

England computerised case management system that remains in use to this day.

In 1986 Anthony wed Siriol Mynors; a devoted family man, the marriage brought him great happiness. Their son Charles, born in 1989, is a barrister; his brother Henry, born in 1993, is in the music business. From the early 1990s Anthony's work was centred in the East Midlands where in 2004 he was appointed as English Heritage's Regional Director. As such he developed and guided a busy team dealing with a huge and diverse range of cases involving ancient monuments and listed buildings, all with varying and sometime intractable problems and not all with sympathetic owners. Among Anthony's great strengths, which he had developed at an early age, was an ability to establish a rapport

with whoever he met. As Regional Director he was famed for going into hostile meetings, emerging with the outcome he wanted while leaving everyone else with the feeling that they had all made a positive contribution to this. Anthony placed huge trust in his own staff, nurturing and supporting them and in turn was rewarded by their loyalty and support. Perhaps Anthony's most lasting legacy is as an ambassador for Historic England. Working closely with his staff he was instrumental in establishing for the organisation a reputation throughout the East Midlands as a national body which brought great expertise and engagement to a local level.

*Jonathan Coad*

## Jan Thijssen

1943–2016



With sadness we report the death of Jan R.A.M. Thijssen. Jan passed away on 2 December 2016 at the age of 73 as a consequence of cancer. For many decades, Jan was a prominent Dutch archaeologist. He is best known for his impressive achievements as head of the archaeological services of the City of Nijmegen. Furthermore, Jan was appreciated for his extensive knowledge on many subjects, including Roman and (post-)medieval pottery.

Jan was born in the village of Vierlingsbeek, near

Venray (The Netherlands). Even at a young age he was collecting, identifying and classifying. At first, he was mainly interested in nature. He would roam around the floodplain of the Meuse, to study plants and birds. His first encounter with archaeology took place in 1960, when he and a class mate found Roman vessels from a 2nd-century grave. Jan took the finds to Nijmegen, to Museum G.M. Kam. The curator led the teenager into the museum depot to show him similar finds. Here, his interest in archaeology arose.

From now on, when in the field he would not only look for birds and plants. He searched and found buried walls and foundations, collected flints and taught himself to identify Roman pottery. He documented his finds and sent his data to the ROB (Rijksdienst voor het Oudheidkundig Onderzoek, State Service for Archaeological Investigation) and became their youngest correspondent.

After secondary school and military service, Jan embarked on a degree course in biology at the Catholic University of Nijmegen in 1964, with geology as a subsidiary subject, but he also attended lectures on provincial-Roman archaeology by Professor Jules Bogaers. He gave Jan the opportunity to excavate on the *castellum* and *vicus* at Cuijck between 1964 and 1966. This was Jan's first encounter with the late Roman period and late Roman *Rädchensigillata*, which would fascinate him for the rest of his life.

He finished his bachelor's degree in biology in 1973 and then started a masters degree in ecological prehistory with provincial Roman and medieval archaeology as subsidiary subjects at the Albert Egges van Giffen Institute for Pre- and Protohistory (IPP) in Amsterdam. After two years, he had passed all his exams, apart from his masters thesis. Knowing there were no paid jobs for graduated archaeologists

available, but that there were plenty of opportunities as an archaeology student to gain experience, he decided to postpone handing in his thesis for years.

To earn an income, he had many jobs. He worked as research assistant at the department of genetics, pedagogy and medicine of the University of Nijmegen and had a position as a museum keeper and guide at Museum G.M. Kam. During quiet hours, he had the opportunity to read a substantial part of the museum library.

Meanwhile, he excavated whenever there was an opportunity. He assisted Professor Bogaers on various occasions. He also spent four summers (between 1968 and 1971) in Mucking (Essex, England), excavating an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Mucking was an exciting experience. Jan learned English, met archaeologists from all over Europe and brought back suitcases full of English books on archaeology. More importantly, British archaeology was in full flow and provided a simulating environment.

In 1975, as a research assistant under Jan Kees Haalebos (Catholic University of Nijmegen) Jan investigated a building excavation in Woerden. The animal bones found at this excavation would become the subject of his masters thesis. The same year he took part in the IPP excavations of the *castellum* at Valkenburg near Leiden. Occasionally, he led his own projects, like an early Roman cemetery of *Oppidum Batavorum* (Museum Kamstraat, 1975) and a Roman amphitheatre (Mesdagstraat, 1978). In 1980 he was recruited as a municipal archaeologist in Deventer, on a one-year contract without a budget. In 1982–83 he took part in the excavations of Waterlooplein in Amsterdam, directed by Jan Baart. From 1985 to 1988 he worked on projects at Nijmegen and Voerendaal. In 1989 Jan excavated an 18th-century potter's workshop in Gennep.

Working in De Hunerberg on Roman finds from ROB excavations, Jan met Hemmy Clevis, who studied medieval pottery. Discussing medieval ceramics and the history of Nijmegen, they became friends. During following years, Jan, Hemmy, and Jaap Kottman, who Jan knew from the Waterlooplein-excavation, worked together on medieval pottery and glass from Nijmegen, Deventer, and the castle of Kessel.

During this research, they developed a new approach to researching (post-)medieval ceramic and glass finds, which after the first two publications in 1989, became known as the Deventer-system. The system provided a new and more modern approach for these material types. Soon it was adopted by many Dutch archaeologists and pottery specialists. Currently, more than 200 publications exist with a finds catalogue based on this system. The Deventer system has its flaws, and therefore has been criticized. Jan knew and acknowledged this, perhaps being one of the biggest critics himself.

Over the years, together with Hemmy and others, Jan took part in the foundation of Stichting Promotie

Archeologie (Foundation for the Promotion of Archaeology), Ruud van Beek Stichting, and SPA-uitgevers (a publisher of archaeological books) and initiated the Assembled Articles conferences. They also experimented with the idea of engaging the public in protecting archaeological monuments by buying the grounds, comparable to the Dutch practice of protecting nature reserves by buying them, and not unlike modern crowd funding. This resulted in the preservation of an otherwise demolished hillfort in Wales: Beacon Hill.

Shortly after its formation in 1968, Jan joined the Nijmegen department of the Archeologische Werkgroep Nederland (AWN), a nationwide society of amateur archaeologists. He stayed an active and highly appreciated member for the rest of his life. In 1979 he was one of the founders of the Werkgroep Middeleeuws Nijmegen (WMN). At the time, large parts of the lower city of Nijmegen were demolished and initially the professional archaeologists of the ROB and Nijmegen University both failed to exploit this opportunity to study the city's (post-)medieval history. The members of the WMN tried to fill the gap by monitoring and conducting small-scale salvage excavations. After Jan found some 14th- and 16th-century grave stones on a building site, he could finally persuade ROB to adapt their excavation schedule and include the lower town. In 1984, Jan and some other WMN-members founded the Stichting Stadsarcheologie Nijmegen (Foundation for Urban Archaeology in Nijmegen, SSN). In total, the WMN and the SSM recovered the finds from 108 cess pits.

After a public incident of a well-preserved Roman wall, listed as a monument, being destroyed by the building of a casino, the city council of Nijmegen finally decided in 1989 to appoint a municipal archaeologist. Jan, by then one of the most experienced candidates, and keen to get his dream job, now needed a finished degree in archaeology. He finished his masters thesis in a rush, applied, and became appointed as the first municipal archaeologist of Nijmegen.

Under his inspiring leadership, the archaeological city service grew steadily. Within 15 years it consisted of more than 60 people. Countless excavations in Nijmegen took place during this period, rewriting the history of the town, both for the Roman and the (post-)medieval period. The discoveries in the lower city enabled the interpretation that Nijmegen has been occupied continually from the Roman period until now. This resulted in the municipality of Nijmegen from 2000 onwards promoting the town as the oldest town of The Netherlands.

As his team grew, Jan's responsibilities gradually shifted from being a field archaeologist to being a manager. Although being in the field as often as possible, he constantly had to negotiate to arrange sufficient budget. A reoccurring problem was that budgets were limited to field work, with no funds available for results to be worked out or for reports

to be published. Jan spent a large part of his time presenting the past of Nijmegen to its citizens and the (inter)national public. He gave hundreds of lectures and countless interviews to the press. Nevertheless, he found time to publish.

In 2004, a management reorganization forced Jan to take a step back, which made him decide to take early retirement in 2006. This did not mean he stopped with archaeology. It rather meant he now had more time to spend on old, unfinished projects and new projects he found interesting. One of these was a multiannual project carried out together with the author and Guus Gazenbeek, recording the WAR-collection: ten thousands of finds from Roermond (NL), collected by local volunteers over a 30 year period. Realising he had not enough time left to write down everything he knew, he shared his knowledge with younger archaeologists and volunteers. Until the last weeks of his life, he frequented the Wednesday evening meetings of the AWN-volunteer group of which he had been a member since the sixties.

Jan's work has not remained unappreciated. In 2005 the Gelderse Archaeologische Stichting awarded him the Wartena-Medal, followed in 2009 by the Rheinlandthaler awarded by the Landschaftsverband Rheinland and in 2010 the Nijmegen AWN-group awarded him with the Wim Tuijn-fibula. When Jan received a *Festschrift* on the occasion of his attainment of pensionable age, the number of archaeologists, friends and colleagues who wanted to contribute was so large, the *Festschrift* eventually filled three volumes.

Jan played an important role in defining Dutch archaeology, and archaeology defined him. However,

it would not do him justice to only remember him by this aspect of his life. Jan loved his children Marije, Inger, and Jurriën, and was very proud of his little granddaughter Lise. He was selective in his friends, but a very loyal friend. Hating pageantry, he rebelled against it with a wild, bearded look. Possessions did not interest him, but he made an exception for books, resulting in a home that was first of all a research library. Talking to him was like talking to a living encyclopaedia. He despised dishonesty and was direct, sometimes blunt, which not everybody liked, but that would not stop him. Peering at the ground all this life, he had a knack for spotting lost objects, reaching from Merovingian coins and human bones in flower beds to a collection of lost golden earrings. He watched birds and collected wild mushrooms. He liked a pint and drank far too much coffee. He enjoyed rock music, dancing, rough jokes, playing football, sunsets and writing poems. But if you would ask him what was most important in life, he would answer: good conversations with interesting people. He will be missed by many, and in many ways.

*This obituary is partly based on an interview with Jan by Peter Deurloo, and an article by Harry van Enckevort. Both were published in the Festschrift Roman Material Culture. Studies in honour of Jan Thijssen (2009). The author thanks Hemmy Clevis and Harry van Enckevort, for sharing their memories of Jan's life and work, and Jan's children, for giving their permission to publish this obituary.*

Yvonne de Rue

## Phil Jones

1948–2016

To describe Phil Jones, who died suddenly in January 2016, as a hugely experienced pottery specialist would be accurate, but Phil was so much more than that. Those of us who attended his funeral, some of whom knew him only as an archaeologist, heard a wonderful celebration of a life well lived – a life that encompassed not just archaeology (although that was Phil's main passion), but also music, dancing, gardening, a stint at art school and even a short-lived job in a slaughterhouse (after which he became a life-long vegetarian). I am indebted here to Phil's widow, Jan Jones, who has kindly allowed me to lift some biographical details from her eulogy given at the funeral.

Phil was born in London, but his family moved in the 1950s to Buckinghamshire, and he attended Dr Challoner's Grammar School in Amersham, although left before sitting any exams. Academic life may not have suited him, but this did not mean that Phil was

averse to learning. Quite the opposite, as he became the quintessential autodidact, learning through self-motivation and following his own interests, finally arriving, via a circuitous route, at archaeology. In the 1970s he joined the West Herts Archaeological Society and worked on a number of local digs as a volunteer. A chance to dig in Staines followed, and he then gained his first paid employment in archaeology with the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU). And there he stayed until shortly before his death, digging sites across the county, analysing pottery and other finds and, most importantly, publishing as much as he could. He was one of those rare specialists who covered all periods of pottery, but not only that, he was also a flint specialist, and an accomplished draughtsman, preparing all his own finds illustrations. Amongst his most important published contributions were the monographs on Roman and medieval Staines, and the Upper Palaeolithic site at Church Lammas,