



RIJKSMUSEUM  
VAN OUDHEDEN

# DORESTAD AND ITS NETWORKS

THIRD DORESTAD CONGRESS LEIDEN (NL), 12-15 JUNE 2019



**Programme and  
information**



# ***Introduction***

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the third international Dorestad Congress, in the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden. This third congress is held exactly ten years after the first, that was attached to the first large exhibition on Dorestad. This year's congress is coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the Dorestad Brooch in the summer of 1969. The congress brings together scholars to debate this site and its counterparts in Europe, as well as the material culture, urbanisation and environment of the Early Middle Ages.

The congress opens with a keynote lecture by prof. dr. Dagfinn Skre (University of Oslo) on the beginnings of the Viking Age. Sessions are devoted to Dorestad and its landscapes, recent excavations at Carolingian and Viking sites, early-medieval wealth, early urbanism, and swords. A special session on early-medieval glass is held in remembrance of prof. dr. Ina Isings (1919-2018). There is a poster session, a congress dinner, and the possibility to visit our summer exhibitions on medieval gardens, the glass collection, and Paestum. On Saturday, a small group will visit the archaeological theme park Archeon, with the possibility to enjoy an equestrian tournament staged there over the weekend.

In this programme booklet you will find the full programme, abstracts of papers and posters and some practical information that may help you enjoy the congress, our museum and the city of Leiden. If you have any questions, please ask us, or ask any member of museum staff to call one of us. At this spot, I would like to thank them very much for their help.

We are pleased that you found your way to Leiden and we are honoured to welcome archaeologists and amateurs, specialists and students, to our beautiful museum. Thank you for coming and contributing to the congress. I wish everyone a fruitful congress and an enjoyable stay in Leiden!

Dr. Annemariëke Willemsen  
Programme Director of the Dorestad Congress

# ***Programme***

## **WEDNESDAY JUNE 12th**

20.00: Keynote Lecture (Temple Hall)

Dagfinn Skre

Professor of Iron Age and Viking Age Archaeology at the Museum of Cultural History of the University of Oslo

*The Beginning of the Viking Age in the West*

## **THURSDAY JUNE 13th**

10.00 Welcome, tea, coffee

10.30 (Leemans Room) Welcome: Pieter ter Keurs, Head of Collections & Research

10.45 Introduction to the Congress: Annemarieke Willemsen

### **Landscapes of Dorestad. Chair: Luc Amkreutz**

11.00 Menne Kosian, Cultural Heritage Agency – *Water as a landscape factor for settlement in Dorestad and Wijk bij Duurstede*

11.30 Rowin van Lanen, Cultural Heritage Agency/Wageningen University – *Getting goods from afar: Reconstructing changes in early-medieval long distant transport*

12.00 Raphaël Panhuijsen, University of Amsterdam – *The funerary landscape of Dorestad*

12.30-13.30 Lunch

### **Recent excavations of Carolingian & Viking sites. Chair: Nelleke Ijssennagger – van der Pluijm**

13.30 Menno Dijkstra, University of Amsterdam – *Timber! Opening up the landscape of Carolingian Leiderdorp*

14.00 Arjan den Braven, Leiden University – *The ongoing excavations at Utrecht-Zuilen: Early-medieval habitation along the river Vecht*

14.30 Sarah Croix, Aarhus University – *Ribe's emporium: Some recent excavations*

15.00-15.30 Tea break

**Wealth before Dorestad. Chair: Jasper de Bruin**

15.30 Frans Theuws, Leiden University – *Rural Riches: Between the Romans and Dorestad*

16.00 Joep Hendriks, Municipality of Nijmegen – *The Merovingian cemetery of Lent-Lentseveld: Between North and South*

16.30 Martine van Haperen, Leiden University – *Standing on the shoulders of Joachim Henning: An update on early medieval artisanal production*

17.00 Poster session, guided visit to exhibitions in RMO on glass & medieval gardens

19.00 Congress dinner at restaurant Het Prentenkabinet, Leiden

**FRIDAY JUNE 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Urban after Dorestad. Chair: Frans Theuws**

09.30 Arjan den Braven, Leiden University – *Charlemagne's palace at Nijmegen: Defining a royal landscape*

10.00 Arno Verhoeven, University of Amsterdam – *From Dorestad to Tiel: continuity and change in the structure of trade and settlement*

10.30 Marcel IJsselstein, Leiden University – *Beyond the planned/unplanned dichotomy: The development of the town plan of Utrecht until c. 1560*

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

**Dorestad & the Vikings. Chair: Dagfinn Skre**

11.30 Christian Cooijmans, University of Edinburgh – *Viking Dorestad: A Haven for Hydrarchy?*

12.00 Nelleke IJssennagger-Van der Pluijm, The National Trust - *Vikings beyond Dorestad: The Frisian coastal area and the Viking sphere.*

12.30 Mark Hall, Perth Museums – *Trading games? Playing with/without the Vikings in Dorestad*

13.00-14.00 Lunch break

### **Frankish & Viking Swords. Chair: Sarah Croix**

14.00 Annemarieke Willemsen, National Museum of Antiquities – *Mixed emotions: The swords of Dorestad*

14.30 Dušan Maczek, Masaryk University Brno – *Non-funerary sword depositions in Carolingian Europe*

15.00 Ingo Petri, Museum & Park Kalkriese – *Form follows function: About the use of early medieval swords*

15.30-16.00 Tea break

### **Early-medieval glass – Session in Remembrance of Ina Isings. Chair: Annemarieke Willemsen**

16.00 Yvette Sablerolles & Julian Henderson, University of Nottingham – *Beakers, beads and stained window glass: Carolingian glass finds from Leiderdorp, Susteren and Dorestad- Veilingterrein*

16.30 Rose Broadley, Canterbury Archaeological Trust – *Early-medieval glass from the emporium at Ipswich*

17.00 Michael Dodt & Andreas Kronz, University of Bonn – *Production of early-medieval glasses in Cologne and their export via Dorestad*

### **17.30 Conclusions & connections**

## **SATURDAY JUNE 15th**

Optional congress excursion to Archaeological Theme Park Archeon at Alphen aan den Rijn ([www.archeon.nl](http://www.archeon.nl)). Visit to Archaeology House, reconstructed section of Dorestad & park, with a staged knight's tournament this weekend.

# Abstracts of Papers (in order of programme)

Keynote Lecture

## **The Beginning of the Viking Age in the West**

*Dagfinn Skre, Professor of Iron Age and Viking Age Archaeology at the Museum of Cultural History of the University of Oslo*

During the Viking Age, Arctic Scandinavia was a source of exquisite furs, down, walrus ivory, and other commodities that met with high demand in England and on the Continent. Hitherto, the earliest firm evidence of this trade has been Ohthere's account c. 890, but in light of this paper's findings, its history may be pushed further back in time. Geological analyses of whetstones retrieved in eighth- to early ninth-century Ribe, south-western Jylland, in present-day western Denmark, demonstrate that the majority were quarried near the aristocratic manor Lade ('loading/storing place') in Trøndelag, present-day central Norway, some 1100 km by sea to the north. Because of their high numbers and durability, whetstones retrieved in Ribe and other urban sites may be regarded as a proxy for long-distance seaborne trade from the Arctic to the southern North Sea/English Channel zone, where Dorestad was the main port for northbound trade towards Kaupang and other west-Scandinavian sites. The peak in this trade on the threshold of the Viking Age invites a reconsideration of the coinciding and conflicting interests of Scandinavian long-distance traders, kings, and Vikings. It is argued that coalitions and conflicts that arose from these interests provide keys to understanding why and where Vikings raided overseas up to the mid-ninth century.

## **Day 1 session I: Landscapes of Dorestad**

*Chair: Luc Amkreutz*

### **Water as a factor determining the location of the settlement of Dorestad.**

*Menne Kosian, Cultural Heritage Agency*

Dorestad was not just another rural settlement in the central Dutch river area. It was an international hub of trade. This emporium had connections all over Europe and beyond. Traded produce varied from central European timber and wine to African gold, glass and Sri Lankan garnet. And it was not only the goods that passed the settlement; excavations show a great number of artisanal workshops, indicating that a lot of the trade goods were produced or finished here. The Dorestad excavations also show that this economic boomtown was located in quite a precarious position: it was situated on the bifurcation of three branches of the river Rhine. This river meanders quite dramatically in this area, and despite it being no longer the main discharge channel of the delta it still caused regular floodings. Despite this, Dorestad was constantly rebuilt and adapted to the new situation.

This paper will look into the location of Dorestad, first in a general geo-political context, next zooming in on the local river systems, that not only threatened the settlement, but also provided it with the connections necessary to become such a trade hub, giving it an advantage over neighbouring settlements to grow.

### **Getting goods from afar: Reconstructing changes in early-medieval long distant transport**

*Rowin van Lanen, Cultural Heritage Agency/ Wageningen University*

During the first millennium AD the Netherlands slowly shifted from the periphery of the Roman Empire to the centre of a North-Sea trade network, with connections to major trade settlements such as Birka, Haithabu, Kaupang and York. During the heydays of this network, the early-medieval *emporium* Dorestad rose to interregional transport-geographical importance and became a central player in northwest European trade. To what extent these long-distance transport routes differ from previous periods and what their exact nature was, is generally unknown. Furthermore, only few historical sources are available and research primarily has traditionally focused on archaeologically recognizable goods

(e.g. jewellery, religious artefacts). In this contribution we will focus on the long-distance transport of daily-life goods during the Early Middle Ages. By using a dendroarchaeological approach I will reconstruct: (1) Roman and early-medieval trade networks in structural timbers, (2) calculate changes in trade-network systems and (3) show the potential of, and need for, evidence-based quantitative approaches in this kind of archaeological research.

### **The funerary landscape of Dorestad**

*Raphaël Panhuysen, ANTHRO.NL Amersfoort, The Netherlands.*

When Dorestad was an important Carolingian emporium at least four large cemeteries were in use at the western margin of the town. Ranging from the north-west to the south-west these are the “De Geer II”, “De Heul”, “De Frankenhof” and the “De Engk” cemeteries. Over 1100 graves attributed to the Carolingian period were documented. This presentation will focus on the archaeological and bioarchaeological characteristics of the cemeteries of “De Heul” and “De Engk”. Aspects like the density and overlapping of burials, demographics and paleopathology will be discussed in order to determine how these cemeteries can contribute to our knowledge of the history of Dorestad.

### **Day 1 session II: Recent excavations of Carolingian & Viking sites**

*Chair: Nelleke IJssennagger- van der Pluijm*

#### **Timber! Opening up the landscape of Carolingian Leiderdorp**

*Menno Dijkstra, University of Amsterdam*

In 2013 part of an early medieval settlement was excavated in Leiderdorp, situated directly east of the city of Leiden. The settlement was situated on splay deposits on both sides of a crevasse channel, which was the result of a breach in the northern bank of the river Rhine. Thanks to dendrochronology and another nearby excavation, it turns out that in the course of the Carolingian period this channel was revetted three times for a distance of c. 650 m. The paper will discuss the issues of revetment construction and its organisation, water management, impact on the surrounding landscape and our understanding of early medieval settlements in the Rhine delta.

#### **The ongoing excavations at Utrecht-Zuilen. Early medieval habitation along the river Vecht**

*Arjan den Braven, Erfgoed – Gemeente Utrecht*

Archaeologists of the city of Utrecht recently made an unexpected discovery while excavating a late medieval nunnery in Utrecht-Zuilen. In residual channel deposits of the river Vecht they found a wooden revetment and many good preserved finds from the late seventh and eighth centuries, including pottery, glass, metal, stone, bone and wood.

On the nearby natural levee several houseplans from the same period have been excavated, including large storage buildings with oak posts driven deep into the soil. So far, this is the only early medieval settlement along the Vecht north of Utrecht that has been excavated.

The site gives a tangible image of what is believed to be the birth place of Liudger (742-809), the famous Frisian missionary and later founder of the abbey of Werden and first bishop of Münster.

### **Ribe's emporium: Some recent excavations**

*Sarah Croix, Aarhus University*

Since 2008, a number of larger excavations have provided significant new insights into Ribe's development, character and functions in the Viking Age. From May 2017 until August 2018, the Northern Emporium Excavation Project, conducted in collaboration between Aarhus University and the Museums of South-West Jutland, has uncovered two hundred years of activity at the plot area of the emporium. This talk will review the goals and methods of this major campaign and consider its main results in the broader context of Ribe's archaeological landscape.

## **Day 1 session III: Wealth before Dorestad**

*Chair: Jasper de Bruin*

### **Rural Riches: The Post-Roman economic development in north-western Europe (450-650)**

*Frans Theuws, Leiden University*

There is no doubt that late Roman Northern Gaul went through a period of (economic) stagnation. The demand declined considerably because of shrinking towns, an army that marched off, and what seems a declining rural population. The classical villa organisation of production seems to have disappeared as is shown by a landscape dotted with abandoned villas.

Nevertheless, in the late 5th and 6th century northern Gaul showed important signs of growth. It is on the basis of this newly developed economy that the Carolingians built their Empire. Our basic, simple but crucial question is: how did this economic development come about and who were the agents responsible for this?

All models, mainly by historians such as Chris Wickham, Michael McCormick and Jean-Pierre Devroey and others point to the important role of the aristocracy (king and aristocrats) and the demand they created: they were the agents responsible for this economic growth. I will argue that this is an image determined by the nature of the written sources. Archaeological evidence rather points to the rural population of Northern Gaul, hardly controlled by king, aristocracy and the church. Their growing numbers and changing ritual repertoires generated an incredible demand for goods coming from far away and nearby. Current theoretical thinking (such as the peasant mode of production) ignore the peasant's capacities to generate economic growth and wealth. I will argue that we need new models to develop and understanding of the early medieval economy.

### **The Merovingian cemetery of Lent-Lentseveld: Between North and South**

*Joep Hendriks, Municipality of Nijmegen*

Just outside the village of Lent, directly north of Nijmegen at the bank of the Waal river, a hitherto unknown Merovingian cemetery has been found and subsequently excavated in 2011. The find of a small but largely complete cemetery dating to the 6<sup>th</sup> century and excavated by modern standards, can be considered as quite unique. The quality of the grave features, the skeletal material

and the many objects deposited in the graves open up the possibility for a full scale analysis of the site. Embedded within the Leiden Rural Riches project, research on many aspects of the cemetery hopefully answers questions about the origin and composition of the burial population as well their network within the early-Merovingian society and economy.

When we consider some of the material culture found in the graves, it becomes clear that the inhabitants of 'Lent' not only had their focus on the Merovingian heartland in south. Situated at the northern edge of the former Roman empire, we may conclude that they lived in between two worlds: that of the 'Germans' in the north and that of the 'Franks' in the south. Still awaiting DNA and isotope research, some hypotheses on the development of the cemetery and the Nijmegen region will be put forward in this paper.

### **Standing on the shoulders of Joachim Henning: An update on Merovingian artisanal production**

*Dr. Martine van Haperen, Leiden University*

The study of early medieval artisanal production is slowly creeping out of the Dark Ages, revealing a surprising amount of production waste, kilns, tools and even semi-finished products. In 2007 Joachim Henning published his comprehensive overview of early medieval sites with evidence for the production of pottery, glass, iron and metal alloys. In the Rural Riches project, we are taking a deep dive into this material to build an updated and more detailed overview of Merovingian artisanal production. This paper presents the first results of our efforts to find out where and how the bounty Merovingian grave goods was made.

## **Day 2 session IV: Urban after Dorestad**

*Chair: Frans Theuws*

### **Charlemagne's palace at Nijmegen: Defining a royal landscape**

*Arjan den Braven, Leiden University*

Nijmegen belongs to one of the more important Carolingian palaces. What was the impact of the creation of this royal palace on its rural environs? It is generally assumed that royal palaces were the economic centres of estates. Is this also the case for Nijmegen? And how was the royal estate or fisc used for sustaining not only the creation and upkeep of the palace buildings, but also providing the necessary supplies for royal visits, provisioning the army, etc.? Are there perhaps regional differences in the way royal estates functioned, and how did such function change over time?

There are some indications that in the Carolingian period landed property in the Nijmegen area was reorganised into a manorial production system, possibly influenced by the presence of the royal palace and associated fisc. This seems to be the result of the need to improve the sometimes complex logistics of royal estates and the way they were imbedded in the landscape. But we should also think of Nijmegen as integrated into a wider network of estates. These were not necessarily part of the fisc, but they may well have provided much of the infrastructure for the extensive and expensive visits by Carolingian rulers.

### **From Dorestad to Tiel: Continuity and change in the structure of trade and settlement**

*Arno Verhoeven, University of Amsterdam*

During the 9<sup>th</sup> century Dorestad lost its functions, which were taken over by the proto-urban settlements of Deventer and Tiel. At the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century Tiel had two churches, a monastery, a harbour, and a tolling station. As a result of archaeological research over the past ten years, we are now able to reconstruct the topography of Tiel with more accuracy. A first question which will be evaluated is to what extent the structure of Tiel differs from that of Dorestad. A second question concerns the nature of exchange. The 10<sup>th</sup> century is often viewed as a period of transition to a more regionalized exchange, contrasting stark to the Carolingian long-distance trade network. Is this hypothesis still tenable?

## **Beyond the planned/unplanned dichotomy. The development of the town plan of Utrecht until c. 1560**

*Marcel IJsselstein, Leiden University*

This paper presents a case from an ongoing, comparative PhD-research into the origin and development of medieval town plans in the northern Netherlands, which challenges the classical yet misleading dichotomy of 'spontaneous, unplanned development' versus 'deliberate, planned urban growth' that is still upheld in literature on medieval urban form. Focusing on the case of Utrecht, an alternative theoretical model is adopted, which postulates that medieval town plans were the result of the drive of human agents to accommodate particular functions under certain conditions and within existing frames.

## **Day 2 session V: Dorestad & the Vikings**

*Chair: Dagfinn Skre*

### **Viking Dorestad: A Haven for Hydrarchy?**

*Christian Cooijmans, University of Edinburgh*

Despite decades of careful deliberation and debate, the exploits of vikings in and around Dorestad remain – to a significant extent – obscured by the constraints of a predominantly piecemeal and polemical corpus of (near-)contemporary evidence. As such, novel comparative methodologies – situating the emporium within overarching patterns of viking endeavour – are required to further explore its role among this far-reaching waterborne movement of people, assets, and information. This paper aims to demonstrate that events in Dorestad adhered to a wider sequential framework of Franco-Scandinavian interaction, wherein viking fleets operated as adaptable, ambulant polities – or 'hydrarchies' – whose survival depended on collective experience, opportunism, and regionally prevailing circumstance.

### **Vikings beyond Dorestad. The Frisian Coastal Area and the Viking Sphere.**

*Nelleke IJssennagger – van der Pluijm*

Dorestad and Vikings are inextricably connected. It is hard to think of one without the other, but perhaps not when it comes to the distribution of typical Viking-style metal finds. Some Dorestad finds classified as Viking-style are a bit early, better classified

differently or just problematic. Although lacking in Dorestad, 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century metal objects typically known from the Viking sphere are increasingly found along the coast. They represent a different chapter of the Viking story, past Dorestad's heyday, and exemplify the connection between Frisia and the Viking sphere. Together they show influence of Vikings beyond Dorestad.

### **Trading games? Playing with/without the Vikings in Dorestad**

*Mark Hall, Perth Museum & Art Gallery*

This contribution will outline the evidence for playing board games (including the reuse of Roman gaming pieces) in early medieval Dorestad. Adopting a material, biographical approach the paper will range across aspects of reuse, materiality, context and the nature of the games being played. In doing so the paper will point to other relevant examples of gaming equipment from across Europe in time and space. This will also support, in line with the Congresses' 'Networks' theme, the exploration of the role of board games in cultural transfer and in particular consideration will be given as to whether the evidence for play in Dorestad signals cultural contacts with the Scandinavian world.

## **Day 2 session VI: Frankish & Viking Swords**

*Chair: Sarah Croix*

### **Mixed emotions: The swords of Dorestad**

*Annemarieke Willemsen, National Museum of Antiquities*

Dorestad is a unique site for its large number of excavated objects, in general and for specific object categories. An example is its large number of sword finds. There are at least over twenty broadswords (*spathae*) and some fragments of sword knives (*seaxes*) from the town and its immediate surroundings. These swords were found in different types of locations within the larger settlement: as river depositions (sometimes grouped together), within a stronghold, and from a possible late weapon grave. The various ends these swords met, implicate the variety of meanings attached to them within the Carolingian (and Viking) context of this *emporium*.

### **Non-funerary sword depositions in Carolingian Europe**

*Dušan Maczek, Masaryk University Brno*

Early medieval broadswords of the 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> centuries have always been perceived as symbols of power and as weapons of

the men of wealth and position. This is based predominantly on the written sources and archaeological burial evidence. From archaeological perspective however, two types of depositions are dominant in the archaeological record from the fifth to the tenth centuries: those in graves and those in rivers or wet contexts. Continental water-finds have been traditionally interpreted as casual losses and intentional deposition has been regarded as unlikely. This traditional interpretation is questioned here, based on the data provided by the GIS spatial analysis of the distribution patterns of Carolingian swords recovered from rivers and wetlands of north-western Europe.

### **Form follows function: About the use of early-medieval swords**

*Ingo Petri, Museum & Park Kalkriese*

Much has been written about swords. But one of their primary functions, their use in combat, has mostly been omitted or reduced to the distinction between cutting or thrusting swords respectively parade swords or swords for use in combat. This lecture tries to reconstruct some aspects of the use of Viking Age swords from Northern and Eastern Europe. The reconstruction is based on biomechanics, martial arts principles, late medieval fencing books and other written sources, depictions and material culture, primarily well-preserved swords. As swords are specialised tools for combat, their design is determined by their function. So, by carefully analysing the design, conclusions can be drawn about their use in combat.

## **Day 2 session VII: Early-medieval glass – Session in Remembrance of Ina Isings**

*Chair: Annemarieke Willemsen*

### **Beakers, beads and stained window glass: Carolingian glass finds from Leiderdorp, Susteren and Dorestad-Veilingterrein**

*Yvette Sablerolles & Julian Henderson, University of Nottingham*

Recent finds of early medieval glass from the Netherlands (Y. Sablerolles & J. Henderson, University of Nottingham, UK)

This talk will discuss early medieval glass originating from very different contexts in the Netherlands: the agrarian settlement of Dorestad-Veilingterrein, situated west of the harbour with *vicus* on the river bank, the agrarian settlement at Leiderdorp- Plantage, downstream from Dorestad, and Susteren Abbey (Limburg Province), one of the earliest monasteries in the Netherlands. We will consider especially the window glass from Susteren, since this includes some unusual highly coloured examples; the only other Dutch site that has produced deliberately coloured window glass is the St. Servaas basilica in Maastricht (Limburg Province), which remains unpublished. We will review the development of window glass in Northwestern Europe and discuss the evidence for the production of window glass at Susteren and compare this with other evidence from other Benedictine monasteries.

The scientific analysis of window, bead and vessel glass at all three sites reveals evidence for their production in a period of technological transition and the use of different glass recipes. We will also discuss the supply of glass, the raw materials used to make the glass and evidence for production centres.

### **Early-medieval glass from the emporium at Ipswich**

*Rose Broadley, Canterbury Archaeological Trust*

Early medieval glass from the emporium at Ipswich

The 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> century vessel glass from the early medieval emporium at Ipswich, which was excavated between 1974 and 1990, has never been published. After a long hiatus, research for publication is in progress. The Ipswich assemblage is the second largest from England, and is from one of the principal trading settlements of early medieval England. Here as elsewhere, the vessel glass illuminates drinking culture and activity, economic and social connections (e.g. with Dorestad), contemporary artistic choices and capabilities, and the nature of settlements. The Ipswich assemblage is very important for glass studies and early

medieval settlement archaeology in England and north-western Europe, and it is becoming more accessible.

### **Production of early-medieval glasses and their export via Dorestad**

*Michael Dodt & Andreas Kronz, University of Bonn*

As in Roman times, Cologne was also an important centre for the production of glasses in the Frankish period. The Frankish glass workshops were located at the harbour, in front of the wall of the former Roman city. Raw materials were delivered via the Rhine river and glass products were transported to customers at other ports and beach markets along the waterways and coastal-lines. Glass vessels and large spiral beads were produced. About three to four chemical glass subtypes of soda-lime-glass can be determined, which also occur at the emporia towards the north. The analyses also point to sales of Cologne products in the Lower Rhine (Dorestad) and the North Sea in various centuries.

## **Posters Abstracts**

*(in alphabetical order on surname)*

### **The ongoing excavations at Utrecht-Zuilen. Early-medieval habitation along the river Vecht**

*Arjan den Braven, Heritage – Municipality of Utrecht*

Archaeologists of the city of Utrecht recently made an unexpected discovery while excavating a late medieval nunnery in Utrecht-Zuilen. In residual channel deposits of the river Vecht they found a wooden revetment and many good preserved finds from the late seventh and eighth centuries, including pottery, glass, metal, stone, bone and wood.

On the nearby natural levee several houseplans from the same period have been excavated, including large storage buildings with oak posts driven deep into the soil. So far, this is the only early medieval settlement along the Vecht north of Utrecht that has been excavated.

The site gives a tangible image of what is believed to be the birth place of Liudger (742-809), the famous Frisian missionary and later founder of the abbey of Werden and first bishop of Münster.

### **Early medieval trade in imported pottery in Frisia**

*Angelique Kaspers, Groningen University*

This poster presents a short introduction of my PhD research into Early Medieval exchange in Frisia. The emphasis of my research is on the distribution of imported pottery in the Dutch provinces of Friesland and Groningen.

Unfortunately, much is still unknown about the extent and character of the Early Medieval exchange systems in this area. Previous research into this subject was mainly focused on metal artefacts and overly influenced by historical sources. This casts doubt as to whether these sources are sufficient and representative of Early Medieval exchange. Therefore, my focus will be on imported pottery. During the PhD, a series of field walking campaigns of terp sites (raised dwelling mounds on the salt marshes in the coastal area) will be initiated that will help chart diachronic variation in frequencies of imported pottery, in order to better understand supra-regional contacts and exchange.

## **Viking manor and harbour at Viggja: A gateway for long-distance trade in Central Norway?**

*Birgit Maixner, Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

The region around the Trondheimsfjorden in Central Norway is the most northern area in Scandinavia where metalwork of Carolingian-Ottonian origin appears at an appreciable scale, with a special concentration between the rivers Orkla and Gaula. At the site of Viggja, which in the Icelandic sagas is mentioned as a chieftain's manor and as an anchorage ground for ships, recent years metal detector surveys revealed indications of Viking Age trade. The poster aims to investigate the importance and role of the site of Viggja as a possible port of trade, and to consider the reasons for the concentration of Carolingian-Ottonian metalwork in its hinterland by discussing the area's specific outfield resources as commodities in the Viking Age.



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# Medieval Gardens

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