

The pipe in its socio-economic context- a symposium at Liverpool Museum and Liverpool University, 19th September 2008

1) World Museum Collections at Liverpool Museum.

Dr Lynn Stumpe introduced the participants to the collections and guided a visit to the Galleries containing displayed pipes from all continents. In particular the “Native American” pipes met with admiration.

Subsequently a highly interesting handling session of African and New Guinea pipes was on the program. The unique collection of New Guinea bamboo tube pipes received a lot of attention. Dr Stumpe and Dr Zachary Kingdon kindly provided an extensive elucidation and enhanced the appreciation for the objects.

2) Victoria Gallery and Museum, Liverpool University.

After an introduction to VG&M on behalf of the University of Liverpool a series of lectures followed.

- a) Clay Pipes and Metal Pipes in Japanese Society- Why did clay pipes not gain in popularity against metal ones (kiseru)? (Barney Suzuki, AIP).
- b) Two thousand years of smoking pipes in South America: the case of Argentina. (Dr Daniel Schavelzon, Centre of Urban Archaeology, University of Buenos Aires). Presented by Peter Davey.
- c) The Northwest Coast Indian Peoples, their smoking habits and pipes, with special emphasis on the Haida and their argillite pipes. (Sarunas Peckus, AIP).
- d) The archaeology of mercantilism: clay pipes in Bavaria and their contribution to the economic system (Dr Natascha Mehler, Department of Archaeology, University of Vienna).
- e) Coo’ey from Downunder: the “Squatters Own Budgerie” and other pipes made specifically for nineteenth-century Australasian markets. (Kris Courtney, La Trobe University, Melbourne).

The “working”-day ended with a visit to the new National Pipe Archive display where Dr Susie White (NPA) and Leonie Sedman proudly presented an excellent overview of pipes and pipe-related objects.

A reception in the Derby Room of the Adelphi Hotel with guests from different institutions gave Peter Davey the opportunity to formally introduce the new members and thank all persons involved in the organisation of this successful conference.

A dinner in a restaurant on the waterfront at the Southern Docks completed the 24th Annual AIP-conference.

This report would not be complete without mentioning that Jenny Woodcock and Philippa Davey arranged two interesting and enjoyable days of social outings for the accompanying ladies.