

MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR

This view from Mount Milë shows Butrint (at center), with Lake Butrint (to the right) and the Straits and Island of Corfu (in the background).

Richard Hodges, The Williams Director

UNIVERSITY OF
PENNSYLVANIA
MUSEUM OF
ARCHAEOLOGY
AND
ANTHROPOLOGY

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ON OCTOBER 1, 2007, Penn Museum welcomed its new Williams Director, Dr. Richard Hodges, O.B.E. His archaeological career began in the late 1960s in his home village in Wiltshire, England, where, as a teenager, he attended a lecture by Duncan Grant King—one of the excavators during the 1920s of the

famous British prehistoric site of Avebury. After learning about world archaeology and the great civilizations of Rome, Greece, Mesopotamia, and Egypt, Hodges began to volunteer on excavations, including a Roman villa near Bath, England, and on urban archaeological sites in the town of Gloucester.

In 1970 Hodges enrolled at Southampton University, where he continued to participate in excavation projects while completing his undergraduate coursework in archaeology and medieval history—an unusual combination of fields at that time. He directed his first project in 1972—the excavation of Daw’s Mill, a medieval mill in Dorset—and received his B.A. the following year.

Hodges chose to remain at Southampton to pursue his Ph.D. under the mentorship of Colin Renfrew—now Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn—who guided Hodges’ studies in the-

oretical archaeology and interdisciplinary approaches both to excavation projects and to the interpretation of social institutions. His research applied an archaeological perspective to the study of late Roman and early medieval Europe. In his thesis Hodges modeled changes in the European economy and social institutions during the collapse of the Roman Empire that led to the social and economic foundation of early medieval Europe and, ultimately, helped shape modern Europe. After receiving his Ph.D. in 1977, he began publishing extensively on early medieval towns, trade, and ceramics in both Anglo-Saxon England and on the Continent.

From 1976 to 1988, Hodges held a lectureship at the University of Sheffield, where he taught courses, involved students in field projects, and directed a university outreach program focused on northern England’s Peak District. This examined the use of the landscape from the Mesolithic period (*ca.* 9,000 years ago) up to the 20th century. Working with students, Hodges developed this into a small archaeological park, Roystone Grange.

In the early 1980s Hodges also began field research on an early medieval monastic site in Italy, San Vincenzo al Volturno. This interdisciplinary archaeological project allowed team members to interact not only with scholars, but also with community groups, local people, mayors, and a variety of other constituencies in order to create a shared vision of the protection and use of the region’s cultural heritage resources—an



In the 1980s Hodges developed a small archaeological park at Roystone Grange in Derbyshire, England.



Above, from 1982 to 1987 Hodges excavated the deserted medieval village at Montarrenti, near Siena, Italy. Right, while working at San Vincenzo al Volturno in the 1980s, his team recovered this 9th century ivory head from the remains of the Dark Age monastery.



During the past decade Hodges has shifted his archaeological attention to Albania. Bringing together a variety of human, technological, and funding resources, he has devised a cultural heritage management program to support young scholars in their research activities, to safeguard archaeological and historical sites and landscapes, to provide training, to help develop capacity for archaeological parks and trails, and to aid in the construction of a museum at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint.

Richard Hodges brings to Penn Museum his vision of teamwork, interdisciplinary approaches, and the importance of cultural heritage in the 21st century. Penn Museum's research and collections represent extraordinary resources that can be used skillfully in conjunction with contemporary technology to make scientific research accessible to local, regional, and global audiences. Going forward, Hodges plans to host discussions between Museum staff and relevant professionals outside the Museum in order to achieve a strategic direction for the Museum and its mission in a world that places increasing value on cultural heritage and cultural heritage tourism. 🏠

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From 1994 to the present, excavations at Butrint, on the Vrina Plain of Albania, have uncovered a Roman town that was later occupied by a 5th century Christian basilica.

approach he has continued to employ and develop in his later projects. From 1984 to 1986 he also taught as a visiting professor at the University of Siena.

Between 1988 and 1995 Hodges served as Director of the British School in Rome—an educational and research institution founded in 1901 to promote the study of Roman and Italian archaeology, history, literature, and music, as well as fine arts and architecture. In addition to creating new galleries for archaeology and contemporary art, he continued to direct large, interdisciplinary archaeological projects in Italy and, later, in Albania.

Hodges returned to England in 1995 and became Director of the Institute of World Archaeology at the University of East Anglia until coming to Penn Museum. Between 1996 and 1998 he also served as Director of the Prince of Wales' Institute of Architecture in London, an educational institution concerned with the teaching and practice of architecture.

