

THE ANU (CANBERRA) FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE AT ATHENS

invite you to an illustrated lecture by

**Prof Wolf-Dietrich Niemeier**

Director of the German Archaeological Institute at Athens  
2007 Visiting Professor, The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens

**The Kouros of the Sacred Gate**  
**New Finds of Archaic Marble Sculptures in the Kerameikos**  
**of Athens**

TUESDAY 28 AUGUST, AT 8.00PM

in the AEGEAN ROOM at the HELLENIC CLUB  
(Matilda Street, Woden)

For almost 2500 years the Kouros (a statue of a youth) was hidden under a canal in the Kerameikos, the potters' quarter and cemetery of ancient Athens, until discovered in April 2002 during excavations by the German Archaeological Institute at Athens under the directorship of Professor Niemeier. The statue is a masterpiece of ca. 600 B.C., the very beginning of the great Athenian tradition of marble sculpture. With the kouros other sculptures were found: a Sphinx, two lions, an Ionian capital, and a Doric capital. This group forms the most spectacular find of Archaic sculptures since the discovery of those in the debris of the Persian destruction on the Athenian Acropolis.

In the lecture, the exciting story of the discovery of the new sculptures is narrated. Their importance for the history of Greek sculpture, their original function as monuments on the graves of aristocratic families, and the question how they came to their place of discovery are discussed.

After holding professorships at Freiburg and Heidelberg Universities, Wolf-Dietrich Niemeier took up the position of Director of the German Archaeological Institute at Athens. A specialist in the Aegean Bronze Age, Professor Niemeier has excavated extensively in Crete, as well as on the Greek mainland, in Southern Italy, Israel, and Turkey. He is currently Director of the German Archaeological Institute excavations at Miletus (Turkey), the Athenian Kerameikos (Greece), Kalapodi (ancient Phokis, Greece) and the Samos Heraion (Greece). Prof Niemeier is widely published and well respected in his field, as evidenced by the many guest lectures he has delivered throughout Germany, the USA, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Austria, and now Australia as the 2007 AAIA Visiting Professor.

Enquiries: [classics@anu.edu.au](mailto:classics@anu.edu.au) or 6125 5106