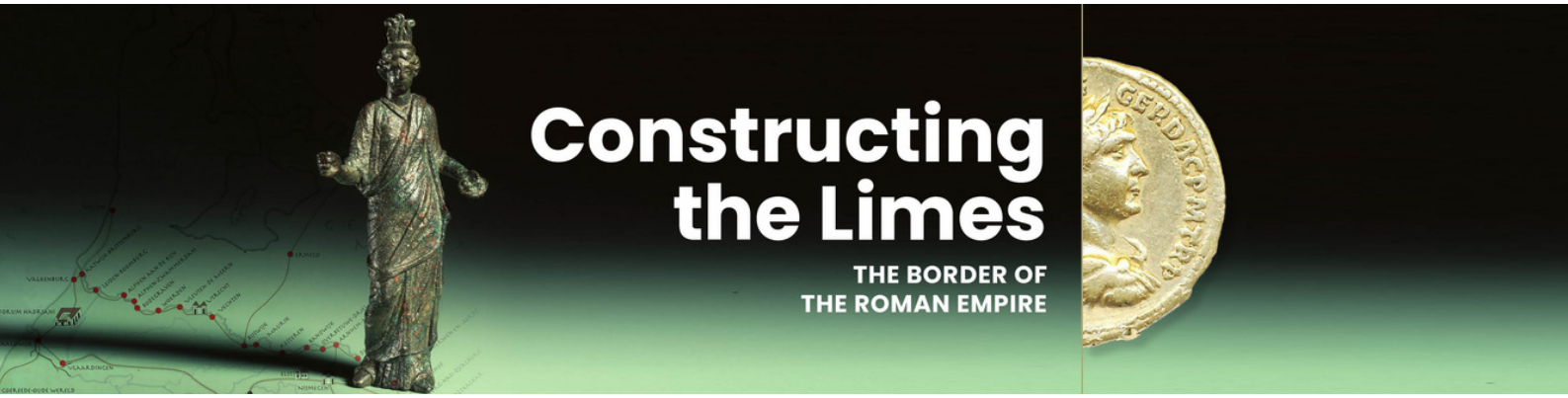

We are excited to bring you the latest updates on Constructing the Limes. Since our last communication, we've made significant progress and have some exciting developments to share with you. Team members are making great strides in their research and are on track for their publications. Additionally, they are participating in international conferences, giving lectures, and delivering presentations.
In this newsletter, you will find information on the second annual report, several news items, updates on two citizen science projects, and upcoming events.

IN RETROSPECT

ANNUAL REPORT YEAR 2

The second annual progress report has been submitted to NWO. This document was prepared using data provided by work package leaders, organized by the project management team, and has been reviewed in consultation with the Dutch advisory board and NWO. The summary is in the attachments. Interested in the full report? Please get in touch via Limes@uu.nl.

SASKIA STEVENS WINS THE CHARM-EU OPEN SCIENCE RECOGNITION AWARD

Saskia Stevens received the first CHARM-EU Open Science Recognition Award for her promising Citizen Science project and outstanding contributions to promoting Open Science. This recognition is a significant achievement for the entire Constructing the Limes team and our partners, reflecting the inspiring collaboration promoting open science within the Constructing the Limes project. We are all very pleased about this award. Read more here

All the volunteers were eager to start digging

CITIZEN SCIENCE: THE CITY OF HEERLEN DIGS

In the community archaeology project "The city of Heerlen Digs!" 150 volunteers, guided by archaeologists, explored the Roman history of Heerlen. During the Great Digging Days on September 9 and 10, 2023, mini-excavations (1m²) were conducted at 25 locations throughout the city in search of Roman remains. C-Limes was involved, to gain a better understanding of the significance of Heerlen in Roman times.
Read more here.

The gem box with beautiful Roman seal stones

>>> CITIZEN SCIENCE: PUG-COLLECTION REGISTRATION

Established in 1841, the Provincial Utrecht Society of Arts and Sciences (PUG) manages a significant archaeological collection, primarily focused on Roman artefacts from the Roman castella at Fectio, Domplein, and Hoge Woerd (all in the area of the city of Utrecht), consisting of about 12,000 objects. As part of the Constructing the Limes project, the collection is now being digitized and incorporated by volunteers into the Portable Antiquities of the Netherlands (PAN) online database.
Read more here.

UPCOMING <<<

> Preprint article: 'Archaeology meets Environmental Genomics: implementing sedaDNA in the study of the human past' by Kadir Toykan Özdoğan, Arjen de Groot, Gertjan Plets
PhD candidate Kadir Toykan Özdoğan, along with C-Limes team members Gertjan Plets and Arjen de Groot, have written an opinion paper discussing the potential of sedimentary ancient DNA (sedaDNA) for answering key archaeological questions. Read more here.

> Midterm Consortium meeting (February 1 2024)
The societal partners are invited to attend the Midterm Consortium meeting scheduled for February 1st in Utrecht. This meeting will primarily center around the scientific progress of the PhD candidates' research projects, but of course, will also cover other aspects of the project. Following the meeting, a comprehensive report will be sent out.

> Approved funding for isotope and DNA research on the "Lead Lady"
In 2001, an exceptional Roman grave was discovered in the center of Nijmegen: a middle-aged woman was buried around the year 300 CE in a lead coffin along the ancient road from Ulpia Noviomagus to the new fortification around the Valkhof. The woman was nicknamed 'Lead Lady', but little was known about her background. Who was this lady, and where did she come from? Did she belong to the last inhabitants of the Middle-Roman city in present-day Nijmegen-West or to the earliest residents of the Late-Roman fortification on the Valkhof Hill? And why was her coffin buried much deeper than was customary at that time?

Thanks to innovative techniques, we can now answer these questions. We are joining forces with the Municipality of Nijmegen to reconstruct the complete story of this woman. This is done using all available archaeological data and innovative techniques, including aDNA and isotope analysis, to gain insights into her origin, mobility, diet, and appearance. This investigation is now possible thanks to a grant awarded by the SNMAP to PhD candidate Maura De Coster as part of her doctoral research.

CONSORTIUM