Frontinus-Gesellschaft e.V.

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

Cordial Invitation
to the Online Lecture (ZOOM) on 07.12.2023, 6:00 pm (CET)

Lic. Phil. Regula Wahl-Clerici

Das Wasserzufuhrsystem im römischen Goldbergwerk von Tresminas: Herausforderungen und Fragestellungen.

("The water supply system in the Roman gold mine of Tresminas: challenges and questions")
(Lecture in German)

Regula Wahl-Clerici studied prehistory and early history, general history and art history at the University of Zurich. At the same time, she worked at the Cantonal Monument Preservation Office in Zurich, where she became increasingly interested in Roman antiquity. After moving to Madrid, she researched Roman mining on the Iberian Peninsula together with her husband Jürgen Wahl (died 2007). The first visit to the Roman gold mine of Tresminas (1985) already showed the potential of this monument, although only a small part of it was known. In the mining zone, which was first mentioned in the 18th century, important evidence of prospecting, mining and processing has been preserved in all its aspects. Of particular interest is the water supply system, which has been systematically researched since 1991 and is being prepared for another volume of the Tresminas monographs.

To the present, Regula Wahl-Clerici continues her research in the territorium metallorum Tresminas/Jales. In addition to the annually published essays on various aspects of ancient mining and hydraulic engineering and a trilingual overview of the site, the monograph „Roman Gold from Portugal (Tresminas): Prospection - Mining – Treatment" as volume 3.1 in the „Beiträge zur Technikgeschichte" of the „Dr. h.c. Alfred Mutz-Stiftung für alte, insbesondere antike Technologie und Technikgeschichte" (Basel), which was published in English (2020) and Portuguese (2021).

Regula Wahl-Clerici about the lecture:

Gold was mined on an industrial scale in the territorium metallorum Tresminas / Jales in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. In addition to the monuments of mining in the primary deposit and ore processing, the remains of a complex water supply system have also been preserved.

One challenge was and still is the documentation of this system, a process that took decades. Although important evidence of hydraulic engineering has been preserved, the destruction caused by agriculture, forestry and settlements mainly affects the routes of the twelve water pipes. Of particular interest, in addition to the various catchments and diversions, are the constructions through which additional water was channelled into a passing aqueduct. The three qanat tunnels - all other tunnels and galleries in the mining area were not qanats - meant that the course of the respective aqueducts could be significantly shortened.

The purpose for which the water was supplied and the chronological classification of the various pipes in this system, which was built at enormous expense, have not yet been conclusively clarified - except in two cases.
The presentation will use selected examples to illustrate these various aspects of the system.

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

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