

**Professor Judith Jesch
Viking Identities Network
End of Year Report for 2007**

Academic seminars

The first two of these took place in January and March 2007, respectively, as promised in last year's report. For details of papers and presenters, see <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/english/csva/vin/seminar1/>
<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/english/csva/vin/seminar2/>

Both seminars were also attended by non-speaking participants and research students, to a total of approximately 30 in both cases. The third academic seminar, organised by Chris Callow, will take place in December 2007, see <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/english/csva/vin/seminar3/>

Midlands Viking Symposium

This took place successfully in Leicester in April 2007, organised by Jayne Carroll, with a wide range of speakers from the three participating institutions (including geneticists), and a good audience of around 70.

Conference sessions

The conference sessions at Kalamazoo (May 2007) and Leeds (July 2007) took place as promised in last year's report, with the exception of Carroll's Language and Gender session at Leeds which has been postponed until 2008 because of her current maternity leave.

Website

The website (<http://vin.nottingham.ac.uk>) is constantly updated and a new FAQ's section (<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/english/csva/faqs/>) has been added for outreach purposes – this is still under development.

Research trips

Chris Callow went on a research and networking trip to Norway in the summer of 2007.

It has been encouraging to see how extensive the interest in our network is, with participation in our events by a large number of scholars from various disciplines, and from many institutions both in Britain and abroad. Also, all of our events have involved non-academic stakeholders, but we are particularly pleased with the synergies between academics, heritage professionals and re-enactors promised by our third VIN seminar to be held in Birmingham. Judith Jesch and a Nottingham colleague (Sara Pons-Sanz) contributed to the new exhibition at the Jorvik Viking Centre which now highlights the Viking expansion as a 'diaspora'. Additionally, Jesch gave the keynote lecture at the Jorvik Viking Festival in February 2007, and gave a training lecture to Jorvik staff in November 2007.

A further highlight of the project is the extended collaboration with scientists, particularly those studying various DNA signatures, both within the project itself and planned for the future. Christina Lee has received internal funding from the Gender Histories Group at the University of Nottingham for a workshop entitled 'Pathways to the Past: Interdisciplinary research

approaches in the study of migrant women and men in Viking Age Scotland and Iceland' to be held at the University of Nottingham in June 20th-22nd 2008. The purpose of this workshop is to compare the methodologies and outcomes of scientific approaches (in particular those studying DNA signatures) with those used in the humanities and to discuss areas of mutual interest and potential collaboration. The outcome of the workshop will be further collaboration in form of a joint bid, as well as a number of several smaller projects. This initiative arises directly out of the Viking Identities Network and our recognition of the value of further collaboration with scientists (both genetics and isotope analysis).

VIN now has an agreement with the journal *Viking and Medieval Scandinavia* to publish selected papers from the seminars and the conference sessions over the next four issues.