

The Museum of Underwater Archaeology Guest Blogger Anthology



2009 – 2010

Edited by T. Kurt Knoerl



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Introduction

I founded the online Museum of Underwater Archaeology in 2004 as a way to encourage underwater archaeologists to share their research with the general public via the Internet. This seemed the best way to reach the widest possible audience and to date the site receives visits from over ninety countries from around the world. It took some cajoling on my part to get the first few participants to take a chance and post with us but within a relatively short time period our staff grew and researchers began coming to us asking for assistance with their digital public outreach efforts.

As time went by, however, we began wondering how we might involve underwater archaeologists who were not posting their research on our site either because they had no current projects underway or their own websites provided them with an online outlet to the world. We wanted to reach out to these individuals and provide them with a venue they could use to voice their opinions on topics of their choosing related to the field of underwater archaeology. From this idea sprang forth the Guest Blogger (GB) feature. We wanted to create relationships between the top minds in the field and our audience and with the MUA. We've been thrilled at the response both from our guest bloggers and the general public as we have introduced this feature.

Throughout 2009 and 2010 we sought to encourage conversations between our guests and their colleagues, students, and the general public. While the comments sections might not always show it, we believe the posts did spark discussion. That is what happens when you let folks write about whatever is on their mind. Outside of minor typos we did not edit the posts or try to persuade the authors to be either controversial or politically correct. That freedom is one of the things that make this collection of posts so valuable. Readers get to see not only what the authors think about certain issues but also what the authors

decided to write about when given the opportunity to address a world wide audience.

Perhaps it is no great surprise that many of the posts deal with the future and where the field of underwater archaeology is headed. It is a subject that occupies most people's minds including those of us that spend so much time thinking, ironically enough, about the past. Issues like the economy, the environment, digital media, future responsibilities, and yes, even the age old debate over treasure salvage vs. preservation are all covered in this collection. That inclusiveness is what makes it so valuable.

Why produce a PDF version of what can already be found online? Great question! I'm glad I asked. As an underwater archaeologist myself I share with my colleagues the desire to learn from the past. The MUA has amassed over 300 pages of content written by over 70 underwater archaeologists. As the website grew it began to bother me that some of the older posts might not receive as much attention because links to them just couldn't possibly all fit on the website's front page. We looked for ways to bring them back into the light, and we have succeeded through incorporating portions of posts into our learning paths that school teachers can use to show excellent examples of how underwater archaeologists conduct their research. We can and will do this with the GB posts as well but by presenting all of the GB posts together in one document we gain a perspective that is lacking when looking through the website one post at a time. This anthology provides a bird's eye view of some of the current issues of the last two years that were of concern to our authors. In addition by providing a downloadable PDF collection we hope to make it easier for teachers to incorporate the posts into their classrooms, thereby avoiding the necessity of having all of their students go online to get them.

Returning for a moment to 2004 I recall spending time explaining the MUA concept to someone I hoped would contribute to the site. The archaeologist listened patiently but as I went on I began to fear I was beginning to ramble

based on the look on my friend's face. I wrapped up my "pitch" upon which she asked, "Yeah ok Kurt, that sounds good but how much are you charging for this?" I was shocked. "Charge? Nothing" I responded. It never occurred to me to charge for the posts on the MUA. Of course the realities of operating a website have long since set in but through grants and the generous, donations of server space, and bandwidth from institutions like the University of Rhode Island and grants of service from companies like Dreamhost and Google we have never charged underwater archaeologists for posting on the MUA. I believe now as I did then that our collective past belongs to everyone and in the sharing of scholarly research with the public that in most cases funds research through their tax dollars. Yes, these challenging economic times require everyone to tighten their belts but I believe that it is an obligation on our part as archaeologists to share our research freely with as many people as we can without jeopardizing the resource. We must find ways to make this information freely available even when there are ways to profit from it. I believe that is one of the things that separate us from those who wish to own the past. So, we invite you to download this PDF and share it with your class, your officemates, and your friends and don't forget to share your knowledge as well.

T. Kurt Knoerl

Director
The Museum of Underwater Archaeology

So, Who Cares About Underwater Cultural Heritage?

By Dr. John Broadwater

Posted May 19, 2009



Back in the 1970s, when I first became interested in protecting shipwrecks, the picture was pretty bleak. In the United States, there was no national legislation to protect shipwrecks or other submerged archaeological sites. Among the very few states with protective legislation, most imposed few—if any—archaeological requirements, and the bulk of the recovered cultural material was given to the salvors. Frequently, salvors turned to the Admiralty courts where they were usually designated “salvor in possession,” often being given complete control of the site and its contents.

Back in the day, few people were even aware of “underwater archaeology,” but almost everyone knew about treasure hunting. The term conjured up images of Spanish gold and silver spilling out of rotting hulks on the seabed, being “rescued” from the perils of the sea by brave, adventurous explorers who risked their lives in hopes of “finding the mother lode.” Even when legitimate underwater archaeology projects came to the public’s attention, most people assumed that archaeology and treasure hunting was the same thing. Other factors, too, were destroying important sites, including souvenir collecting, dredging, construction projects, and erosion.

Now, more than 30 years later, do you think the situation has improved? Recently I clicked to the Discovery Channel, hoping for a program on underwater archaeology, but instead found “Treasure Quest,” an entire series of new programs about brave, adventurous explorers seeking their fortune among the deepwater shipwrecks that had been, until very recently, protected by their inaccessibility from discovery and exploitation.

So... who really cares about underwater cultural heritage, and what are they doing to protect these unique resources for future generations?

Well, from my point of view: (a) quite a few people care, and (b) quite a lot has been done to protect and preserve our collective maritime heritage and to disseminate information about that heritage to a global audience. Here are several examples that give me encouragement for the future:

First of all, national and regional protective legislation is now more prevalent and more restrictive. Many of these laws apply to large dredging and construction projects as well as to salvage. Recent improvements in protective legislation involve more than just words. More frequently than before, these laws are being enforced and salvors are being required to meet archaeological standards. Also, the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage entered into force in 2009, providing a global structure and best-practices guidelines. Even though relatively few countries have ratified the Convention so far, many others have indicated that they will adhere to the Convention's Annex Rules to the fullest extent practicable.

We still have a long way to go, legislation-wise, but we're far better off than before. In fact, commercial salvors are beginning to accept these new restrictions and, ironically, many have found that their artifacts sell at higher prices when they are accompanied by a detailed provenance and site history. Odyssey Marine Enterprises, featured on the "Treasure Quest" series, invested millions of dollars in state-of-the-art robotics and electronics so they could document and excavate deepwater shipwrecks to very high standards. Other salvors, too, seem to be moving in that direction. (All expect to retain the right to sell the recovered material, however, which is a direct violation of the UNESCO Convention's Annex Rules. Oh well, at least more of the site information is being recorded and, in a very few cases, published.)

A final topic I'm very excited about is outreach. In the past, archaeologists were often too busy digging and publishing in scholarly journals to reach out to the wider public. Fortunately, that's no longer the case. Most archaeologists now consider public education and outreach to be part of their jobs, and recent technological advances have made it much easier for them to share their findings.

For instance, if you're reading this blog, you're experiencing one of the most incredible means of information exchange the world has ever seen: the Internet. Through the World Wide Web, archaeologists are explaining why they do what they do and why it is important: the need to excavate archaeological sites in a systematic, scientific manner in order to extract valid information, and the public benefits to be reaped when this information—along with the physical objects recovered—remain in the public domain, accessible to everyone. They are sharing their research, too.

The Museum of Underwater Archaeology, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Maritime Heritage Program, and many others are facilitating the process of sharing our maritime past with the world through a variety of media and techniques. We can read about what others are doing, see images of their excavations and artifacts, even watch videos of the work in progress; we can take school children on virtual tours of those sites, where they can speak directly to the archaeologists and ask questions. To me this is the perfect way to share our passion for history and archaeology. After all, what archaeologist doesn't love to spin a good yarn!

Dr. John D. Broadwater is the Chief Archaeologist at the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, an agency of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). During his career he headed the development of NOAA's Maritime Heritage Program and served as Sanctuary Manager of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. He was also Virginia's first State Underwater Archaeologist. He was a member of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology and other advisory boards and is a Fellow of The Explorers Club. He has published a variety of technical and popular articles and contributed to several archaeological books and encyclopedias. He has

a master's degree in American Studies from the College of William and Mary, and a Ph.D. in Maritime Studies from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland.

‘Where there’s Muck there’s Brass’: Archaeology and the Real World?

By Dr. Joe Flatman

Posted June 17, 2009



There is nothing like a recession to get everyone thinking about value— what people value in terms of personal as well as professional ethics, and more cynically about how they themselves are valued, how much their jobs are ‘worth’ both socially and economically. Issues like this are especially important to archaeologists— or at least they should be if we are to genuinely lay claim to Mortimer Wheeler’s maxim that ‘archaeologists are digging up, not things, but people’. Identifying the tangible benefits to society of archaeology is difficult at the best of times but especially so when finances are pinched; to paraphrase from the macroeconomic term, we do not produce either guns or butter, so what is the value of our contribution? How does archaeology ‘work’ in the ‘real world’ of profit and loss?

Two recent publications in particular have got me thinking about this issue. Both question the types of archaeology that many others and I practice. On the one hand, the magazine *British Archaeology* has debated the practice of ‘for profit’ shipwreck recovery in its two most recent issues (No’s 105 and 106, March-April and May-June 2009); on the other hand, a host of contributors have debated the whole structure of modern archaeology in the recently edited book *Archaeology and Capitalism* (Left Coast Press, 2008). The debates in these two publications come literally from opposite ends of the spectrum— the former essentially arguing that submerged cultural heritage is a free-market resource to be bought and sold just like any other commodity, the latter effectively the opposite, that the archaeological community would be best to disentangle itself from established

social, political and thus economic power structures and adopt an entirely new political 'ethic' for the discipline.

I disagree with both of these perspectives. Somewhere between the two poles outlined above lie most of the archaeologists I know and most of the work that we do. I am employed within a profession regulated both formally and informally by the state, funded by public as well as private finance— a regulated free-market. I fiscally as well as morally support this system, and am in return supported by it, individually via my work and corporately via the excellent social welfare system of Britain. I am also both a supporter and beneficiary of private enterprise, again professionally as well as personally: although employed jointly by a university and local government, the greater proportion of the income streams that are used to pay my salary are ultimately derived on the one hand from taxes and on the other hand from capital-driven innovation and investment by these organizations. The situation in international waters, and even in hotly disputed exclusive economic and contiguous zones may be rather different, but within the territorial boundaries of my nation state (and with comparable models at work within the boundaries of many other nations) the 'polluter pays' principle that funds the majority of archaeological activity – including the majority of my own work – is a well-established system that works, if not perfectly, then of a fashion, which has at heart a positive objective if not necessarily a positive outcome, and which is accepted both as an economic imperative as well as a social necessity.

If archaeologists do not 'make' things, we do still 'produce', and by any standards, archaeology contributes to society more than it costs, even in terms of pure financial profit/loss. Some of these products are tangible: publications and reports, websites, TV and radio media that people use and even pay for; lectures, seminars and presentations given to public and private audiences alike, usually in return for a fee of one sort or another; excavated materials that end up on display in or storage at museums and archives that people choose to visit, and even whole historic sites that are open to the public, as well as the archaeological projects that people volunteer, some even pay, to go on in order

to become formally involved in archaeology. Other products are intangible: the benefits to society of an enhanced understanding of our common past; the transferable skills that students gain from their studies; and the pure economics of the 'polluter pays' system where legislation requires industries to pay for work on sites in advance of development. Altogether, such forms of 'regulated' capitalism pay an estimated 90 per cent of all archaeology: only some 10 per cent of money spent comes from the public purse or private philanthropy. And that 90 per cent of industrial funding represents at most a very few per cent of the total costs, let alone the end profits, of any development, so such environmental regulations are not the burden to or 'block' on development that might be supposed. The broader intangible and purely economic benefits of archaeology and more broadly 'heritage' to society are then incalculable— the money made through public interest in/participatory payment when visiting historic sites, of people choosing to pay a premium to live in old houses or historic districts, of people buying themed books, toys and computer games and watching related TV shows. And yet for all this good, people from both ends of the political spectrum clearly remain dissatisfied with the heritage community in general and with professional archaeology in particular.

Where, then, does this leave maritime archaeology in 2009? We have a global recession well underway, with no signs of abatement any time soon; a future that is looking increasingly towards the oceans for space, energy and resources; a risk of climate-change induced coastal change; and ongoing marine cultural resource management issues, merely one of which is the debate about the rights and wrongs of 'for profit' shipwreck recovery noted above. This is an issue brought to the fore of late through the ratification by more than twenty nations of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage. But looking beyond such things as the Convention, what of other options? Many nations are unlikely to every ratify the Convention— informal disinterest on the one hand and formal lobbying by those opposed to it on the other will see to that. But the Convention was never meant to be a catchall solution to every problem.

From my own experiences in Britain at least, I look to the excellent relationship that has grown up in the last decade between the marine aggregates industry and archaeology, and wonder if a similar model cannot be followed for other industries, in other environments (both marine and terrestrial), and even between nations in international waters. The origins of this relationship lie in 'big government' – specifically, the 'Aggregates Levy' and its associated 'Sustainability Fund' (the ALSF) that began in the financial year 2002 and which is scheduled to remain in place until at least 2011. The Levy is, pure and simple, a preemptive environmental tax on the commercial exploitation of aggregates. A percentage of that tax has since its inception been redistributed via the government department DEFRA (the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) to address the overarching environmental impacts associated with aggregate extraction, and a small proportion of that percentage of the Levy has been directed specifically towards the historic environment. Over the years the ALSF has funded over 250 projects involving the historic environment to a total value of over UK£23.1m. But the key thing is that although initially forced together, both industry and archaeology have come to appreciate the mutual benefit of this relationship. The aggregates industry may not like paying such a tax, but they like even less paying a tax for which they see no obvious benefit. But the involvement of archaeologists has shown this benefit: a reactive tax regime has evolved into a proactive and extremely cost-effective form of strategic resource management of both aggregate and heritage resources. Industry and the planning sector benefit from the acquisition of new datasets (allowing for better pre-planning and risk-avoidance); archaeology benefits from new investment (supporting management-based research into archaeological sites as well as the development of analytical techniques); all sectors benefit from collaborative data acquisition, analysis and management, together with the additional public relations benefit through media friendly enterprises, data-sharing and sponsorship.

As a direct model for the management of global marine cultural heritage, the Levy and the ALSF are not applicable: they were designed for the particular circumstances of the British territorial sea zone and this particular industry. But the basic principles that evolved here in the relationship between one industry and archaeology are workable for other industries, in other environments, and in collaboration with other nations:

- Be strategic, timely and well-managed, responding to currently pressing needs to identify, and help mitigate, shared risks;
- Show immediate functionality of use to all partners, such as modeling the locations of sites or seabed/water column dynamics around particular locations;
- Undertake from the outset partnership, with all partners being included in project development and design, data sharing and collection, and/or processing;
- Show efficiency, through the use of legacy data or industry platforms, or the industry provision of in-kind support via the loan of equipment;
- Undertake outreach, including significant PR potential for all partners, and the provision of accessible, user-friendly resources.

This is 'for profit' archaeology in the 'real world' that really works.

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Squeaky Wheels

By David Ball

Posted August 18, 2009



The two previous blog postings have included, to a certain extent, a discussion on the issue of treasure hunting versus archaeology. It is unfortunate that so many conversations on marine archaeology often turn to this well-worn argument; however, it remains an important issue and one that will no doubt continue for the foreseeable future. One reason archaeologists are losing the battle of educating the public on the need to protect submerged archaeological resources is because we fail to voice our concerns in large enough numbers to lawmakers and regulators. So I thought I'd move the discussion toward mentioning an initiative currently underway in the United States.

The vast majority of the seafloor remains unregulated and unprotected from the impacts of treasure hunting operations on historic shipwrecks. Technological advances in the last decade have made it possible to identify and excavate shipwrecks miles underwater. Depths that were once thought to be unreachable are now surveyed on a regular basis. In the Gulf of Mexico alone, over two dozen shipwrecks have been identified in water depths ranging between 1,000 and 7,000 feet. Yet legislation to protect these non-renewable cultural resources has not kept up with the technology, leaving these sites open to potential salvage operations.

In the United States, there are a number of historic preservation laws that apply to submerged cultural resources within State boundaries. Most of these laws were initially developed for terrestrial lands, but have been used to regulate submerged cultural resources on State submerged bottomlands. Yet, once the transition from State to Federal waters is crossed, most of these laws no longer apply. The Abandoned Shipwrecks Act, for instance, assigns ownership of all

abandoned vessels located on State-controlled waterways, yet its jurisdiction ends at the State/Federal boundary; while the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 specifically exempts the Outer Continental Shelf and therefore does not apply at all. As a result, the only Federal historic preservation legislation that provides protection for submerged archaeological resources off the coast of the United States are: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of its undertakings on archaeological resources and is applied out to the extent of the U.S. Economic Exclusion Zone; the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, which protects submerged cultural resources within sanctuary boundaries; and the Sunken Military Craft Act, which among other things confirms the right of title to the United States of all submerged U.S. military vessels.

Efforts have been underway for some time to address this legislative gap and provide protection of submerged archaeological resources outside of current jurisdiction. For example, the recent ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage establishes guidelines for conducting scientific investigations of submerged cultural resources and clearly advocates against commercial exploitation of these resources. Similarly, the RMS Titanic Maritime Memorial Act sets a new precedent by providing protection on an historically significant shipwreck in international waters.

Recently, President Barack Obama issued a proclamation declaring June 2009 as National Oceans Month. On that same day, 12 June 2009, the President also sent a memorandum to all Federal agencies and executive departments in the United States announcing the creation of an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. One of the responsibilities of this Task Force is to develop recommendations for a “national policy that ensures the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources, enhances the sustainability of ocean and coastal economies, preserves our maritime heritage, provides for adaptive management to enhance our understanding of and capacity to respond to climate change, and is

coordinated with our national security and foreign policy interests.” Note that the Task Force is charged with developing recommendations that will “preserve our maritime heritage.” This is an important issue that is often overlooked when developing national policy on ocean issues, and one that could be glossed over again without public and professional comment.

Too often these national initiatives focus primarily on protecting natural resources such as marine mammals, coral reefs, or chemosynthetic communities. If cultural resources are mentioned at all, it’s as an afterthought and the issue is usually marginalized or disappears completely. One of the best ways to keep cultural resources concerns on the table is through public comment, and a lot of it. The squeaky wheel gets greased. This became painfully obvious last year when I, along with two other marine archaeologists, attended a public workshop of interested parties held by the Sea Grant Consortium to solicit research priorities for the Gulf of Mexico. At the time, Sea Grant was holding a series of workshops in coastal states to prioritize future research needs. The majority of people that participated in the workshop I attended were biologists and geologists. We broke into small groups and developed lists of research priorities, then met as a whole and voted on each. Unfortunately, the three marine archaeologists present were far outnumbered and our concerns were dropped to the bottom of the list. To my knowledge, no other marine archaeologists made it to any other meetings. Had our population attended these meetings en masse, the outcome on research priorities would have been significantly different.

Fortunately, the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the group that has been charged with leading the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, has established a website to solicit comments on the new oceans initiative. The commenting period will end after 90 days from the 12 June memorandum, somewhere around 10 September. With about three weeks remaining, I encourage all who read this blog to visit this website and provide comments to the CEQ on the importance of protecting non-renewable archaeological resources on the seafloor. And if you happen to read this after the comment

period closes, then I encourage you to become more vocal during the public commenting periods for other Federal initiatives, environmental impact statements, and environmental assessments; all of which are regularly posted in the Federal Register.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/>

David Ball is the Senior Marine Archaeologist and Diving Safety Officer for the Minerals Management Service. He is also a Board Member of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology. He has been involved with documenting dozens of historic shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico, including the remains of a 200-year-old vessel in 4,000 feet of water, known as the Mardi Gras Shipwreck Project. He has also participated in archaeological investigations on World War II shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico and the Battle of the Atlantic Expedition off the North Carolina coast. Dave received a Master of Arts degree from Florida State University in 1998 and has led terrestrial and underwater projects throughout the United States.

** The views expressed in this blog are the personal opinions of the author and do not represent the official position of the U.S. Government, the Minerals Management Service, or the Department of the Interior.*

50 Years Later

By Dr. Filipe Castro

Posted October 20, 2009



In 2010, less than one year from now, George F. Bass and the Institute of Nautical Archaeology will go back to Cape Gelidonya and take a new look at the Late Bronze Age site that 50 years ago was the first shipwreck to be excavated in its entirety on the seabed, by a diving archaeologist, and using the common standards of land archaeology. The careful excavation, conservation, study, and publication of its artifact collection led archaeologists to believe that this late 13th-Century BCE ship was originally Near Eastern, probably Syrian or Canaanite, and pushed the beginning of the Phoenician seafaring tradition several centuries back. Such can be the importance of a shipwreck excavation.

Since that summer in 1960 nautical archaeology has developed continuously. In 1961 *Vasa*, the Swedish royal ship sank in 1628, was raised, and the excavation of that four-story structure, with almost all of its contents inside, started. A year later, in 1962, Ole Crumlin-Pedersen started the excavation of five 11th-Century ships at Skuldelev, in Denmark...

As it happens with land sites, most projects started as long ago as that have yielded impressive amounts of information and many are still being studied or re-studied. Each generation looks at the past with different eyes, and when information is professionally stored, it is possible to go back to projects studied many years ago and ask different questions from the data.

Half a century after these glorious pioneering efforts, it is interesting to take a look at this sub discipline of Archaeology, and ask a few questions. Was it worth the effort? What have we learned? The answer is: a lot. We came a long way. Ships are amazing artifacts, and the people that thought, built, and man them,

never fail to excite us, from the sailors that explored and colonized the Polynesian triangle to the Viking explorers, from the Indian Ocean merchants that inspired the legend of Sinbad the sailor to the Iberian explorers of the 15th century, or from the pirates of the Caribbean to the sailors of the Battleship Potemkin. The study of ships has opened many exciting windows into the histories of ideas and technology. A better understanding of their design, capacity, performance, cost, and strength through time, has improved our knowledge of the history of exploration that continuously shrank the planet for more than two millennia.

What's next? The last fifty years can perhaps be divided into two periods. The sixties and seventies saw excavation and recording techniques being developed, tested, and discussed, and at Texas A&M University – a rather implausible place, when we think about it – nautical archaeology acquired the status of an academic program. The eighties saw the rise of treasure hunting as an industry, while anthropologists and historians discussed alternative theoretical approaches to the field. The last three decades saw the appearance of nautical archaeology programs in universities throughout the world, an enormous growth in the number of nautical archaeologists and nautical archaeology projects worldwide, the proliferation of journals and scientific meetings dealing exclusively, or accepting naval history or nautical archaeology papers, and even the rise of an international convention for the protection of the submerged cultural heritage.

The next decades seem promising. On one side, the amount of data accumulated during the last fifty years, combined with roughly one century of studies in naval history, history of art, and history in general, are allowing archaeologists to ask a few “big questions” for the first time. On the other hand the development of new technologies promises to let us look at more shipwrecks, quicker, and in places previously not accessible to us. We can think about looking for patterns without engaging in long term excavations. The growth of the field in many countries around the world and multiplication of international meetings have brought new voices into the ongoing discussions, and is inviting

more and more attempts to branch out into other disciplines and enrich the anthropological approach with other viewpoints, including some promising input from the hard sciences. Many meetings now include engineers, architects, computer scientists, historians, philologists and historians of science. A more integrated approach – which was present from the beginning in certain projects – is becoming common ground.

There are a few problems to address, I must avow. Many archaeologists have been notoriously lazy in studying and publishing the shipwrecks they dig. Many love to start new excavations and projects before finishing the old ones. Others (especially in Europe) seem to avoid sharing information as if their peers were their enemies in a vicious competition for some unknown form of power or honor that no one seems to be able to define. Another group (small, but quite effective) has clustered around a small number of international organizations and spends all its time and energy trying to prevent the younger generations from digging anything. Even others ignore the general public as if they were not worth their time and energy, mostly when they live and work in countries where treasure hunting is illegal. This is especially serious because treasure hunters have also multiplied since the eighties. And they got sophisticated: first they hired public relations' specialists, then "archaeologists," and lately lawyers, who try to terrorize whoever dares to say anything against their destructions.

Archaeologists have been terribly slow to get organized and react against this cowardly and ignoble strategy. Treasure hunters will never go away. Like creationists and all other snake oil salesmen, they are here to stay and will always have a public ready to defend their viewpoints.

These problems aside, I believe that the next decades will probably be very exciting, both from the viewpoint of the discoveries to be made, and from that of the synthesis made possible by a growing amount of data available. Perhaps one day shipwrecks will be treated like fossil vertebrates and analyzed within an evolutionary model, *meme*tics seeming the most adequate from where I stand. And perhaps we will start building databases and cooperating in large numbers.

The next decade will certainly call for crunching large amounts of data and organizing our ships through both taxonomic and cladistic analyses. To track the creation, transfer, adaptation, and evolution of the knowledge behind the construction of every ship type sounds like an exciting direction to take within the field of nautical archaeology.

Filipe Castro is the Frederick Mayer II associate professor in Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University's Department of Anthropology and director of the J. Richard Steffy Ship Reconstruction Laboratory. He currently serves in the executive board of directors of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology, the editorial advisory board of the Nautical Research Journal, the executive board of directors of the International Committee for the History of Nautical Science, and on the editorial board of Historical Archaeology. His publications include the books A nau de Portugal, Lisbon: Prefácio, 2003, The Pepper Wreck, College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2005, and Edge of Empire, Proceedings of the Symposium held at 2006 SHA Annual Meeting, Lisbon: Caleidoscópico, 2008 (edited with his former student K. Custer).

The Seventh “P”

By Dr. Susan Langley

Posted November 10, 2009



I recently ran across the following quotation regarding profiting from underwater history, archaeology and ocean environments:

“[Profit] A dirty word? Should there be financial gain from encouraging respect of the ocean and the history it shrouds? Of course! Even non-profit organizations survive on donations from other people’s earnings and revenues, which are generated by profit. The Other ‘P’s depend on the support of the profit, as it depends on them. Without it, Passion dwindles, the Product loses value, Protection & Preservation suffer, and Promotion becomes pointless. No Profit, end of Dream!”

In the initial context I read this and its attribution to the President of a firm called Ocean Quest Inc., I ascribed it to a treasure hunter or other for-profit venture. However, this didn’t mesh comfortably with the UNESCO source cited for it. So I sought the source; a publication entitled *Underwater Cultural Heritage at Risk, Managing Natural and Human Impacts*, edit by Robert Grenier, David Nutley and Ian Cochran (2006). The volume is in the UNESCO online Library with restricted access that was readily given upon request and the volume as a whole is an excellent one.

The quotation above is part of the concluding paragraph of an article entitled, “It’s all about the ‘P’s” by Rick Stanley. Stanley is indeed the President of Ocean Quest, Inc. Canada, which is an eco-tourism business, but he is also one of the founders of Ocean Net; a non-profit organization with the goal “To Instill an Ocean Conservation Ethic.” He is also a member of the Steering Committee for Sustainable Tourism with Hospitality Newfoundland & Labrador and an advisor to Parks Canada on the subject of SCUBA diving. His article is less than three

pages long and focuses on his group's largely successful efforts with respect to the Bell Island Wrecks in Conception Bay, Newfoundland, as a microcosm of global possibilities.

This knowledge of course permits an entirely different take in reading the same paragraph. Stanley is a dive shop owner and SCUBA instructor, not an archaeologist, but like many such businessmen he has recognized that vandalism and souvenir predation of wrecks, historic or otherwise, is detrimental to his bottom line.¹ Therefore, it's no surprise that he has a vested interest in generating a profit while preserving the submerged history of the region. To this end, he is capitalizing on the rising current interest in eco-tourism or adventure tourism. More and more visitors are not content to "see" a place they want to "do" a place; it's experiential in a much more physical way than in the past.²

To look a little more closely at his "P's," "Protect & Preserve, and Passion, raise the specter of loving the resources to death; that there are impacts even in the most benign visitation but I believe there is a general consensus that this is justified to achieve long range goals. His use of Product is not a reference to the commoditization of artifacts but of the experience, or the "Dream." Similarly, for archaeologists, Products are rarely artifacts but sections of grants or agreements specifying what the grantor will receive for its investment, such as reports, GIS, forms, images, and electronic remote sensing data. This leaves Stanley's Promotion and Profit, to which I would add a seven P, Partnerships.

In his view promoting his product, eco-adventures/tourism, is a road to both profit and preservation. For public sector entities, promotion can best be seen as what is generally termed educational outreach with one of its goals being some level of financial return; not usually outright profit but often grant funds to offset or cover costs, usually in a matching arrangement for in-kind contributions of time, goods, or services. There is discussion among archaeologists as to where the ethical tipping point lies for generating funds from submerged cultural resources; one group argues that as the patrimony of humanity, any fundraising from these sites

is exploitation and should be abjured, another that so long as there is minimal physical contact or impact that films, books and experiential visits are acceptable means of educational outreach with the benefit of covering the costs of interpretation or funding additional research. Into the latter also falls the category of what may be termed the "Polluter Pays," to add a few more "P's." Many public sector agencies are now requiring that proponents of undertakings that will impact submerged cultural resources include educational components, as well as legally mandated surveys and mitigation. In cases of legal prosecution, those found guilty cannot physically return a site to its pre-impact state. The Courts are therefore prone to calculating what the costs would have been to undertake excavation of the site if it had been done scientifically, of analyzing any materials already recovered and other costs, and fining the guilty party to have this done. In cases where it cannot be done, the monetary penalty would be used to cover costs of research at another site, usually determined in cooperation with the relevant State or federal entity.

Stanley makes a valid point that, for non-profits, even the donations they solicit/receive are the result of someone's profit, although one would expect not from illegal or unethical behavior toward archaeological or historical sites and materials. I doubt there is an archaeologist who hasn't skulked Ninja-like around an exhibit (s)he finds ethically dubious noting which firms would sponsor it, collecting paper materials to see how it is being spun to the public and so forth. Conversely, at well realized exhibits, one cribs ideas for grant applications, clever marketing methods and looks for potential Partners in the form of funding entities, institutions, and private sector sponsors.

In general, the public sector doesn't expect to make a profit, and in some situations is legally prohibited from so doing. It can usually, at best, break even and often that is a long shot but it can only even attempt this through sound partnerships. Usually this involves a mix of State, federal, and local government agencies and non-profit organizations plus volunteers from the general public. I am including students, educational institutions and museums in the foregoing

governmental categories. In tough economic times, many of these fade as possible partners as their upstream funding sources are cut-back, donations and memberships diminish or dry up entirely as people economize, and staffs and budgets shrink without the diminution of ongoing duties and responsibilities. This results in realignments of priorities, and in more and more entities competing for dwindling monetary resources. The upshot is that the deepest pockets are found at the federal level and in the private sector. With respect to the former there is more competition for fewer funds which can limit the nature of research than may be undertaken, or require putting more people at the table to obtain the funding which then can translate into additional research responsibilities to meet the interest/needs of the additional partners and add more layers of complexity. In the case of private sector partners, many of these have recently taken sufficient financial losses that they don't need a tax deduction for their donation, and there can be the double-edged sword of the parody of "The Golden Rule;" that those with the gold make the rules or at least think they ought to be allowed to make decisions or hold control of matters that public sector entities must retain. One other caveat is that a private sector partner may also be a sponsor of other projects or a proponent of issues with which one would prefer not or cannot be associated. Despite the negative possibilities, many of us are privileged to work with solid individuals in the private sector, like Rick Stanley, or non-profit organizations with comparable goals or similar messages. The vision, or perhaps I should say Perspective (to remain consistent with the "P's"), of these people and groups and their flexibility have permitted some interesting and creative approaches to meeting public sector research goals and remain the mainstay of such endeavors regardless of the prevailing economic winds.

¹<http://bellislandexpedition.blogspot.com/2007/01/our-personnel.html>

²*Tarzan was an Eco-Tourist, and Other Tales in the Anthropology of Adventure* (2006) is a volume that is an outgrowth of a conference addressing what constitutes "adventure" and while there is not a chapter addressing diving, many

of the contributions are clearly comparable. Conquest of the environment, albeit in a less destructive manner than in earlier times, overcoming challenges to oneself, with an element of danger are all common tropes. That there is indeed danger and that it is real and not perceived or contrived for participants needs to be borne in mind (<http://www.cdnn.info/news/safety/s070204.html>).

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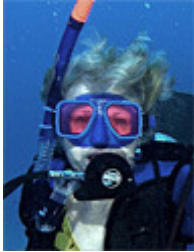
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Treasure Hunters, So Few So Loud – United States Perspective

By Dr. Anne Giesecke

Posted February 14, 2010



The purpose of the Abandoned Shipwreck Act (ASA) was to remove shipwrecks in state waters from the federal admiralty court. After all, the states had the right to permit excavation of state land for any other purpose, sand, oil etc. Unfortunately, I underestimated the territorial power grab of the federal courts that started about the same time, the early 1980's, that has resulted in them declaring jurisdiction over concepts such as abandoned or whatever as well as global claims for the *Titanic*, *Lusitania* and the *Bismarck*. The federal court applied their power grab even more aggressively to business by running companies like AT & T and GM. So the purpose of the ASA was partially met as states had to fight fewer claims in federal court and could put more energy into establishing underwater parks and programs. The primary purpose of the ASA, from an historical perspective was educational.

The high profile debate of the 1980's in the US Congress with hearings in the House and Senate resulted in the education of the general public about underwater cultural resources. As a staff member of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, I worked hard to involve the sport divers in the debate. The discussions served to educate the sport divers about the political process which continues to have impact as sport divers attend local meetings on beach access, fishing rights and pollution issues. Education is a slow process but just as sport divers now work hard to protect coral reefs, many work hard to preserve historic shipwrecks.

The culture has changed. Archaeologists of the 1960's did not consider submerged prehistoric or historic sites a proper subject of study; too messed up if

they existed at all. Bass changed some of that thinking with his work in the Mediterranean and Ruppe with his work in the Gulf of Mexico. Colorado had a shipwreck law in 1963 but it wasn't until the 1970's and the location of treasure coins and then ships off the Florida coast that anyone had much interest. Florida developed a law and let some permits to salvors in the 1970's but haven't since. Members of the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) formed a committee called the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology to advocate the study of underwater cultural resources and to consider the role of the treasure salvor. The culture has changed, there are fewer salvors but they are more high tech and fiscally sophisticated.

As I have suggested for years the Society for Historical Archaeology no longer needs the advocacy or expense of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology. Papers on underwater archaeology are published in the Journal and papers at the meetings are offered in sessions with papers for that cultural subject. The UNESCO Committee advocates support for the International Convention for the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage. SHA should cut the costs of supporting the ACUA, one web site and one board.

Most shipwrecks are trash and should be removed to prevent ocean pollution. We cannot preserve historic shipwrecks if the waters are polluted. Most underwater cultural resources are destroyed by dredging, trawling and port development. The historic preservation community should work more closely with the natural resource organizations to create positive environments for the benefit of all. Let us keep changing the culture.

Dr. Giesecke holds a B.A. and M.Ed. from Boston University; a M.A. in Anthropology from State University of New York at Binghamton; and a Ph. D. in Anthropology from the Catholic University of America. Consultants on clean water, underwater cultural resources and the National Register of Historic Places. Drafted the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987. Presented Testimony before the House and Senate and has written numerous articles. In 1991 began advising the International Law Association on the International Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and attended the Paris UNESCO meetings in 1997, 1999 and

2001. *Field work on prehistoric, historic or shipwreck sites in Kenya, France, England, Bermuda, and a dozen states of the United States.*

The Institute of Nautical Archaeology

By Dr. James P. Delgado

Posted March 17, 2010



Founded in 1973, the Institute of Nautical Archaeology is in its 37th year of operation in 2010, and we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first scientific archaeological excavation of a shipwreck under water at Cape Gelidonya. When journalist/adventurer Peter Throckmorton arrived in Bodrum in the

spring of 1958 to write about Turkish sponge divers, he learned of many ancient wrecks as he gained the divers' confidence. Throckmorton visited many of them, diving on what he later said were up to a hundred wrecks. He also visited an underwater excavation off Albenga, Italy, where six divers worked on a Roman wreck, supervised by archaeologists who remained on the deck and did not dive.

Important discoveries were being made elsewhere in the Mediterranean, and in the U.S., and pioneering explorers interested in archaeological discovery were diving, but no one had completely excavated a shipwreck under water.

Archaeology of sorts was happening in the sea, but archaeologists were seen to be on the sidelines, and with most archaeologists not being divers themselves, they were dismissed, Throckmorton said, by Jacques Cousteau as "impractical pedants." All that changed in 1959, when Throckmorton was guided to a Bronze Age wreck at Gelidonya, the "cape of the swallows," and then returned to the U.S. to solicit help to excavate the wreck before it was lost forever to divers seeking to wrench up and sell its cargo of ancient copper and bronze for scrap.

Professor Rodney Young of the University of Pennsylvania Museum introduced Throckmorton to a promising graduate student, George F. Bass, in December 1959. Together, with a \$10,000 grant from the University Museum, they organized an expedition to Gelidonya, raising additional funds, and recruiting a crew that included a young diver from France, Claude Duthuit, who had earlier

worked with Throckmorton. They headed off to Turkey in April 1960. There they assembled their equipment, adding essentials that their limited budget could not support with visits to an Army surplus yard. “Our army training in scrounging,” said Bass (he and Throckmorton were both veterans) “suddenly seemed as important as any academic courses we had taken.” What followed was a further test of people, equipment and the capacity of the human heart to endure hardship in order to achieve the best of what we are capable of as human beings.

The three-month long excavation at Cape Gelidonya, working from two sponge boats and a narrow beach camp hemmed in by high cliffs, was hard work and the beginning of a new era. It was the first archaeological excavation of a shipwreck in its entirety, with archaeologists and archaeological technicians who worked under the water. The wreck, which had already seen initial despoliation by divers who had taken some of its ancient bronze cargo to melt down and sell, was now studied, surveyed, and carefully excavated. The artifacts were studied and the results were published after seven years of painstaking analysis. History was not only recovered, it was made.

What began on that beach and in the waters off Cape Gelidonya 50 years ago was the beginning of archaeology under water – an important distinction as noted by George Bass because it was more than “underwater archaeology.” It was the beginning of scientific practice in a submerged environment. In the end, what was done at Gelidonya and all other sites under water since 1960 is all about the use of technique, method and theory – simply stated, what we call archaeology, to answer questions about humanity’s past.

What George Bass did was to forever change archaeology. His meticulous study of the wreck, and publication of the results, was literally like tossing a pebble into the sea that in time grew into a tsunami. Hundreds of archaeologists have now been trained in universities, and work in the field in the world’s oceans, lakes and rivers.

Hundreds of shipwrecks, drowned ports, lost cargoes and prehistoric sites have been scientifically excavated, studied and the results published around the world. Academic programs, including one of the first in the world, founded in 1976 by Dr. Bass, Dr. Frederick Van Doorninck and J. Richard Steffy at Texas A&M University, as well as programs at East Carolina University, Indiana University, the University of Southampton, Flinders University, St. Andrews University, Södertörn University and other schools now train the next generation of nautical archaeologists. The Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS) trains a growing number of avocational archaeologists who make immeasurable contributions.

Archaeological preserves, marine sanctuaries, national and state parks all preserve and make shipwrecks accessible to the interested public. Professional journals, books, popular media in print, film and the Internet bring the results of archaeological work under water and on nautical sites to an ever growing audience of scholars and the interested public. There are a number of associations, institutes and societies that work around the world on shipwrecks, archaeology under water, and on maritime studies.

The Institute of Nautical Archaeology is a global organization dedicated to the preservation, excavation, study and publication of the results of archaeological work done to the highest standard under water, and that is the Institute of Nautical Archaeology. Since our founding, INA and its members, associates, students and affiliated faculty have worked on more than 160 projects in nearly every ocean, in major lakes, and off nearly all continents. These have been cataloged by Dr. Bass in a landmark series of books. Hundreds of scholarly and popular articles have been published. An impressive shelf of dozens of books, almost all published in partnership with Texas A&M University Press, have shared the results of that scholarship.

What is paramount is continuing to conduct surveys, assessments, excavations, and to continue the excavations in the laboratory through conservation and

analysis as we interpret the results and then share them. In 2008-2009, the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, in conjunction with Texas A&M University's Nautical Archaeology Program, Indiana University, Flinders University, the Waitt Institute for Discovery, and the RPM Nautical Foundation, was a participant, partner, or supporter of 40 archaeological projects around the globe in the United States, Canada, Bermuda, Panama, Turkey, Spain, Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Cyprus, Japan, and Vietnam.

All of these projects were made possible by the generous support of partners, sponsors, and donors, volunteers, and the permission of and permits granted by the various nations and states where the projects took place.

To learn more about INA, check us out on Facebook or at www.inadiscover.com

*James P. Delgado has a long list of accomplishments. Wearing his many hats as historian, curator, land and sea archaeologist, scientist, researcher, deep-sea diver, television host, museum director, lecturer, author and storyteller, he has built an incredible foundation of knowledge and experience in his field. Best known publicly as co-host and archaeologist for the international TV documentary series, *The Sea Hunters*, he has led or participated in shipwreck expeditions around the world. Author of over 32 books, he is a highly sought-after speaker, and has given hundreds of presentations to audiences around the globe. Jim was the Executive Director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum for 15 years. Previously, he was the head of the U.S. government's maritime preservation program and was the maritime historian for the U.S. National Park Service. Jim has been the President and CEO of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (Texas and Bodrum) since 2008.*

Integrating Underwater and Terrestrial Archaeology

By Matthew A. Russell

Posted May 17, 2010



As Jim Delgado reminded us in a recent MUA blog, underwater archaeology has been a separate and distinct sub-discipline of archaeology since George Bass's first full-scale underwater excavation at Cape Gelidonya in 1960. Unfortunately, many early practitioners of underwater archaeology were not treated as serious scholars by terrestrial colleagues in the mainstream of either classical or anthropological archaeology. From the beginning, underwater archaeologists had to fight the perception that antiquarian-style collecting was the limit to what could be done underwater. This perception was repeatedly challenged through early publications that demonstrated the potential of anthropological archaeology underwater, including Keith Muckelroy's *Maritime Archaeology* (1978), and Richard Gould's edited volume *Shipwreck Anthropology* (1983), which was based on a School of American Research Advanced Seminar organized by Daniel Lenihan and Larry Murphy in 1981. Early skepticism about the scientific or academic contributions of underwater archaeology may also have been because of the inevitable confusion between treasure hunting and underwater archaeology, a problem that still exists among the public and even among other archaeologists. Despite fifty years of professional underwater archaeological research and publication, a gap still exists between terrestrial and underwater archaeologists.

The early biases and skepticism surrounding underwater archaeological research was not all the fault of terrestrial archaeologists—from the 1970s right up to the present, underwater archaeologists tended to maintain their own identities that were separate and distinct from their colleagues working on land. If you page

through the abstract books from past Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) Annual Conferences on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, there are only rare instances where underwater and terrestrial sessions overlap. Oftentimes there was good reason for maintaining this separation—archaeologists working underwater tended to focus on ships and boats, and therefore had a common passion, regardless of period of interest, not shared by their colleagues on land; they used the same specialized techniques and dealt with the same issues of preservation and conservation that were also different from those of land-based archaeologists; and finally, the threats to historical shipwrecks underwater were (and often still are) very different than terrestrial sites, because commercial salvage and exploitation of underwater cultural heritage is not only legal in many places, but often celebrated in the popular media.

The distinct separation of underwater and terrestrial archaeology is not the case any longer, however. Over the past decade or more, maritime archaeologists have worked to make their research a part of the archaeological mainstream. Rather than choosing to publish solely in specialty journals such as the *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*, maritime archaeologists are now publishing in a diverse array of archaeological journals like *American Antiquity*, *Journal of Archaeological Science*, *Geoarchaeology*, *Historical Archaeology*, *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*, *Journal of Field Archaeology*, *World Archaeology*, *Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites*, and *Public Archaeology*. In addition, maritime sessions have been highlighted at an increasing number of professional conferences, such as the World Archaeological Congress (WAC) and the annual conferences of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) and the Society for American Archaeology (SAA). Even at the SHA's annual conference, which has featured both terrestrial and underwater archaeology for 40 years, the integration of maritime and terrestrial papers has recently become a priority. In January 2010, the theme of the SHA conference in Amelia Island, Florida was "Coastal Connections: Integrating Terrestrial and Underwater Archaeology."

Individual archaeologists have made great strides towards integrating their research and publications with their terrestrial colleagues, but early on it was recognized that a larger voice was needed to bring attention to issues specifically relevant to underwater cultural resources. The Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA), an independent non-profit organization, was created to help meet that need. The ACUA began as the Council on Underwater Archaeology in 1959, and was formalized at a meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1963 when a group of archaeologists, historians, and sport divers met for the first international Conference on Underwater Archaeology (CUA). From that successful beginning, two more bi-annual conferences were held in 1965 and 1967. In 1970, the first papers on underwater archaeology were given at the then-fledgling SHA conference, which held its first meeting in 1967. By 1973, the present structure and name of the ACUA were established and shortly thereafter came a merging of the SHA and CUA conferences. The SHA's annual meeting became the Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology. Although the conference was a joint venture between the SHA and the ACUA, the ACUA remained a distinct entity, with a largely different agenda than the SHA.

The ACUA board members represent professionals in academia, private industry, government agencies, and non-profit organizations, but underwater archaeology is a growing field, both domestically and internationally. In general, the ACUA serves as an international advisory body on issues relating to underwater archaeology, conservation, and underwater cultural heritage management. We work to educate scholars, governments, sport divers, and the general public about underwater archaeology and the preservation of submerged resources. In practice, the ACUA has two, equally-important, roles. First, we are advocates for underwater cultural heritage and work to promote its preservation. This means responding to various issues with letters and providing information to the general public through our web page, brochures, publications, and other initiatives. Second, we actively work with the SHA to help organize the annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, and we collaborate with

the SHA Board and various SHA committees on underwater issues. The SHA supports the ACUA in conducting elections, with ACUA board members elected from the membership of the SHA. The ACUA works with the SHA Conference Committee to select an underwater program chair for the annual conference, organizes events at the meetings focused on underwater issues, and (with the generous support of the SHA) publishes underwater proceedings from the conferences. The ACUA also holds a permanent seat on the SHA Board of Directors. In this role, we see ourselves not only as serving and representing the maritime constituency of the SHA, but furthering the integration of underwater and terrestrial archaeology, which serves all SHA members. We also seek to broaden SHA's membership by encouraging not only historical archaeologists working underwater to become members and attend the annual conferences, but also prehistoric and classical archaeologists, and other researchers working in the underwater realm.

In 2003, a Memorandum of Agreement between the ACUA and the SHA formalized the relationship between the two organizations. Over the past several years, the ACUA and SHA have worked together closely by responding to a number of issues of concern with a strong letter-writing campaign. The ACUA also frequently collaborates with SHA's UNESCO Committee to promote the 2001 UNESCO Convention. Wholesale commercial salvage is legal in many areas, which is why the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001) is so important. Recent collaborations include organized symposiums focused on the UNESCO Convention at the 2007 SHA Conference in Williamsburg and at the Sixth World Archaeological Congress (WAC-6) in Dublin in 2008. In addition, ACUA graduate student associate members worked with the student subcommittee of SHA's Academic and Professional Training Committee to organize a student forum at the SHA conferences in Toronto (2009) and Amelia Island (2010). In short, the ACUA and SHA have forged an effective partnership that serves as one example of the ongoing integration of terrestrial and underwater archaeology.

This is not to say that underwater archaeology does not have unique concerns that sometimes differ greatly from our counterparts on land. In particular, the threat to underwater cultural heritage from salvage and looting, both illicit and legal, is still a serious concern and one that requires constant attention to effectively counter. This is why advocacy from a number of independent organizations, including both narrowly-focused underwater archaeology groups like the ACUA and the Australasian Institute of Maritime Archaeology (AIMA), as well as broadly-based organizations such as the SHA, WAC, AAA, SAA and others, is so important. The ACUA actively tracks threats to submerged resources and works to coordinate appropriate responses in a way that can be much more effective than large organizations with numerous interest groups and diverse responsibilities. But to effectively mobilize such responses requires the successful collaboration of underwater and terrestrial archaeologists, demonstrating the importance of underwater cultural heritage to all archaeologists, and drawing on a network of professionals that moves beyond “maritime” and “terrestrial” constituencies. Although all archaeologists specialize to some degree or another, we are still all archaeologists who share a common commitment to preserving our past, no matter where it is located.

For more information about the ACUA, visit our web page (www.acuaonline.org) or email us at info@acuaonline.org to see how you can get involved. To purchase copies of the 2007-2009 underwater proceedings, visit our online print-on-demand store <http://stores.lulu.com/ACUA>

Matthew A. Russell has been an archeologist with the National Park Service's Submerged Resources Center (SRC) since 1993. He has a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from University of California, Santa Barbara, an M.A. in Maritime History and Nautical Archaeology from East Carolina University, and a M.A. in Anthropology from University of California, Berkeley. Among many NPS projects, he was Deputy Field Director for the H.L. Hunley Recovery Project in 2000 and has been Project Director for the USS Arizona Preservation Project since 2001. He has been an elected-member of the Advisory Council for Underwater Archaeology (ACUA) since 2003, and has served as both Secretary and Vice Chair—he is currently the ACUA Chair. He has also been a member of Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) since 1992, is past-Chair of SHA's UNESCO Committee, and currently sits on SHA's Board of Directors. In addition to a variety of monographs on SRC's work in national parks, Matt has published articles in Historical Archaeology, Journal of Field Archaeology, International Journal of Nautical Archaeology,

*Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites, and Journal of Archaeological Science.
He is currently completing a Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley.*

What Does it Mean to “Go Digital”?

By Dr. T. Mills Kelly

Posted October 19, 2010



Back in the late 1990s – the days of Web 0.5 – I was a pioneer of sorts when it came to thinking about how new media might be changing the way students thought about the past. I got started with research on new media because I had an itch that needed scratching...What I wanted to know was whether or not the work I was putting into my website and into creating web-based assignments for my students was remotely worth it. I decided I needed to do a little research to see what I could learn about how my students used the digital learning materials I was creating for them and whether their use of those materials was changing their thinking at all.

As often happens with “little research projects,” the work I did that year transformed my career in that it opened me up to an entirely new way of thinking about teaching and learning. And because the results of my project found their way into an online journal, which then won an award, which then led to a job at George Mason University’s Center for History and New Media, I was suddenly an expert of sorts on digital pedagogy.

Other awards and a series of increasingly larger grants have followed, but I still am trying to get at that same itch that started bothering me in 1998. Like more “experts,” the more I know the less I am sure of.

Of course, I say all of that with the historian’s favorite tool – 20/20 hindsight. When I was in the middle of my transformation into a digital historian, I just knew I felt like I was getting closer and closer to something worth knowing. I still feel that way and so I keep scratching and scratching.

If you've ever taken a history class-who hasn't-you know that historians are a deeply conservative tribe when it comes to their pedagogy and their research methods. Not many disciplines have a lineage as long as ours. After all, Herodotus published his book on the Persian Wars five centuries before the Common Era began. Sad to say, not a lot has changed in the past 2,500 years in either the way historians pursue evidence or teach students about the past.

That is, until the past decade.

The digital revolution has challenged so many assumptions about the way historians do what they do that if I were to list them all here it would require several blog posts. So, rather than list them all and bore you to death, I thought I would point to just a few that, to me anyway, seem worthy of more careful consideration, especially with respect to teaching and learning.

GIS and the blurring of boundaries: Historians have always borrowed freely from other disciplines, but only rarely have we allowed the boundaries we've set for ourselves to blur. The advent to cheap and easy GIS technology combined with the rapid growth of massive databases of humanities content has suddenly made it possible, if not imperative, for historians to think about ways that GIS can help us (and our students) understand the past better. In my own work I now geolocate every single source I can so that I can throw those sources up on a map to look at them in both time and physical space. I've only begun doing this with my newest project, but already I'm starting to see patterns in my data that I wouldn't have seen unless I put them on a map.

Mobile computing: Historians are now confronted with the possibility of the wide adoption of what computer scientists like to call "itinerant, distributed, and ubiquitous computing." You and I might call this the smart-phone revolution. Whatever we call it, we now need to come to grips with the fact that our students and the audience for our work increasingly can access previously unthinkable amounts of historical content whenever and wherever they choose. As a tribe

historians are only just starting to debate what this revolution means. I happen to think that the single most important outcome of what we might call “history to go” will be the breaking down the walls-literal and figurative-of the history classroom. Why keep our students chained to their desks when they can access and work with historical content anywhere they choose? I’ll be experimenting with this idea in the spring 2011 semester when I teach a course called “Dead in Virginia” that forces my students to work with local family cemeteries as their primary historical sources-work they can only do somewhere other than their classroom.

Malleability: How do you feel about Wikipedia? This question often defines the parameters of an important argument about the digital culture we are watching emerge all around us. While the argument is often cast as a Wikipedia good/Wikipedia bad binary, the real issue, it seems to me, is about both the malleability of online content and the degree to which we are willing to accept the participation of the public at large in the creation of what used to be known as “expert content.” Whether we like it or not, our students see digital content as malleable and they are often frustrated at attempts by their professors to tell them that mashups, remixes, and other forms of creative activity are somehow bad. With each passing month I find myself more and more excited about the ways that my students are trying to find new ways to make sense of the past by doing interesting (and sometimes strange) things with the sources they find. Yes, many of those things would make a traditional historian cringe, but if we are going to tell our students that they have to work with limits grownups have set for them, I think we can count on seeming more and more irrelevant with each passing year.

To cycle back to my original question above, I would say that the answer is pretty simple. Going digital means being open, even if it makes us cringe, to a teaching, learning, research, and creative landscape that is in a state of extreme flux at this particular moment. Boundaries are shifting. Rules are changing. No one is sure

what the final result will be. The ride we're on will likely speed up over the next few years, so I'm fastening my seatbelt and looking forward to the final result.

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The Historic Environment: Shared Heritage and Joint Responsibilities?

By Ian Oxley

Posted November 16, 2010



Throughout a thirty-year career in maritime archaeology, a particular hobby-horse of mine has been an element of good practice management that involves jointly sharing heritage responsibilities, as well as, benefits and outcomes.

At a basic level, I think that much maritime and underwater heritage is inherently multi-national, a fundamental property opens up great opportunities for co-operative investigation and use, overriding present day boundaries. Derived as it is from mobile carriers (ships and boats) travelling between many locations, involving and impacting on many lives, gathering stories so that a rich heritage resource can be re-told now and in the future. The contributory elements that make up sites that result from this activity can be investigated and presented for education, research and amenity. Making all this happen effectively would seem to be best delivered by a managed contribution from all interested parties, requiring sharing various elements at a range of levels – experience, expertise, knowledge, data, and international, national, and local. It also needs to be effective because archaeological resources are unique, no two sites are the same, and any investigation should be carefully planned so that the maximum of beneficial return is gained with the minimum of impact. This is the joint responsibility bit because the archaeological heritage is a legacy from the past for the future. I hope to show a few examples of what I mean here.

The phrase, “Shared Heritage: Joint Responsibility”, was the title a seminar the University of Wolverhampton and English Heritage supported to encourage this approach in relation to British warship wrecks located outside United Kingdom waters. Expert speakers came from Florida, Australia, Argentina, South Africa,

with commonalities of engaging stakeholders, encouraging access, exchanging expertise, whilst respecting national interests and intricacies of salvage legislation. The proceedings of the seminar are available from www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/management-of-british-warship-wrecks-overseas

Another good example, for me, of sharing responsibilities is the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA)(www.acuaonline.org), an independent non-profit organisation representing professionals in academia, private industry, government agencies, and non-profit organisations. The ACUA has been at the forefront of underwater archaeology for more than 45 years, beginning as the Council on Underwater Archaeology in 1959, and it serves as an international advisory body on issues relating to underwater archaeology, conservation, and underwater cultural heritage management, working to educate scholars, governments, sport divers, and the general public about underwater archaeology and the preservation of submerged resources.

It is also clear that the historic environment (comprising submerged and often buried prehistoric landscape areas and elements, together with archaeological sites and remains of coastal activities dating from all eras of history) is so inextricably embedded in the natural environment – if anything now can be considered completely natural anymore? Therefore, in underwater archaeology, we have a well-developed sector which studies the ways in which chemical, biological, physical factors have affected our heritage, how these things have changed and/or mixed up the clues we have about stories from the past? We need to know these things so that we can interpret all the clues I mentioned earlier effectively. Just as importantly, we need to know how present-day influences, whether natural or human, should be taken into account so that we can manage the heritage effectively now. All of these elements can be better approached by bringing in the necessary areas of expertise, however diverse.

In English Heritage, where I work, these ideas are presented as “heritage conservation”, which can be defined as “managing change. The organisation is

the United Kingdom Government's statutory adviser on all aspects of cultural heritage including the English area of the territorial seabed, and working in partnership with central government departments, local authorities, voluntary bodies and the private sector within the framework of a set of Conservation Principles (www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/conservation-principles):

- The historic environment is a shared resource;
- Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment;
- Understanding the significance of places is vital;
- Significant places should be managed to sustain their values;
- Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent;
- Documenting and learning from decisions is essential.

A participatory aspiration also underpins the UNESCO Convention on The Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/themes/underwater-cultural-heritage) which advocates the sharing of knowledge and experience, encouraging countries that have a verifiable link to a particular site to co-operate in its future management. Clearly, this is an important element for archaeological sites that lie in international waters where no single country has jurisdiction or responsibility.

If past experience is anything to go by, the material remains that make up our common heritage are one of the few things that will survive, albeit always modified or even added to, in this rapidly changing world. It should be cherished and be used economically, so that it can be managed for the benefit of all. To achieve this I believe we all should share responsibilities, as well as those benefits.

Ian Oxley, BSc MSc FSA Scot FSA London MIFA

After beginning his archaeological career as a digger in the late Seventies, Ian Oxley learnt to

dive and joined the Mary Rose project as diving Finds Assistant. Following the excavation and recovery of that Tudor warship he specialized in shipwreck environmental archaeology, progressing to become the Mary Rose Trust's Archaeological Scientist. He has held many voluntary offices in societies such as the Institute of Field Archaeologists and helped develop the Nautical Archaeology Society Training Programme. Moving to St Andrews in 1988 to spend ten years with the Archaeological Diving Unit, progressing to Deputy Director, he also set up and directed the voluntary Maritime Fife project, which included marine GIS and inventory development. After embarking on research into the management of historic shipwreck sites in Scotland at Heriot-Watt University, he carried out shipwreck inventory enhancement for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. He then joined Historic Scotland's as an Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments before moving to English Heritage as Head of Maritime Archaeology in 2002.

Deepwater Archaeology in Oil and Gas

By Kimberly L. Faulk (née Eslinger)

Posted December 14, 2010



The unfortunate events leading up to and following the Macondo well blowout, and the loss of eleven lives in April have focused international attention on the domestic oil and gas industry in the United States for the first time since the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill on March 24, 1989. In the 21 years since the *Exxon Valdez* disaster archaeologists have become more sophisticated in reacting to environmental and archaeological emergencies and in sharing that information with their colleagues. For the relatively small number of us who work in the oil and gas industry as underwater archaeologists the impact of the recent spill will be on our minds for years to come. Those of us who work offshore are highly aware of the innate dangers that surround offshore surveys, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) operations, drilling operations, and infrastructure installation. I was offshore the day Macondo exploded and for those of us on the boat, our first concern was whether there was anything we could do to assist. Our second concern that day and the one we didn't want to voice was whether we knew anyone aboard *Deepwater Horizon*.

Today, like most Americans, we have questions about the spill's environmental impact, but we also are forced to ask questions regarding the impact on the archaeological sites we study, the cultural impact on the Gulf Coast, and our role in the oil and gas industry. What role is there for underwater archaeologists in deepwater and in the oil and gas industry? How can we better protect the submerged cultural resources we are tasked with assessing, and how can we be better advocates within the larger oil and gas industry, and with our archaeological colleagues?

For the first time in the history of oil and gas, underwater archaeology is becoming a high profile discipline in the industry. I recently attended the Marine Technology Society's Underwater Intervention conference in New Orleans, where Odyssey Marine spent a day promoting their recent projects to the oil and gas industry. The apparent goal of the symposium was to convince the oil and gas industry that the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage would impact their work negatively. At the close of the day Dr. Filipe Castro was asked to join a panel discussion sponsored by Odyssey Marine as the only voice on the panel in support of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. At the close of the day the incredible thing was that the industry as a whole recognized that underwater archaeology is a necessary discipline and one that not only saves the industry money, but one that should be promoted instead of ignored. Oil and gas personnel also seemed to recognize the day's symposium for what it was; an attempt to paint underwater archaeology as an enemy to the oil and gas industry instead of a stakeholder.

Looking around the room that day I was struck by how few marine archaeologists are working in the oil and gas industry. At present, there are fewer than 20 archaeologists working for private companies in the oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico region. Our responsibilities include setting up deepwater surveys for clients, assisting our clients in complying with federal guidelines established by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE, formerly the Minerals Management Service), assessing data from deepwater surveys, making recommendations regarding pipeline routing and subsea infrastructure placement, monitoring ROV surveys of potential cultural targets, and working with the BOEMRE and private industry to protect submerged cultural resources.

Unlike our colleagues working for state or federal governments, or those working in private research groups who can dive on the sites they are investigating, or touch the wreck sites they are mapping, most of us working in deepwater are

working on sites too deep to dive, and with technology that adds an additional filter between us and the site. Learning to view a site through a television monitor or from the filter of an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle's (AUV) geophysical data is a daunting prospect for many archaeologists. Unlike in graduate school or in previous jobs where I had to make do with old equipment that rarely worked correctly, I have access to the best equipment on the market and some of the best equipment operators in the industry. I've learned more in the last five years about working in deepwater from ROV pilots, AUV operators, and geophysical operators than I could have learned anywhere else.

Deepwater archaeology brings its own set of difficult conditions and theoretical constructs. The inability to "lay hands" on a wreck forces you to work in three dimensions through a two dimensional platform. Our minds as underwater archaeologists are accustomed to creating pictures from what our hands feel in black water. In deepwater we have to retrain our minds to build three dimensional images of a wreck site based on still photographs, sonar imagery, multibeam bathymetry, magnetic data, and video data. On a daily basis those of us working in the oil and gas industry are reminded that the shipwrecks and prehistoric sites are part of cultural heritage that are seen by only a select few.

Those of us working in deepwater find ourselves confronted by the technological frontier on a regular basis. Those things that only yesterday were figments of our imagination are suddenly possible. With new technologies, we have the ability to image, map, and document sites in ways that were impossible a few years ago. The cutting edge tools that were once out of reach are now part of our everyday survey kit. AUVs which only a decade ago were unheard of in circles outside of the oil and gas industry or the military have become almost commonplace. The technological frontier is also present in the software we use to view our data, and in our ability to conceive of and ask for new tools from our partners in the engineering and computing fields. Deepwater archaeology requires not only a grasp of archaeological theories and methods, but also an understanding of how

the robotic and geophysical tools we use on a daily basis operate, and an understanding of how the deep sea impacts artifacts and sites.

I have been lucky enough to work with many of the archaeologists who were on the cutting edge in the field when the federal government first required the industry to address archaeological resources. Many of these archaeologists are still working in the industry and they serve not only as a wealth of knowledge on what techniques have worked, which ones have not, and the discoveries that have been made, but also as a peer review process for those of us looking to try new methods of inquiry. Although the industry is proprietary and we all work under non-disclosure agreements, there is a level of scholarship and collegiality among deepwater archaeologists that makes it such an exciting and ever evolving branch of underwater archaeology.

For those of us working in the oil and gas industry we have the remarkable opportunity to serve as liaisons between our archaeological colleagues and the mix of disciplines in the oil and gas industry. On any given project we will be the public face of marine archaeology for petroleum engineers, project managers, drillers, ROV pilots, AUV operators, geotechnical engineers, geologists, geophysicists, and pipeline engineers; just to name a few. Marine archaeology started as an unwelcome participant in the oil and gas industry several decades ago; today marine archaeologists are viewed as critical members on many project planning teams. Many of our clients now recognize the importance of protecting our submerged cultural heritage and the regional expertise that marine archaeologists bring to the table when planning for subsea infrastructure. Whether we are working in the waters off Alaska, the Gulf of Mexico, the Pacific or Atlantic coastlines, or internationally, archaeologists are pushing the bounds of what is possible in deepwater archaeology with the tools provided by oil and gas clients who recognize the intrinsic value of protecting our collective cultural heritage.

Today when a project begins we are often invited to the table to assist in pre-survey planning and contingency planning. Deepwater archaeologists in the oil and gas industry have become critical stakeholders in engineering discussions and pipeline routing. The industry as a whole has come to realize that supporting and promoting underwater archaeology is a cheaper solution than simply ignoring it. Papers and presentations on discoveries from oil and gas surveys have been attended by the general public, industry representatives and our own colleagues. This year, for the first time in the 42 years that the Offshore Technology Conference has existed in Houston, Texas, there will be a day devoted to underwater archaeology in the oil and gas industry. What does this all mean for the future?

Simply put the impact that a small cadre of marine archaeologists has had on the oil and gas industry is startling. Thanks to a dedicated group of marine archaeologists who were willing to fight for submerged cultural resources in domestic waters we now have regulations that better protect our resources. There is still much to be done, the current regulations leave loopholes and opportunities for clients to take shortcuts when assessing submerged cultural sites.

The foundation for archaeologists who want to work on the Outer Continental Shelf and in deepwater has been laid by those who came before us, but the frontier is still expanding. We work to protect and preserve the sites we locate, and serve as stewards to our cultural legacy in a way that few underwater archaeologists have an opportunity to do. We serve as liaisons to the rest of the oil and gas industry, educating our contractors and clients along the way about marine archaeology and our cultural heritage. Our challenge as the industry grows and archaeology evolves is to continue to bring new talent, new ideas, new technology, and new theoretical constructs to our discipline and industry.

The industry's culture is shifting though thanks to the hard work of archaeologists educating and promoting our field to the clients we work with everyday. If we

want to see regulations changed, survey methods improved, and our clients become stakeholders in protecting our submerged cultural heritage we have to be more involved with the industry and better proponents of our field. Great opportunities to change public policy and perception regarding our field are rare, but small ones surround us every day.

Kimberly L. Faulk (née Eslinger) is currently the Marine Archaeologist for Geoscience Earth & Marine Services (GEMS) in Houston, Texas. She holds an MA in Maritime History and Nautical Archaeology from East Carolina University, and a BA in History from Roanoke College. She is an elected member of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology, the chair for the Society of Historic Archaeology's Technologies Committee, an elected member of the Society for Underwater Technology's Offshore Site Investigation Group, and the chair for the first sessions on marine archaeology at the Offshore Technology Conference 2011. Her current work utilizes Autonomous Underwater Vehicles, Remotely Operated Vehicles, and conventional remote sensing equipment in deepwater to survey, investigate, and assess potential archaeological sites. Ms. Faulk has published several articles on marine archaeology, and acted as producer and historical consultant on several documentaries and videos about history and marine archaeology.

Conclusion

The eleven contributors to the Guest Blogger series reproduced in this anthology come from both sides of the Atlantic, from academic institutions to government offices to the private sector, with collectively thousands of hours underwater on projects all over the world. Yet upon rereading the posts from so many disparate viewpoints, it seems that many of them have a common theme. Words such as “integration,” “collaboration,” “outreach” come up again and again, regardless of the specific topic at hand.

This seems to be the heart of where maritime archaeology is headed in the future. Many of our bloggers discussed the age-old question of potential collaboration between archaeologists and treasure hunters, but others integrated hard sciences with history, incorporated the public into investigations, and recounted numerous instances of international cooperation and dialogue. With more and more new ways of exploring any particular site, we encounter different questions of how to best understand and interpret that location. This gets us thinking about reaching out to other arenas to tap into their expertise, providing us with new ways to look at our investigations.

For all of the prickly moments that are perhaps inevitable when specialties clash, then, this seems to be a positive sign overall. While collaboration will of course allow us to glean more information from our specific area of study, it also should help generate further outside interest in our field. We are lucky to be doing what we do; it is in many ways a luxury to be able to spend time delving into the past. Without continuing to reach out to other groups, be they oil companies, government special interest groups, digital specialists, or the general public, this field will stagnate. The various collaborations outlined in these posts reassure us that we are far from that stagnant, mucky pond – unless it’s one with a shipwreck in it, of course.

It has been a pleasure to read the contributions from so many different viewpoints. Hopefully this blog too has been at least a small way of reaching out and learning from each other, and of putting forth each individual’s expertise for

the world to read. We at the MUA look forward to the chance to continue to learn from our contributors and readers, and to working with many more of you in the years ahead.

Michelle Damian

Exhibits Editor
The Museum of Underwater Archaeology