Frontinus-Gesellschaft e.V.

Internationale Gesellschaft für die Geschichte der Wasser-, Energie- und Rohrleitungstechnik



Cordial Invitation to the Online Lecture (ZOOM) on 13.03.2025, 6:00 pm (CET)

Noor Hymans Drs, Dennis Murphy The Roman Water Reservoir of Madaba, Jordan (A story or Archaeology and Community Heritage) (Lecture in English)

Noor Hymans received doctoral degrees in Classical Archaeology and Art History from Leiden University, the Netherlands. She has taught at Maastricht University, Netherlands and in America at Hunter College, and William Patterson University. Her research interests include Near Eastern archaeology, ancient water systems, bread ovens, oil lamps and Bedouin cultures in Syria. She has excavated at Tel Anafa Israel, Beirut Lebanon, Tell Deir Allah, Khirbat al Mudayna and her own private excavation at Tell abu Sarbut, in Jordan. Noor and her partner Dennis Murphy are currently excavating the water management system of Antiochia ad Cragum in Turkey and working with Dennis Murphy to study roman window archaeology in Italy, Turkey and Jordan.

Dennis Murphy is a long time member of the American Institute of Archaeology (AIA) and an avid "avocational archeologist". He is focused on the study of ancient water systems, primarily in Southern Turkey and Jordan, and has presented the results of his work at AIA and ASOR annual meetings and international conferences. He holds a Degree from the University of California at Long Beach and is a long time member of the Frontinus Gesellshaft. Dennis is currently working on several archaeological projects; the Roman water system of Antiochia ad Cragum with the University of Nebraska, projects in Jordan with his colleague and partner Noor Hymans as well as an ongoing study of roman window architecture in Italy, Turkey and the black basalt cities in Jordan.

Noor Hymans and Dennis Murphy about their lecture:

The site of the Roman Reservoir is located in the Madaba city center not far from the archaeological museum on private land. A wadi meanders and runs from west to east along the south wall of the reservoir. It was critical to perform a survey and subsequent excavation since the site is slowly disappearing as it is being built upon. This lecture reports on the results of the 2019 Madaba Reservoir Survey and subsequent 2021 follow-up excavation. The aim of the 2019 survey was to gather information on the reservoir's water source, function, and construction technique. All of the reservoir was mapped with differential GPS in order to calculate the slope and flow directions. In general, some parts of the reservoir and water source were often missing due to collapses, erosion and modern building; these digital measurements however offered the chance to understand how the system worked. The 2021 excavation concentrated on excavation several squares to find the bottom of the deep reservoir to determine its depth and calculate its capacity, Interviews of local residents living on and around the reservoir were taken to develop an oral history surrounding the reservoir in order to weave its story into the cultural Heritage of the greater Madaba area.

The access data for the online meeting (ZOOM) are as follows:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87933930044?pwd=dlk4REZ4S0NnL3k2RGN2TVdtZTd3Zz09

Meeting-ID: 879 3393 0044, Kenncode: 631844

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans Mehlhorn President of the Frontinus Society

Hans Milelen

Dipl.Ing. Gilbert Wiplinger Head of the Scientific Board of the Frontinus Society