

August 7, 2019

Dear CPL committee,

Thanks to the generosity of CAMWS and the Committee for the Promotion of Latin, four students from Concord Academy (Concord, MA) received funds to support their travel and tuition costs for an archaeological field school held by the Caladinho Archaeological Project. The field school, which lasted three weeks in Redondo, in the Alentejo region of Portugal, gave these students unparalleled experience to work alongside professional archaeologists, college students, and graduate students from around the world to excavate a first century BCE Roman fortified structure (*fortin*). These students not only learned systematic excavation methods but also learned how to process and analyze ancient artifacts--from ceramics to numismatics. In fact, some of the most exciting finds this year were coins; below you'll see the Concord Academy students with their first coin discovered --a bronze coin from Celsa, Hispania with the head of Augustus! This coin alone made my students giddy with glee, elated to be able to touch a coin that perhaps last touched the hands of a Roman soldier over two thousand years ago. It was in this moment that years of studying history, toiling over declensions, and just a few days in the dirt became truly worth it for them.

While weekday mornings were spent excavating, the Concord Academy students who worked on the Caladinho Archaeological Project this summer balanced work with play by traveling to two ancient Roman cities. In Évora, Portugal, students stood at the steps of a Roman temple and wandered through the local archaeological museum and in Mérida, Spain, students stood before one of the largest extant Roman theaters and delivered impromptu soliloquies, pretended to be lions in the amphitheater's animal cages, and wandered the gardens in the portico behind the ancient public complex. In conjunction with other field trips to Monsaraz, Rocha da Mina, Évoramonte, and Vila Viçosa, and traditional meals at local restaurants after work and for dinner each day, our students were able to gain an authentic cultural experience and come to understand what modern daily life in the Alentejo is like, as well.

Rather than continuing to describe the three week adventure myself, I'll defer to my students. Michaela Trieloff (Class of 2019) reflected fondly on her newfound appreciation for the archaeological process this year: "...Before taking trowel and pickaxe to dirt, we took out tape measures and such and put pen to paper, drawing and documenting the shape and various points of altitude of the layer - documentation before destruction. However, the destruction portion that followed was definitely the most enjoyable...it led me to discover a coin - objectively epic." Eric Yoon (Class of 2020) wrote in his postseason reflection: "Work on site was everything I hoped for. I got to excavate real Roman and prehistoric pottery alongside professional archaeologists and I couldn't have asked for more....All in all, the trip was nothing short of incredible. Everyone who was there was

amazing in their own ways and impacted me individually. And for that, I would like to thank them and most of all you for allowing me to be a part of such a fun crew.”

The above testaments are just two of four that reveal the profound impact a summer under the golden Alentejan sun had on a small group of high schoolers. Thank you, CAMWS, for helping me to transform and enrich the lives of my students from Concord Academy. Your funds gave them all an invaluable, fragmented glimpse into the ancient past and, most importantly, the opportunity to begin to piece it together themselves.

Sincerely yours,

Karilyn Sheldon



On site in Week 1! Concord Academy students with Michaela's find, a bronze coin from northern Hispania.

Pictured left to right: Colin Regenauer (Class of '19), Eric Yoon (Class of '20), Michaela Trieloff (Class of '19), Karilyn Sheldon (CA Latin Teacher & Caladinho Archaeological Project Field School Director), Hans Toulmin (Class of '21).



Pictured right: Michaela with her find!



Left, foreground: Michaela Trieloff making dirty dirt clean dirt with expert command of the trowel.

Right, smiling: Hans Toulin washing pottery and showing that a toothbrush has an important archaeological role to play.



Above left: Eric Yoon (right) drawing a stratigraphic layer before excavation. **Above right:** Eric Yoon and Colin Regenauer taking elevations--the final step before excavation of a stratigraphic unit.

Field Trip Fun!



Left: Hans Toulmin (center) with some of the crew in the arena of the amphitheater in Mérida, Spain.

Below: Hans (right) posing as a caged animal below the cavea of the amphitheater.



The Caladinho 2019 crew takes the stage--the ancient one, that is--at the Roman theater in Mérida.



Sunset at Évoramonte, week three.

