Welcome to the November edition of the Newsletter.

The Politics of the Wall: National Identities in Wall Studies

Richard Hingley’s research on Hadrian’s Wall and its reception and influence on British Imperial frontier policy continues. One particular item of interest is a lecture by Rudyard Kipling on England and the English (1920), which mentions Hadrian’s Wall. Kipling wrote about the Wall in a number of places, but his 1920 papers are a new discovery. Over the summer Richard has visited the University of Campinas in Brazil and Duke University Durham, North Carolina to speak about this aspect of the project. Richard’s new book *The Recovery of Roman Britain 1880-1910: ‘A colony so fertile’* published by Oxford University Press is now available. The book provides a new perspective on Scottish and English identity, themes which run through the Tales of the Frontier project. Richard Hingley and Divya Tolia-Kelly presented a paper in the Diaspora Landscapes session at the Royal Geographical Society annual conference in August; their paper *Travel, race and memory: the Roman Wall as a diasporic frontier* considered the relevance of the Roman frontier in Britain in a globalized world and discussed how materiality of the Roman Wall zone suggests a hybrid frontier society, peopled by a wide range of ethnic groups, which challenges modern ideas of the origin of regional identity.

Visualizing the Wall: Material and Visual Culture on the Wall

Divya Tolia-Kelly took the Tales project to the Netherlands where she spoke about *Archaeologies of Race and Landscape: Excavating the Material Geographies of Hadrian’s Wall* at one of the NORFACE (New Opportunities for Research Funding Co-operation in Europe) international workshops: *B/ordering Europe: The Frontier* at the University of Nijmegen Centre for Border Research. Next month Divya will be speaking at the University of Leicester for the Department of Geography seminar series. She will be presenting: *An Archaeology of Race on Hadrian’s Wall*. Preparations for the Archaeology of Race Exhibition are well underway with an exciting range of artefacts telling the story of the multi-cultural nature of frontier society being gathered to present to the public next summer. The exhibition will include contributions from respected scholars and will be supported by educational workshops for schools in County Durham provided jointly by Fiona Ranson of the Durham Schools Race Equality programme and education officers from Tyne & Wear Museums and Tullie House Museum. Watch the project website for more news on the exhibition and for related forthcoming papers and events.
Experiencing the Wall: Monumentality and Landscape

Rob Witcher has been researching the wealth of data on Hadrian's Wall that is available through the World Wide Web. Online public forums are used by increasing numbers of visitors (e.g., tourists, walkers, climbers) to share information, experiences and photographs. These provide revealing insights into how people experience the Wall, how they perceive it and what they choose to record while they are there. This large body of data is growing rapidly and provides a unique source of information which is freely volunteered and hence not distorted by the anthropological gaze. Other web materials are being used to map new geographies of Hadrian's Wall. For example, by analysing the photographs and comments uploaded by the public to websites such as www.geograph.org.uk, it is possible to develop alternative maps of Hadrian's Wall which may contrast with official designations such as ‘Hadrian's Wall Country’. The results provide insights into the ways in which visitors value the Wall and how they go about organizing their visits. These have important implications for heritage managers, academic and field archaeologists, landscape planners, etc.

Interpreting the Wall: Archaeology and Pilgrimage

We are now over half way through the project and most of the research and data gathering is complete. The project team are now working on publications that will present the findings. One publication is already forthcoming: Nesbitt, C. and Tolia-Kelly, D.P. ‘Hadrian’s Wall: Embodied Archaeologies of the Linear Monument’ will appear in a future volume of the Journal of Social Archaeology; other publications are in preparation. The project Advisory Group met on the 15th September to discuss the project research and direction. David Breeze, Edward Impey, Sophia Labadi, David Matless, Sam Smiles, Michael Shanks and Pete Wilson all gave generously of their time and offered valuable feedback on the project. The RGS session at London in August was very successful with a diverse range of papers considering the benefits of interdisciplinary research in landscape studies. The project team are now putting together a session for the Limes Congress which will be held in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 2009.

See the website for forthcoming events…

http://www.dur.ac.uk/romancentre/hadrianswall/