

# 29TH: A SUNNY SUMMER DAY IN PORTUGAL.

August 19, 2011 Leonor Medeiros Day of Archaeology, Day of Archaeology  
2011 Academia, Anthropology, archaeologist, Archaeology, communication, construction site, education, Heritage  
Management, Leonor Medeiros, Museology, Portugal, Time Team

At this time of the year there's plenty of digs going on; it's the time of school vacations, and many projects re-start their yearly digs. There's also good weather for construction, so more archaeological sites appear throughout the country!

Well, I believe there's a lot to be said about the days of doing Archaeology here in Portugal.

You may think not, since no one else here seems to be sharing what they did on the 29th...

And maybe that's the biggest indicator, and one of my biggest fears concerning the state of our archaeological science: the lack of outreach. With so many reasons that can be found to justify the un-development of our heritage resources, is any justification valid enough to not do all we can to make it accessible?

It's not an easy situation. And the current crisis will not help it get better in the near future. The good news is that slowly we are becoming more pro-active, creating more activities, communicating more, and in time ( and if our heritage survives well until then), we will have great sites telling great stories, giving visitors and communities a great experience and opportunity to reconnect with their past, and to evaluate their present and inspire their future with it.

As an archaeologist, I long for the field work, but these days I rarely go digging. Unfortunately, field work here means mostly going to a construction site somewhere and do "emergency archaeology". Then most of those sites go back to oblivion, some are destroyed, and the reports and materials are all that is left for someday someone to read.

I still feel tormented by the fact that, after you dig a site, and discover so much about it, that information is going to only a few people, and most of the sites are left to be destroyed or abandoned.

So these days I work mostly at heritage management and science communication.

Hence, for me, the 29th was passed half in the office, answering e-mails and preparing some activities for children, and the other half at a national news agency preparing articles about science.

Maybe nothing particularly archaeologically special or surprising happened in front of me that day, but still, those are the small efforts and steps that archaeologists also have to take in order to make their science and activity reach further, to help spread the passion we have for what we do so that more people see the importance that our past has in our present and future.

