

PRACTICAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN DEATH ARCHAEOLOGY AT POMPEII

July 16th to August 19th, 2017

INVESTIGATING THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF DEATH PORTA NOLA NECROPOLIS PROJECT, POMPEII (ITALY)

The British School at Rome (BSR), the Archaeology Department of the Ilustre Colegio de Doctores y Licenciados en Letras y Ciencias de Valencia (CDL) and the Museu de Prehistòria de Valencia (MPV), with the support of the Soprintendenza Pompei, will be undertaking a third season of field work at Pompeii as part of the Porta Nola Necropolis Project. The field school offers a practical training program in the archaeology of death.

The necropolis of Pompeii offers an exceptional opportunity to investigate the characteristics of Roman society. The study of the necropolis of Porta Nola, the organization of its monuments, tombs, roads, walls, burials and ustrinum, has allowed us to better understand how the funerary space was managed and how it evolved in relation to urbanism, legislation, religion and the history of the city.

The cinerary urn discovered in the tomb of the dumvir Marcus Obellio Firmo, the urns of the tombs of praetorian soldiers and those found together with an infant burial alongside the city wall have provided us with valuable information about physical and social characteristics, as well as the customs, rituals and the way in which the inhabitants of the city lived, died and were buried.

The project and practical program are directed by Stephen Kay (BSR), Llorenç Alapont (CDL) and Rosa Albiach (MUVIM), under the coordination of the Soprintendenza Pompei. Central to the project is also a program of restoration and conservation, directed by Trinidad Pases (MPV).

Aims of the 2017 session:

- 1. Following the excavations in 2016 around the tomb of Obellius Firmus, the 2017 season will resume investigations in the area immediately behind the tomb, between the rear wall and the funerary precinct wall. The excavation will focus on an ustrinum discovered but unexcavated last season. The ustrinum contains burnt material, human bone, animal bone, wood and other materials disposed in the funerary pyre. The aim of the study is to try to understand its relationship with the tomb of Obellio Firmo.**



- 2. The project will re-examine the funerary area of the Praetorian guards, first explored in the mid-1970s. These excavations located 4 burials associated to Praetorians, as well as earlier burials at a deeper level. The project will explore the funerary evolution of this area to understand if this was a reserved area with exclusive characteristics.**



3. The last two weeks of the season will focus on the study and analysis of material, with work primarily in the warehouses and laboratory. Various specialists will study the human bone, animal bone, pottery, glass, frescos and fragments of funerary bed that have been excavated by the project since 2015. This session offers a great opportunity for participants to learn post-excavation skills.



4. The field work will also involve the conservation of archaeological material discovered throughout the work of the project.



For more information about the project see:

<https://britishschoolatrome.wordpress.com/2015/10/01/new-research-from-the-porta-nola-necropolis-project-in-pompeii/>

<https://britishschoolatrome.wordpress.com/2016/09/08/digging-pompeii-the-2016-summer-excavations/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ArqueologiaValenciaCastellon/?ref=hl>

<https://vimeo.com/138966561>

<https://youtu.be/62nfN6YrW9Y>

Or follow us on Twitter: [@PompeiNecropoli](https://twitter.com/PompeiNecropoli)

If you would like to apply for a place on this program, please send an email requesting further information to: cdlvalencia@cdlvalencia.org

The project will provide you with further information about the application process, dates, fees, accommodation, meals and other useful information.