

OPENING REMARKS

John Lund, National Museum of Denmark

Colleagues and friends,

I am happy to welcome you to this seminar, which was inspired by a recent publication of Theodore Peña on “Pottery in the Archaeological Record”.

The organisers wish to express our sincere thanks to the speakers who have accepted the invitation to take part in the venture, particularly Peña, who has come the longest way, and whose vision is at the core of what we shall be discussing during this Workshop.

We should also like to thank all of those who have supported the seminar financially or in other ways: the Generalkonsul Gösta Enbom’s Foundation, the National Museum of Denmark, The Canada Research Chair in Roman Archaeology, The Centre for Hellenic Civilization at the University of Manitoba, the Canadian Institute in Greece, notably its *Director* David Rupp and *Assistant Director* Jonathan Tomlinson, and last – but by no means least – the Danish Institute at Athens, in particular its *Director* Erik Hallager and the staff of the Institute.

Our workshop is a continuation of the international conference on “The Transport Amphorae and Trade of the Eastern Mediterranean”, which was held in this very room in 2002, and of the seminar devoted to “The Transport Amphorae and Trade of Cyprus”, which was likewise hosted by the Danish Institute. This was intended as the first in a series of smaller seminars on amphora-related themes.

The present workshop is the second in this series, yet it also marks a new beginning, the launching of a 5 year research programme at the Danish National Museum entitled “Pots, Potters and Society in ancient Greece”, which will focus on two central research themes:

- The ideological/iconographical aspect: vase paintings and other iconographical evidence as a source for understanding the life and thoughts of the ancient people.
- The societal and economical aspect: the production of – and trade in – pottery as a source for understanding the ancient economy.

These themes are, of course, closely related, and aspects of both are included in the subjects of the papers today and tomorrow. In our website, you may find more information about the research initiative, which comprises a ph.d. scholarship, which will soon be filled, and possibilities for funding visiting scholars and for holding annual so-called “Enbom-workshops” alternatively in Copenhagen and Athens. This is the first such workshop.

The name “Enbom-workshop” is appropriate, because the research initiative is funded by “The Foundation of General Consul Gösta Enbom”. Gösta Enbom was a Swede, who resided for many years in Greece, where he earned a fortune as agent of the Danish firm Burmaister and Wain, which used to be famous for its highly effective ships engines. Enbom began in the 70’ies to support the Swedish excavation at Asine, and he later established his Danish foundation as a token of gratitude to the country, which made him a wealthy man. He also established a foundation in Sweden. The Danish foundation was instrumental in the creation of the Danish Institute in Athens, and has over the last two decades sponsored three Danish Field-archaeological projects in Greece, as well as other activities, including the two first amphora conferences. Gösta Enbom is buried in the Protestant section of the first Cemetery in Athens, which is incidentally one of the breathing spaces of this city, where one may also find the tombs of many distinguished archaeologists.

I will now pass the word to Mark, who will explain the aim of our workshop.