

The Amorium Excavations Project

April 2005 Newsletter

Amorium is proud to be the longest continuous British-led excavation ever carried out in Turkey. The Project began back in 1987, and this summer will be the 17th excavation season at the site. Already plans are well advanced, and team members and villagers alike are eagerly awaiting the start of work, scheduled for July 4. As well as the archaeologists, there will be an enlarged team of six conservators, led by Jane Foley, and a new team of surveyors, led by Benny Arubas. In addition, we are looking forward to the fact-finding visit by Prof. May Cassar and Prof. Janet Berry from the Centre for Sustainable Heritage at UCL, London.

Much work has also been done over the past winter. The new guidebook *Amorium. A Byzantine City in Anatolia—A Guide to its History and Archaeology* has been completed and forwarded to the publisher, Omeros Kitap Evi, in Istanbul. It is hoped that it will be published before the summer – in both English and Turkish versions. Work has also continued on the preparation of several volumes for the *Amorium Monograph* series, and every effort will be made to complete Volume 3 before the summer. Meanwhile, we are pleased to announce the publication of Prof. Beate Böhlendorf-Arslan's book *Glasierte byzantinische Keramik aus der Türkei*, which includes much material from Amorium. Beate has also organised a symposium at 18 March University, Çanakkale in June on Late Antique, Byzantine, Seljuk, and Ottoman Pottery, at which herself and two other team members (Dr. Hanna Witte-Orr and Oğuz Koçyiğit) will speak about material from Amorium. Before that Amorium will be well represented at this year's Dumbarton Oaks Spring Symposium in late April – Prof. Eric Ivison and Project Director, Chris Lightfoot, are both invited speakers, while Mücahide Lightfoot and Hüseyin Yaman will attend as participants. Hüseyin is presently on an extended visit to New York, where he is practicing his English and carrying out research for his Masters thesis on the cemeteries of Amorium. He will return to Turkey in May, together with Chris Lightfoot, in order to attend the Annual Archaeological Symposium, which will be held in Antalya this year. A visit to Amorium will, of course, be included in the trip in



Marble 12-pound weight – one of the many finds that will feature in Amorium Monographs Vol. 3



Chris Lightfoot and Yorgos Brokalakis discussing Amorium over lunch in Athens in late 2004

order to make preparations for the summer season. Other news of team members includes the birth of a baby girl early in the New Year to Katya Churakova in Moscow, and two 'milestone' birthday parties (for Chris Lightfoot in Birmingham and Inez Litas in Chicago – but the latter is, of course, much the younger). Congratulations also to the 2004 Government representative, Şeymus Menekşe, who recently became a proud father back in Ankara, and to Edward ('Ned') Schoolman and Erica, who got engaged earlier this year. Oğuz Koçyiğit has completed his article on the bathhouse 'spacers' for *Anatolian Studies*, Dr. Vicky Ioannidou is preparing a short presentation at METU about the archaeological finds of Amorium, and Talat Koçak has become quite a local celebrity in Afyon as a result of his work into the Arab and Ottoman sources about Amorium. Finally, there should be another PhD on the team by the summer – Yoav Arbel has his dissertation defence at UCSD in early May.

All this goes to show that the Project team is a very vibrant and varied group of people. They, however, also form a close-knit family, centred on Amorium, who put a great deal of time, effort, and commitment into making the Project a success. None of this would be possible, however, without financial support. This year, with the extra conservation work, the fall in the value of the US dollar, and the support given by the Project to team members to travel and attend courses and symposia, more funding than usual is necessary. Please pledge your support for the 2005 field season by making a contribution or letting us know of anyone who might be interested in doing so.

Email address: amoriumproject@msn.com

Newsletter No. 20