

The Vikings: New Archaeological Discoveries

Saturday 24th May 2014

Ceramics Room, National Museum of Ireland –Archaeology

- 10.00: Registration and Tea & Coffee
- 10.30: Welcome
- 11.00: **Dr. Anne Pedersen**, curator, National Museum of Denmark
A Royal Palisade - Recent results of excavations at Jelling in Jutland, Denmark.
- 11.45: **Dr. Gareth Williams**, curator, British Museum
The Viking Conquest of England: Not as smooth as planned.
- 12.30: **Eamonn P. Kelly**, Keeper of Irish Antiquities, National Museum of Ireland
Some new Viking sites outside Dublin.
- 13.15: Questions & Answers
- 13.30-14.30 Lunch (Not included)
- 14.30: **Dr. Maria Panum Bastrup**, curator, National Museum of Denmark
Foreign Artifacts in the Hands of Vikings - Looted & Imported Irish Objects Discovered in Southern Scandinavia.
- 15.15: **Dr. Andy Halpin**, Assistant Keeper, Irish Antiquities Division & **Carol Smith**, archaeological conservator, National Museum of Ireland
Back from the deep: Newly discovered Viking Age weapons.
- 16.00 Questions & Answers



These events are supported by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.



In association with the Embassy of Denmark in Ireland.

Seminar The Vikings: New Archaeological Discoveries

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A day of talks exploring new and exciting discoveries about the Viking world. International experts from museums in Ireland and abroad, will present their latest findings and provide fresh perspectives on life 1,000 years ago.



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES:

DR. ANNE PEDERSEN,

Curator, National Museum of Denmark.

A Royal Palisade - Recent results of excavations at Jelling in Jutland, Denmark.

The Jelling monuments in eastern Jutland have attained almost iconic status in the studies of the social and religious transformation of Viking Age Denmark. Excavations have taken place here since the early nineteenth century but recent discoveries since 2006 have revealed new and unexpected features: remains of buildings and not least traces of an immense palisade enclosing an area of 12.5 hectares, far more than any known farmstead of the Viking Age. The complex was built at the time of King Harald Bluetooth in the second half of the tenth century.

Dr. Anne Pedersen, is a curator and senior researcher at the National Museum of Denmark. She is the author of publications on Viking and early medieval subjects, including burial practices and material culture. At present Dr Pedersen is principle investigator of the National Museum Jelling Project. She also is co-curator of the touring Viking exhibition (Copenhagen, London, Berlin). <http://jelling.natmus.dk>

DR. GARETH WILLIAMS,

Curator, British Museum.

The Viking Conquest of England: Not as smooth as planned.

The reign of Ethelred II (978-1016) saw an escalation in Viking raids on England which saw the payment of massive tributes in silver, and ultimately the Danish conquest of England, first by Svein Forkbeard in 1013 and then by his son Cnut in 1016. However, the recent discovery of a mass burial from

near Weymouth in Dorset indicates that not all Vikings in England at this time were so successful.

Dr. Gareth Williams has been a curator at the British Museum since 1996, specialising in the Anglo-Saxon and Viking periods. His research interests include coins and currency, and warfare and military organisation. He is the curator of the BP Exhibition 'Vikings: Life and Legend' at the British Museum March 6 - June 22, 2014

EAMONN P. KELLY,

Keeper of Irish Antiquities, National Museum of Ireland

Some new Viking sites outside Dublin.

In Irish Viking studies the perception grew that Viking settlement in Ireland was overwhelmingly an urban experience. The picture has been altered by the growing awareness of the existence of Viking rural settlement, especially in coastal areas, and by the identification of Viking fortresses referred to in the Irish annals under the term 'longphort'. The talk will present and discuss some of these new sites.

Eamonn P. Kelly is the Keeper of Irish Antiquities at the National Museum of Ireland where he curates the national archaeological collections.

DR. MARIA PANUM BAASTRUP,

Curator, National Museum of Denmark.

Foreign Artifacts in the Hands of Vikings - Looted & Imported Irish Objects Discovered in Southern Scandinavia

In Denmark literally thousands of metal objects from the prehistoric and medieval times are found each year with metal detectors. In recent years large numbers of amateur archaeologists have made an

important contribution to the scanning of Danish fields for ploughed-up antiquities. The large amounts of finds are handed over to the National Museum of Denmark. Among these finds are objects that have been looted and imported from Ireland. These finds give us new insight into the Viking world and their contact with their Irish neighbours. Some of the new finds will be presented in the lecture, along with a discussion of why the Irish objects were valuable to the Vikings, what the objects were used for and who used them.

Dr. Maria Panum Baastrup is a curator at the National Museum of Denmark. At present she is working on a project to develop a visitor centre in Jelling and on research with metal detector finds from Denmark from the Viking Age and early medieval times.

DR ANDY HALPIN,

Assistant Keeper, Irish Antiquities Division

CAROL SMITH, Archaeological Conservator, National Museum of Ireland.

Back from the deep: Newly discovered Viking Age weapons

Recent discoveries of Viking-type weapons, broadly contemporary with the battle of Clontarf, allow fresh insights into the complexities of defining material cultures in Ireland in the later Viking period. The loss of these weapons in wet environments (the river Shannon and Lough Corrib) has led to the survival of a lot of exciting and important information which is being revealed by conservation work in the National Museum of Ireland. Curator Andy Halpin and conservator Carol Smith will present the wide range of information – archaeological, military and cultural – which these new discoveries have yielded.

Dr Andy Halpin is Assistant Keeper in Irish Antiquities Division of the National Museum of Ireland and is lead curator for the 'Clontarf 1014: Brian Boru and the Battle for Dublin' exhibition. His research has focused on the archaeology of Dublin and on medieval (including Viking) weapons and warfare in Ireland. Publications include *The Port of Medieval Dublin (2000)* and *Weapons and Warfare in Viking and Medieval Dublin (2008)*.

Carol Smith is an archaeological conservator and archaeologist. She has been working in the Conservation Department of the National Museum since 1999.



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