

DUMBARTON OAKS PROGRAM FOR BYZANTINE STUDIES
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY MEDIEVAL STUDIES PROGRAM AND THE
WASHINGTON CHAPTER OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

PUBLIC LECTURE

Adam Rabinowitz, University of Texas at Austin

WOOD, BONE, IRON AND STONE: MULTIDISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIONS OF DAILY LIFE AT LATE BYZANTINE CHERSON (CRIMEA)



Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at 5:30 P.M.
Georgetown University – Intercultural Center (ICC) Auditorium

Reception to follow

Recent excavations in medieval Cherson, destroyed in a violent conflagration in the late 13th c., have uncovered a well-preserved urban block that provides a snapshot of non-elite life in a Late Byzantine provincial city. The block housed a small chapel containing several dozen intact burials, as well as iron-smithing facilities, residential quarters, and a building identified as a small grocery store. This talk presents the preliminary results of a multidisciplinary research program, with a focus on the examination of the paleobotanical remains, the forensic and paleopathological analysis of the human bones, and the study of the archaeometallurgical evidence for ironworking. Together with the other excavated evidence, such scientific analysis gives us a uniquely detailed picture of diet, economy, disease and industry among the ordinary 12th and 13th-c. inhabitants of this block.

The lecture is open to the public without charge. For a map of the campus, please visit: <http://explore.georgetown.edu/maps/> On-street parking is available near the campus. To R.S.V.P. and for all other inquiries, please contact Polly Evans (202-339-6940) or evansp@doaks.org