

TEA

The European Archaeologist

The newsletter of EAA members for EAA members
Issue 74 – Autumn 2022



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Letter from the Editors

Dear Colleagues,

As archaeologists, we benefit from a unique relationship with time. To paraphrase John Piper, we look at the tapestry of years, centuries and millennia from the back side – the side not meant to be viewed by the world at large. That special position conveys upon us both advantages as well as particular responsibilities. The hungry grant-writer is drawn to gaps in the weave, imagining how best to structure a repair. The eye of the young scholar is snagged by loose threads needing time to batten down, and the experienced researcher can unerringly find tangled knots by feel alone.

After several years of separation due to the COVID pandemic, we were finally able pick up the threads in person with colleagues near *and* far at the EAA's hybrid "Re-Integration" Annual Meeting in Budapest, Hungary. From 31 August until 3 September, we met, debated, spoke, laughed, exchanged ideas and made plans. Matt and I were delighted to finally—*finally*—meet many of you in person, and to catch up on news both large and small.

As this issue marks the second year of our editorship, we would also like to take the time to send out a very big thank you to all of you who have contributed to *The European Archaeologist* this past year. We have enjoyed working with you and learning from you regarding the amazing work being done by archaeologists the world over. Given that the theme of the moment is both gratitude and wonderful work, we can follow the red thread directly to TEA's photojournalism competition! Our sincere thanks go out to those members who sent in their wonderful images for evaluation as well as to the EAA's photobank. All told, we had 17 entries from all over the world addressing the expressed theme of "What is the spirit of archaeology in 2023?". Alongside TEA's editors as moderators, a jury of professional photographers and fine arts professionals convened online on 1 October to evaluate the competition entries. Matt and I extend our heartfelt gratitude to members of the jury [Theresa Airey](#), [Charles W. Bowers](#) and [Sandy LeBrun-Evans](#) who selected the five entries that moved on to the competition semi-final.

As per contest rules, the three winners from among these five contributions will be chosen by popular vote by EAA members during the EAA's Annual Survey. Launched in mid-October, the deadline for participating in the survey (which you will have received online) is fast approaching. If you have yet to cast your vote, don't delay!

As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words. When those words send a vital message, they become powerful communicators indeed. This applies to the contenders for our 2023 covers, and it is particularly poignant in relation to the cover of our 2022 autumn issue:

Now a junior sergeant of Ukraine's Territorial Defence Service, archaeologist Andriy Olenych prepares to make a drawing of a Chalcolithic pit (Trypillia C II) discovered during the construction of a platoon base on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine.

Author of the photo: Anna Argunova, soldier of Ukraine's Territorial Defence Service

You can read up on the struggle to protect cultural heritage in times of war with this reflection on [the current situation in Ukraine](#). Another thought-provoking [debate regarding the origins of climate change](#) is also included in this issue alongside the presentation of a once-in-a-lifetime [gold discovery from Denmark](#). This issue also features two reports direct from the excavation trenches: one from [a mysterious structure from Cyprus](#) and the other from [two medieval cemetery sites in the Herzegovina region](#).

We are also delighted to include some of the usual fare, including [highlights from the EAA's social media feed](#), a [Chat with the Secretariat's Krisztina Pavlíčková](#), who tells us about what it is like being involved with the financial side of the EAA, the EAA's [Statement on Nurturing the Cycle of Good Archaeological Practice](#), the minutes from [the EAA's recent Annual Business Meeting](#) and two reports, including a fascinating conference on [bodies and corporeality in ancient Egypt](#) and a stimulating roundtable which addressed linking [national databases and the future of hillfort research](#). The [Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Community \(PaM\)](#) is highlighted in this issue, and we as editors are delighted to present [Eleanor Scerri](#) in this autumn's Meet a Member over TEA. We also include an [interview with Pascal Ratier](#), organizer of the European Archaeology Days, who tells us about the successes and challenges of putting together national and Europe-wide events intended to bring archaeology to new audiences in new settings.

All in all, this issue reflects but a small portion of the patterns which we have been weaving these past years. Nevertheless, they come together to form a beautiful, multi-coloured tapestry of the past...one on which we are continually working...which is apt, as the EAA's 2023 AM in Belfast is on the theme of "Weaving Narratives".

Until we meet again, both Matt and I wish you the very best of luck in following the red thread of your research into the New Year!

Samantha S. Reiter and Matthew J. Walsh

Editors

Calendar for EAA members

November 2022 – February 2023

10 November	Deadline for session and round table proposals for the 29 th EAA Annual Meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland
5 December	Announcement of session acceptance / rejection to session organisers
15 December	Deadline for registration and membership payment for session organisers
19 December	Call for papers / posters / other contributions for the 29th EAA Annual Meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland, opens
22 December – 1 January	EAA Secretariat closed for Christmas

31 December	End of 2022 EAA membership
1 January	Beginning of 2023 EAA membership
January	Call for nominations to the EAA election circulated to the Members
January	Call for nominations to the European Heritage Prize circulated to the Members
January	Call for nominations to the Oscar Montelius Foundation (OMF) Early Career Achievement Prize (ECAP) circulated to the Members
15 January	Deadline for submissions for <i>TEA</i> winter issue
31 January	Final list of sessions and session organisers for the 29th EAA Annual Meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland, available
1 February	Call for volunteers opens
9 February	Deadline for paper / poster submissions
1 March	Call for volunteers closes

Upcoming Events

8-9th December	<p><u>"We've got Questions/ You've got answers"</u></p> <p>YOCOCU (Youth in Conservation of Cultural Heritage) Conference at Museum of Communication in Frankfurt am Main, Germany</p>
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EAA 2022 Statement on Nurturing the Cycle of Good Archaeological Practice

This Statement was officially approved and adopted at the Annual Membership Businesses Meeting held per rollam on 12 - 15 September 2022. To be quoted as "EAA 2022 Statement on Nurturing the Cycle of Good Archaeological Practice". The draft of this statement was prepared by an EAA Task Force composed of Sally Foster, Carezza Lewis, Maria Mina and Maria Taloni.

Stable URL: <https://www.e-a-a.org/2022Statement>

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At its 2022 Annual Meeting in Budapest, the EAA is launching its updated *Code and Principles* as well as four new Advisory Committees: Scientific; Heritage; Public Benefits; and Education, Training and Professional Development. In joining our EAA community, Individual and Corporate Members, who work in extremely diverse and interdisciplinary ways across many national contexts, agree to adhere to our *Codes*. Our *Code and Principles* seek to inspire and nurture good practice while promoting the greater integration of archaeological practice with society and its needs. The expansion of the former *Code* (1997, revised 2009) is therefore a barometer of topical challenges, opportunities and wider social developments that affect archaeologists across many sectors, and clearly demonstrates the Association's readiness to react accordingly. These sectors include higher education and research, heritage management, museums and archives, and commercial contract archaeology.

The new Advisory Committees, along with the revived and reshaped statutory Appeals and Anti-Harassment Committee, are responsible for a range of tasks, some of which correspond closely to the new areas encompassed by the revised *Code*. These Committees are therefore where many of these topics will be addressed by the EAA as we move forward.

This statement acknowledges the ethical and societal issues identified in the *Code and Principles* and, in a cross-cutting exercise, maps their relationship to these Advisory Committees. It does so through the lens of the heritage cycle (Figure 1). This is a cycle in which an understanding of value, iteratively fed and shaped by knowledge and understanding, can be used to inform decisions about what to secure for the future, and how such resources can be engaged for wider public benefit, generating a desire to know more about the resource in question. This is an approach applied in the Medieval Europe Research Committee Manifesto: <https://mercmanifesto.org/> (MERC is an EAA Community).

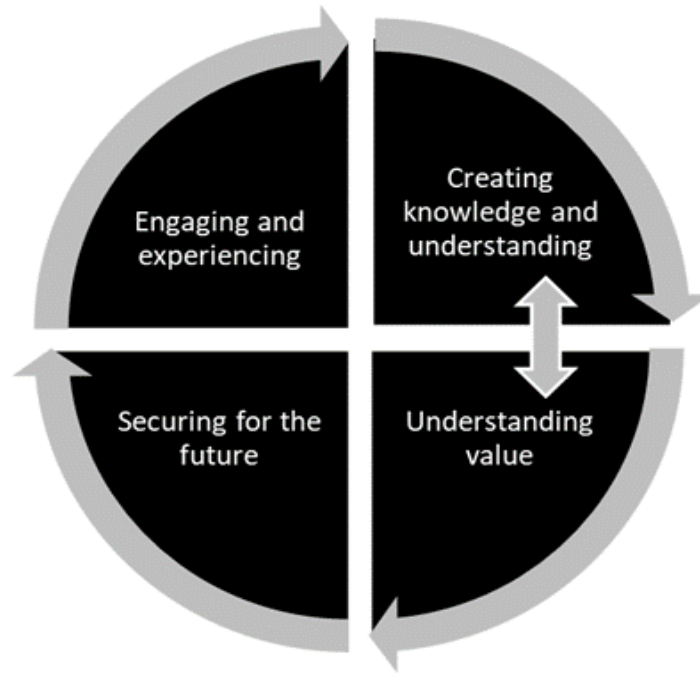


Figure 1. Heritage cycle. Graphic by Chris Unwin

The heritage cycle underpins much of Western heritage management practice and therefore provides a useful framework for thinking about how we practice in such a way that we are aware not just of the scientific benefits of our work but also the differences it makes, or could make, for society. It also enables us to articulate what we are doing in ways that might explicitly embrace understanding social value or public benefits (EAA Strategic Plan 2021-2024 Goal 3). The Advisory Committee remits ‘map’ to this model as will be evident from what follows, which also introduces key themes emerging from the *Code and Principles* that relate to wider society. Ongoing reflection about how we practise will help us to achieve the cycle of optimum scientific, social and cultural benefits, including contributing to the wellbeing of present and future people and places.

Scientific Committee: how we advance knowledge and understanding of the past, in ways that:

- practise respect for human remains
- avoid racist or discriminatory methods/approaches and interpretations
- are aware of the concerns and interests of indigenous communities and acknowledge diversity in interpretation of the past and what it tells us
- recognise that knowledge of archaeological context is critical to understanding artefacts, their meaning and significance.

Heritage Committee: how we assign meanings and values (including social value) to that knowledge and put this into practice to secure heritage for the future, in ways that:

- respect individual human rights, past and present and recognise the multiplicity and diversity of stakeholders, ensuring respect for stakeholder perspectives, including for contested objects and by understanding who 'owns' objects.
- are accountable, transparent and ensure ethical practice in terms of expert evaluation, including where there is the risk of conflicts of interest
- engage constructively with debates about difficult issues, including repatriation of objects and restitution
- can inform future and current evidence-based policy, for example in relation to climate change.

Public Benefits Committee: how we enable more people and places to benefit from archaeology, informed by understanding of its significance, impact and potential, and of how this drives the desire to know more, including through scientific research, in ways that:

- respectfully, helpfully and constructively share and exchange archaeological knowledge and opportunities with wider publics through appropriately diverse activities, developed collaboratively where possible, and recognising the interests of people and places
- advance knowledge and understanding of the range of ways in which archaeology benefits people and places, and the processes and mechanisms which underpin this, including through interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral research and practice
- share data, information and insights demonstrating the benefits of archaeology, responsibly and respectfully, so the value of archaeology can be recognised.
- are alert and open to new opportunities to achieve, capture and understand public benefit.

Education, Training and Professional Development Committee: how we train and support professional development of archaeologists at all stages of their career to do the above (so, applies across the whole heritage cycle), in ways that:

- ensure access to equal opportunities to learn, train, upskill, diversify and network are equitably available to all regardless of career stage, identity or other factors
- fairly acknowledge the contribution of colleagues regardless of their employment status
- ensure training remains at the cutting edge as new approaches, technologies, ideas and opportunities emerge
- support and deliver outcomes that help make the case for archaeology in the higher education, school and youth participation sectors.

Appeal and Anti-Harassment Committee: how in all the above we ensure a safe work environment, equality and inclusion in creating knowledge and understanding, in ways that:

- prohibit all forms of harassment, assault, bullying, intimidation and discrimination
- develop and implement adequate mechanisms to prevent and report any discrimination, harassment, assault, bullying and intimidation for EAA events, not least the Annual Meetings
- encourage the reporting of proven discrimination, harassment, assault, bullying and intimidation that victims suffer to their home institution or organisation
- are alert and responsive to new and emerging threats to the wellbeing of all working or volunteering in archaeology.

Minutes of the 2022 EAA Annual Membership Business Meeting (AMBM)

0. Technical note

Following the provision of Art. IX of the EAA Statutes, the EAA Executive Board specified the following Rules of Procedure for the 2022 EAA Annual Membership Business Meeting:

1. The 2022 EAA AMBM shall be held *per rollam*, i.e. voting electronically within a given time-frame and under security settings that ensure a single, verified and anonymous vote per Full Individual Member.
2. An informal virtual meeting with Members shall be held in advance of the *per rollam* voting process to allow discussion about, and questioning of, the subject of the votes. This informal meeting was held on 2 September 2022 in hybrid format, attended by 66 Full Individual Members.
3. Notice of the AMBM with detailed instructions for registration and voting *per rollam* shall be given to all Full Individual Members not less than sixty days prior to the date of the informal virtual meeting. The notice was given to Full Individual Members via web page and email communications.
4. All documents for the Annual Membership Business Meeting and necessary for the *per rollam* decision shall be sent to Full Individual Members electronically at least fifteen days before the informal virtual meeting. Members received notice of the 2022 AMBM Reports on 17 August 2022.
5. The *per rollam* ballot was open from 12 to 15 September 2022 and individualised secured access to the ballot, together with the link of the AMBM informal meeting recording (youtu.be/5Eq4KkZZmKg), was provided to all Full Individual Members on 12 September 2022. The quorum for the *per rollam* ballot consists of 5% of Full Individual Members. As of 15 September, the EAA had 2838 Full Individual Members; the quorum therefore was 142 members. Altogether 224 responses were received in the *per rollam* ballot, the quorum was therefore reached.
6. Decisions shall be made by simple majority of the voting Members.
7. The results of the voting of the AMBM shall be published by 30 September 2022 on the EAA website and by sending these results by e-mail to the electronic addresses of all Full Individual Members.

The following report combines the discussion held at the 2 September 2022 informal meeting with the results of the *per rollam* voting. Matters not subject to the *per rollam* voting are covered in the AMBM Reports, available to all EAA Members, and are only referenced in the present Minutes.

1. Opening and welcome

The EAA President Eszter Bánffy opened the informal meeting and welcomed the Members present or joining the meeting online. She highlighted the importance of the *per rollam* voting, which enables all EAA current Members to participate and vote in the AMBM matters, whereas in the past this was

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limited to those Members attending the Annual Meeting in person. Voting *per rollam* has become the standard EAA mechanism embedded in the Statutes.

The EAA has held its first fully hybrid Annual Meeting in 2022, allowing Members who for various reasons could not travel to Budapest to fully participate at the Meeting. This goes especially to EAA Ukrainian members, whom the EAA continually supports and whose participation at the AM has been free of charge. The President expressed solidarity also to EAA individual Russian participants who suffer from a system that silences and alienates them.

2. Minutes of the 2021 AMBM

The Minutes of the 2021 AMBM were previously published on the EAA web. There were no questions raised, and the President proposed to the AMBM to approve the Minutes of the 2021 AMBM as a correct record of the Meeting.

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the 2021 AMBM Minutes. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the minutes of the 2021 AMBM as follows: 178 (80.2%) voting Members approved, 0 (0.0%) voting Member did not approve, 44 (19.8%) voting Members abstained; there were 2 blank responses.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the 2021 AMBM Minutes.

4. EAA 2022 Statement on Nurturing the Cycle of Good Archaeological Practice

The EAA Secretary, Sally Foster, presented the EAA 2022 Statement on Nurturing the Cycle of Good Archaeological Practice. The draft of this Statement was prepared by an EAA Task Force composed of Sally Foster, Carenza Lewis, Maria Mina and Maria Taloni. The text of the Statement was circulated to Members on 17 August 2022 as part of the AMBM Reports and has been available from the EAA web.

The EAA is launching its updated Code of Practice and Principles in 2022, as well as introducing four Advisory Committees. The EAA statement this year is a vehicle for explaining how these developments come together and how they relate to the EAA Strategic Plan. The heritage cycle underpins Western heritage management and is a useful framework for thinking about how we practice in a way that we are aware not just of the scientific benefits of our work but also the difference it makes to society.

With the introduction of EAA Advisory Committees, in future the EAA may produce statements on an *ad hoc* rather than annual basis.

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the EAA 2022 Statement on Nurturing the Cycle of Good Archaeological Practice. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the EAA 2022 statement as follows: 198 (89.2%) voting Members approved, 2 (0.9%) voting Member did not approve, 22 (9.9%) voting Members abstained; there were 2 blank responses.

5. Membership report

The EAA Secretary, Sally Foster, presented the EAA Membership report (cf. AMBM Reports p. 6–10).

6. Financial report

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The EAA Treasurer, Esa Mikkola, and Krisztína Pavlíčková, the EAA Finance Manager, presented the 2021 accounts and the 2022–2023 budget (cf. AMBM Reports p. 11–17).

EAA's major challenge in financial terms is unpredictability, which the EAA attempts to mitigate by providing increased support to its Members, e.g. by donating a substantial amount to the Oscar Montelius Foundation (OMF) to be used for future Annual Meeting attendance grants. Long-term EAA financial challenges include the *European Journal of Archaeology* (EJA) production, or the new Annual Meeting business model, whereby the EAA adopts an active and direct role in organising the Meetings.

The 2021 accounting featured a positive balance of 114 158 EUR, which was partly due to Covid-induced savings on travels and meetings, but more importantly due to a successful 2021 online Annual Meeting, the final budget of which was presented. Part of the positive balance has been donated to the OMF for use on travel grants for participants of the 2022 Annual Meeting in Budapest.

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the 2021 financial statement. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the 2021 financial statement as follows: 191 (86.0%) voting Members approved, 3 (1.4%) voting Members did not approve, and 28 (12.6%) voting Members abstained; there were 2 blank responses.

The 2022 EAA accounting integrates for the first time the AM budget directly. The 2022 financial result envisaged in June was -34 336 EUR, but the final outcome will be only presented at the 2023 AMBM. Due to longstanding arrangements, the EAA returns to the traditional AM business model in 2023; the transition between the two models may produce a deficit of -26 300 EUR in 2023.

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the 2022–2023 budget. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the 2022–2023 budget as follows: 193 (86.9%) voting Members approved, 2 (0.9%) voting Members did not approve, 27 (12.2%) voting Members abstained; there were 2 blank responses.

7. Membership fee level for 2023

The membership fee level for 2023 remains unchanged (since 2017), except for the addition of the life family membership category, the price of which has been set to 1 200 EUR.

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the membership fees for 2023. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the 2023 membership fees as follows: 179 (80.6%) voting Members approved, 12 (5.4%) voting Members did not approve, 31 (14.0%) voting Members abstained; there were 2 blank responses.

8. Statutes amendments

The EAA Secretary, Sally Foster, presented the proposed Statutes amendments, which aim to finalise the process of EAA Statutes review, guided by the EAA Statutes Committee and EAA Czech lawyers.

The proposed Statutes amendments concerned the below articles; changes and new introductions are marked in *red italics* and wording to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~.

Article II lists the aims of the Association.

- **Art. II / 8** has been rephrased:

~~“To work for the elimination of any form of illegal detection and collection and the damage it causes to the archaeological heritage.”~~

“To work for the protection of archaeological remains and cultural heritage, including the prevention of related illegal activities.”

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The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the amendment to Art. II / 8. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the amendment to Art. II / 8 as follows: 216 (96.4%) voting Members approved, 4 (1.8%) voting Members did not approve, 4 (1.8%) voting Members abstained.

- **Art. II / 9** introduces a new aim in reaction to the aggression of the Russian and Belarussian governments on Ukraine:

“To promote friendship and peaceful cooperation of archaeologists.”

John Chapman expressed his concern about the contrast between Russian and Belarussian aggression on Ukrainian territory, and the bluntness of the proposed Statutes amendment. He asked the Executive Board for reasoning behind the proposed Statutes amendment.

Sally Foster pointed out the absence of this obvious aim in the current wording of the Statutes; Eszter Bánffy added that the formulation of the proposed amendment is deliberately general to cater for any potential conflict situation. The EAA issued a very explicit and concrete statement the day following the Russian invasion and had been adding further relevant posts.

Kenneth Aitchison supported the general nature of the proposed amendment wording, as the Statutes should not focus on particular cases but rather provide a general framework; specific cases are best handled via dedicated statements.

A Member from Ukraine raised the issue of handling data from Ukrainian sites by Russian archaeologists. Eszter Bánffy agreed that this is a deplorable practice but one difficult for the EAA to grasp. The EAA is ready to help in any way it can. EAA Vice-President Hrvoje Potrebica referred to his own experience with a similar case in a non-EAA context and called on EAA Members to report issues in data handling to the EAA.

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the amendment to Art. II / 9. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the amendment to Art. II / 9 as follows: 207 (92.8%) voting Members approved, 6 (2.7%) voting Members did not approve, 10 (4.5%) voting Members abstained; there was 1 blank response.

Article III lists activities and functions which the EAA may, but is not obliged to, perform.

- **Art. III / 1**

“In order to promote the above aims the Association ~~will~~ may:”

1. Publish a journal to be called *The European Journal of Archaeology* and other periodic and non-periodic publications.
2. Maintain an information service for its *Members*.
3. Organise an *Annual Membership Business Meeting* and *Annual Meeting* as well as *European Archaeology Fair*, and other conferences and seminars relevant to the aims of the *Association*.
4. Function as a monitoring and advisory body on issues relating to European and global archaeology.
5. Encourage Members to form and to join thematic *Communities*.
6. Establish a *Secretariat* to carry out the activities of the *Association* and provide services to Members.
7. Cooperate in technical and administrative terms with the *Annual Meeting Host*.

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the amendment to Art. III / 1. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the amendment to Art. III / 1 as follows: 201

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(90.1%) voting Members approved, 13 (5.8%) voting Members did not approve, 9 (4.0%) voting Members abstained; there was 1 blank response.

Article V sets conditions of EAA membership.

- **Art. V / 1** introduces a new membership category in response to membership query at the 2021 AMBM. The price of life family membership will be 1200 EUR (the price of individual life membership is 900 EUR). The other new membership category proposed at 2021 AMBM – unsalaried – was not incorporated in view of its difficult definition.

“There shall be the following categories of Full Membership:

- a) Regular (annual)
- b) Family (annual)
- c) Student (annual)
- d) Retired (annual)
- e) Volunteer (annual)
- f) Life (individual)
- g) Life family*
- h) Corporate individual (annual; Regular, Student or Retired)
- i) Corporate (annual)
- j) Observer (annual)

Categories 1 a) to 1 *h*) are Full Individual Members.”

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the amendment to Art. V /1. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the amendment to Art. V / 1 as follows: 202 (90.2%) voting Members approved, 4 (1.8%) voting Members did not approve, 18 (8.0%) voting Members abstained.

- **Art. V / 4** stipulates Members’ adherence to the updated EAA norms:
“By signing up for membership, a Member agrees to adhere to the Association’s *Statutes and Codes of Practice and Code of Conduct.*”

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the amendment to Art. V /4. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the amendment to Art. V / 4 as follows: 214 (96.0%) voting Members approved, 3 (1.4%) voting Members did not approve, 6 (2.7%) voting Members abstained; there was 1 blank response.

- **Art. V / 6** is proposed to be cut out, as printed copies will be only available on demand and for a fee from 2023 onwards:

~~“Family Membership includes only one printed copy of The European Journal of Archaeology for the two Members. Volunteer Membership does not include printed copy of The European Journal of Archaeology.”~~

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the amendment to Art. V /6. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the amendment to Art. V / 6 as follows: 202 (90.2%) voting Members approved, 6 (2.7%) voting Members did not approve, 16 (7.1%) voting Members abstained.

- **Art. V / 11 (newly 10)** reinforces Members’ obligation to follow EAA Statutes and Codes:

“Membership obligations that shall be complied with by all Members:

- a) follow the Association Statutes and *Codes* ~~other internal regulations,~~
- b) perform resolutions and other decisions of the Association bodies,

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c) save, protect and magnify assets serving for the Association to safeguard its activities as well as strive for the Association's good reputation."

Pete Hinton commented online that the EAA should encourage behaviour consistent with ethical values, and it may wish to promote a code/s; he added, however, that it is not resourced to enforce it. He asked whether the Executive Board will review the – potentially significant - strategic, financial, legal and insurance risks of claiming to do so? He expressed his worry that EAA insurers may not have considered the North American risks of accusing a Member of unethical conduct.

Sally Foster responded that the EAA would apply the relevant measures under very specific and exceptional conditions only and that it has internal regulations regarding e.g. appeal process to handle these. The Executive Board will further reflect on the matter of insurance policy.

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the amendment to Art. V/11 (10). EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the amendment to Art. V/11 (10) as follows: 214 (95.5%) voting Members approved, 3 (1.3%) voting Members did not approve, 7 (3.1%) voting Members abstained.

Article VI sets out the rules of EAA organisation.

- **Art. VI / 6** newly defines conditions for termination of an Executive Board member term of office:

„An Executive Board Member or Officer's term of office automatically terminates if:

- a) their term of office ends;
- b) they resign;
- c) they cease to be a Full Individual Member;
- d) they die.

Eileen Murphy requested that binary terminology (she / he) is avoided and replaced by more generic one (they / them). Sally Foster thanked her for the point, which the EAA will ensure to apply throughout the Statutes. This change was introduced for the *per rollam* voting, as above.

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the amendment to Art. VI /6. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the amendment to Art. VI / 6 as follows: 214 (95.5%) voting Members approved, 1 (0.5%) voting Member did not approve, 9 (4.0%) voting Members abstained.

Article VII / 4 defines one of the functions of the Appeal and Anti-Harassment Committee:

„The *Nomination Committee* shall check that *Executive Board* candidates comply with the regulations of the *Association* and shall reject candidates who do not comply with them. Written reasons for its decisions will be immediately delivered by the *Nomination Committee* to the *Secretariat*, at least 120 days before the *Annual Membership Business Meeting*. The *Secretariat* will inform the *Executive Board* and the Candidates. Rejected Candidates may appeal to the *Appeal and Anti-Harassment Committee*. *The decision of the Appeal and Anti-Harassment Committee shall be final.* ~~Executive Board. The Board will accept or reject the appeal, by voting by a simple majority, if necessary also by electronic means. in case of acceptance, it will present the case to the Appeal and Anti-Harassment Committee.~~“

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the amendment to Art. VII /4. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the amendment to Art. VII / 4 as follows: 191

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(85.3%) voting Members approved, 13 (5.8%) voting Members did not approve, 20 (8.9%) voting Members abstained.

Article VIII introduces the mechanism of membership suspension in addition to removal from membership and defines the appeal procedure in such case and the basic terms of reference of the Appeal and Anti-Harassment Committee.

- **Art. VIII / 1**

„Members may be removed from the Association *or their membership suspended* for:

a) Activities in violation of the Association’s aims as set out in Article II.

b) ~~Gross or repeated~~ Violations of the Association’s *Statutes and Codes of Practice and Code of Conduct*.“

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the amendment to Art. VIII /1. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the amendment to Art. VIII / 1 as follows: 207 (92.4%) voting Members approved, 5 (2.2%) voting Members did not approve, 12 (5.4%) voting Members abstained.

- **Art. VIII/2**

“Decisions regarding removal from *or suspension of Membership* shall be made by the *Board*.“

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the amendment to Art. VIII /2. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the amendment to Art. VIII / 2 as follows: 209 (93.3%) voting Members approved, 4 (1.8%) voting Members did not approve, 11 (4.9%) voting Members abstained.

- **Art. VIII/3**

„Appeals against removal from *or suspension of Membership* shall be considered by *three members of the an Appeal and Anti-Harassment Committee*. *The Appeal and Anti-Harassment Committee shall consist of at least six three Full Members* of the Association appointed by the *Nomination Committee for terms of three years, renewable without limit*. The decision of the *Appeal and Anti-Harassment Committee* shall be final.“

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the amendment to Art. VIII /3. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the amendment to Art. VIII / 3 as follows: 191 (85.3%) voting Members approved, 15 (6.7%) voting Members did not approve, 18 (8.0%) voting Members abstained.

Art. X/5 is proposed to be cut out, as the EAA Advisory Board is replaced by four dedicated, non-Statutory Advisory Committees:

„There shall be an *EAA Advisory Board* which shall, on request or at its own initiative, advise the *Executive Board*, the *EJA Editorial Board* and/or other EAA Editors or editorial boards on EAA publications and their content. The *EAA Advisory Board* shall consist of not less than five and not more than twelve persons suitable to advise on EAA publications and their content on the basis of their standing and achievement in archaeology. Subject to the preceding, the *EAA Advisory Board* shall be appointed by the *Executive Board* for a period of three years. If a person so appointed ceases to serve as a member during the three year period, the *Executive Board* may appoint another to serve in her or his place for the remainder of that period. The members of the *EAA Advisory Board* shall elect their chairperson from among themselves.“

Minutes of the 2022 EAA Annual Membership Business Meeting

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the amendment to Art. X / 5. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the amendment to Art. X / 5 as follows: 199 (88.8%) voting Members approved, 4 (1.8%) voting Members did not approve, 21 (9.4%) voting Members abstained.

Art. XIV/1 extends the possibility to serve the EAA to members of the Statutes Committee:

„Amendments to these *Statutes* may be proposed by the *Board* on its own initiative or upon petition by any fifty *Full Individual Members* of the *Association*. Such amendments shall be submitted to the *Secretary* and reviewed by a *Statutes Committee* of three *Full Individual Members* of the *Association* appointed by the *Nomination Committee* for eventual submission of the amendments to the *Membership* at an *Annual Membership Business Meeting*. The term of members of the *Statutes Committee* shall be three years, consecutively renewable ~~once~~ **without limit**. ~~After the end of two consecutive three-year terms, or anyway after two consecutive appointments, he/she will not be eligible for reappointment until after an interval of three years.~~ In case of retirement, or relinquishment for any reason of a member, the post will be re-appointed only for the remaining time of the term.“

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the amendment to Art. XIV / 1. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the amendment to Art. XIV / 1 as follows: 173 (77.2%) voting Members approved, 28 (12.5%) voting Members did not approve, 23 (10.3%) voting Members abstained.

9. Oscar Montelius Foundation Report

Elin Dalen, Chair of the OMF Board of Trustees, presented the OMF report (cf. AMBM Reports, p. 20).

10. Nomination Committee Report and election results

The EAA Secretary, Sally Foster, presented the 2022 Nomination Committee report (cf. AMBM Reports, p. 20) and the election results.

The election into the EAA Executive Board and Nomination Committee had been held separately from the AMBM ballot. Altogether 467 valid votes were received online, recorded automatically by the QuestionPro software and confirmed by the EAA Nomination Committee Members Maria Pia Guermandi, Gitte Hansen, Marta Rakvin and Cornelius Holtorf. The candidates elected (shown in bold below) will serve from 2022 to 2025 at the Executive Board, and 2022 to 2026 on the Nomination Committee. The EAA congratulates the successful candidates, and thanks those who were not elected for their continued interest in the work of the Association.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| • TREASURER | Esa Mikkola | 422 received votes
45 abstained |
| • EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER 1 | Maria Mina
Tibor Rác | 291 received votes
134 received votes
42 abstained |
| • EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER 2 | Oleksandr Diachenko
Fedir Androshchuk | 181 received votes
202 received votes
84 abstained |

Minutes of the 2022 EAA Annual Membership Business Meeting

- **NOMINATION COMMITTEE MEMBER** Svend Hansen 202 received votes
Matija Cresnar 223 received votes
42 abstained

11. New appointments and reappointments

The EAA Secretary, Sally Foster, announced the newly (re-)appointed members of the following EAA Boards and Committees:

- *EJA* Editorial Board: Cate Frieman (2018–2025)
Zena Kamash (2019–2025)
Marta Diaz Guardamino (2016–2025)
Maria Relaki (2019–2025)
Georg Haggrén (2019–2025)
Daniela Hofmann (2016–2025)
Clara Masriera-Esquerra (2019–2025)
Joern Lang (2019–2025)
- EAA blog editor: Vana Orfanou
- OMF: Elin Dalen (2019–2025)
Adrian Olivier (2013–2025)
- Heritage Prize Committee: Nurcan Yalman (2019–2025)
Georg Haggrén (2022–2025)
Jan Mařík (2022–2025)
Paulina Florjanowicz (2022–2025)

12. EAA Publication reports

Cate Frieman, *EJA* Editor, presented the *European Journal of Archaeology* report (cf. AMBM Reports, p. 22–23). She reported on the process of new *EJA* publisher tender and stressed out that one of the changes of a new contract with the selected publisher, Cambridge University Press will be that EAA Members will only receive online access to the Journal as part of their membership; print copies will be available on demand only and for a fee as reflection of EAA's effort for environmental sustainability.

Samantha Reiter, TEA Editor, presented The European Archaeologist report (cf. AMBM Reports, p. 25–26). She invited Members to submit one image (photo or drawing) in portrait format alongside a max 500-word text in the TEA photo contest „What is the spirit of archaeology in 2023?“, the deadline of which has been extended to 30 September.

Ariane Ballmer, the Executive Board member monitoring EAA publications, presented the THEMES in Contemporary Archaeology report (cf. AMBM Reports, p. 23).

Ariane Ballmer presented also the Elements series report (cf. AMBM Reports, p. 24).

Ariane Ballmer announced the EAA Book Prize, whereby the EAA intends to annually award a prize to honour monographs recently published by EAA Members. Details will be published on the EAA web and communicated to EAA Members through email. The deadline for nominations will be 28 February 2023.

13. EAA Communication Strategy

Minutes of the 2022 EAA Annual Membership Business Meeting

Jesper Hansen, the Executive Board member in charge of EAA representation, presented the EAA Communication Strategy (cf. AMBM Reports, p. 27–31).

A Member asked whether EAA entry on Wikipedia is controlled by the EAA itself. Jesper Hansen replied that EAA-edited Wikipedia entry could be considered self-advertising, but that the EAA welcomes such initiative coming from its Members.

14. EAA Code of Practice

Maria Mina, the Executive Board member in charge of professional associations, presented the EAA revised Code of Practice (cf. AMBM Reports, p. 32–34).

The President proposed to the AMBM to approve the revised EAA Code of Practice. EAA Full Individual Members voting *per rollam* approved the revised EAA Code of Practice as follows: 196 (87.9%) voting Members approved, 9 (4.0%) voting Member did not approve, 18 (8.0%) voting Members abstained; there was 1 blank response.

15. EAA Communities

Hrvoje Potrebica, EAA Vice-President in charge of EAA Communities, presented the report on EAA Communities (cf. AMBM Reports, p. 35–37). He anticipated the creation of a new EAA Community on Textile Archaeology and Conservation, based on an application recently received.

16. Outlook into the Coming Year

Eszter Bánffy, the EAA President, announced the establishment of four non-Statutory, Advisory Committees, which will gather the expertise of EAA Members and Communities to serve as think-tanks, assisting the work of the Executive Board and the Statutory Committees in relevant matters. Description and composition of each Advisory Committee can be viewed at <https://www.e-a-a.org/EAABoards>.

The President also briefly outlined the revised scope and structure of the statutory Appeal and Anti-Harassment Committee, the details of which can be viewed at <https://www.e-a-a.org/EAABoards>.

17. Location of future Annual Meeting

Eszter Bánffy, the EAA President, announced the location and dates of the 30th Annual Meeting: 26–31 August 2024, Rome, Italy.

18. Announcement of the 29th EAA Annual Meeting

Eileen Murphy, Chair of the 2023 Scientific Committee, briefly introduced the key details of the 29th EAA Annual Meeting, to be held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on 30 August to 2 September 2023. She presented a short film, which can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/pwjpl7HWs4I>.

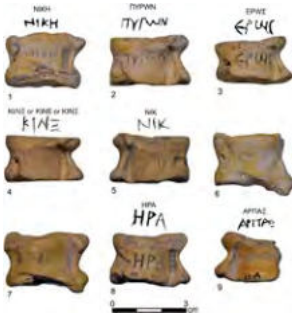
19. Any other business

Eszter Bánffy, the EAA President, thanked all Members attending and invited them to raise questions or comment on EAA matters. Since there was no other business to be discussed, Eszter Bánffy closed the informal meeting and urged Members to vote on EAA matters *per rollam*.

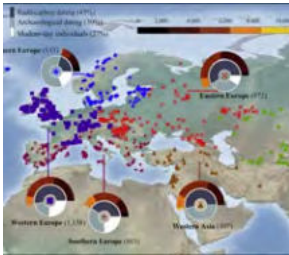
In Case You Missed It...

Win Scutt

EAA Social Media Editor



[Hellenistic 'knucklebones' found in Maresha](#)



[International team led by Lund University develops method for dating human remains](#)



[Neolithic roundel excavated in Czech Republic](#)

Photo by the Archaeological Institute of the Academy of Sciences



[University of Bristol shows cereals \(including wheat\) cooked in pots](#)

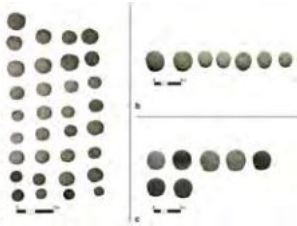
Photo by Chris Murray



[Huddersfield University shows Continental migration to England in the early Middle Ages](#)



[350 kites \(monumental hunting structures\) mapped in northern Saudi Arabia and southern Iraq](#)



[Stone spheres from Bronze Age Aegean and Mediterranean settlements may be board games](#)



[7,000 year old fish traps discovered in the Norwegian mountains](#)
Photo by Reidar Marstein



[New analyses shows how babies were carried 10,000 years ago](#)



[Facial reconstruction of one of the oldest of *Homo sapiens* found in Europe](#)



[First Lower Palaeolithic cave site in Central Europe in *Nature*](#)

Chat with the Secretariat over TEA

Krisztina Pavlíčková



TEA: *How did you start working for the EAA?*

K. Pavlíčková: I was a financial controller in the automotive industry for six years, but after maternity leave, I began searching for an interesting part time position in finances. When I saw the EAA advertisement looking for a financial administrator, I immediately knew that it was made for me! The two rounds of interviews only confirmed my impression. I joined the EAA in September 2015, just after the Glasgow Annual Meeting.

Image at left by Katka Kleinová, courtesy of K. Pavlíčková

TEA: *What is the one piece of equipment that you can't live without at work?*

K. Pavlíčková: Obviously Excel sheets :-D Already as a child I was keen on graph paper, so Excel is just an upgrade!

TEA: *What is your favourite part of your job?*

K. Pavlíčková: My favourite part is meeting EAA Members in person at the Annual Meeting (AM). After more than one year of preparations, the AM is the moment when the purpose of all of our work falls into place. Last but not least, it is so nice to put faces to names that I have known only through email. During the rest of the year, my favourite part of my work is taking a deep dive into a budget.

Image at right by Katka Kleinová, courtesy of K. Pavlíčková



TEA: *With how many EAA Treasurers have you cooperated?*

K. Pavlíčková: You may be surprised that throughout its whole history (1994-present), the EAA has only had six Treasurers:

- Peter Chowne (1995-1998)
- Cecilia Aqvist (1998-2004)
- Carsten Paludan-Müller (2004-2010)
- Karl Kallhovd (2010-2014)
- Margaret Gowen-Larsen (2014-2019)

· Esa Mikkola (2019-2025)

I have obviously not had the opportunity to work with them all, “just” with the two who served most recently as Treasurers: Margaret and Esa. Cooperating with them both in supporting the EAA Executive Board in its decision making has enabled me to build a large set of current and historical financial data on the EAA: a sandpit that I enjoy playing with, and which enables the Executive Board to make stronger financial decisions. The day-to-day work is more prosaic and sharing it with the EAA Financial Assistant, Sára (whom you will meet in *TEA*’s next issue), is of great help. On a monthly basis, Esa and I meet online to discuss current matters as well as more strategic topics.



Typically, I prepare an update on the EAA budget, the state of the Annual Meeting budget, the balance of the EAA bank accounts, and any analysis or financial risk assessments needed whenever we meet. We also discuss any topics to be raised at the Board Meeting or concerning the preparation of the Annual financial statement. I appreciate our regular meetings very much, as they enable me to get an overall view when I would otherwise tend to stay too closely focused on the figures in my own sector.

Image at left by Katka Kleinová, courtesy of K. Pavlíčková

TEA: Do you go to archaeological sites on vacation, or do you do other things?

K. Pavlíčková: The vacation destination matters less than the persons with whom I am sharing the free time. However, during a session in 2020 at the Virtual AM I discovered that I actually visited an archaeological site when I spent my holidays on Rügen the previous year. I did a one-day trip to Cap Arkona, and it was amazing to learn more about this place from an archaeological perspective.

Meet a Member over TEA

Eleanor Scerri



In the office with handaxes and books. All photos courtesy of Eleanor Scerri.

Nationality: Malta

Professional associations: Lise Meitner Independent Group Leader, Max Planck Institute for Geoanthropology

EAA Member since 2019

TEA: Why do you do archaeology/How did you decide to get into it?

E. Scerri: Like many children I was dinosaur obsessed and utterly fascinated by the fact that there had been so many different worlds before our own. It seemed like the past was another planet. As I got older, my interest in geology, palaeoenvironment and fossil fauna didn't wane, but I needed a human dimension to maintain the same level of fascination. I read everything I could about human evolution and past hominins. I then decided to study archaeology at

university. After a class on human evolution, I knew this had to be my calling.

TEA: What is the most important and relevant part of your work?

E. Scerri: Understanding how humans have been modifying their environments for tens, if not hundreds of thousands of years, and what the societal feedbacks and ecological legacies were down to the present day. We are facing a dual biodiversity and climate crisis, with a global conversation about how to restore ecosystems to a pristine, natural state, and how to live sustainably. My work is helping to unravel what we even mean by a pristine ecosystem, if humans have been impacting the diversity and structure of floral and faunal communities for millennia. It is also showing how humans sometimes managed to live sustainably in the past, and how they also failed, and what the consequences of failure were. So there is a lot of relevance and important to current global challenges about the consequences of biodiversity collapse and global warming, and how we can halt and even reverse some of the damage.

TEA: How do you see archaeology changing in the future?

E. Scerri: Emerging technologies from other fields will continue to be adopted in archaeology to resolve ongoing debates and reveal new questions. Archaeology and the allied geosciences are also finding ways to work more remotely and many in the field are passionate about ensuring that sustainability is mainstreamed into everything we do as archaeologists.

Archaeology is also becoming more and more interdisciplinary, with people from many different fields uniting to answer archaeological questions. This presents certain challenges because sometimes these fields can be very diverse and lacking a common ‘grammar’ if you like. In future, archaeology courses need to incorporate greater interdisciplinarity and exposure to the range of scientific methods that are increasingly becoming common in the field so students have a good conceptual grounding in them.



Fieldwork in Oman conducting surveys of surface sites.

TEA: What is the biggest issue facing European archaeology?

E. Scerri: There is a funding crisis which cascades down into a squeeze in positions. It also affects the nature of funding applications, which have become really focused on delivering ‘firsts’ and ‘oldests’. In contrast, methods development and blue skies research has become much less fundable. However, we need slow, milestone science and we need investment in methods to push the field forwards.

Rules and regulations for the spending of tax payer funding can also differ across Europe, making it difficult to cooperate across borders. We are an international community of scientists so this can be a problem. We need less red tape!

TEA: What is your best/worst/funniest or oddest archaeology story?

E. Scerri: There have been a few close encounters with wild animals, from giant West African scorpions to hippos! One of the weirdest was driving down to Salala in Oman from the Desert with a corer that looked like a machine gun strapped to the back of the truck. After making it through security checks, we celebrated by going for a swim. We noticed that nobody else appeared to be swimming, and the currents kept almost sweeping me out. Then we noticed the fins. At that point I decided this was all a terrible mistake and got out of the water as quickly as I could. My colleagues were rather pleased as

they noticed a very big fin rapidly making for me just as I swung into shallower waters. It's an area where tiger sharks are reasonably common, so it feels like a close shave.



Fieldwork in Saudi Arabia investigating Pleistocene archaeological sites.

TEA: *If you could have a conversation with any archaeologist living or dead, who would it be, and what would you choose as the topic?*

E. Scerri: I'd love to meet Gertrude Caton-Thompson. I feel that I've unwittingly followed in her footsteps so we'd have a lot to talk about. She focused on North Africa and the Aterian technocomplex of the Middle Stone Age, which is what I did my PhD on. Following my PhD, I started working in Arabia, which is where she also worked, in many of the same areas. Since 2019, I've been working in Malta, which is where I am also from. A century ago, she was also in Malta digging at one of the sites we've been revisiting. I'd love to discuss what we've found now in these places, versus what she hypothesised one hundred years ago, and tell her how right she was about so many things.



Fieldwork and outreach work in Malta with BBC Radio 4.

TEA: *If you could go back in time, would you go? Where and when?*

E. Scerri: Yes! I'd go back to the Pleistocene and look at our first meeting with Neanderthals, probably somewhere in the Middle East. I don't think I'd want to stay very long since I am far too used to my 21st century creature comforts, but I'd love to have a window into that ancient humanity and really see beyond the scattered artefacts they left behind. Instead of reconstructing their lifeways, I'd be able to see into their music, their art, their speech, and their relationships.

TEA: *Describe your workspace in five words or less.*

E. Scerri: Light, green, spacious, peaceful.

TEA: *What is the one piece of gear that you can't live without in the field?*

Other than my trowel, my thermos full of coffee :)

Session Overview

Report from the EAA 2022 COMFORT roundtable, Session #399 “Linking databases for comparing research: do we need a European hillfort information system?”

Anna K. Loy¹, Hans Whitefield², Timo Ibsen² and Loup Bernard^{3,4}

¹ CAU Kiel

²ZBSA Schleswig

³Université de Strasbourg

⁴CNRS UMR 7044

The past decade has seen a rapid proliferation of regional and national databases for prehistoric fortifications across Europe. Hillfort catalogues have appeared in the UK and Ireland, as well as Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland. This proliferation and the ever-increasing scope of research on fortifications raises the question of whether these tools are sufficient or if there is a need to create super-regional or international databases. The 2022 COMFORT roundtable at this year’s EAA Annual Meeting addressed this issue under the themes of Purpose, Practice, and Sustainability.

The purpose of fortification catalogues is to provide foundational datasets for broader regional studies and international projects. While it is in some ways limiting to catalogue fortifications, enclosures, hillforts, and other reinforced places independently, the discussants concluded that such tools provide a consistent basis for the large-scale research of many research projects. Catalogues and atlases of archaeological sites have been a mainstay of archaeological practice since the 19th century. They provide a gateway by which researchers may familiarise themselves with different regions and cultures. While fortifications do not exist in a vacuum, they have the potential to serve as long term archives of cultural developments in a particular region (and they may potentially do so across many scales). Therefore, they can be independently catalogued without oversimplifying the complex landscape of cultures and settlements. The literal prominence of fortifications also means that having a developed and easily accessible catalogue of them can attract community engagement and awareness of cultural heritage. However, to fulfil this purpose, several challenges must first be overcome.

The practicalities of creating large scale catalogues requires an approach that focuses on synchronous and simplified data; however, a degree of caution is necessary, as this can be overly reductionist. This is typified most readily by the problems of terminology that can vary broadly not only between regions and languages but also among researchers. While promoting the use of more neutral terms such as ‘enclosure’ may be useful, any catalogues or databases will need to take an approach that integrates legacy terms and typologies as well. To overcome this difficulty, an approach may be to preserve independent regional databases and simply provide a central network under which new and existing databases are linked, thus providing more comprehensive coverage of the information at hand.

If a traditional approach of using a single institution or a small international team is to succeed in creating a Europe-wide database of fortifications, it will need to compromise between compiling useful archaeological data that is also modest in terms of workload and maintenance. A central linking service that connects databases may be the first step toward creating a singular international database if it is not the end goal in itself. An international database of prehistoric fortifications would require a high degree of flexibility and variability. In addition, multiple projects handling large-scale

archaeological data have already shown that data can be increasingly complex and harder to handle the more details are included. Should no one person (or team) continually handle the data and funding, it (the data) should be kept basic and lean to maintain functionality.

A community-driven approach would greatly increase the capacity of any database and may also address the issue of sustainability. Large scale projects such as Quantum Geographic Information Systems (QGIS) demonstrate that there is a high potential for community-driven approaches, especially when the community is open to professionals as well as enthusiasts. A multi-user platform would allow for the growth of the fortification research community and greatly expand the available labour pool. Researchers and stakeholders of previously-isolated or neglected regions could have access to more research tools and a more equal footing with better-studied and -funded areas. A WebGIS platform appears to be an ideal approach, not only for cataloguing, but also to make other research tools available. Nonetheless, there is a risk that the quality of data may be affected by unqualified or malicious users. Mitigating these risks can be addressed by a community certification process that places users into appropriate tiers of editors and users. While a publicly-available dataset requiring no credentials should be considered, the deliberate obfuscation or fuzzification of data is more likely to harm the state of research and public knowledge. This issue is typified by the use of openly available Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data by looters, who actively use, promote, and distribute open-source LiDAR data for archaeological sites that are both scheduled and unscheduled. While restricting data on fortifications is unlikely to achieve the desired outcome of protecting sites, in the case of newly-discovered sites, a time embargo for entry into the database could be utilized in order to protect sites from unprofessional or nefarious activities. A final (albeit more academic concern) is the reproducibility of data and availability of source material. While the digital object identifier system (DOI) is highly effective, more obscure literature and archival work (especially from Eastern Europe) will need to be catalogued and possibly reproduced. A large and motivated community may overcome this problem, but further discussion is needed on how to best resolve this issue.

In sum, all of the discussants at the roundtable agreed on the need for a European WebGIS to facilitate hillfort research. It was also generally agreed that a system linking existing databases would be helpful to facilitate more international research. However, many discussants also argued for the centralisation of data. The centralising approach brings with it several challenges not only in terms of language, but also regarding sustainability. A multi-user platform could facilitate this more readily than traditional institutional approaches, and would serve to connect researchers, the public, and stakeholders. Further sessions to address these important issues are planned for both the next EAA Annual Meeting as well as in the form of COMFORT (Community for Fortification research) workshops.

The participants' contributions were based on their own experiences and aided by valuable input from the audience. We thank the discussants, especially David Novák, Vytenis Podėnas, Mads Thagård Runge, Heiki Valk, Leonid Vyazov, and Gintautas Zabiela for their contributions.

Research Overview

In the Land of Stećci: The children's graves of Hatelji mound and the buried church of Milavići

Aqil Gopee¹, Žiga Jevšnik², Lana Nastja Anžur³, Lucija Grahek⁴ and Saša Čaval⁵

¹ Harvard University

² University of Primorska, Koper, Slovenia

³ University of Ljubljana

⁴ Scientific-research centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU)

⁵ ZRC SAZU, Stanford University, University of Reading

Introduction

When travelling in the Western Balkans, one comes across groups of stone blocks that look like flocks of sheep from afar. See Figure 2. Whether one drives in Serbia, Croatia, or Montenegro, these monuments, called stećci, are a constant in the landscape but are especially frequent in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The images of stećci still stimulate the same questions that Arthur Evans asked of them a hundred and fifty years ago: What are these stones? Who built them?



Figure 2. A group of stećci at Milavići. Photo from Dežela stečkov Archive.

Today we know for certain that they are grave markers (Bešliagić 1982; Bujak 2018). Evans wrote about stećci tombstones (1876) and spread a controversial and incorrect theory that the monuments were Bogomil tombstones. Even today, some scholars and lay writers adhere to this same theory although it was rejected decades ago by local and international scholars (Bešliagić 1982, 2004; Lovrenović 2009). The same curiosity that pushed Evans is still present in the 21st century; however, the naivety has been somewhat lifted. We now know that stećci are the mediaeval tombstones that were in use between the 12th and 16th centuries in the territories of the modern Western Balkans countries. Interest in these extraordinary and very vocal monuments has driven a team, led by Dr Čaval, to perform systematic archaeological research in the Herzegovina part of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The outstanding universal value of stećci was recognized in 2016 when UNESCO accepted the multinational nomination, and stećci became a part of the world heritage list. Since the monuments are located in four countries, their legal protection was ensured on an international level. Coordination of this recognition took place through the International Coordination Committee in Sarajevo, BiH, which helps implement strategies, principles and standards.



Figure 3. Trench 1 (T1) at Hatelji during excavation by our hard-working team. Photo by A. Gopee.

Our research and the sites

Our case study is focused on the medieval region of župa Dabar. As a historical reference for this territory, we used a monograph (Pekić 2005) based on archival documents from the National Archive of Dubrovnik, Croatia. Non-destructive pre-excavation research included archaeological reconnaissance and a geophysical survey of the area. We initially surveyed all of the 47 sites with stećci tombstones in župa Dabar. For the geophysical survey, we focused on seven sites and finally decided to systematically excavate two entirely different sites. The two sites we set upon are Hatelji and Milavići.

The multiperiod Hatelji site (Figure 3) is a prehistoric earth mound that retained its symbolic significance for the local community and was reused to bury the dead up until the Middle Ages. This mound is one of just a few near the village of Hatelji, with only two having been used for burials during

the medieval period. The thirteen stećci at the site reflect this later chapter. Time has left its mark on them. The changing climate has damaged many of the stones. However, they retained their prominent position in the landscape.



Figure 4. Two excavated graves at Hatelji. Adult graves 12 (in front) and 11 (in the back), excavated during the 2022 field season. To the left of grave 11 is a child's grave 5 excavated during our 2019 work. The close proximity of the adult and child presumably indicates a family connection, to be confirmed through molecular analysis. Photo by Ž. Jevšnik.

Why people of the past chose prehistoric mounds for their burials is an intriguing question. Stećci cemeteries in Hum were frequently located on earlier burial locations. The pan-European custom of reusing prehistoric mounds for medieval burials is indeed echoed in the stećci phenomenon (Figure 4), particularly in medieval Herzegovina (comp. Williams 1997, Mitkoski et al. 2016). The research on this specific feature of stećci is too limited to provide any solid chronological framework; however, the commencement of the stećci phenomenon, supported by a few multiperiod sites that have been excavated, displays the earliest medieval occupation of a prehistoric mound from the late 12th century

onwards (Bešlagić 2004; Miletić 1959; Jašarević, Antić 2017), which is between two and four centuries after it can be observed in the rest of Europe (Greece: Curta 2016; Hungary: Türk 2014; the W Europe: Van de Noort 1993; Bradley, Williams 2013). Does this reflect the geographic isolation of this territory, or does it testify to the lack of exploration of this important and information-rich heritage?

In contrast to Hatelji, Milavići cemetery is a modern community burial ground. See Figure 5. It officially houses 352 stećci tombstones. However, our research documented over 390 monuments, with the exact number still unknown due to the cover of dense vegetation growing around some clusters of monuments. Our research also showed the existence of a medieval church that lived only in the oral history of the Dabar valley. The Milavići cemetery holds a toponym 'Crkvina', which refers to a church that was supposed to stand in this location. At the initial survey of the site, we approached local farmers for any information about the site and its recent history, as viewed through the eyes of the population that lived with this place. Apart from the childhood stories of jumping games consisting of leaping from one stećak (singular of stécci) to the next, stories always returned to the long-lost church that once stood somewhere in this location.



Figure 5. Milavići: (left) A row of stećci, excavated in 2019 and catalogued in 2022; (right) a decoration detail of a tombstone in the central area of the cemetery. Photo from Dežela stečkov Archive.

The excavations & finds

The two seasons (2019, 2022) of stratigraphic excavations in the Dabar valley complicated the stećci narrative even further. The Late Mediaeval period is often not rich with archaeological artefacts, but fortunately, modern archaeological scientific research offers so much more than just collecting material culture. As such, finds are not necessarily physical objects; in this sense, the finds from our two seasons have been quite substantial.

Seeking not to destroy the impressive prehistoric mound and to understand the organisation of the burials in the restricted space, we chose to excavate between the rows of stećci tombstones at Hatelji. We excavated two perpendicular trenches (T 1 & 2) running from the centre of the mound to the north and east, respectively. We were surprised to find that in this 'middle space', only the graves of very young children were discovered - the oldest being just between 1½ to 2 years old. Although child-sized stećci tombstones exist, the children buried in this cemetery did not have them. However, T2 presented us with another exciting situation: the grave of a child next to a stećak, which marked the grave of an adult. Our initial findings hinted at a possible relationship between these two individuals, but we must await the final molecular analyses to be certain of any actual link. However, the depth of the graves allows for some more hypotheses. The age of all three excavated skeletal burials is different, and so is the depth of the graves. All of the children were buried about 50-70 cm deep. The two adults were buried at different depths, with the eldest individual buried the deepest. Although our current sample size is only one, this could speak of the rites of passage marked by the depth of burial and the presence of a tombstone (Van Genep 2019; Turner 1969: 95).



Figure 6. Overview of the Milavići site showing the central part of the cemetery with modern and medieval tombstones, and our excavation area in the top left corner. Photo from Dežela stečkov Archive.

Excavating through the medieval layers of the prehistoric mound, we also reached a prehistoric skeletal burial at the bottom of the mound. A small bronze pendant was the only object accompanying the burial. While we are eager to know more, nothing else can be said about this site until the analyses are completed.

In Milavići, we encountered a completely different situation. Besides modern graves, there are also approx. 390 stećci, aligned in rows running south-north, with graves oriented west-east. Thus, here the stećci cemetery matches the traditional European medieval trend of cemeteries delimited by rows. Initially, the excavations were performed in two areas: the southwestern corner of the cemetery and the highest spot with the sparse accumulation of stećci. The 2019 season revealed that the space between the tombstones contains no burials and that a single individual was buried under every stećak. However, the central area displayed a more complicated story. Here, two well-structured graves contained three individuals. Both of the graves had been built adjacent to solid medieval walls,

and each had disturbed a potential floor. So, during the 2022 season, we focused on cataloguing the *stećci* tombstones within the site and excavating only in the upper, central area, with the intention of exposing and documenting the church walls.

Epigraphist Dr Anja Roglič (ZRC SAZU) made a list of all visible *stećci* at the burial site and created an inventory with their details and features. Many of the tombstones are decorated with reliefs depicting crosses, architectural elements or swords, and figural motifs of dancers and various animals.



Figure 7. *Stećci* during excavation at Milavići. The image carved onto the *stećak* in the center depicts a ritual dance. Photo from Dežela *stećkov* Archive.

At the main excavation area, 15 new skeletal graves joined the two previously discovered. The graves can be divided according to the typology of the grave structures into two groups: the first with impressive and solid stone-slab grave construction, and the other with less enduring grave structures that were dug into the church floor. From the 2019 season, we know that the first group of burials dates to the second half of the 14th and 15th centuries. It is our hope that Carbon dating will provide better scientific clarification of the ambiguous chronological framework of the region.

The discovery of architectural remains was a welcome result of this year's endeavours. Part of the building's floor layout was preserved with larger stones. Although these were fragmentary, the plaster above them was still present. In the last days of excavation, we discovered a part of a wall, with an attached sitting bench that ran along the side walls of the building, well preserved and still adhered to by plaster. This wall section will be the starting point for the next season of excavations, during which we seek to confirm whether the discovered building was indeed a church.

As in the previous season of excavations at Milavići, one curious constant was that sherds of prehistoric pottery were sporadically found. These probably came from the layers of what was most likely the initial prehistoric mound, which were displaced when the mound was reused for burials in the mediaeval period and which subsequently extended beyond the mound's borders.

Conclusion - Finished to begin again...

The diversity in artistic expression of stećci tombstones reflects the diversity of the region's cultural expressions. Influences of prehistoric traditions can be seen in various forms, and their vast numbers speak of their importance for the past communities.

The Hatelji site displays direct relation to prehistory not only in its use of the existing mound. Fragments of prehistoric pottery were found during the excavation of the mediaeval graves, and this year we reached the actual prehistoric levels. The preservation of the human remains from the prehistoric context was quite poor compared to the medieval layers, but the small Bronze pendant additionally confirmed the chronological fit into the prehistory of the region. To fully understand the complex dynamics of the Hatelji mound, the micromorphological analyses will provide more information about its formation and activities at the site in its earlier phases.

With this year's campaign, the excavations in Hatelji have been completed (Figure 8). At Milavići, we are already planning the 2023 season. Our next season will see a larger excavation area as we will concentrate on following the wall and unearthing the whole structure. Perhaps skeletal burials found within the structure may complement the narrative of the site, emphasising its societal facet for the medieval community and of the potential church. We look forward to drawing many further insights from the archaeology of this intriguing and multi-faceted site!



Figure 8. Trench 1 at Hatelji fully excavated. Photo from Dežela stečkov Archive.

Collaboration and Funding

The international excavation team on both sites included over 50 people from all around the world. The excavations in Hatelji were led by Dr Lucija Grahek, Scientific-research centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), Ljubljana, Slovenia and Dr Monika Milosavljević, University

of Belgrade, Serbia. The different areas within the Milavići cemetery were overseen by Dr Alessandra Cianciosi, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands and Dr Krish Seetah, Stanford University, USA. The students who joined us on this adventure came from University of Reading, UK; University of Primorska, Koper, Slovenia, University of Sarajevo, BiH; University of Belgrade, Serbia; University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and from Stanford University and Harvard University in the USA.

The project team is in continual discussion with the archaeologist from the National Institution for the Protection of Historical, Cultural and Natural Heritage from Banja Luka. The BiH collaboration partner is Dr Edin Bujak from the University of Sarajevo.

Our current research is the continuation of an EU-funded project under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Programme, 'Social Landscapes as Multicultural spaces: Stećci in Bosnia and Herzegovina' (Grant No. 797881), awarded in 2018 and running until March 2021. The intriguing topic and the dynamics of the research required an expansion. The Slovenian Research Agency currently funds the 'The Land of Stećci' (Grant No. J6-3145), through their Aleš Debeljak program. Both projects are being led by Dr Saša Čaval, ZRC SAZU.

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Special Section

Archaeological Heritage as a Target during War

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Military conflict causes irreparable damage to both nature and culture. This is reflected in ecological and humanitarian disasters, the devaluation of human life and the destruction of cultural heritage. In war, cultural heritage becomes one of the most vulnerable parts of social life. The goal of Putin's war against Ukraine is not only the seizure of its territory and subjugation of the Ukrainian people, but also the destruction of their identity, history and public memory. For this reason, objects of cultural heritage have become a special target for the enemy. See Figure 9. Given that the war in Ukraine has been going on since 2014, the destroyed or damaged cultural heritage objects number in the thousands, especially in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions as well as in Crimea.



Figure 9. Stanychno, Luhansk reg., 2016. Arrangement of firing positions on the mound. Photo by Serhii Telizhenko.



Figure 10. Toshkivka, Luhansk reg., 2016. Arrangement of protective structures on the mound. Photo by Serhii Telizhenko.

At the same time, the broader and secondary consequences of hostilities are particularly devastating for archaeological sites, given the non-restorability of archaeological objects, the inextricable connection of sites with the landscape and ecological environment and the universally-applicable nature of the information that can be obtained during research. The conflict in Ukraine has caused the large-scale destruction of historical landscapes. See Figure 10. Thousands of archaeological sites—both those undergoing archaeological investigations as well as ones that had yet to be opened—have been damaged. Currently, cultural heritage protection activities in Ukraine focus mainly on ‘visible’ objects, such as architectural monuments, religious and historical buildings and objects of monumental art.

Monitoring the state of archaeological heritage objects in Ukraine is a challenge. The search for and recognition of sites is difficult because they exist in an ‘unmanifested’ state. The vast majority of archaeological sites are not included on the State Register of Immovable Monuments of Ukraine. Moreover, the necessary monument protection measures are not applied consistently throughout all territories. The specificity of archaeological sites is that their discovery is often directly related to catastrophic events: in the current case, the destruction of landscape resulting from military operations.

Problems

Due to the extensive military operations currently happening in Ukrainian territories, archaeological monuments are under particular threat due to the following factors:

1. In peacetime, the registry of archaeological heritage was not undertaken with the proper degree of thoroughness, which led to the ‘dropping’ of most archaeological objects - settlements, hillforts, burial mounds and cemeteries - from both the State Register of Immovable Monuments of Ukraine as well as regional monument lists.
2. The vast majority of archaeological heritage objects are ‘hidden’ by the landscape or later transformations. Therefore, conclusions about the presence or absence of archaeological layers in a certain territory can be made only through field survey of the territories by specialists.
3. In those territories currently undergoing military operations, active and extensive landscape transformations are taking place, associated with both the direct consequences of damage by explosive means (mines, shells, rocket fire, etc.), as well as with the arrangement of fire and observation posts, fortifications and the laying of communication lines, among other factors.
4. During military operations, there is an increase in looting and robbery in relation to objects of archaeological heritage. At the same time, it should also be stated that the state of Ukraine is not currently actively exercising the protection of archaeological sites.

Challenges for archaeological heritage during wartime

The most significant and dominant formations within the historical landscape suffer the greatest damage due to the fact that they are often placed in the most convenient locations for the construction of modern fire and defence positions. It should be mentioned that among the significant challenges for Ukrainian archaeology is the use of archaeological sites as military objects as well as illegal excavations in occupied territories, the looting of regional museums and the increased sale of archaeological artefacts. During the Russian attack and occupation of a part of the territory of Ukraine, activities from criminal groups who illegally obtain archaeological artefacts and *objects d’art* with the intent of reselling them to private collectors (both in Ukraine and abroad) have risen.

In the following, we present some of the concrete issues affecting Ukrainian cultural heritage at present, including:

- Significant changes in the historical landscape caused by destruction associated with military operations; see Figure 11 (left).
- Movement of the soil during the installation of defences, fortification structures, observation and firing points; see Figure 11 (right).
- Significant damage as a result of bombings and missile attacks on almost the entire territory of Ukraine.



Figure 11. (Left) A crater from a mine hit the surface of the multi-layered settlement of Zanivske-I, Luhansk region, 2016. Photo by Serhii Telizhenko. (Right) Toshkivka, Luhansk reg., 2016. Arrangement of protective structures on the mound. Photo by Serhii Telizhenko.

- The use of archaeological monuments (burial mounds, ramparts, ditches, hillforts) as modern military facilities
- Increase in the activities of marauding and organized treasure hunting groups in relation to objects of archaeological heritage
- Increased demand for archaeological artefacts and *objects d'art* from Ukraine on looting forums and social networks during the war
- A potential threat to archaeological sites located in the 'gray zone' and in the occupied territories;
- Acts of vandalism
- The absence of control over the monuments by State executive bodies in the field of cultural heritage protection and the inactivity of relevant structures
- The urgency of ensuring the monitoring of the state of preservation of archaeological heritage and preventing the theft of archaeological objects under wartime conditions.

Suggestions for moving forward

We suggest that a necessary addition to martial law is to strengthen control over both moveable and immobile objects of archaeological heritage. Organizing the monitoring of the state of objects in the liberated territories requires significant organizational and legal foundations, but it is nonetheless crucial to preserving the priceless treasures (both known and yet to be discovered and recorded) of Ukraine. See Figures 12-13.



Figure 12. A lecture by S. Telizhenko for the military about the protection of archaeological heritage in wartime and the transfer of artefacts discovered by Ukrainian sappers to the funds of the Popasna Museum of Local Lore. S. Ioffe. December 2020. Photo by K. Radionova (journalist of Internet resource Popasna City).



Figure 13. A lecture for the military and civilians on the protection of archaeological heritage in wartime and the transfer of the brochure "Archaeology and War" for further distribution among the military. Severodonetsk, December 2020. Photo by V. Vybornyi

Monitoring the state of sites faces a number of difficulties, especially related to the real and present danger of being in the proximity of military installations and operations. As mentioned above, accessing some sites is complicated by the fact that some are currently in use as military posts. On the other hand, the landscape transformations caused by military operations can also lead to the discovery of new archaeological sites, though archaeologists must then be vigilant to ensure that the new data is recorded. Monitoring the state of sites offers challenges that caring for a standing building does not: while one must guard against damage to the site, at the same time, scholars also obtain information through the careful destruction of cultural layers. In order for information not to be lost when those cultural layers are destroyed, this requires the direct presence of researchers on site, who

are available to conduct the necessary archaeological research and scientific interpretation of the data obtained. Therefore, it should be stated that only a team of professional archaeologists who have sufficient field research experience and the necessary knowledge for the cultural-chronological attribution of sites would be able to accurately assess and record the damage to a site, thereby providing an accurate estimate of the degree of preservation.

Due to the length of time necessary for decision making within the framework of the existing state monument protection executive bodies, representatives of a number of scientific, educational, museological and public organizations have created a working group to address this problem: the Archaeological Landscapes Monitoring Group (ALMG). This group includes archaeologists and site-preservationists from the following organizations: the Ukrainian State Institute for Cultural Heritage, the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Faculty of History of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and several non-governmental organizations. The purposes of this group are to establish the degree of damage to known archaeological sites, to make changes to existing monument protection documentation, to aid in the discovery of new archaeological sites that were partially destroyed as a result of military actions and landscape transformations and to create a digital map and database of damaged landscapes. In the future, this work will become the basis for determining the damages suffered by Ukrainian cultural heritage as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation.

The work of the monitoring group is related to the direct study of landscapes, which includes both laboratory work (analysis of space images, GIS analysis, inventory description of discovered objects, and restoration) as well as field research. The latter involves the presence of the group in the field while they perform the following tasks:

- Remote survey of objects by means of UAVs (drones, quadcopters);
- Instrumental survey of the damaged portions of archaeological sites (tacheometric, theodolite surveying, 3D scanning, creation of three-dimensional models);
- Determination of the presence of archaeological layers by archaeological survey (clearing of crops, test pits, etc.);
- Creating plans of damaged areas of the landscape and obtaining the necessary information for the development of monument protection documentation (account card, passport).

NB: It is important that the monitoring of historical landscapes in the newly liberated territories must take place with the presence of paramilitary guards and explosive-detecting services and an appropriate level of security.

One result of the group's activities is the development of an interactive questionnaire, the purpose of which is to record the destruction of archaeological heritage directly in the field in order to create a database and map of damaged archaeological sites and territories. It should be noted that the recording of the destruction of sites as a result of military aggression should take place not only in the territories where military actions took place, but throughout the entire territory of Ukraine. It is important to identify not only damage caused by bombing, rocket and mortar attacks, but also damage caused by the construction of fortifications, roads and other building works related to the organization of rear defence. These activities should begin immediately with the aim to complete the most thorough analysis of the destroyed parts of the landscape, new archaeological finds and the future assessment of the loss and damage caused to Ukrainian archaeological heritage due to the war. We planned to start the monitoring process in the near future, focusing on the territory of Kyiv and the Chernihiv regions, which were liberated at the beginning of April 2022 and in which demining has already taken place. In these areas, the process of reconstructing buildings and re-establishing communications has already begun. These works are partially supported by the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) through the Research Scholarship Project 'Ukrainian archaeological heritage, threatened by war: saving and protection' under the leadership of Alla Bujskikh (Institute of Archaeology NAS of Ukraine).

Archaeology matters

Archaeological heritage has a special status due to its fragility and finite nature as well as the lack of sufficient predictability of the results produced by research in this field. Every archaeological study is an encounter with the unknown, which can significantly affect our understanding of the diversity of human behaviour across the board.

Attitudes towards archaeological sites which are often devoid of relevant ethnic or national significance, is a 'litmus test' of civilization; it reflects a tolerance and respect for 'other' cultures. For this reason, archaeological knowledge is a very effective tool in the struggle for rationality, against xenophobia, clericalism, and ideas of national exclusivity.

Ukrainians' struggle for independence is also a struggle for humanistic values, among which respect for the cultural and natural heritage of humankind is of particular importance.

Short Report

Laona, the mystery mound and the Palaepaphos Urban Landscape Project

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When we initiated the [Palaepaphos Urban Landscape Project](#) (henceforth PULP) (Iacovou 2008; 2013) in 2006, nothing could have been further from our mind than the identification and excavation of a man-made tumulus. See Figure 14. Small artificial mounds are extremely rare in Cyprus and mega-mounds are almost unknown. In fact, tumuli have not been registered as place-making artefacts in any period of the island's cultural history (*contra* Carstens 2016). The only known exceptions come from the east coast of Cyprus: Salamis Tomb 3 dates to the Cypro-Archaic period (Karageorghis 1967, 25; Vitti 2019) and Salamis Tomb 77 dates to the early Hellenistic period (Karageorghis 1973-1974, 128-202; Bourazelis 2013, 297).

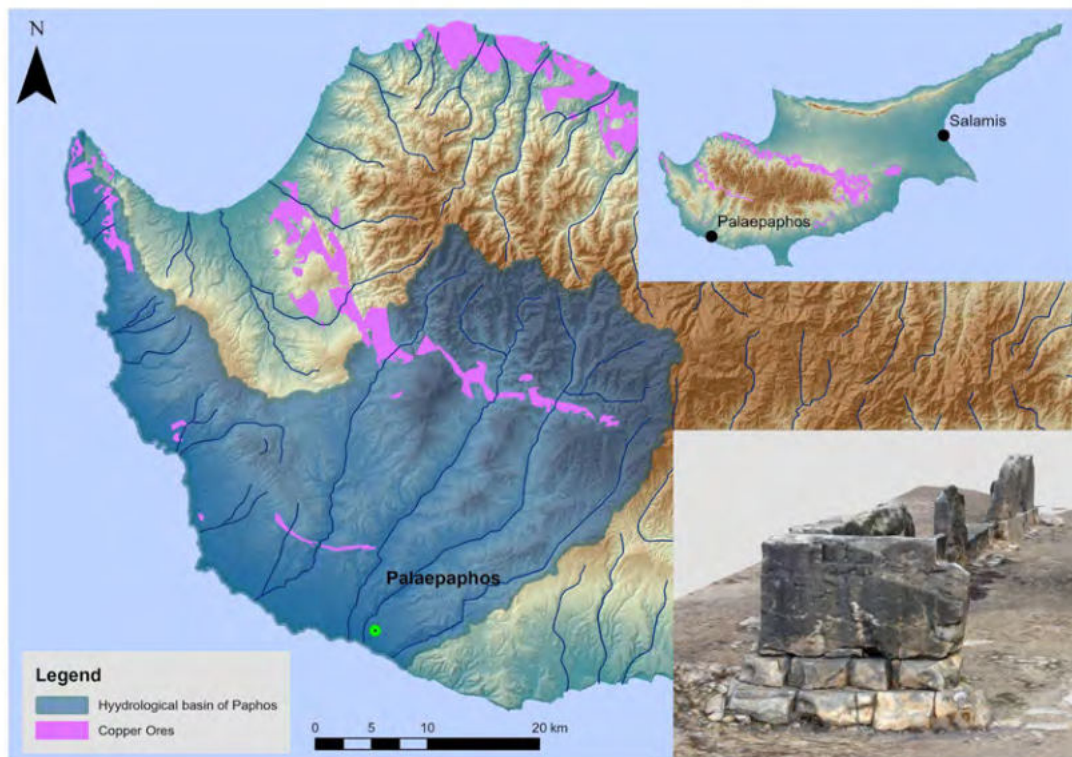


Figure 14. Map of the Paphos catchment (hydrological basin), which is the maximum spatial extent of PULP's landscape analysis (drafted by A. Agapiou) with inset of surviving corner of temenos (3D by V. Tringas).

The hillock of Laona is prominently visible from the megalithic ashlar blocks of the famous Late Bronze Age temenos. Constructed circa 1200 BC by the polity of Paphos, it was from early on (e.g. the times of Homer; see *Odyssey* 8.363) identified as the cult centre of Aphrodite (Karageorghis 2005). It takes less than a quarter of an hour on foot to reach Laona from the centre of the modern village of Kouklia (originally the Medieval hamlet of Covocle), which continues to grow around “the sanctuary with the

longest unbroken cult tradition in Cyprus” (Maier 2000). See Figure 15. But even the Kouklia community never thought of Laona as anything other than what its toponym implies: a natural bump amid cultivated fields. See Figure 16. Laona does not feature in local legends or mythical narratives. However, even though it had never undergone excavation, Laona was identified as an artificial mound in the reports of the first (1888), as well as the second (1950) British expeditions to Kouklia (see Maier 2004 for the history of research at Palaepaphos).



Figure 15. Aerial RGB orthophoto map over the Palaepaphos area, indicating sites mentioned in the paper (source: Department of Land and Surveyors of Cyprus, map compiled in GIS by A. Agapiou)



Figure 16. Laona from the north before excavation. Photo by M. Iacovou.

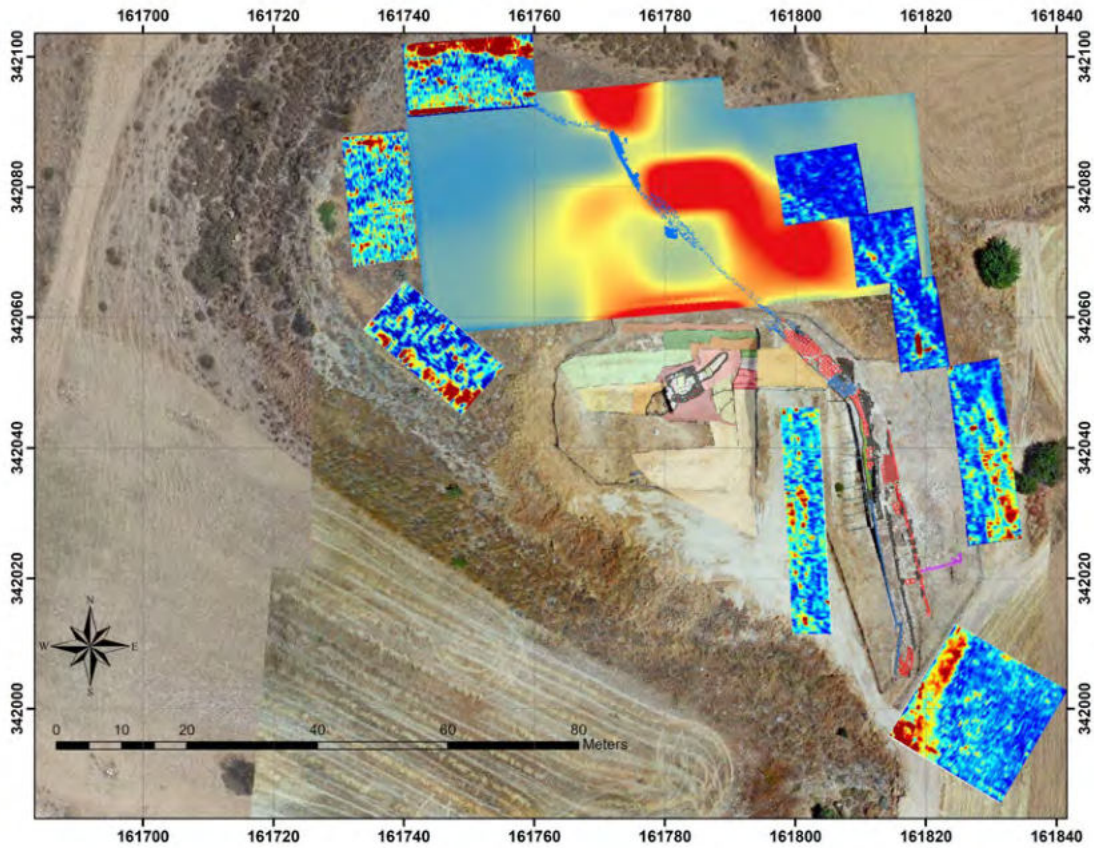


Figure 17. Orthophoto of the tumulus in Laona. The periphery of the tumulus has been mapped through Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). Three-dimensional Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) was employed to reconstruct the subsurface of the interior of the tumulus. The color maps show GPR slices within a depth of 1-2m and the ERT slice at the centre within a depth of 7-8m below the ground surface. The reddish colours in the GPR slices depict strong reflectors, while in the ERT slice they depict high soil resistivities (A. Sarris and IMS Forth Hellas).



Figure 18. Facing staircases on east side of rampart under excavation. Photo by M. Iacovou.

Following geological confirmation of Laona's man-made character in 2011, PULP developed a multifaceted research approach and created a digital record of the different methods and practises we employed in exploring the monument. See Figure 17. Thus far, our research has produced unexpected results on an almost annual basis (Iacovou 2017). The first and most surprising discovery was the presence of an earlier structure: a monumental rampart that was completely buried under the 13,700 m³ of soil sediments which recent estimates suggest would have been required for the construction of the tumulus (dimensions are 100 × 60 × 10 m). Two facing staircases were discovered in the course of the excavation of the east side of this rampart. See Figure 18. They were founded at 107.20 m.a.s.l. and the foundation trenches contained sherd material dating from the 6th to 5th c. BC transitional phase. A third staircase discovered this year close to the summit of the mound (i.e., the highest surviving section at 114.20 m.a.s.l.), terminates at 113 m.a.s.l. Given that the use layer of the rampart at the base of the north side was located at 105 m.a.s.l., the maximum surviving height of its wall is estimated to be 8m.

The second exciting surprise was the discovery of a small stone-built structure in the centre of the southern half of the mound. Initially, everyone thought that we had located a burial chamber (a logical conclusion at the time). However, the curious edifice turned out to be a shell filled from top (109.50 m.a.s.l.) to bottom (106.10 m.a.s.l.) with worked marl; the structure does not even have a proper roof made of other materials! A handful of tiny, mostly unidentified sherds were the only artefacts found in the marly matrix. Although the stonework on the external faces gives the impression of nicely-worked blocks, internally the self-same blocks are unworked; they are fixed against the marly filling with red clay. See Figures 19-20. The west side of this anomalous structure had been destroyed, and the dislocated blocks were left *in situ*. We know of no parallel for this problematic building. The destruction of its west side leads us to suggest that prospective looters may have attempted to enter it, only to discover (as we did, as well) that the building contained neither interior space nor other contents. We have, therefore, named it a 'pseudo-grave', which we imagine may have been meant as a decoy to turn looter's attention away from a real chamber.



Figure 19. The 'pseudo-grave' exposed from under the mound's soil sediments; view of worked blocks of the east wall. Photo by M. Iacovou.



Figure 20. The excavation team inside the ‘pseudo-grave’ with a section of marly matrix left *in situ*. Photo by M. Iacovou.

It took four years to liberate the four sides of the ‘pseudo-grave’ from the strata of the mound. For obvious security reasons, the north side (which rises vertically above the small edifice) was excavated in a stepped fashion. This created one of the best E-W sections from which samples were taken for a micromorphological analysis. A long N-S section was also cut to the east of the structure for the same purpose. See Figure 21. Even a macroscopic observation of the impressively colourful lenses reveals deposits of marl alternating with clay-rich sediments. The latter were likely collected from the surrounding landscape. They contained a relatively small number of sherd material dating from the Late Cypriot to the Cypro-Classical period.



Figure 21. Soil sediments exposed against E to W section of mound excavated in a stepped fashion and corner of N to S section under study for geoarchaeological analysis. Photo by M. Iacovou.



Figure 22. Orthophoto map over Laona generated from high-resolution low altitude nadir and oblique drone images. Vectors over the mosaic highlight the course of the rampart on the north side of the mound. Compiled by A. Agapiou and F. Poullos.



Figure 23. On the north side of Laona the rampart takes a NW course and descends diagonally the slope from 113 to 105 m.a.s.l. Photo by J. Tabolli.

The continued absence of ceramics dating to the Hellenistic or later periods allows us to suggest that when the tumulus was built, pottery of the mid-3rd c. BC (or later periods) had not spread around the landscape of Laona. By contrast, marl (the predominant source material used for the construction of the tumulus) was quarried from under the bedrock of the region before it could be transported and used for building the mound. A geoarchaeological study of Laona shows there was nothing random about either the collection or placement of the soil sediments. Rather, it confirms that the tumulus was not a product of earth accumulation over an earlier monument (i.e. the fortress), but that it was instead an accomplished architectural artefact designed to remain intact (Gkouma et al. 2021).

The third surprise came as a result of the 2022 excavation campaign. Beyond the third (north) staircase, the rampart takes an unexpected north-western course and descends the north side of the mound until it meets the edge of the natural plateau of Laona. See Figure 22. The orderly manner in which the east and north sides of the rampart were lowered is certainly puzzling. See Figure 23. We think that they were most probably made to serve as access ramps to assist the workforce in building and repairing the summit of the tumulus (see Gkouma et al. 2021, 12-13 for the four construction stages).

In the ten years since the inception of its excavation, Laona has become the site of two superimposed mega-monuments. The first and earliest is a five-meter-wide rampart of which we have now exposed 160m of its east and north sides. It was built with stacks of thousands of mould-made mudbricks (Lorenzon & Iacovou 2019) placed between parallel walls of unworked stones. The agency responsible for the construction of the rampart must be the dynasty that ruled Paphos during the early 5th c. BC (Iacovou 2019). The rampart is, in fact, spatially and chronologically closely related to the monuments on the citadel terrace of Hadjiabdoullah (Iacovou & Karnava 2019) which lies just 70m to the south of Laona. See Figure 24.



Figure 24. Oblique aerial view taken over the sites of Palaepaphos Hadjiabdoulla and Laona looking towards the west (Sanctuary) at the height of approximately 100m above ground level. Aerial photo taken by K. Themistocleous and figure compiled by A. Agapiou, the Eratosthenes Research Centre, Cyprus University of Technology, ©PULP.

The second and more recent monument of Laona is the tumulus under which the rampart was buried. This structure begs a number of questions. For example, who was the political leader that possessed

the extraordinary power to order such a monumental enterprise on an island on which there were no tumuli builders? How did potentially non-local engineers with expertise in tumuli building come to direct a local workforce of masons, who had an intimate knowledge of the properties of locally-available earthen construction materials? Although the initiation of its construction cannot be dated with precision, the tumulus of Laona is chronologically and culturally associated with the period of the wars of the Macedonian successors of Alexander the Great, specifically with the years of the conflict that took place in Cyprus between Antigonos I Monophthalmus and his son Demetrios Poliorcetes, and Ptolemy I Soter in the last couple decades of the 4th c. BC. That conflict was concluded during the first decade of the 3rd c. BC in favour of Ptolemy.

Unlike the Salaminian tumuli that were raised in established burial grounds, the mound of Laona was not part of a mortuary environment. From the start, the site of Laona was included in a royal investment programme that shaped a citadel landscape 1 km east of the sanctuary. Whether or not the mound does in fact contain a grave may well be solved during the forthcoming field campaigns. However, how and why the memory of such a gigantic enterprise was lost remains enigmatic. According to Papadopoulos (2006, 84) the construction of a monument such as a tumulus is an historical event that transforms the physical and social landscape. In this respect, the tumulus of Laona appears to have failed, since it did not dominate the landscape with its permanence as a monument to memory (Papadopoulos 2006, 78, 83). Unlike what is believed to be the norm for tumuli, it had but one very short life; it did not become a ‘time travelling’ tumulus (Alcock 2016). As a cultural artefact, it had no established ancestry on the island, and it did not introduce a new cultural behaviour as a place-making monument. It is our hope that PULP’s continuing fieldwork at this intriguing site and also in the urban landscape of Palaepaphos will provide answers regarding the mystery mound of Laona.

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Short Report

The World's largest Gold Bracteate: A brief presentation of the Migration Period gold hoard from Vindelev, Denmark

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In December 2020, metal detectorists found a Migration Period gold hoard at Vindelev in East Jutland. Vindelev is c. 10 km north of the city of Vejle and c. 8 km northeast of the well-known site of Jelling with its royal monuments from the tenth century AD. Subsequent excavation by VejleMuseerne (Larsen and Ravn 2022; Ravn 2022) established that the gold objects which had been uncovered were all found in the plough layer. Although the finds had been moved by agricultural activities, most of them were found within a restricted area relating to a Migration Period long-house. Most likely the objects were deposited as a single hoard.

The find consists of four Roman medallions (multipla), 13 bracteates, a pendant with glass inlays, and a scabbard mount; together these objects count for 794 g gold (Axboe 2021). See Figure 25. The Vindelev hoard counts as the first find in Scandinavia with more than one Roman medallion. In addition, apart from the Polish Zagórzyn hoard, the Vindelev hoard is the first recorded hoard which has included both medallions and bracteates. During the period 335-36 to 383 AD, three of the medallions were issued in Trier by Constantine I, Constans, and Gratian, respectively, while the fourth medallion was issued in Thessaloniki by Valentinian I (Horsnæs 2022).

Gold bracteates are generally divided into four types: A-bracteates imitating the imperial portraits of Roman coins, B-bracteates showing one or more persons in full, C-bracteates with a large human head over a more or less horse-like quadruped, and D-bracteates featuring a highly stylized dragon-like creature. Alongside the main motif, A-, B-, and C-bracteates may also show smaller animals, human figures, and symbols (like swastikas and triskelions), as well as inscriptions with runes or imitations of Roman letters.

The central motif of a bracteate was struck with a matrix die (Axboe 2007: 14-25, 142). On many bracteates this was framed by punched border zones. Several bracteates could be produced using the same die. Therefore, when die-identical (or closely-related) bracteates occur in different finds, they form important evidence of connections between them.

The Vindelev hoard includes nine A-bracteates (of which two are die-identical) and four C-bracteates (of which one—Vindelev x11—is die-identical with a bracteate found near Odense on Funen (IK 31 Bolbro-C)). Central and eastern Funen are the areas in Denmark which are richest in gold from the Migration Period, and may possibly have been the area where the gold bracteates were invented. There are, however, several other connections between Funen and the Vindelev find, which may modify this assumption.

Normally, an A-bracteate features only one 'imperial' bust. Nevertheless, a small group of very early dies show double portraits with the two 'emperors' sharing cloaks and brooches. Two of the Vindelev bracteates (x10 and the fragmented x12+x20+x22) are of this type, which had previously been known only from central and eastern Funen (Axboe 2021, Fig. 7-9). See Figure 26.

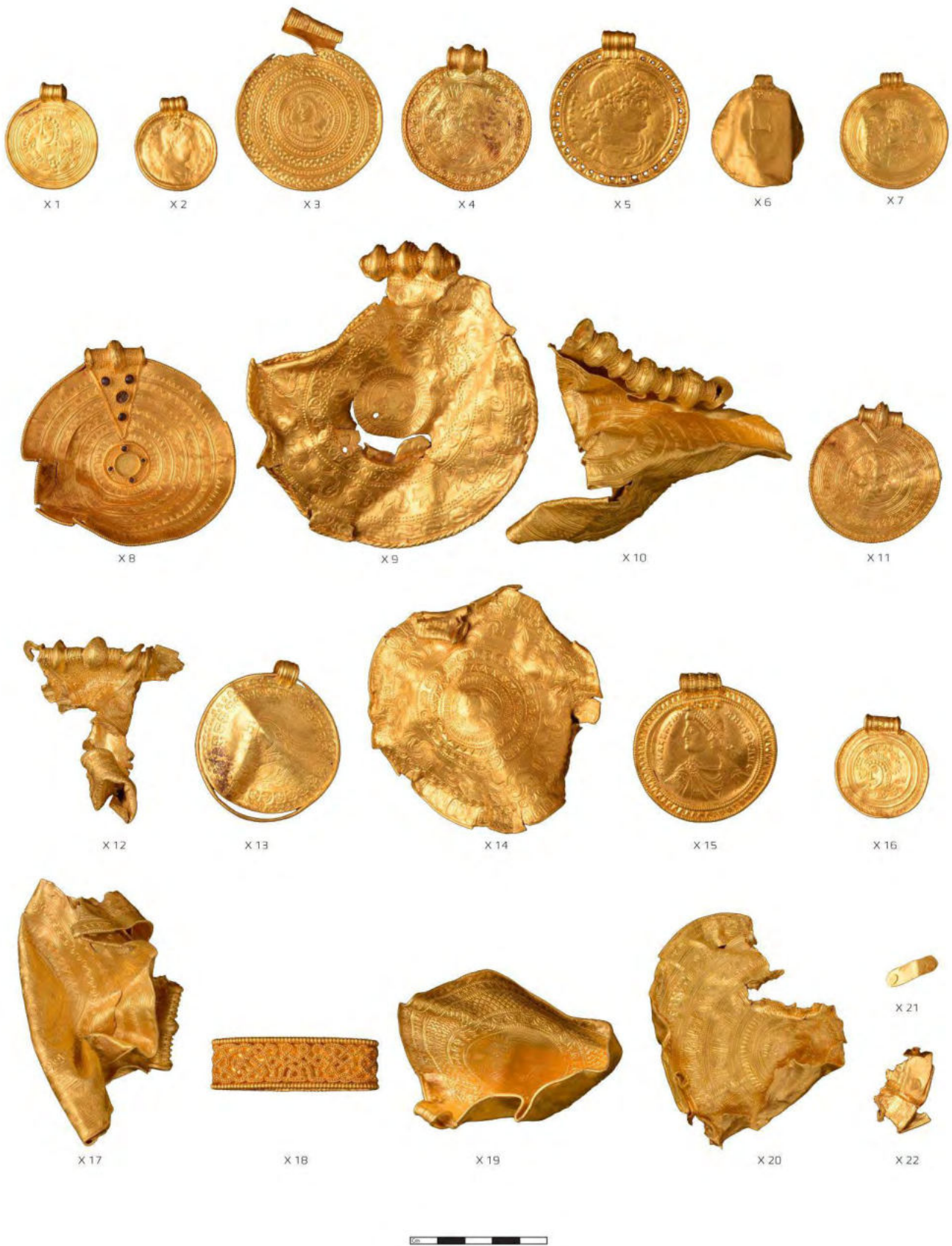


Figure 25. The Vindelev hoard. Photo by Vejlemuseerne.



Figure 26. Vindelev x20. X-ray by Signe Nygaard, Konserveringscenter Vejle. Not to scale.



Figure 27. Vindelev x9 with mail and drinking horn. Photo by Vejlemuseerne. Not to scale.

Several of the Vindelev bracteates present new and innovative designs. The A-bracteates x9 and the two die-identical A-bracteates x3 and x14 all show the bust with an unusually patterned dress, possibly representing a chain or scale armour. See Figure 27. On x9 the ‘emperor’ has a drinking horn in his hand, paralleled only on bracteates found in England (Behr 2011 and unpublished finds). Vindelev x1 features an unusual, beaded dress, possibly inspired by the embroidered consular robe (Figure 28), the ‘braided’ fingers in x1 and the knotted ring in x9 and x14 being Nordic interpretations of the consular *mappa* (comp. Axboe 2021 Fig. 3 right and Laursen 2022a Fig. 3b).



Figure 28. Vindelev x1. Photo by Vejlemuseerne. Not to scale.



Figure 29. At left, Vindelev x 7 (Photo by Vejlemuseerne). At right, IK 691 Kristianslund (Photo by Nationalmuseet).

Vindelev x7 presents a rather enigmatic design (see Figure 29, left), dominated by a large human bust with two arms. Under the chin there is an open ring with knotted ends, comparable to the Celtic *torques* used by the Romans as military distinctions. One hand holds a quadruped with a very long tongue, while the other brandishes a T-shaped object crowned by a small creature with a humanoid head, arms and legs affixed to a fish-like body. The small creature has an open ring in one hand and a small ball in the other. Placed in front of it is a small tree with six branches. A very close parallel was found 2018 at Kristianslund near Odense (Figure 29, right). Otherwise, the *torques* is known only from a find from Zealand (IK 299 Maglemose/Gummersmark-A). More generally related are some bracteates from east Zealand which also exhibit a dominate person holding up smaller figures (Axboe 2017).



Figure 30. Vindelev x4. X-ray by Signe Nygaard, Konserveringscenter Vejle.

The C-bracteate x4 forms a very important link to Funen and a valuable contribution to the interpretation of the bracteates. See Figure 30. It is very similar to the bracteate IK 58, which was found somewhere in Funen before 1689; only minute details reveal that the bracteates are not die-identical. Under the head of the quadruped, they both have the runic inscription *houaR*, which can be read as ‘The High One’, a praise name used for Oðinn in later sources, thus linking the motif to this god, who is central in Karl Hauck’s interpretation of the gold bracteates (e.g. Hauck 2011,1-2; Heizmann 2012; critical Laursen 2022b; Wicker and Williams 2013). Although the other Vindelev inscriptions have not yet been studied closely, they may eventually present more links with Oðinn.

According to Hauck, Oðinn is the dominating figure in bracteate iconography. On the A-bracteates, he is shown as the lord of the gods, his position embellished by Roman imperial regalia like the diadem, the circular brooch, and the consul’s robe. All of the large human heads on the Vindelev bracteates wear diadems, while the consular dress may be seen on x1 and possibly x19. Circular brooches are found on x19 and with the double busts on x10 and x20. Germanic insignia may be found in the long hair (which may be plaited or knotted), as seen on x4, x9, x13, and x17 (Axboe 2007: 100-103, 152).

Thus, it seems obvious that, like other A- and C-bracteates, the Vindelev bracteates depict a ruler by means of well-established Roman imperial iconography. Though it may be debated whether said ruler was divine or mundane, I tend to follow Hauck in associating him with Oðinn. But what, then, about the double busts? Though some attempts have been made, thus far there seems to be no convincing Nordic parallel for the *Dioscuri* (the Divine Twins) found in many other religions (Andrén 2020). Do

these bracteates represent earthly rulers – shared kingship is known from the early Viking Danish kingdom – or possibly (semi)divine ancestors? After all, we are near the alleged homelands of Hengist and Horsa, the mythic leaders of the Anglo-Saxon invasion (Laursen 2022a: 13). Be that as it may, the double-bust bracteates belong to the start of bracteate production and seem to have rapidly disappeared from the bracteate iconography repertoire.

The weight of an average bracteate is between 2 and 7 g. The weight of the 13 Vindelev bracteates is 576 g, equalling about 100 ordinary bracteates. This illustrates the unusual size and weight of the Vindelev bracteates. Actually, the folded-up bracteate (x10) is the largest bracteate yet known with a diameter of 13.8 cm and a weight of 123.7 g. In this it indisputably surpasses the previous champion IK 11 Åsum-C from Scania, whose diameter was 12.3 cm and weighed in at 100.3 g. In fact, of the 10 largest bracteates known, five belong to the Vindelev hoard: x10, x17, x20, x9, and x19. This larger size makes room for intricate punched borders with unusual designs, including birds, animals and human faces. Also, six bracteates and the large pendant have large and exquisite ‘deluxe’ loops with bulbs, ridges and filigree added to the tube. This again is extraordinary! Previously, only two bracteates with ‘deluxe’ loops were known from present-day Denmark. The original quality is very high, and it is astonishing to find rather clumsy repairs on some of the bracteates, including patches roughly riveted to the disc which were also (in some cases) even placed on the front of the bracteate. It seems as if the artistic and economic ambitions of the bracteate makers and their patrons were greater than their workmanship.

Thus, the Vindelev bracteates are larger, heavier, and more richly adorned than most other finds. Both they and the extraordinary number of Roman medallions must have been in the possession of people of very high status. This surmise is further supported by two objects which have not yet been discussed: the circular pendant x8 and the scabbard mouthpiece x18. The pendant is larger than usual, has a large ornamental triangle below the ‘deluxe’ loop and red inlays in the triangle and around the centre (where a larger inlay has been lost). The scabbard mount is an excellent piece of work with intricate interlacings with animal heads (Laursen and Højilund Nielsen 2022). Only 17 other such mounts are known—all with exquisite workmanship—and they must have belonged to the absolute upper echelons of Migration Period society.

Chronologically, the hoard is enigmatic. As mentioned, it seems to be a closed deposition, and yet the objects span around 200 years. The medallions were minted during the middle half of the fourth century AD. The bracteates are all rather early (some very early!); I would date them c. 450-490 AD. The scabbard mount can only have been made some decades into the sixth century. Thus, the objects fall into three separate chronological groups. Only the scabbard mount may indicate a deposition in connection with the events of 536 AD and the following years (Axboe 1999, 2007: 117-123, 156-158). This leaves us still in a bit of a conundrum. Why, then, are there no D-bracteates or late C-bracteates, like in so many other late hoards from Jutland?

The place-name of Vindelev is of a type which is older than the Viking Age and may be interpreted as “Winde’s estate” (Ravn 2022: 8). Until the hoard was found, there were no indications of any special finds in the area. The elite character of the hoard immediately raises the question of whether Vindelev was a predecessor of the 10th c. royal site at Jelling, which lies only a short 8 km away. Also, the relationship to the well-known central place at Gudme in east Funen, which was established around 200 AD and which flourished into the 6th c. (Jørgensen 2011), calls for further discussion. Vindelev obviously was a site with great wealth and an imaginative iconographic spirit, as evidenced by the early and innovative bracteate designs, as well as far-reaching connections, especially to Funen, but also to continental gold hoards (Horsnæs 2022). Was Vindelev a superregionally important centre of power? Was it an ally or a competitor to the Gudme centre? The investigations at Vindelev have only just begun and will hopefully be continued via collaboration between VejleMuseerne, the National Museum of Denmark and other institutions.

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Debate

Climate Crises: A blast from the past or something new?

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It is easy to blame humanity today for climate change; the evidence is abundantly clear to those with eyes (that accept) to see it. We can, without too much argument, put humanity itself right in the middle of climate change and environmental impact. We accelerate the former through pollution and make the latter so much worse through poor resource and landscape management. If we are to call this a climate crisis, we must accept that ‘crisis’ is identified from a social perspective: climate change is bad because it contributes to phenomena we see as negatively impacting our planet and all things that live on it. We might blame industrialisation, consumerism, energy greed or any manner of things. Ultimately the blame lies with how myriad “managers” of our globalised world act upon scientific evidence while balancing their own power.

If we are happy to blame ourselves for our woes, then how come past peoples of this planet seem to get off scot-free in the blame game? I discuss this in a recent paper in the *Journal of Archaeological Research* on how climate change impacted societies in Europe ca. 1200 BC (Molloy 2022).

In the public view ancient climate change is often synonymous with “climate Armageddon” characterised by unending droughts, famine and catastrophic collapse of civilisations (Middleton 2017; 2018). We cannot exactly blame past peoples in the way we should accept such blame today. Yet it is a touch patronising to suggest they lacked the knowledge to manage their landscape resources effectively enough to respond to climate challenges, making them preordained to fail (Johnson 2017). Social change in response to climate change, no matter how exceptional or extreme it may be, is largely shaped by human choices. At the same time, the spatial scale of change, and who it impacts on in society, is open to being unequally experienced. There were winners and losers both within a society and between different ones. This can be particularly notable when we are looking at societies that had closely networked economic, ideological, military and political systems.

This close networking was the case in the East Mediterranean, where crises around 1200 BC are well attested with the collapse of the Mycenaean palatial states, the Hittites, a range of city states and instability in Egypt (Cline 2021). It has widely been argued that this same LBA period (1500-1200 BC) was a time of globalising connections throughout Europe, ending in a horizon of rapid transformations. The 1200 BC turning point has been identified as a crisis on occasion, but this paper has been a first effort at exploring it at a transcultural/regional level taking in distinct cultural traditions from around Europe. In the East Mediterranean, the relationship between societal and climate change is often hotly debated (e.g. Knapp and Manning 2016). For me, extending that debate into Europe was appropriate. This is because climate change is a macro-scale force that should impact societies across a very wide area – it is intrinsically cross-cultural in influence. Looking at European datasets provided an opportunity to not only take the debate to a new region, but to also provide a comparative context for the situation in the Mediterranean. Indeed, we are fortunate to have extensive climate and archaeological datasets for Europe to support this.

This work took place in the context of an ERC-funded project “The Fall of 1200 BC”, for which I have led a team exploring how migration and conflict related to societal change in southeast Europe. Though not part of the original research design, it struck me that if I was to explore these two

phenomena capable of affecting multiple societies at the same time, then a consideration of climate change was essential also.

The climate differs in North Africa, Southwest Asia and the Southeast limits of Europe though each area is impacted on by Mediterranean weather systems. Europe on the other hand is exposed to a greater diversity of weather systems coming off the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Polar and Siberian regions. We should predict quite different climatic niches across this small continent lying in between weather extremes of hot and cold, arid and wet. To take advantage of this, I looked at records from Ireland and Britain at the fringe of the Atlantic Ocean, Scandinavia in the north, the Carpathian Basin in the middle, Italy in the north Mediterranean and Greece. Along with climatic diversity – something one becomes acutely aware of suffering through a wet and windy Irish summer – this region was marked by substantial social diversity in the later Bronze Age (ca. 1500-1000 BC). This extended from the level of households through to political entities and cultural traditions. Each was nonetheless linked by networks through which many things passed, from metal resources to social ideologies and beliefs.

The number and diversity of paleoclimate studies presented a challenge in such a wide-ranging geographic study. This was an opportunity to draw these myriad sources together in a single overview study, looking to a variety of quite different proxies with variable chronological resolution and even revealing conditions for different seasons in some cases. Including speleothems, lake and marine cores, bog deposits, ancient oak trees and more, some general trends could be teased out of the analyses and conclusions presented in these papers. Across most datasets, a turning point broadly dated to 1250-1150 BC could be recognised and this was usually marked by increasingly arid conditions. This aridity is of course relative to earlier and later conditions and does not imply the cessation of rainfall! The evidence for temperature change was less clear but the general trend in central and northern parts of Europe was for warming whereas in the Mediterranean, there was a cooling trend. In neither case was this extreme and these patterns come with many caveats in the paper as well as the original publications reviewed, but a change lasting for over a century around 1200 BC was indicated.

Human activity and climate together affect the environment, and the former was particularly striking in the later Bronze Age in south Scandinavia and north Italy. Deforestation and soil exhaustion have been identified and directly related to changes in landscape management practices (Andersen 2018; Kristiansen 2018; Mercuri et al. 2012). It was likely that a precarious balance had been maintained and that this exposed those regions to the impacts of climate change. A key takeaway was that climate change shifted conditions towards the margin of the norms for the Holocene around 3.2ka. In practice, this means markers remained within a range identified many times before and after this period. Given the different social responses documented, it was evident that social and political decision making were critical to how societies in each study region negotiated change. The data also showed that climate change was not uniform, with factors like local topography shaping local variability while at the larger geographic scale, both positive and negative impacts could be observed in different regions through a social lens.

On the one hand, I found it surprising that there was no previous attempt at looking at European scale trends in paleoclimate, considering debates for the East Mediterranean and good evidence for social change in Europe after 1200 BC. On the other hand, it was evident that each paleoclimate study has considerable uncertainty and is replete with caveats about readings, and so forcing these data into a regional perspective could only be achieved in very broad strokes. These datasets serve best in vertical perspective, observing local-scale trends across time. This is where most paleoclimate studies are usually focussed. My paper sought to push them into a horizontal perspective, looking to a regional-scale within a closely constrained time frame. This is where the uncertainties of paleoclimate models render them less reliable. Nonetheless, while the finer points of interpretation for each region may well be debated, the mere fact that similar trends – notably increasing aridity – cut across so many

datasets throughout Europe for the 12th century BC provides an intriguing testing ground for further research.

In Britain and Ireland, the archaeological evidence suggested that many areas witnessed an upswing in activity after 1200 BC, though there were notable changes in settlement systems and the character of long-distance networks shaping those groups. In Scandinavia, change was offset and appears to have gathered pace more slowly throughout the 12th century, perhaps peaking towards the transition to the 11th century BC. Some areas witnessed a downturn in anthropogenic activity and there was a major reduction in ostentatious displays evident in burials and metal hoards. Nonetheless, there was strong continuity of key defining elements of societies. In the Carpathian Basin, social change appears to have been triggered slightly earlier, with the abandonment of the many large, monumental forts of the southern reaches of the basin during the 13th century BC. With the contemporary abandonment of most cemeteries, it appears that the many parts of the fertile and flat plains of the Carpathian Basin were significantly depopulated for over a century. Closely networked with these societies, the Terramare and related groups of the Po Valley witnessed changing conditions during the 13th century, but the crisis appears to have reached its peak in the earlier 12th century BC. After witnessing nucleation of settlement in the 13th century, there was a massive depopulation of the valley characterised by the abandonment of settlements and their hinterlands in the 12th century BC, most notably south of the Po River. Lying to the south of the latter two areas was the Aegean, where a wave of destruction of central sites around 1200 BC. The new social systems that emerged in the wake of these had variable successes for over a century before the cycle of crises led to depopulation of many previously prosperous areas.

During this study, it appeared to me that a key factor was simply belief. That is, belief in political systems, belief in divine forces, belief in community were all much damaged during this period. Societies were not predestined to fail, but in some cases dramatic reordering was an outcome of a perfect storm of challenges. Ultimately, how people responded to climate change and altered how they used their resources was a clear indicator of how resilient they could be. There was no evidence in the paleoclimate records of Europe for a climate Armageddon anywhere around 1200 BC (or at any other point!) that obliterated societies across the continent. Indeed, it was those societies that had experimented with dense, monumental and hierarchical settlement systems that exploited their landscape to exceptional levels that, I argued, exposed themselves increasingly to various forms of crises. Climate change came at a point in their trajectories where they were already experiencing increases in conflict, evident though major innovations in weapons and warfare along with destruction and abandonment of settlements. I argued that climate change was a force multiplier – while societies experienced ups and downs, this hit at a particular low and made struggling systems unsustainable. The pressure valve of those societies was a collapse of the political systems that controlled subsistence and the upward mobility of resources. For me, the crises of 1200 BC came down to how people chose to balance the structuring aspects of climate change with the agency and trajectories of specific societies. This gave climate change a role without playing the blame game too rigidly. Of course, climate change destroying ancient societies is certainly more social media friendly than a heavily caveated exploration of potential spaces for entanglement of trajectories or other phrases in ‘academese’ that don’t really roll off the tongue so well, but the latter lies closer to the limitations of our evidence.

I believe that there was a climate crisis affecting most of Europe in the 12th century and I argue in the paper that the evidence supports this well. This is because any “crisis” is fundamentally a social phenomenon - it is in the eye of the beholder. In our world of post-pandemic, war-fuelled gas shortages, spiralling inflation, global inequity, critical mass of resource extraction, a pandoras box of pollution trends and social media gone stratospheric, it is quite easy to see how perfect storms of crises may arise. So looking back to 12th century BC Europe arguing climate change ‘caused’ collapse not only misses the point – it bypasses the lessons which may be learned about dealing with consequences of problems of our own making when they are thrown up against natural crises we have less control over.

Around 1200 BC, there were a host of societies in Europe using their resources differently and depending on each other in diverse ways. The variety of problems they faced and solutions they reached or failed to reach is where we may have fertile ground for further model building and testing. While the academic paper I am speaking of may end somewhat inconclusively – as befits the evidence – I firmly believe that along with the many papers it reviews, it shows that archaeology has a place in policy development today. This works best if we do not shoot for ‘low-brow’ headlines, but instead embrace the uncertainty and complexity of our data, as recently reflected in the EAA’s own statement on archaeology and climate change studies.

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Interview

Pascal Ratier on sharing archaeological heritage: The European Archaeology Days

TEA interviews Pascal Ratier, who is the Coordinator of European Archaeology Days (EADs) as part of his work as the head of events and conferences at Inrap (the French National Institute for Preventative Archaeological Research). Ratier has been organizing the European Archaeology Days since 2012, when he first joined Inrap. The EADs first began at the national level. Since 2019, the event has spread across Europe.

TEA: Can you give us a short overview of what the European Archaeology Days are all about?

Ratier: The EADs are a great occasion to unite everyone involved in archaeology, be they excavators or museum curators and everything in between around a common cause: the organization of dedicated events for the general public designed to attract new audiences. In short, the objective is to raise public awareness about what archaeology is. In many people's minds, archaeology involves only excavators digging up objects for eventual display in museums. Through the EADs, we show that archaeology actually includes many other things besides—in fact, it can include a is an operating chain, a lengthy process that includes excavation as museum display and maybe also the laboratory. The EADs want to show that research on human societies is carried out throughout the entire process of doing archaeology, and that engaging with it raises many important questions about humanity. We would like to help people understand that archaeology is not a collection of objects or ruins, but rather a body of constantly-developing scientific research.



Figure 31. Open house at an excavation site in Narbonne, France. © Rémi Benali, Inrap. Used with permission.

TEA: *The EADs started out as the National Archaeology Days, instituted in France in 2010. How did that event come about?*

Ratier: In 2010, Inrap embarked on a collaboration with the European television channel Arte. Together, they planned a full day of broadcasting in June on the theme of archaeology, including both films and documentaries. My colleagues at Inrap thought it might be a good idea to supplement this themed day with live events organized with the various archaeology departments already dedicated to archaeology across France. The original idea turned into a rousing success! Even the very first EADs—which was actually a European Archaeology Day, as it was held on a Saturday—included 95 organisers! We soon decided that it was worthwhile to make the event an annual feature.

TEA: *So, from the very start, motivation was high on the part of the institutions doing archaeology. How was the public's response to the event?*

Ratier: Since the very beginning in 2010, engagement with the event has grown consistently. This holds true just as much amongst organisers as for the general public! To wit, whereas in 2010, we had 95 organisers participating across the country, in 2019 (the last edition before the COVID-19 crisis), more than 600 sites were involved in France. In 2010, 50,000 visitors turned out, while in 2019, attendance figures rose to 220,000! As to the institutions involved, we have not limited EADs organisers to those involved in archaeology alone. Instead, we have also opened up to include persons who look after heritage in general. While libraries or archives may not be specifically dedicated to archaeology, they can participate by bringing archaeology to broader audience by means of the events they organise. Through such initiatives, the growth of EADs' audience has rapidly outstripped the number of organisers. Such a growth curve attests to a real public interest in archaeology.



Figure 32. Open House of the Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Cadiz, Spain. © IAPH. Used with permission.

TEA: Have you managed to reach a more varied audience?

Ratier: Participant surveys have shown that the EADs do manage to attract people who rarely visit archaeological sites. However, EADs' attraction to this audience is dependent upon coming up with new forms of outreach and new types of activities. One such example comes from the 'Archaeology Villages' we instituted. Placed in major metropolitan areas and specifically opened for the public, 'villages' brought together all the players involved in doing archaeology in a single place. Organizing events such as that can allow us to reach a new audience, who attend the events out of curiosity. Moreover, as the European Archaeology Days are local events, we come out and reach people in their everyday environments. This is an excellent occasion to talk about local history, be it of the town itself or of the surrounding region. This can be particularly appealing to the public, especially for first-time visitors.

TEA: In 2019, the Archaeology Days expanded onto the European level. What inspired you to take that leap?

Ratier: We decided to open up to Europe on the 10th anniversary of the National Archaeology Days in France. Several European institutions approached us from different countries. They also wanted to organise Archaeology Days in their country, and they needed support in organising Archaeology Days at home.



Figure 33. Participatory activities at the Bobadela romana Interpretation Centre, Portugal. © Bobadela romana. Used with permission.

TEA: How did Europe respond?

Ratier: For the first year organizing internationally, we decided to open up only to our neighbouring countries. We wanted to test the waters, so to speak. Fortunately, the response was very positive. What's more, a few months later, I started receiving irate e-mails from all over Europe! Colleagues from Poland, Lithuania, and Czech Republic wrote to ask why they were not allowed to participate! They said, "What, did you not know that we are part of the European Union, too?" Partly thanks to EXARC (an EADs partner from the very beginning), word got around quickly to all the countries across Europe. Seeing that there were quite a few requests, we decided that we had to open the European

Archaeology Days to all 47 Member Countries of the Council of Europe. In 2019, 18 countries participated. In 2022, that number went up to 30!

TEA: *Let's say I am an archaeologist or a representative of an archaeological institution in Europe. What do I need to do to take part in the EADs?*

Ratier: The first thing to do would be to come up with a line-up of specific activities for the EADs, taking care to fulfil a certain number of criteria. These include: opening up places where archaeology is done, promoting interaction between archaeology professionals and the public, offering different kinds activities (i.e. ones that are a change from the usual programming) with the intent of attracting a new audience of persons not familiar with archaeology and encouraging the attendance of children and young people (especially by planning activities for families or school groups on Fridays). Next, you need to register and publish your chosen programme on journées-archeologie.fr via the organiser account you will have opened on your country's page. Online registration opens in mid-February. We provide communication tools for the organisers, which they can download via their account. We also provide a *Guide for Event Organisers* which provides tips and tricks for setting up a programme and to spread awareness of your event. Should anyone wish to contact me with questions (or to receive a copy of the guide before February!), you are welcome to write to pascal.ratier@inrap.fr.



Figure 34. Workshops for children in Zeměráj Park, Czech Republic. © Zeměráj Park. Used with permission.

TEA: Were there any National Archaeology Days in other European countries before 2019?

Ratier: Yes, several countries had their own Archaeology Days, and some of those were of long standing (such as in the Netherlands and Great Britain). However, they did not all necessarily organize the events on the same dates (i.e. the third weekend in June). At present, some countries have aligned their dates with ours (e.g. the Netherlands and Hungary), while others have not yet done so. We suggest that, as members of the Council of Europe, we can all come together to celebrate archaeology as one. Together we are stronger, and we are also more visible.



Figure 35. Open house at the Roman mosaic restoration centre, Arles, France. © Arles Antique. Used with permission.

Many countries have held events in connection with the European Heritage Days. They probably thought that this would bring in a large audience, and that they would enjoy the same renown as the European Heritage Days. In our view, that was probably a miscalculation: the magnitude of that event and its reputation 'smother' the archaeological component to some degree. Our ambition is to produce our own European event for archaeology which will occur on the same dates for all participating countries, and which is also separate and distinct from the European Heritage Days. It is in so doing that we will gain visibility at the European level, be it with regard to the public, politicians or to the media. It is for this reason that the European Archaeology Days take place on the third weekend of June.

TEA: How are the EADs organized now that it is on the European level?

Ratier: We at Inrap took the initiative to open up the Archaeology Days to Europe, and so we remain the European coordinators of the EADs. We make and maintain the website, provide communication tools and support all organizers. At present, we encourage the national archaeology authorities in each participating country to take up the baton and to become national-level coordinators. Ten national coordinators stepped forward in 2020; in 2022, we have 24 national authorities who are coordinating. National authorities who coordinate EADs rally the archaeological community in their nation and provide publicity for their event at both the national and regional levels. As INRAP is the national EADs coordinator in France, we also do this here at home. As mentioned, we are pushing for the EADs to be coordinated around the same dates across Europe. This is the only way that the EADs can resonate across a larger scale.

TEA: What are EADs' cultural objectives? On what aspects are you focusing?

Ratier: What we try to do during the EADs is to connect the public with professionals working in archaeology, to facilitate dialogue, to share knowledge about the past and to give the stage to our audiences (because they generally have a lot to say!). It is for these reasons that we strongly encourage the opening up of the places where archaeology is carried out and which are usually closed to the public: excavation sites, archaeological depots, research or restoration laboratories and the areas of museums that remains 'behind the scenes'. These are the places where archaeology is made. Archaeologists should not be scientists who remain shut away in their labs; one of EADs' main aims is to share knowledge with the public. However, dialogue cannot be a one-way process from the *knowledgeable* to the public. By definition, it must be an exchange. We need to provide more meeting opportunities, and encourage the public to experiment and participate. Occasions to come face-to-face with professionals is essential, and also helps spark vocations. Our ideal is to keep the laboratory open to everyone, so that each visitor has the chance to experiment and become an active participant.

TEA: What benefit can archaeological institutions gain from the EADs? Why should people consider becoming organisers?

Ratier: Participating archaeological institutions gain visibility through the media, extend their reach, attract new audiences and raise awareness about the protection and conservation of archaeological heritage. Although museums of course produce cultural activities all year round, the EADs are an opportunity to offer different events and to bring in new audiences. For research institutions, this is a new opportunity to open up and present their work to the public. The EADs are also a great occasion for archaeology professionals to unit by joining a broader European event. Thanks to the 'critical mass' attained through participation in an event that is both national and European, organisers are more likely to attract bigger audiences, and the media are more likely to publish related information.

TEA: *In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic changed our daily lives and deprived us of normal social and cultural activity. The EADs essentially went virtual. How did you cope with this unforeseen crisis? How did the EADs adapt to the new context?*

Ratier: We had no choice but to adjust to the new parameters, and reorganised the EADs in one month. In 2020, public health situations varied from one country to the next; some countries were able to host live face-to-face events, while others (such as France) could not do so. Due to these diverse conditions, each participating organizer chose how they wanted to proceed, be it via on-site events, remote events or a combination of the two.

TEA: *How did European partners respond?*

Ratier: In the end, we had more than 1,000 events across Europe. Under the circumstances, this was really quite impressive! We had 700 organisers in Europe, all told. While this was perhaps less than we had predicted, under the circumstances, it was perfect. In France, we had barely come out of lockdown, but didn't want to cancel, and the event went well. We came through, we made archaeology visible, and held the event as planned, also on the original dates. We see it as a success. In Europe, 2/3 of events were in a digital format, with the last 1/3 in person (but this varied by country). In France, 20% of the events were face-to-face, while the rest were digital.



Figure 36. Workshop for children in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France. © Hamid Azmoun, Inrap. Used with permission.

TEA: *Can you tell us about what you learned about best practices after the crisis? Are digital technologies the answer?*

Ratier: Cultural institutions are already experimenting with digital formats and are using them much more than before. I believe, however, that cultural institutions are also becoming increasingly aware

that there are limits to digital formats. Like an online conference, a digital event is not the same as a physical event. Digital events require the creation of specific forms of public engagement. Nevertheless, it is a good thing that so many cultural institutions are investing in digital technologies, and that their digital offerings will also evolve, so that they can be successful in attracting new and especially younger audiences. When we adopted the hybrid format for the 2020 EADs, we found out that we were able to interest people who had never attended similar events previously, and that we drew large crowds. A digital event will not replace an in-person one, though they can complement each other well. Taking part in an archaeological cultural event is above all an experience of the senses, whether you are experimenting on the ground, in a laboratory or in a museum. You do not have this sensory experience with digital technology. Digital channels have the disadvantage of limiting dialogue with scientists, as well.

TEA: *Has the public health crisis affected the development of the EADs?*

Ratier: By no means! In 2021, the various health crises were still ongoing. In Europe, the situation varied from one country to the next. Nevertheless, we decided to hold a completely face-to-face event. In France, despite restrictions (e.g. limits on participant numbers), the event went very well, and attendance did not fall far from the numbers we recorded in 2019. For the other countries, overall, the event was very similar to the situation in 2019. Some countries that wanted to join us did not do so because of the health situation, but did participate in 2022. All in all, despite a very complicated general situation, the EADs continue to grow, and the public has not let us down!

TEA: *What positive aspects could be gleaned from the public health crisis relative to culture?*

Ratier: What we have (re)discovered with this crisis is that we cannot do without culture. Losing culture would mean the death of society. Consequently, we need to redefine what we call our basic human needs. Just as food, education and health can number among these, so too should culture. Culture is vital, because it creates social connections. Like all sciences of the past, archaeology is very important, because a society cannot envision its future if it does not have a grasp of where it comes from. This is all the more important at the European level, so that we can define the European citizenship we seek and that we can also reflect on the future that we have in common.

TEA: *What are the EADs' future plans?*

Ratier: The main objective is to ensure that every Member Country of the Council of Europe actively participates in the EADs. We would also like to reinforce the European dimension by creating cross-cutting projects, for example. As Europeans, our cultural heritage has been passed down to us from our long-shared history. It is important that we reflect on how these Days can contribute to the development of a common identity in a fragmenting Europe, while at the same time preserving the cultural differences that make Europe such a fascinating and multifaceted place.

Conference Reports

Bodies in Ancient Egypt: Subjects, Objects, Media

Uroš Matic

Austrian Archaeological Institute

The conference *Bodies in Ancient Egypt: Subjects, Objects, Media* was organised by D. Serova (Humboldt University Berlin), A. Rickert (University of Münster) and U. Matic (Austrian Archaeological Institute) from 15th to 17th July 2022 at the University of Münster, Germany. The organisation of the conference was supported by the EAA, University of Münster, Humboldt University in Berlin, Beta Analytic, Harrassowitz Press, Sidestone Press (among others).

The goal of the conference was to bring together an international group of scholars researching bodies in ancient Egypt from the archaeological, anthropological and philological perspectives. The strong focus on contemporary body-centred social theory makes this conference stand out from other Egyptological conferences.



Figure 37. In-person conference participants on the steps of one of the campus buildings at the University of Münster, Germany with Überwasserkirche church in the background. Photo by Martin Fitzenreiter.

Organization of the conference as a hybrid event allowed for the presence of an international audience. During the three days of the conference, around 30 participants were present in the lecture room with a further 50 additional participants in attendance online (Figure 37). The papers were organized across four major themes: *Bodies in Society*, *Bodies as Media*, *Bodies in (Con)text*, *Bodies beyond Norms*, and *Bodies, Sex and Gender*. The conference also included three keynote lectures delivered by R. Nyord (Emory University, Atlanta), T. Pommerening and R. Brömer (University of Marburg) and A. von Lieven (University of Münster). The discussions were moderated by A. Lohwasser (University of Münster).

After the conference, two of the organizers (D. Serova and U. Matić) decided to publish a volume inspired by the conference but which will also include additional papers from scholars who lectured on appropriate themes within the online lecture series organized by the Humboldt University Berlin. This lecture series was organized during spring and summer 2022 by D. Serova and F. Kammerzell (Humboldt University Berlin) under the title *Conceptualizing Bodies in Ancient Egypt*.

The planned volume will be published by Sidestone Press (Leiden) in winter 2023 under the title *Bodies That Mattered. Ancient Egyptian Corporealities* and will include 17 chapters.

Further detailed information about the conference (program and abstracts) are available [here](#).

EAA Community Overviews

The Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Community (PaM)

Annemieke Milks, Silje Evjenth Bentsen and Sonja B. Grimm

PaM Co-Chairs



The Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Community (PaM) was founded in 2018 by Sonja B. Grimm and Natasha Reynolds with the aim of increasing the participation and visibility of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeologists within the annual EAA meetings. Since its inception nearly five years ago, the PaM community has continued to grow, and is now one of the larger EAA communities. When Natasha Reynolds stepped down, Sonja Grimm remained as a co-chair. She was joined in 2020 by Annemieke Milks and in 2021 by Silje Evjenth Bentsen.

We can point to an increase in the number of PaM community sessions at the EAA Annual Meetings as evidence for success in our community aims. PaM officially began in the 2019 programme with twelve associated sessions but dropped in 2020 to seven PaM sessions due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, for the 2021 virtual meeting, we had eight PaM sessions, covering such topics as 'Climate change to activism', 'Modeling complexity', 'The Late Pleistocene-Holocene transition' and the annual PaM discussion session entitled 'Imaginations and imaginaries of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic – distorted views, embellishment, and what we make of it'. The sessions reflected the breadth of research methods investigating the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic, including scientific and quantitative approaches as well as broader theoretical challenges.

Even more excitingly, the 2022 'Re-integration' meeting in Budapest had the highest number of PaM sessions yet! Over 20 sessions were associated with PaM. Once again, these demonstrated the incredible quality and diversity of research and are tackling big questions about human evolution, technological innovation, stone tools, human adaptation and resilience, raw material selection, climate change, and more. With some sessions reaching into the Neolithic and even younger periods, we also have made progress in our aim to integrate the PaM community into the wider European archaeological community. We had a special discussion session which this year was entitled 'The

Societal Impacts of Climate Changes in the Past – What Can Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology Contribute to the Current Debate?’. This discussion was well-attended online and in person. The engagement with the impact our discipline can and should have on the contemporary challenges of climate change, as well as the impact archaeological practice has for climate change has continued beyond those few hours in Budapest. With so many sessions, it was a challenge for members to be able to attend all the sessions they wished. Nevertheless, it was a privilege to be so spoiled for choice.

We have worked hard to increase membership and engagement through our [EAA community webpage](#), [our independent webpage](#), and our presence on social media including Twitter (@EAAPaM), Instagram (@eaapam) and a dedicated [Facebook](#) page. We have found these additional spaces to be fruitful, as they have brought further members to our community as well as to the EAA community as a whole. At present, we have 172 members in total of which 104 are also EAA members. They come from 30 countries in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. We anticipate that this will increase further in the future.

In Budapest we had our first formal, face-to-face PaM meeting since the pandemic, which included a virtual option for those who were not able to join in person. Alongside this meeting, we held an informal PaM gathering (as we have done at past in-person conferences), which gave our members the chance to socialise.

As with the wider sector, Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeologists are facing challenges on a global scale. These include but are not limited to:

- Threats of department closures brought on by challenges related to Brexit and defunding by governments of social sciences and the arts
- Increasing job precarity
- Continued lack of diversity
- Unequal opportunities for women, and harassment in the workplace
- Conflict
- Threat of climate change to heritage

As a community, we hope to support our members in meeting these challenges over the coming years. We will continue to connect with other EAA communities like AGE and ECR, in order to seek to facilitate discussion sessions addressing contemporary challenges, such as decolonisation, and use our community to speak up for those affected by various difficulties. The [PaM newsletter](#) and meetings serve as a platform for showcasing the amazing research and initiatives of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic colleagues on a global scale. A robust PaM community can also provide the scaffolding for networking, discussions, collaborations and mentorships. Future possibilities also include serving as a source of experts for media commentary and policy advisers. We look forward to continuing to improve the visibility and involvement of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeologists within the wider EAA organisation and meetings, including in Belfast in 2023.