



Excavations on the *Mentor* Shipwreck

by Dr Dimitris Kourkoumelis and Alexandros Tourtas

Portable compass found on *Mentor*. Image: Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports – Petros Vezirtzis

Maritime Archaeology Trust



Newly Exposed Wreck on the East Winner Bank

by Julian Whitewright and Lauren Tidbury

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John Buglass

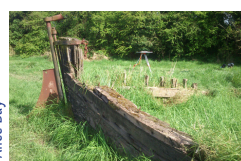


Maritime Graffiti

by John Buglass

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Peter Seinen - Mergon in Mosam



At Purton for an Intertidal Survey

by Alice Day

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Last Echoes of a Roman Revetment

by Joost van den Besselaar and Peter Seinen

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The Netherlands

Last Echoes of a Roman Revetment

Joost van den Besselaar and Peter Seinen

Peter and Joost are on the board of the Foundation Mergor in Mosam (www.mergorinmosam.nl), which is involved in a number of underwater archaeological and paleontological projects. Here they report on the Foundation's project at a meander of River Meuse.

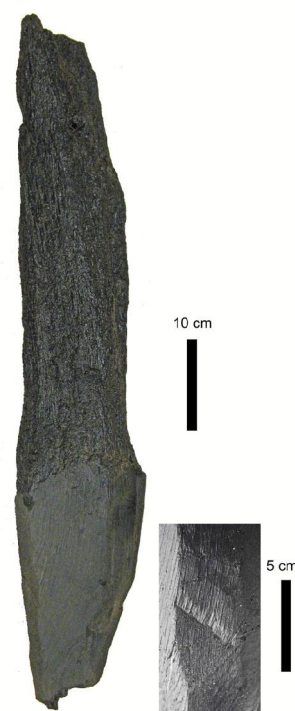
The Dutch village Wijchen is nowadays split in two by a long narrow pond, which constitutes the remains of an ancient branch of the River Meuse. The northern shore still retains the ancient river dune that offered ancient populations an excellent environment for settlement since prehistoric times. In the Middle Roman period, when the pond was still connected to the River Meuse, a villa existed dating from the 2nd to the 3rd centuries AD; it is therefore possible that some kind of quay construction may still survive at this site. However, no archeological survey was conducted prior to a large dredging operation in the pond during the 20th century; when the first Roman remains were recovered from the sludge by amateur archaeologists, it was too late. Even the observation of wooden planks and piles did not stop the operation.

More than 20 years later, divers of the foundation Mergor in Mosam systematically surveyed the bottom of the pond for such remains, recovering huge quantities of Roman building remains and pottery. After five years this effort was rewarded by the

discovery of the remains of three oak piles still in situ. Radiocarbon dating of one recovered pile provided a date of AD 230±35, which matched the peak of dated pottery from the site and of the villa. The condition of the pile was very poor, except for the part that was buried, which also retained tool marks.

What these piles were part of is hard to tell, because they are so few and in such bad condition. It may have formed a simple revetment, a quay, a jetty or even a bridge. We will probably never know unless more remains come to light during future archaeological investigations.

For more information see: Heirbaut, E., Van Enckevort, H., 2011. *De verdwenen Villa van de Tienakker*. Nijmegen: Bureau Archeologie en Monumenten; Seinen, P., De Groot, T., Enckevort, H., 2013. *Geheimen van het Wijchens Meer*. Westerheem 5: pp. 249-260. ♦



Above: One of the last surviving Roman piles still retaining tool-marks.

Left: The site of a possible Roman quay. Images: Peter Seinen, Mergor in Mosam