

NEWSLETTER

June 2023

Letter from the Editor Hello everyone! Welcome to the June Newsletter.

This edition features "The Rose Theatre", an article on March's lecture by John Avis and Lee Joyce. There is also an article based on April's pottery lecture.

As the weather warms up we are planning on resuming our finds processing. Dates will be put on the website soon. Sessions will take place on Sunday mornings from 10.30 at Copped Hall. If you are interested in taking part please contact <u>membership@weag.org.uk</u>

We again include details of this year's WEAG members dig and the experience weekends.



What's on locally?

Recommended Exhibition





open 10 Feb – 30 Jul 2023 Full Price Ticket £15.30 Concession - £14.30 For information on museum and local historical societies visit.

http://www.weag.org.uk/events/whats-on-locally

According to legend, an elaborate labyrinth was built at Knossos on the island of Crete to hold a ferocious Minotaur. Discover the palace of Knossos, and the search for the labyrinth, in this major exhibition in Oxford.

The palace of Knossos, discovered and excavated over 100 years ago, was the centre of a Bronze Age civilisation of people we now call the Minoans, named after the legendary King Minos.

This will be the first UK exhibition to focus on Knossos. It will include over 100 objects which have never left Crete and Greece before, alongside discoveries from the Ashmolean's Sir Arthur Evans Archive and an exclusive experience of Knossos Palace from the acclaimed video game Assassin's Creed Odyssey

WEAG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Lecture Program

Lectures are accessible via Zoom at 7:15pm

For Lecture Meetings shown as 'Zoom', the Zoom details for that meeting will be circulated to WEAG members a few days before the meeting. Non-members are welcome to join in the Zoom meetings (for a £2 contribution).

Contact <u>membership@weag.org.uk</u> for more details.

Monday 3rd July. *The Breakaway Roman Empire* by Dr Simon Elliott of the University of Kent. Replacing our June talk, this is at the request of the speaker. Dr Simon Elliott is a historian, archaeologist, author and broadcaster based in Kent. His major publications include 'Sea Eagles of Empire: The Classis Britannica and the Battles for Britain'

'Empire State: How the Roman Military Built an Empire',

'Septimius Severus in Scotland: The Northern Campaigns of the First Hammer of the Scots',

'Roman Legionaries',

'Ragstone to Riches',

'Julius Caesar: Rome's Greatest Warlord',

'Old Testament Warriors'

'Pertinax: The Son of a Slave Who Became Roman Emperor',

'Romans at War',

WEAG members dig 2023

This year's member's dig will take place on 22nd- 30th July. Members can attend as many or as few days as they like, it would be a great help if you could let us know if you intend to attend <u>Coppedhalldigs@weag.org.uk</u>. This year among other things we will be once again returning to the staircase on the change of level and a small trench extension in the northwest corner of G trench.

Archaeology Experience Weekends

The Copped Hall Trust Archaeological Project (CHTAP) and WEAG are running our annual experience weekends this summer.

This year we are holding the Archaeological Weekends on the 15-16th, 22-23 and the 29-30 of July, these are now all sold out.

If you are an experienced WEAG member and would like to lend a hand in guiding our students, please contact <u>Coppedhalldigs@weag.org.uk</u> and let us know which weekends you can make.



The Rose Theatre

By John Avis & Lee Joyce

In **March** we held our AGM followed by talk on the History of the Rose Theatre by John Avis. John stepped in at the very last minute when our president Harvey Sheldon was

unable to give his annual lecture.

The first two permanent theatres in London were established at Shoreditch, North London. The first was The Theatre (Curtain Road) in 1576 and the second was The Curtain (Hewett Street) 1577. These were outside the jurisdiction on the London Civic Authorities.

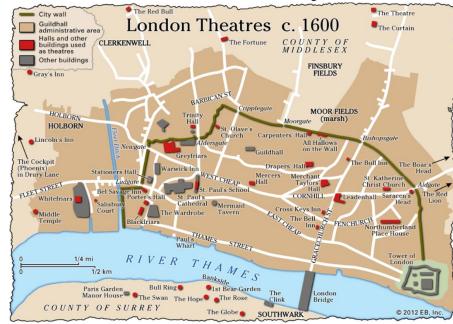
South of the river was known for its leisure attractions such as bear and bull baiting, gaming dens and brothels.



It was also outside the jurisdiction on the London Civic Authorities but the residents of London could easily reach this area by ferry boat across the Thames.

In 1589 the Rose Theatre opened. It was the first theatre built on the Southbank. It preceded the Globe and Swan etc. and apart from being first theatre to open on the Southbank it was also the smallest.

The story of the Rose Theatre starts with Philip Henslowe. He was a property developer and in 1585 he leased the site from the parish of St. Saviour, Southwark (or St. Mildred).



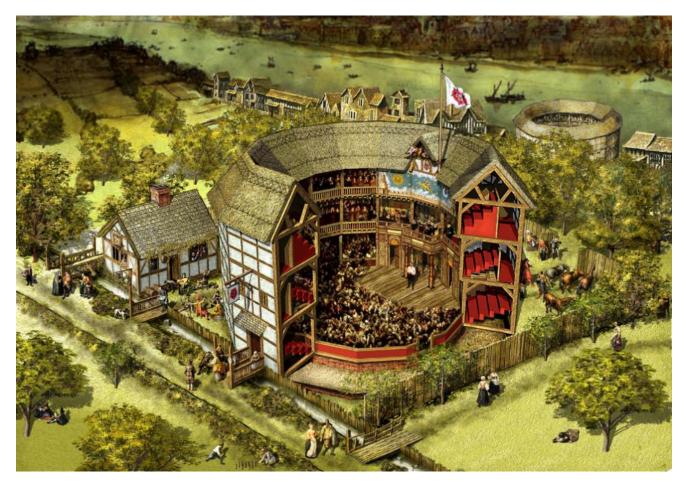
The building was of timber, with a lath and plaster exterior and a thatched roof. All theatres had a small balcony but the Rose was different from other theatres in its ability to stage large scenes on two levels such as Juliet on the balcony in Romeo and Juliet or the Roman senators looking down on Titus in the opening scene of Titus Andronicus. In 1592 John Grigg extended the Rose into an oval shape which increased the capacity by 500 people taking it from 2,000 to 2,500 people.

Presentation at the Rose included Christopher Marlowe's

- Doctor Faustus
- The Jew of Malta
- Tamburlaine the Great

Thomas Kyd

• The Spanish Tragedy



William Shakespeare's

- Henry VI Part 1
- Titus Andronicus

The play writers received about £5 per play. And they often wrote for each other. The Rose typically presented 6 different plays each week with a new play every fortnight.

Henslowe made the most money on the first of nights of a new play. For example 26th June 1594 was the first night of the play Caliaso (which is now lost), he made 3s 4d and progressively less with each performance.

The actors belonged to groups of players such as,

- · Lord Chamberlin's Men (Globe)
- · Lord Pembroke's Men (Rose)
- · Lord Admiral's Men (Rose)
- · Lord Strange's Men (Rose)

An actor would often work for several of these groups. They often wore clothing with very elaborate gold and silver decoration and must have presented a magnificent sight.

For most of June 1592 to the summer of 1594 the theatres were closed because of a severe outbreak of bubonic plague. In 1606 the Rose Theatre was

abandoned because of competition from other larger theatres and rising lease costs. The Rose had lasted less than 20 years. But what a 20 years!

The location of the Rose Theatre was apparently lost.

Fast forward almost 400 years to March 1989 when an office block was under construction. In digging the foundations the developers discovered the Rose Theatre. A campaign was launched to 'Save the Rose' of which Dame Peggy Ashcroft was one of its leading lights with many people from the acting profession taking part including Dustin Hoffman, Nigel Hawthorn, Paul Edington and Judi Dench.

This pressure both saved the Rose Theatre and caused Margaret Thatcher's government to introduce PPG16 in an attempt to manage archaeology in the face of developments threats.



Archaeological work on the Rose continues.

Bringing up to date the 400 + year old tale, the theatre features in the film 'Shakespeare in Love' (1998) starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Joseph Fiennes. The Rose Theatre has been preserved within the new office

block and has its own entrance.

Sir Ian McKellen unveiled a plaque to the Rose Theatre in the presence of Sir Simon Hughes Lib Dem MP and Harvey Sheldon, at 29 Park Street.

The current Rose Playhouse opened in 2003 with a performance on Marlowe's Tamburlaine the Great.



Pottery

By Lee Joyce,

The WEAG lecture on Monday 3rd April 2023 was given by myself and simply titled "Pottery". The talk looked at three aspects of pottery studies, firstly how pottery can challenge the received wisdom of our cultural evolution. Here we look at recent studies in the pottery Far East that show we need to review what we call the Neolithic. Secondly I looked at Samian ware, possibly the most famous of all archaeological ceramics, looking firstly at how it fitted into a Mediterranean ceramic tradition that lasted over a 1000yrs. In most of northern

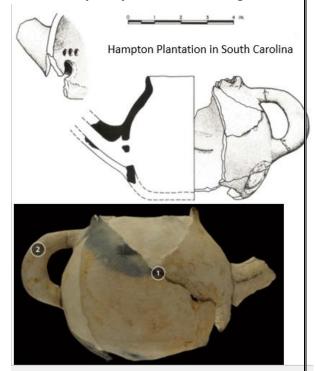


From left to right
A Megarian bowl from Greece.
Arretine Ware from Arretium (modern
Arezzo) in central Italy.
A Samian Ware from Gaul

Europe Samian was only a major part of the ceramic repertoire for 250yrs (even less in Britain) and appears out of nowhere with arrival of Roman culture. Our vast knowledge of its form and design has lead us to focus on its importance in trade and economics but has in many ways failed to integrate

Samian into site histories by explaining how it would be used and it is rarely considered alongside the glass or metal table wares with which it has such obvious association. The oversite that is in most need of review is its relationship to colour-coated pottery often made at the same kiln sites. Thirdly we looked at Colonoware a type of pottery from the $17^{th} - 19$ thC all along the American east coast and the Caribbean, by first nation (Indians) people (both free and enslaved), Carib people and African slaves.

The pottery tradition of all these people was represented by the suite of forms made as was the pottery style of the white Europeans. The pottery would have been made by young and old, male and female. We looked at how recent studies including those in pottery can redress the imbalances in an





Anglo-American history that was created in 1865 and failed to tell the story of anyone but the rich white protestant heterosexual adult male.

> Folded strip-rouletted colonoware jar. from Winnabow Plantation (est. 1730s) in Brunswick County, North. Made in the African tradition. Research has suggested the area around Chad, Niger, and Nigeria as the origin of the potter.

Space allows us room to look at only one of these and then not in any real detail so a further reading list is given at the end.

Ever since V Gordon Child's 1936 'Man Makes Himself' pottery has been considered a key

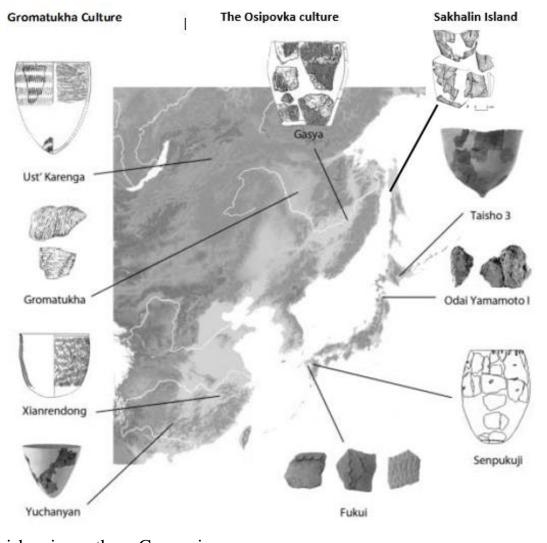
indicator of the Neolithic revolution, recent discoveries have not only challenged this but the weight of evidence has completely rewritten this interpretation.

In the cave site of Xianrendong, located in Wannian County northern Jiangxi China, Pottery has been



found that is said to be the earliest in the world. The site was first excavated in 1960's and subsequently in the 1990's and again in 1999 and 2000 it was the 2009 excavations that provided radio-carbon dates which suggest a date of~20,000 to 19,000 cal. years BP. Carbon dated material including bone (45 samples) and charcoal, the dates were corroborated using micro-morphology. The pottery is low fired quartzite or feldspar tempered with plain-surfaced and cord-marked decoration and has markings on both interior and exterior surfaces suggesting smoothing using grass. Some rims are decorated with U or V shapes or rows of irregularly spaced dots below the rim. Round bases & secondary burning suggest it was used in fires. This early pottery were probably made by sheet laminating and coiling with paddling. (Wu et al. 2012).

Another site with late Palaeolithic pottery is the Yuchanyan cave site, located in the **Daoxian County** China, with pottery dating to between 18,300 and 15,430 cal. BP. Excavations were carried out in the 1990's - 2000's. The pottery was fired at low temperature, coarsely made with cord-impressions on both the interior and exterior surfaces. the walls were up to 2 cm thick. Pottery similar to that from Xianrendong and Yuchanyan has also



been recorded at Dingsishan in southern Guangxi.

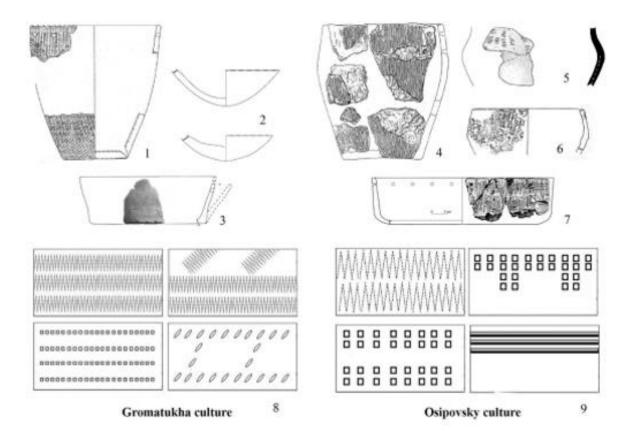
Outside of China at Odai Yamamoto site, located in the north of Honshu Island in Japan excavations were carried out in 1975 and 1976 and further excavations in 1998. The pottery has been dated to 16,540 -15,710 cal. BP. Another early pottery site is the Fukui cave on the Island of Kyushu in southern Japan, the pottery there has been dated to $12,400 \pm$ 350 BP and $12,700 \pm 500$ BP. The vessels from Odai Yamamoto and Fukui represent the beginnings of the Incipient Jomon. No complete forms or any decorative schemes are known from this early date. Evidence indicates the processing of aquatic species in pottery during the Incipient Jomon. Yuchanyan Cave pottery 18,300 cal BP

In the Russian Far-East two distinctive Palaeolithic

pottery cultures have been identified in the Amur River basin. The Osipovka culture who's sites include Gasya, Khummi and Goncharka 1, the earliest Osipovka pottery dates to around 16 800 to 14 100 cal. BP, which is approximately the same age as the first pottery in Japan. The clay is friable low fired with inclusions of quartz, feldspar and plant fibre. The sherds are uneven and thick with simple flat-bottoms.

The Gromatukha Culture of the middle Amur region dates to 16,000 cal BP, so far only three sites have been excavated. The vessels come with both flat and rounded bottoms, they are very low fired with both internal and external decoration. Analysis has shown that they were used in the processing of Roe Deer and wild Goat. For a comparison of the decretive schemes see the illustration.

Typological differences between pottery of the Osipovka and Gromatukha cultures



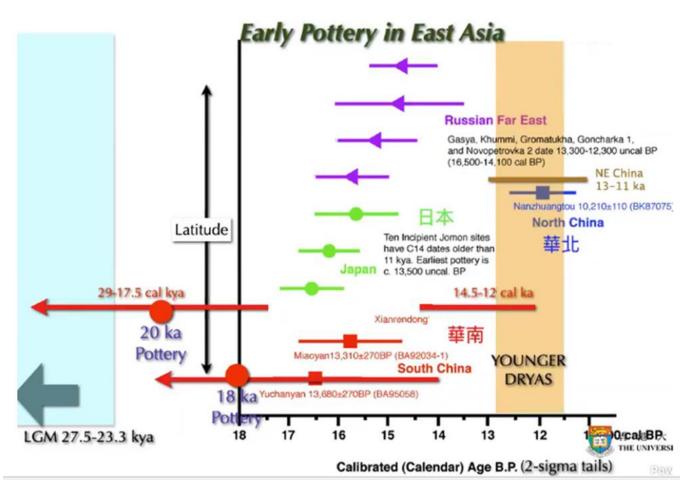
Sakhalin Island is the largest island in the northern part of the Pacific Ocean, north of the islands of the Japanese Archipelago. At present four early sites are known (9000 – 8000 BP). The earliest pottery is small, low-fired, flat-bottomed vessels, tempered with mollusc shell and with wall of up to 1cm thick. The simplicity of the early pottery on Sakhalin would suggest it had a limited range of uses. Residue analysis has produced evidence for the processing of aquatic species.

Pleistocene Sites

- Xianrendong 20,000 cal BP
- Yuchanyan 18,300 cal BP
- Odai Yamamoto 16,500 Cal BPs
- Osipovka Culture 16,200 cal BP
- Gromatukha Culture 16,000 cal BP
- Houtaomuga (North China) 13,000–11,000 cal BP

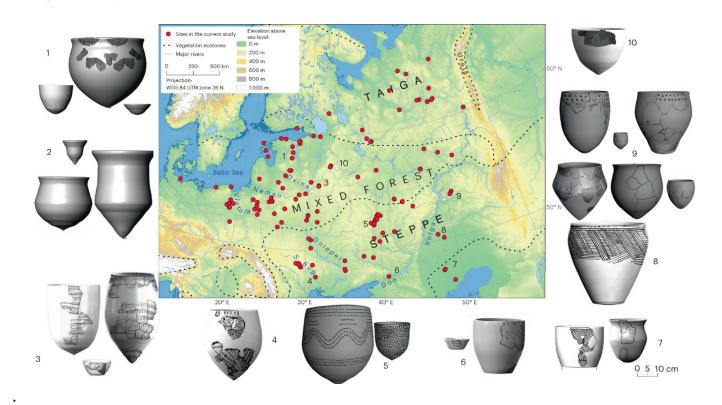
Holocene Sites

- Sakhalin Island 9,300 cal BP
- Korean peninsula Yunggimun 7,800 cal BP
- Western Baltic region 6,600 cal BP



Current evidence suggests that pottery was likely independently invented at least three times in three independent areas, in southern China, Japan, and the Russian Far East at the end of the Pleistocene (this could all change with new discoveries) separated by vast areas and time spans. A number of techniques were used from the earliest times. Slab building, moulding, coiling, anvil & paddle & many combination. Different forming technics & decorative styles were adopted. The pottery tended to be low fired in open fires 400-600 C. These new ceramics allowed different resources to be exploited. Residue analysis on Incipient Jomon, Sakhalin Island Pottery & Pottery of the Osipovka culture show exploitation of marine resources along with ruminants and a wide range of plants. In addition to the sites we have looked at, in recent years a large number archaeological sites around the Baltic Sea and Eastern Europe have shown the early adoption of pottery by Hunter-Fisher Gatherer groups, and test have shown that they were used to exploit a whole range of resources including fish, ruminants and plants, but here things become more complicated as some do and some do not have contact with settled true Neolithic peoples. Discoveries have also been made on the islands around Korea as well as the Korean mainland. This is without even touching on the re-evaluation of the pottery of the Americas.

Hunter-fisher-gatherer cultures were the first to invent pottery and not sedentary farmers as was previously believed, so a new definition of Neolithic is needed.



Suggested further reading

V Gordon Childe (1936) Man Makes Himself

Ian Freestone, David R. M. Gaimster (Eds) 1997. Pottery in the Making: World Ceramic Traditions

Samian

Internet Archaeology 50: Big Data on the Roman Table: new approaches to tablewares in the Roman world. Vol 50 Edited by Penelope Allison, Martin Pitts and Sarah Colley 2018 https://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue50/index.html

Dannell, G. B. (2018). The Uses of South Gaulish Terra Sigillata on the Roman Table. A study of nomenclature and vessel function. Internet Archaeology 50: Big Data on the Roman Table: new approaches to tablewares in the Roman world. Vol 50

https://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue50/5/toc.html

Seeing Red. New Economic and Social Perspectives on Gallo-Roman Terra Sigillata. Edited by M. Fulford and E. Durham. 2013

Peter Webster 1996. ROMAN SAMIAN POTTERY IN BRITAIN Council for British Archaeology Practical Handbooks in Archaeology Nol3 https://woolmerforest.org.uk/E-

Library/R/Roman%20Samian%20Pottery%20in%20Britain%20handbook.pdf

Colonoware

Ferguson, Leland. 1992. Uncommon Ground: Archaeology and Colonial African America: Archaeology and Early African America, 1650-1800

Corey A. H. Sattes and Sarah E. Platt ROULETTED COLONOWARE AFRICAN-STYLE POTTERY IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA The SAA Archaeological Record. May 2020

https://documents.saa.org/container/docs/default-source/doc-publications/tsar-articles-on-<u>race/sattesplatt2020.pdf?sfvrsn=ffe3c438_2</u>

Hunter-Fisher-Gatherer Pottery

H Stuart Campbell 2017 Absolute Dating and the Early Pottery of South-west Asia Page **11** of **13**

In. Tsuneki, Nieuwenhuyse, Campbell (Eds) 2017

K.N. DIKSHIT* AND MANJIL HAZARIKA 2002. The Earliest Pottery in East Asia: A Review <u>https://www.academia.edu/3642635/The Earliest Pottery in East Asia A Review Puratattva 42 2</u> 27 237

GIBBS et al.2017 Exploring the emergence of an 'Aquatic' Neolithic in the Russian Far East: organic residue analysis of early hunter gatherer pottery from Sakhalin Island

Kevin GIBBS 2021. Connecting Pots and Places: How Many Centres of Pottery Invention in East Asia? JAPANESE JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY 8 (2021): 209–225

Hiroshi Kajiwara and Aleksei V. Kononenko 2011. THE ORIGIN OF EARLY POTTERY IN NORTHEAST ASIA IN THE CONTEXT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Yaroslav V. Kuzmin 2015 The origins of pottery in East Asia updated analysis (the 2015 state-ofthe-art) 1 Documenta Praehistorica XLII (2015)

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/287799585 The origins of pottery in East Asia Updat ed analysis the 2015 state-of-the-art

Dolbunova, E., Lucquin, A., McLaughlin, T.R. et al. The transmission of pottery technology among prehistoric European hunter-gatherers. Nat Hum Behav 7, 171–183 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-022-01491-8

Henny Piezonka Stone Age hunter-gatherer ceramics of North-Eastern Europe: new insights into the dispersal of an essential innovation

Yasuhiro Taniguchi 2017. The Beginning of Pottery Technology in Japan: The Dating and Function of Incipient Jomon Pottery. In. Tsuneki, Nieuwenhuyse, Campbell (Eds) 2017

The Emergence of Pottery in West Asia. Akiri Tsuneki, Olivier Nieuwenhuyse, Stuart Campbell (Editors) 2017

Xiaohong Wu et al .Early Pottery at 20,000 Years Ago in Xianrendong Cave, China Science 336 June 2012

O.V. Yanshinaa, A.E. Sobolev 2018 THE EARLIEST POTTERY OF XIANRENDONG CAVE: WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT IT?

IRINA ZHUSHCHIKHOVSKAYA. 1997. On Early Pottery-Making in the Russian Far East. Asian Perspectives

Vol. 36, No. 2 (Fall 1997), pp. 159-174

Irina Zhushchikhovskaya 2010.Pottery Making of Sakhalin Island in Historical Dynamics: From the Neolithic to the Paleometal Period. Arctic Anthropology <u>Vol. 47, No. 2, Issue in Honor of Don E.</u> <u>Dumond (2010)</u>,

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The Wanstead Archive (DVD)	£ 3.00	£ 1.50

