

ICOMOS-UK Christmas Lecture and Wine Reception

9th December 2010, 6.30 – 8.30pm
The Gallery, 77 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EL

Mapping the Silk Roads

Tim Williams
Senior Lecturer, Institute of Archaeology, University College, London (UCL)



In association with the Institute of Archaeology, University College, London (UCL)

Chinese silk - unique, expensive and portable - and much in demand in the Roman Empire underpinned trade along a complex network of long distance trade routes linking China, central Asia and Europe that have come to be known as the Silk Roads. Over a period of some 1,500 years, silk and other trade goods such as spices, aromatics, drugs, gems, metals, ivory and horses, delivered wealth to those who organised the trade. Through these routes also spread ideas, beliefs and languages. There is spectacular evidence of all these activities in the cities, forts, caravanserais, temples, and decorated grottoes along the Silk Roads, much built of earth and in a fragile condition.

As part of a UNESCO-ICOMOS World Heritage Silk Roads project to support countries along the Silk Roads to identify and conserve potential sites as part of a serial nomination, Tim Williams and Paul Wordsworth, UCL, have been commissioned by ICOMOS to develop a Thematic Study to put individual sites into context.

Tim Williams will talk about the outcomes of this study which is beginning to provide for the first time an analysis of the profile, distribution and distinctiveness of the existing sites and how they might be seen as manifestations of shifting systems of power and patronage along the roads. In view of the enormous extent of the routes, some 7,000km, and the quantity of sites, the project has set up a database of known sites and linked this to a Geographic Information System and Google Earth to produce images that define links between cities, sites and natural passes along the routes.

Tim Williams is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, where he co-ordinates an MA in Archaeological Site Management. His background is in urban archaeology and he is currently Director of the Ancient Merv project, exploring one of the great cities of the Silk Roads in Turkmenistan, Central Asia.

Booking Form

Please make cheques payable to:
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Admission:

ICOMOS-UK Members £15

UCL Staff £15

Non-Members £18

Students £10

Admission includes wine and refreshments after the lecture.

I would like _____ tickets for the Christmas Lecture on 9th December 2010 and enclose a cheque for £ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

- ICOMOS-UK Member
- UCL Staff
- Non-Member
- Student

