

HMS NEWS

Historical Metallurgy Society
77
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Your Society needs your help!

We start Issue 77 of the HMS News with a request to all our membership to help with future of the society. The society has a continually developing membership with many members overseas and comprising a varied mix of professionals associated with the metal industries, heritage professionals, academics and students. It is important for the society to understand the types of individuals which comprise the membership and to include their interests in the future plans of the society.

It is then for these reasons that you will find a questionnaire enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter. As we approach the 50th anniversary year, the Membership, Publicity and Programme (MPP) Committee is trying to improve and update the way HMS communicates with its members and provides events and activities. It is clear that many of the activities run by the society are popular with many members but MPP is keen to both diversify and increase the membership. This is not to suggest that the society is simply trying to grow, it is also equally concerned with increasing active membership!! As echoed in previous Newsletter columns the health of the society is dependant on the activities of the individual members and it is fair to say that all committee and council members would welcome input from any member about their views on the society. The questionnaire is one way that these views are being sought but the HMS NEWS remains a great vehicle for airing thoughts among the membership.

We would then really appreciate your efforts in responding to the questionnaire. If you could find five or ten minutes to fill in the questionnaire members of MPP and other committees are eager to discover the views of the membership.

The responses will directly inform how the Society develops in the years ahead, and the more responses we get, the more accurate we know the results will be. Most of the survey involves ticking boxes, and in places we have left some room for you to add your own comments. Most of the questions may have more than one 'answer', so please tick as many boxes as you think apply for you. We would ask that you return the forms to Ellie Blakelock, the MPP Committee chair, by 14th May (the same date as the deadline for nominations to the AGM), so that we can begin to think about the changes we need to make at the Helmsley meeting in June.

I hope to see many of you at the June AGM and meeting, and will be happy to talk more about some of the developments for the future.

Paul Belford
MPP Committee

Tales of NARNIA!



A consortium of European Universities has recently been awarded EU funding to provide young researchers with the skills and resources necessary to conduct research on a range of archaeological materials. The NARNIA project (New Archaeological Research Network for Integrating Approaches to ancient material studies) is led by HMS member

Dr Lina Kassianidou of the University of Cyprus.

The project intends to foster the exchange of ideas and methodologies amongst existing research groups and will create a reflective environment to facilitate the reassessment of current approaches to material studies.

A significant part of the project will look at the archaeology of metals and metallurgy with European scholars collaborating to provide a series of training and research opportunities. With the project being based in Cyprus, the Archaeometallurgy of the island will figure high on the agenda. One of the strengths of the project design is that cutting edge laboratory analyses will be integrated with archaeological field methods and emerging field techniques.

The range of scholars and professional practitioners is impressive as is the range of complementary skills. The team will be focusing on some important archaeological sites and developing approaches that not only link together field approaches such as prospection and excavation with detailed post-excavation analytical studies but also seeking to explore the interfaces that exist between disciplinary boundaries. As such, the project aims to straddle material categories and to think across disciplinary boundaries so as to produce archaeological syntheses that look at the relations between different crafts.

NARNIA will bring together universities and research institutes from five European countries, namely Belgium, Cyprus, France, Greece and the United Kingdom, and a Mediterranean partner country, Jordan. Research groups will focus on metals, glass, ceramics, built heritage, the Archaeometallurgy of Cyprus and the use of pXRF in archaeology. In total, Sixteen Early Stage Researchers (equivalent to PhD candidates) and three Experienced Researchers (post Docs) will be trained to integrate theory and archaeological sciences for the study of different material categories, including ceramics, metals, glass and mosaics.

More information can be found at <http://narnia-itn.eu/>

Roger Doonan

The next edition of the HMS Newsletter will be published in July 2011. Contributions are welcome and should be emailed to r.doonan@sheffield.ac.uk by 1st July 2011.