

The Charles Thomas RIC Conference Day

The Speakers and their Presentations

Nicholas Thomas MA DipArch FSA FMA: So we all did archaeology ‘n’ stuff

An informal, slightly outrageous glimpse at the part played by 1950s Diploma students from the University of London Institute of Archaeology, in uncovering Cornwall’s ancient past and what the RIC gained by it.

Jacqueline A Nowakowski BA FSA MIFA: Return to Gwithian - Charles Thomas, Archaeology and Cornwall

Charles Thomas’ archaeological excavations among the sand dunes at Gwithian in West Cornwall, was one of the great field projects of the 1950s and 60s. It became a landmark for Bronze Age and post-Roman studies. Pioneering and innovative in so many ways, it uniquely brought together amateur enthusiasm with professional ambition and captured the wider imagination by promoting the richness of Cornish archaeology onto the national scene.

Oliver J Padel LittD FSA: The Ancient Administrative Divisions of Cornwall

The medieval county of Cornwall was divided into nine administrative Hundreds, of which some, at least, reflect pre-Saxon political units. Their names constitute crucial evidence for their ancient status. In his presentation Oliver will show how these Hundreds enlarge our understanding of early Cornwall.

Dr Sharron P Schwartz BA: An Aristocracy of Labour - Cornish mineworkers and the global mining economy

Cornish mineworkers and their equipment were to be found in mining fields on every habitable continent by the late 19th century. Using examples from Charles’ family and her own, this presentation explains how and why the Cornish managed to dominate the global mining economy and its attendant labour market for over a century and evaluates the legacy of this movement for communities in Cornwall and overseas.

Professor Peter J Fowler PhD FSA: Exporting a Perspective - landscape archaeology on Les Grands Causses, France

Unbeknown to many friends and colleagues, Charles the archetypal Cornishman, has for 20 years been practicing his special suite of skills in landscape archaeology in France. Les Grandes Causses, Languedoc, have a strange, yet strangely familiar story to tell beneath the English gaze.

Jeremy Le Grice : The First Eleven

Jeremy’s personal memories of the principal artists working in St Ives during the 1950s, with an account of changes in his own reactions to work widely seen as important in the context of the sphere of British art through the ages.