Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 9 March 2021, 6.00 pm

Speaker: Dr Ufuk Kocabaş *(Istanbul University)*

Platform: Zoom with link provided to those who register

Title: Shipwreck history of the Theodosian harbour, Istanbul-Turkey

Salvage excavations conducted in the Yenikapı quarter of the historic peninsula of Istanbul by the Istanbul Archaeological Museums 2004–2013 have brought to light the Theodosian Harbour on the Sea of Marmara. In addition to thousands of archaeological artefacts, a total of 37 shipwrecks dating from the 5th to the 10th centuries AD were uncovered, constituting the biggest collection of medieval ships uncovered at a single excavation site. 27 wrecks were in the charge of the team from Istanbul University's Department of Conservation of Marine Archaeological Objects, consisting of 23 merchantmen and four galleys. The wrecks buried as the harbour silted up provide us with unparalleled information regarding Byzantine ship typology, shipbuilding technologies, and the development of technology. Most of the wrecks have surviving bottom planking, and in some cases planking reaching the bulwarks, providing data on shipbuilding technology hitherto unknown.

Booking essential: https://ufuk-kocabas-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk

Contact: contact@angloturkishsociety.org.uk



9th century merchantman with its cargo in situ



Prof. Dr. Ufuk Kocabaş currently directs Department of Conservation and Restoration and also Division of Conservation of Marine Archaeological Objects at Istanbul University. His research is focused on underwater archaeology, ancient shipbuilding technology and conservation of underwater cultural heritage. He is currently directing mediaeval shipwrecks excavation and conservation "The Yenikapı Shipwrecks Project" on behalf of Istanbul University.

He is the authors of "Conservation and Restoration of Marine Archaeological Objects" and "The Gate Open to Past: Yenikapı Shipwrecks"; editor of "Yenikapi Shipwrecks, Volume 1: Old Shipwrecks of New Gate".

Some of his commission duties are:

Turkish Underwater Sports Federation, Underwater Archaeology Commission, Director; Istanbul Consul of Monuments, Board Member; CMAS World Underwater Sports Federation, Scientific Advisory Board Member; UNESCO Turkey, Tangible Cultural Heritage Committee, Board Member.

He is currently one of the consultants in the "HMS Majestic Shipwreck Recreational Diving Tourism Project" carried out by the "Çanakkale Wars, Gallipoli Historical Site Authority".

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