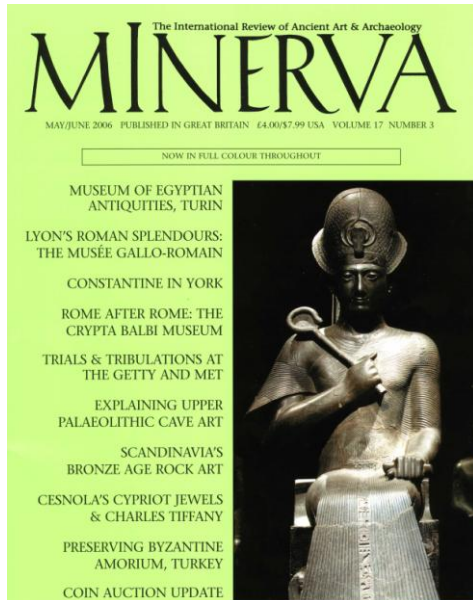


# The Amorium Excavations Project

## June 2006 Newsletter

The 2006 excavation permit was issued towards the end of May, and the team, numbering some 40 archaeologists, conservators, surveyors, and students, is now impatiently awaiting the beginning of the dig season on July 3. It has been a busy spring; various team members have given talks or have been writing up reports for publication. We confidently expect a flurry of Amorium publications in the second half of 2006, including the long-awaited new Guide Book and Volume 3 of the Monograph Series. Many people have put a lot of time and effort into making this happen. Fund-raising was also a major pre-occupation over the winter – with a very satisfactory conclusion, not just in terms of the sums raised but also more in the fact that the various funding bodies saw fit to reward the Project for the good progress and stunning finds that were made in 2005. We are optimistic that the coming season will be equally successful. Although the Director, Chris Lightfoot, will be absent for the first half of the season because of work commitments at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the experienced international team will forge on without him during July. Prof. Eric Ivison will be Acting Director, ably supported by Jane Foley and Benny Arubas, Assistant Directors for Conservation and Survey



work. Another absentee this summer is Dr. Beate Böhlendorf-Arslan, who is on maternity leave in Germany (or is it for the World Cup?). Her expertise will be sorely missed, but she has trained her Çanakkale students well, and Dr. Johanna Witte-Orr is returning to Amorium this summer to supervise them and turn her hand to work on the ceramic material. We wish Beate and her family well. Other returning Amorians are Nikos Tsivikis, who will be excavating in the Church with Eric, and Lisa Usman, who will conserve the bones recovered last year from the necropolis tomb. We welcome two new Israeli team members, Daniel Abuhatsira and Ya'ara Ilan, and from England another stone conservator, Deborah Carthy, will join us while architect Richard Andrews will make a fact-finding trip to the site and pay a visit to various roof manufacturers and potential suppliers. In addition, two new finds conservators, Bengü Aytacı and Fatma Nur Direr, join the team this summer, making it our largest conservation team so far – eight full-time conservators. Finally, we are very pleased that Dr. Adil Özme is to be a Turkish government representative again this year. He proved to be a marvelous addition to the team when he was our rep. in 2002. After the end of the season Eric Ivison and Prof. Francesca Dell'Acqua will be going immediately to London for the 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress of Byzantine Studies; both are giving papers on material from Amorium. We invite everyone to come and visit us at Amorium this summer. Details of how to get there are posted on the website, [www.amoriumexcavations.org](http://www.amoriumexcavations.org), together with further information about the Project. The website is regularly updated by Mücahide Lightfoot, so look out for the latest news.

*The latest issue of Minerva with an article on the 2005 Amorium season by Eric Ivison and Jane Foley – get your copy while stocks last!*

respectively, and Mücahide Lightfoot and Serhat Karakaya, who will manage the logistical and administrative side of the work. Another absentee this summer is Dr. Beate Böhlendorf-Arslan, who is on maternity leave in Germany (or is it for the World Cup?). Her expertise will be sorely missed, but she has trained her Çanakkale students well, and Dr. Johanna Witte-Orr is returning to Amorium this summer to supervise them and turn her hand to work on the ceramic material. We wish Beate and her family well. Other returning Amorians are Nikos Tsivikis, who will be excavating in the Church with Eric, and Lisa Usman, who will conserve the bones recovered last year from the necropolis tomb. We welcome two new Israeli team members, Daniel Abuhatsira and Ya'ara Ilan, and from England another stone conservator, Deborah Carthy, will join us while architect Richard Andrews will make a fact-finding trip to the site and pay a visit to various roof manufacturers and potential suppliers. In addition, two new finds conservators, Bengü Aytacı and Fatma Nur Direr, join the team this summer, making it our largest conservation team



*The Roman sard intaglio found at Amorium in 2005 that is featured on this year's team T-shirts*