, and offered the studentship. Our other, general studentship for any young scholar working on Herculaneum (first incumbent, Mantha Zarmakoupi) has gone this year to Dr Duncan Keenan, who writes elsewhere in this Newsletter and we hope will be able to meet Friends at the Naples meeting.

Robert Fowler



Villa of the Papyri conference members in the foyer of the Ioannou Centre of Classical and Byzantine Studies during a tea break.

Activities of the *Centro Internazionale per lo Studio dei Papiri Ercolanesi*, 2007

A report by **Francesca Longo Auricchio**, Director of
CISPE (translated by David Armstrong)

Vol. 37, 2007, of *Cronache Ercolanesi*, the journal of CISPE, is at the printers'. It contains articles on various works of Philodemus: *On the Good King According to Homer* (D. de Sanctis), *On Vices IX* (A. Tepedino) and X (G. Indelli), *On Riches I* (E. Scognamiglio) and a work of uncertain title, PHerc 807 (L. Giuliano). There is also an article by D.L. Blank on the text of *On Rhetoric VIII*, which ends with a long polemic against Aristotle, whom Philodemus criticises for ranking rhetoric too highly for its value in the study of philosophy. Blank presents a new preliminary edition of the last columns of the papyrus, based on an autopsy of the papyrus and on the new "multi-spectral" photographs. A Stoic author, perhaps Chrysippus, is postulated for PHerc 1384, without *subscriptio* and hitherto of unknown authorship (A. Antoni-G. Dorivali); and there is a first-ever study of PHerc 1491, very fragmentary and comprising both Greek and Latin fragments (R. Macfarlane-G. Del Mastro). H. Essler surveys the titles of the works of Philodemus. There is an attempt to discover the origin of a curious proverbial expression used by Winklemann and its affinity with other such expressions whose origin is in ancient Greek and Latin (F. Longo Auricchio).

As always, there are archaeological articles: some unpublished documents relating to many aspects of the earliest years of the excavation of Herculaneum (F. Pronto) and a review of Carol Mattusch's book on the Villa of the Papyri, Los Angeles 2005 (R. Ciardiello).

Also in the course of publication is the fourth *Supplemento delle Cronache Ercolanesi*, by A. Romano, on the scribal marks in Philodemus' *On Music IV*. This work furthers a project that the Centro has supported for a number of years, which aims at the fullest possible reporting and analysis of the semiography (scribal systems of line counting, punctuation, etc.) of the Herculaneum Papyri.

A number of the Centro's members attended a Seminar on various Herculaneum texts (*On the Gods III*, *On Death IV*, PHerc 1384 [see above]) at Barcelona June 21-23 2006 which was part of "Project *Telephe*," founded by Daniel Delattre. This is a project in which faculties at many European universities are participating, and which will foster joint work on the Herculaneum texts by annual meetings at various universities.

CISPE was also well represented at the XXV International Congress of Papyrology at Ann Arbor, Michigan (July 29 – August 4, 2007), with eight papers (Delattre, Del Mastro, Giuliano, Leone, Longo Auricchio, Rispoli, Scognamiglio): at this congress no less than ten further papers were on the Herculaneum Papyri.

Work in progress and soon to be completed at Naples includes the preparation of an edition of Epicurus' *On Nature II*, by G. Leone; a thorough study by M.G. Assante, a *borsista* at the Centro, of PHerc 1006, an ethical treatise by Demetrius Laco, unfortunately very fragmentary, which will involve a new ordering and reconstruction of the papyrus roll; studies for the editions of Philodemus' *On Vices X* by G. Indelli, of PHerc 807 by L. Giuliano, and of PHerc 163 by E. Scognamiglio. G. Del Mastro is completing an exhaustive study of the scribal marks in Philodemus' *On Poems*.

From a historical and literary point of view, D. De Sanctis is working on Philodemus' biographical texts, particularly PHerc. 1018 (*History of the Stoa*) and M. Erbi on citations of Demoshenes in the papyri of Philodemus; both are *borsisti* of the Centro.

Villa of the Papyri Conference Oxford, September 22-3, 2007

In September 2007 The Friends of Herculaneum Society sponsored a stimulating event, an interdisciplinary conference on the Villa of the Papyri that took place at the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies in Oxford. **Mantha Zarmakoupi**, Lecturer at the Institute of Archaeology at UCL, London and conference convener, writes below.

The conference was the culmination of the research project I conducted as recipient of the Society's Studentship, the development of the digital model of the Villa of the Papyri. The conference was combined with the annual general meeting of The Friends of Herculaneum Society and, I must say, it was an exciting and enjoyable occasion. The program of the conference was rich, with a diversity of papers representing the fields of papyrology, classical archaeology and architectural history and theory.



Conference members in the foyer of the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, engaged in lively conversation

The meeting started in the afternoon of Saturday September 22, with the first session that focused on the archaeology of the Villa. In this session papers presented the architecture of and findings from the Villa and addressed the cultural significance of this ancient site in its contemporary Roman context. Specifically, Antonio De Simone discussed the re-discovery of the Villa in the 1980s, presented and interpreted the results from the recent excavations at the Villa and addressed the future of this site. Carol Mattusch examined the sculptural collection found at the Villa and went beyond the traditional concept of a sculptural program to look more deeply at the industry of sculpture and at the means by which these art-works found homes. David Sider reviewed the evidence for the formation, nature, and use of the library within the Villa, as well as the evidence for the attempts to open and read the many papyrus rolls. Eric Moormann assessed his previous work on the fragments of the wall paintings from the Villa in the light of the recent excavations and compared the wall paintings of the Villa of the Papyri to similar decorations in other villas. The session continued and concluded the next morning (Sunday September 23) with Mario Capasso, who assessed the archaeological evidence from the Villa in order to tackle the unsolved question of the ownership of the villa.

The following session on Sunday morning looked at the cultural reception of the Villa since its discovery in the late 18th century. Dana Arnold used Derridean concepts to interrogate the ways in which we have become acquainted with the Villa by the process of excavation as well as through Weber's plan; and Kenneth Lapatin examined J. Paul Getty's idea to build a replica of the Villa of the Papyri in Malibu, California, to house his art collection, and addressed the impact of the Getty Villa on more recent reconstructions of the ancient Herculanean site.

In the third and last session papers presented reconstructions of the findings and architecture of the villa and addressed the ways in which digital archaeology may assist our efforts to



Professor Robert Fowler conducting the AGM of the *Friends of Herculaneum Society* during the tea break of the first session

understand and investigate such sites. Specifically, Diane Favro discussed the scientific use of digital simulation technology of an ancient site or building, such as the Villa of the Papyri, and tackled the pleasure factor of simulation. Dirk Obbink assessed the history of the visualization of the Herculaneum Library and presented the ways in which new technology, specially Multi-spectral imaging, has facilitated the latest advances in reading these texts. Richard Janko presented his recent piece of detective-work on a set of drawings made in Naples in the 18th century, which are now in the Bodleian, that has enabled him to identify a large number of new texts from the Villa. I presented a digital virtual reality model of the Villa that incorporated the data from the new excavations and assessed the decisions



Friends of Herculaneum Society members attending the AGM

taken in reconstructing the site. Unfortunately, due to illness, Reinhard Foertsch could not attend. He was going to present a paper that would compare the exercise of the virtual and real re-piecing of the Villa of the Papyri to the re-piecing of the Pliny the Younger's Villas from his letters, and address the fragmented understanding of such sites.

The conference brought together leading experts from continental Europe, USA and the UK, and facilitated an unprecedented discussion across the disciplines on this important and unique site, the Villa of the Papyri. Once again, the Villa of the Papyri not only captivated our attention but also stirred our imagination and thirst for knowing more about the undiscovered corners of this fascinating site. The members of The Friends of the Herculaneum Society will be pleased to know that the academic publishing house of Walter De Gruyter will publish the proceedings of the conference.

I would like to conclude by thanking The Friends of the Herculaneum Society for generously sponsoring this successful event, as well as the British Academy and the Oxford Classics Faculty Board for their generous support.



Janet DeLaine, chair of the third session, introducing the last paper of the conference given by Mantha Zarmakoupi

Tracing the Water Supply of Herculaneum

A report by **Duncan Keenan-Jones**

PhD Student, Department of Ancient History, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

Duncan is the recipient of the 2008 Friends of Herculaneum Society Studentship.

My research project is a study of an aqueduct that may have supplied Herculaneum, the 100km long Aqua Augusta or Fontis Augustei Aquaeductus. I am using historical sources, extant remains, and chemical analyses of the mineral deposits in the ancient aqueducts of Campania and in Herculaneum and other ancient towns from the region. This project promises to resolve the vexed question of which source supplied the baths, fountains and pools of Herculaneum, as well as questions about water supply in Campania more generally.

There is clear evidence that Herculaneum was supplied by an aqueduct in the form of two water towers and three public fountains similar to those found at Pompeii. But neither the aqueduct nor its *castellum aquae* have so far been found. Thus it is not known whether Augustus included Herculaneum in his grand water infrastructure plans or whether the supply of water by aqueduct was a project that the inhabitants of Herculaneum undertook themselves. Knowing this may help shed some light on the date the aqueduct supply reached Herculaneum, which is not currently known.

It has long been thought that the Augusta supplied Herculaneum. However, there is no actual evidence to that effect and the few scattered remains of the Augusta do not allow us to draw any firm conclusions. Small, local aqueducts also made use of the chemically characteristic groundwaters of Somma-Vesuvius, and it could be that such an aqueduct supplied Herculaneum and/or Pompeii. There are springs on Somma-Vesuvius today of sufficient height to have supplied Herculaneum that have associated aqueduct remains.

Aqueducts north of ancient town of Abella are known from a documentary source, dated 407 AD, and archaeological remains. Dr. Christoph Ohlig has recently proposed that one of these aqueducts was extended south and supplied Pompeii, prior to the town's connection to the Aqua Augusta and that the Augusta was later joined to the Abella aqueduct. If so, it is possible that this aqueduct also supplied Herculaneum.

Application of geochemical analyses to the tufa or sinter (limestone/calcium carbonate) deposits in the channels of the aqueducts of the Bay of Naples, and in the water systems of the settlements they supplied (including the many Roman bathing complexes in the area) has the potential to provide critical evidence to be used in the answering of these questions. I am currently sampling these tufa deposits from all surviving critical locations of the aqueduct flow paths and from the settlements they may have supplied.

I will use the 2008 Herculaneum Society Studentship to collect more samples from Herculaneum itself, including from a well (to characterise groundwater at the site), the theatre, possibly and, pending the permission of the Herculaneum Conservation Project, from the new excavations at the Villa dei Papiri and the Basilica Noniana. In addition I will sample the spring sites and associated aqueduct remains on Somma-Vesuvius. While in Italy, I will also take the opportunity to research the ancient water systems of Campania in the unparalleled libraries of Rome and Naples.

Microscopic investigation of these samples will be used to reconstruct a relative chronology of the hydraulic operation of the aqueduct, including periods of no flow. Absolute radiometric dating may be possible for some of these relative chronologies. This method has been recently used to good effect on the Baths of Caracalla in Rome. Given the current extremely poor dating of aqueducts in the historically important region of Campania, such data has the potential to revolutionize our understanding of the history of hydraulic infrastructure and urbanization in this region.



Duncan Keenan-Jones on site at Herculaneum

Stable isotopic and trace element analysis will be used to provide information on the source waters and palaeoclimate at time of deposition. The differing types of aquifers used for ancient water supply in the area, should enable the attribution of different settlements to a particular source and aqueduct. This method will be used to determine whether Herculaneum was supplied by the Acquaro and Pelosi springs via the Augusta, by the springs near Avella via the Avella Aqueduct, or by the springs of Somma-Vesuvius via an as yet unknown aqueduct.

At the same time, information will be being gathered on the chemistry of the water drunk by the ancient inhabitants of Herculaneum. This information has already begun to resolve the vexed question of the amount of lead contamination in ancient Roman water systems. Results will be compared to lead levels in the skeletons found at Herculaneum, which have been studied by Sara Bisel and others. High levels of fluorine in teeth from these skeletons have already been correlated with elevated groundwater concentrations at the site. It may be possible to estimate the degree of water borne lead poisoning in ancient Herculaneum.

There is also the possibility of recovering well-dated palaeoclimatic information, such as information regarding ancient temperature and precipitation, which would be very useful for the study of the environmental history of Campania and the Mediterranean area, and in the determination of recent global climatic trends.

OTHER NEWS

The new official guidebook, **Ercolano. Guida agli scavi (€8)** to the site of Herculaneum written by the site director, Maria Paola Guidobaldi, is now available in Italian. The English translation will be published in the near future. You can order the Italian version on: <http://www.lafeltrinelli.it/products/2518103%7C2.html?cat3=20116&cat1=1&cat2=1101&page=2>

La Villa dei Papyri (€13.80), a murder mystery novel based on the Villa of the Papyri has recently been published in Italian. The author is Michela Ascione, a young archaeologist and local resident. A fun read with the disappearance of the professor who is about to dig the Villa and sinister happenings ... You can find more details on the website of the publisher: <http://www.ennepilibri.it>

Herculaneum, diari del buio e della luce (€14.90), a new documentary film on Herculaneum made by a leading Italian filmmaker, Marcellino de Baggis, was released in January. The film is in Italian with English subtitles and can be bought online on: http://www.onionskin.it/2008_03_0_larchive.html

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Second Naples Conference will take place on Thursday 29 May – Sunday 1 June 2008 and we invite you to book a place.

Thursday evening we will gather for a drink and a welcoming talk by a trustee. Friday morning we will hear a series of talks in the Aula Magna of the Faculty of Arts, University of Naples Federico II, Via Mezzocannone. We will hear from the Superintendency of Archaeology about work at Herculaneum, and about research supported by the Friends. Friday afternoon is free; Friday evening we will gather for a banquet in the legendary Zi' Teresa restaurant, Via Partenope, on the waterfront not far from the Castel dell' Ovo. Saturday is for the excursion: Herculaneum in the morning, a pizza lunch further down the coast at Vico Equense, the wonderful Villa Poppea at Oplontis in the afternoon (part of the World Heritage Site which includes Pompeii and Herculaneum). Sunday is free, and Monday is for returning home or staying on if you wish. Unless otherwise stated above, lunches and dinners are for private arrangement. We regret we can only organise the one big excursion this year, but will put plenty of information in your path for you to design your own supplementary itinerary individually or ad hoc with other Friends.

Please contact the office for more information and a booking form.

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OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The objects of the Society are:

- to advance the education of the public concerning the World Heritage Site of Herculaneum, in particular to create an archive of materials relating to the World Heritage site at Herculaneum and the work of the Herculaneum Society
- to promote research into Herculaneum, including the continued investigation of the Villa of the Papyri at Herculaneum, and the publication of the useful results of such research
- to promote the conservation, for the benefit of the public, of the artefacts and buildings at Herculaneum

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 contact the editor.

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