



**THE SOUND OF MULL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT (SOMAP)
1994-2005**

By Philip Robertson

Available from:

www.archaeopress.com
£22.00

THIS MAJOR publication pulls together 11 years of research into the wrecks off the Sound of Mull. Many ScotSAC members will be aware of the SOMAP project, or may have been one of the 200 divers who took part in the research which has been ongoing since 1994. Philip Robertson's

article in the last edition of **SCOTTISH DIVER** gives a background to the project.

The 115 page book, published by Archaeopress is a fascinating account of the history behind the large number of ship wrecks in the Sound of Mull and details the findings of the project. A variety of old photographs, archive information, high resolution marine geophysics and measured surveys by divers greatly increases our understanding of the wrecks.

I've had my copy for a couple of months now, and have read each section at a different time; learning more about the wrecks of the Sound

of Mull and methods of marine archaeology.

After setting the scene and introducing the SOMAP project in the first chapter, the author recounts the history of the area from mesolithic times to the present day. This helps the reader understand the importance of the marine environment to local historic settlers. 23 of the 'smaller projects' are summarised in chapter 3, ranging from the well known and frequently dived wrecks of the *Pelican*, *Shuna*, *Hispania* and *Rondo* through to a number of wrecks yet to be identified.

Three significant projects are detailed in subsequent chapters. These include the *John Preston*, known to many divers as the 'slate wreck', west of Lochaline sank in 1882, and the steamship *SS Thesis* in 1889. I have dived both wrecks several times but would now view in a new light with greater understanding.

The book is accompanied by an interactive CD reproducing remote sensing images of main sites. I found this particularly interesting, and was able to recount many dives on the wrecks.

Overall, this book gives an excellent account of the project and the value trained recreational divers can play in understanding our marine historic environment and I would thoroughly recommend to our Members.

Andy Murray

All your diving needs



**www.divingdirect.co.uk
01642 486666**