

Monday 15th Feb 2016
16:30 - 17:30
at 50th Anniversary Hall
Conference Room (2nd Floor)

Speaker: Dr. Daniele Petrella
IRIAE (International Research Institute
for Archeology and Ethnology)
President/Expeditions Office Coordinator
Land and underwater archaeologist



The Discovery of Kublai Khan's Fleet: The First Archaeological Collaboration between Japan and Italy

Abstract:

Since 2009, Italian archaeologists of IRIAE (International Research Institute for Archeology and Ethnology) and Japanese archaeologists of ARIUA (Asian Research Institute for Underwater Archaeology) have worked together on archaeological research of the Lost Fleet of Kublai Khan sunken in the seas of Japan in 1281, hit by a terrible typhoon that Japan later renamed *Kamikaze*.

This is the first and so far the only archaeological expedition in Japan jointly led by Italian and Japanese teams.

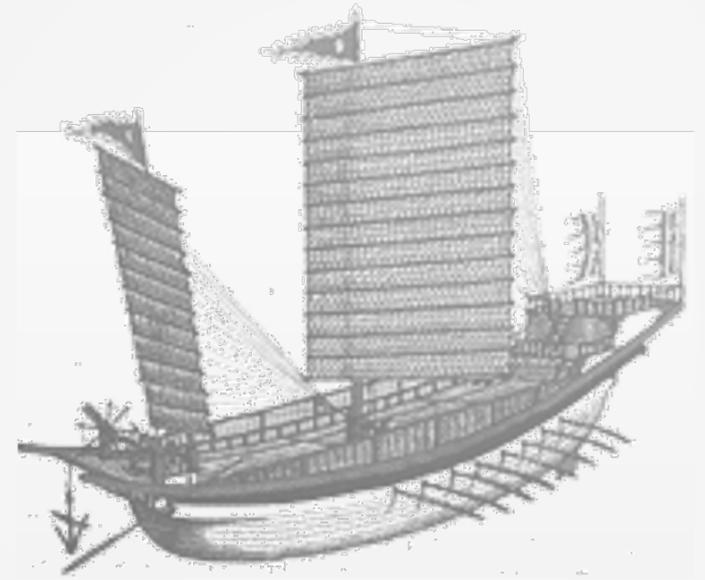
Finding the fleet in 2007 made it possible to understand how the "mysterious" ships chartered by Khan had been built. It also allowed us to reconsider this very important historical event previously considered as "semi-mythical" because until then it had been known only through exaggerated Chinese sources. The discovery increased historical reliability of the event and enabled us to have an improved understanding of the dynamics.

The discovery of the ships was crucial to understand their structure, the construction sequence and their use. It was also of prime importance to complete the complex puzzle of information obtained from 6 medieval Chinese ships discovered along the coasts of China and Korea between the 70s and 90s.

All this was possible thanks to the discovery of a valuable document found in China on naval engineering of the time.

Finally, a careful study of the dynamics of the event gave a better understanding of the tactic developed by the invaders, the routes they had followed and the motivations that had pushed them there. And it made it possible to understand the reason why the kamikaze, the "divine winds" that sank the ship, was the final devastating blow to the powerful Empire of the Yuan and visionary dreams of conquest of Kublai Khan.

Petrella, President of IRIAE and Director of Expedition, and the IRIAE were awarded the prestigious Rotondi Award "Saviors of Art in the World" in 2014 for this work on the research of Kublai Khan's Fleet.



At the end of the seminar, the new collaboration project between Italy and Japan on the study of prehistory of Japan will be introduced.

Contact:

Bernard CHENEVIER, Senior URA bernard-chenevier@cc.okayama-u.ac.jp

Naoko MATSUMOTO, Professor, Grad School of Humanities and Social Sciences
naoko_m@cc.okayama-u.ac.jp



CO-HOSTED BY

岡山大学文学部
考古学研究室
Department of Archeology

