

Port Arthur Talks

Tourism at Mogao Grottoes: a good servant, a bad master

presented by Drs Neville Agnew & Martha Demas

The World Heritage site of the Mogao Grottoes is China's preeminent ancient Buddhist site on the Silk Road, comprising nearly 500 cave temples (4th and the 14th centuries) with magnificent wall paintings and sculpture. The Getty Conservation Institute has been working with the Dunhuang Academy since 1989 on strategies to conserve and manage the site. Having flourished for a thousand years and survived abandonment for four centuries, the site faces a new threat from mass tourism leading to an unsustainable situation for management and an uncomfortable and unsatisfying experience for visitors, as well as causing irreparable damage to the fragile, ancient Buddhist art. This talk will look at a visitor management approach that began in 2000 and whether it has been a success.

Dr Martha Demas is a senior project specialist at the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI). Since 1990 she has been involved in many of the institute's international field projects in China, Egypt, the Mediterranean, Belize, and Tanzania. She has a principal interest in conservation and management of archaeological sites, with a recent focus on visitor management and carrying capacity.

Dr Neville Agnew is a senior principal project specialist at the GCI. At the Getty his initial work was in earthen architectural preservation research, and later responsible for many early field projects of the institute in China, Egypt, and other countries. He is completing the project for the conservation of the tomb of King Tutankhamen in the Valley of the Kings and exploring ways to develop a network of professionals, and private enthusiasts for the protection and promotion of rock art.

ALL WELCOME!

Tuesday 26 February, 2019 at 5.00 p.m.

**Junior Medical Officer's Conference Room,
(the building behind the house)
Port Arthur Historic Site**

For more information call 6251 2324

