

Frontinus-Gesellschaft e.V.

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



Cordial Invitation

to the Online Lecture (ZOOM) on 10.11.2022, 6:00 pm (CET)

Prof. Jim Crow

Water for High Places: Recent Research on the Water Supply of Constantinople with Reference to the First Hill - the Acropolis of Byzantium (Lecture in English)

Jim Crow teaches Roman and Byzantine archaeology at the University of Edinburgh. He directed excavations for the National Trust on Hadrian's Wall from 1982-1989, and subsequently taught at Warwick and Newcastle Universities before his current post as Professor of Classical Archaeology at Edinburgh. In Turkey he has directed survey projects on the Black Sea and from 1994 in the west hinterland of Istanbul, surveying and documenting the Anastasian Wall and the Water Supply of Byzantine Constantinople. In 2012 he organised an exhibition with colleagues from Istanbul Technical University on the water supply at ANAMED (Research Centre for Anatolian Civilizations) in Istanbul. Currently he is the co-investigator of a British Academy/British Institute at Ankara project on Water in Istanbul, Rising to the Challenge, contrasting water management between the Byzantine/early Ottoman and contemporary city. He is the current chair of the British Institute at Ankara. His publications include two books on Hadrian's Wall, a monograph on the water supply of Constantinople, an edited volume on Byzantine Naxos and the Aegean and numerous articles on frontiers, fortifications, hydraulic infrastructure of Constantinople and landscape archaeology in the eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Jim Crow about the lecture:

The new city of Constantinople benefitted from one of the greatest and most extensive hydraulic systems in the ancient world. A water supply system which continued well into the high middle ages. My talk will initially briefly outline the key elements of the hydraulic infrastructure, both outside and within the late antique and medieval city. Then I will focus on the recent project which examines the supply, distribution and storage on the city's first hill, the acropolis of Byzantium, and the site of Mehmet II's palace, the Topkapi Saray. This was one of the highest places across the city and raised particular challenges for water provision. One feature of the Byzantine system was innovation and the construction of new water systems and changes patterns of distribution. Little is known from written sources but study of the physical remains from an archaeological and engineering perspective allows new insights into the maintenance and evolution of the ancient Roman system.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87933930044?pwd=dlk4REZ4S0NnL3k2RGN2TVdtZTZd3Zz09>

Meeting-ID: 879 3393 0044

Kenncode: 631844

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

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