



THE AUSTRALASIAN INSTITUTE FOR MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY

invite you to attend a public lecture by maritime archaeologist:

Assistant Prof. A.Harun Özdaş

Dokuz Eylul University, Institute of Marine Science and Technology, Izmir, Turkey

6 pm Friday 4th October, 2013

Theatrette 2.02, Sir Roland Wilson Building

Australian National University- Research School of Humanities

Byzantine shipwrecks discovered on the southwestern coast of Turkey

Maritime trade developed naturally as seafaring island towns began to trade with each other and with the continent, quickly becoming central to the economy of the established Anatolian city states. Since the Aegean Sea connects the Mediterranean, the Marmara, and the Black Sea together, it has always had a central role in the history of maritime trade. Hundreds of safeguarded bays and natural harbors along the shoreline of the Aegean, which contains a great number of islands, provided a favorable environment for ancient seafaring. As the population of metropolitan cities increased, their basic needs required products from other settlements, and the shipment of those products by sea became preferred as the cheaper and faster route.

During this survey of the region, several shipwrecks were discovered. The shipwrecks of the Roman period show a wide distribution area, with a concentration of information to be gleaned from the



Central and Northern Aegean regions. The most prevalent of the shipwrecks found to date are those of the Byzantine period. On almost every shoreline, objects from this period can be found. Most of the shipwrecks discovered and re-examined on the coast of the south west of Mediterranean can be dated between the 5th century AD and the 12th centuryAD, and several shipwrecks were recorded during the five-year survey. The results of this survey indicate that there was a great economical loss during the transportation of cargo in this region. The evidence also serves as an indicator for general trade routes.

Dr. Harun Ozdas is a Professor in Dokuz Eylul University, Institute of Marine Science and Technology, in Izmir Turkey. He completed his PhD in Hacettepe University, Ankara. Prior to working at Dokuz Eylul University, he worked in Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology in Turkey. Dr Ozdas participated in several land and underwater surveys and excavations, such as the Black Sea Discoveries (Deep Black Sea) Institute of Exploration and National Geographic project. He has coordinated the underwater archaeological survey titled "Shipwreck Inventory Project of Turkey" since 2008.