

# WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

## e-Newsletter

### No 34: September 2010

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### 1. Executive News

#### **Publication from the WAC Ramallah Inter-Congress**

The papers from the WAC Ramallah Inter-Congress on "Overcoming Structural Violence" are now available online in volume 2 issue 1 of Present Pasts at <http://presentpasts.info>.

Present Pasts is a fully open access, peer-reviewed academic journal from the Heritage Studies Research Group at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL. Brian Hole edited this issue of the journal. It includes articles by Hamdan Taha, Reinhard Bernbeck, Salah H Al-Houdalieh, Beverley Butler, Maria Theresia Starzmann and Adel H. Yahya, and an introductory article by Lynn Dodd and Ran Boytner on the future of Palestinian archaeology.

#### **WAC Inter-Congress in Beijing, China: Heritage Management in East and South East Asia**

WAC is calling for expressions of interest in presenting a paper at the Heritage Management in East and South East Asia Inter-Congress, which will be held at the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China, 5-8 July, 2011. It is being held in association with the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies, Newcastle University, U.K. Those who wish to present a paper should submit an abstract to **Professor Peter Stone, by 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2010, [p.g.stone@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:p.g.stone@newcastle.ac.uk)**.

The aim of this Inter-Congress is to bring together heritage managers and academics (archaeology, cultural anthropology, tourism, town planning) from across, or with an interest in, the East and South East Asian Region. Special consideration will be given to student participation. It is anticipated that post Inter-Congress tours will be arranged to [a] Anyang, Luoyang, and Longmen Grotto, and [b] Xi'an. It is intended that there will be at least one book produced from the Inter-Congress. Depending on funding, this will be produced in both Chinese and English or Chinese with extended abstracts of presentations made in English.

#### **WAC Inter-Congress in Indiana, USA: Indigenous Peoples and Museums-Unravelling the Tensions**

The Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art invite your participation in an Inter-Congress of the World Archaeological Congress (WAC) on the topic Indigenous Peoples and Museums: Unraveling the Tensions.

For detailed information on the venue, submitting papers, and registering for the meeting, see <http://wacmuseums.info> or become a member of the **Facebook group "Indigenous People and Museums: Unraveling the Tensions."**

The Inter-Congress will be from 22-25 June, 2011 in conjunction with the Eiteljorg Museum's 17th Annual Indian Market and Festival, to be held 25-26 June 2011. Those who wish to present a paper should submit an abstract to **Professor Larry Zimmerman, [larzimme@iupui.edu](mailto:larzimme@iupui.edu)**.

All the best,  
Claire Smith, for the Executive

## 2. News Items

### SUPPORT WAC'S GLOBAL LIBRARIES PROGRAM

WAC's Global Libraries Program is hard at work helping to develop the archaeological literary collections of low-income institutions around the globe. We recently mailed out a shipment of books and journals to each of the 41 libraries in the program. But, our member institutions are always in need of more monetary and in-kind donations.

Do you have any archaeological/cultural heritage books or journals that do not particularly fit your research needs anymore? Or maybe you have a number of resources that your university now provides you with in a digital format...this is a great opportunity to make a donation of the physical copies to low-income libraries and research centers around the world.

For more information, check us out online <http://www.worldarchaeologicalcongress.org/activities/global-libraries/198-global-libraries-project> and/or contact WAC Global Libraries Program Chair: Ashley Sands, [ashleysa@ucla.edu](mailto:ashleysa@ucla.edu).

### INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PALEOPATHOLOGY ANNOUNCED

We are delighted announce a new journal for 2010, the *International Journal of Paleopathology*, the official journal of the Paleopathology Association. The new journal is under the editorship of Professor Jane E. Buikstra, *Arizona State University, USA*.

For more information visit:  
[http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws\\_home/723943/description#description](http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/723943/description#description)

### GLOBAL HERITAGE FUND INTRODUCES GLOBAL HERITAGE NETWORK (GHN) An Early Warning and Collaborative Solutions Platform

To address the damage to and destruction of archaeological sites in the developing world, Global Heritage Fund (GHF) has established **Global Heritage Network (GHN)** to:

- Act as an early warning and threats monitoring system for endangered archaeological and cultural heritage sites in developing countries.
- Enable the collaboration of experts and conservation leaders to mitigate the threats.
- Facilitate a holistic, *Preservation by Design*® process of planning, science, community and partnerships.

To achieve this, GHN – built around Google Earth – presents site documentation, threats analysis, maps and multimedia, while the GHN Community enables collaboration between site teams, international experts, archaeologists, community and business leaders, and government authorities in order to save global heritage sites through the *Preservation by Design*® model of integrated Planning, Science, Community and Partnerships.

The GHN Site Database is by no means comprehensive, but focuses on an initial collection of approximately 500 globally significant sites in the developing world with either documented threats or that provide exemplar case studies of site preservation.

For more information visit: <http://www.globalheritagefund.org>.

## **NEW ARCHAEOLOGY OUTREACH MODULE LAUNCHED**

The NPS Archeology Program has launched a new module on archeology outreach in the NPS Archeology Guide.

Director's Order 28A tasked the NPS chief archeologist with the development of a handbook of best practices in archeology. The "Archeology Outreach" module provides a source guide of techniques, information, and resources for the NPS to communicate the public benefits of archeology to a broad constituency. It addresses topics such as the legal requirements for outreach, education and interpretation, volunteers, civic engagement, training, media, and social media.

Audiences for the module include NPS archeologists, Superintendents, managers, interpreters, rangers, educators, and others who use outreach as a tool for the preservation, protection, and interpretation of archeological resources.

For more information visit: [www.nps.gov/archeology/npsGuide/outreach/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/npsGuide/outreach/index.htm)

## **ROCK ART DATING TECHNIQUE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE PETROGLYPHS**

Bryan Gordon of the Canadian Museum of Civilization and Carleton University in Ottawa, has extended his rock art dating technique to include petroglyphs. They are much more common than pictographs and notoriously hard to date with precision. His new technique identifies hammerstone and rock art fragments and any fragment of AMS-datable bone, shell, leaf, wood or charcoal in thin levels within a 20x25 cm slot beneath or alongside the rock art. Except for dating, the technique is cheap, quite un-invasive, field-adapted and simple to learn. See: [http://http-server.carleton.ca/~bgordon/Journal/Web\\_Journal.htm](http://http-server.carleton.ca/~bgordon/Journal/Web_Journal.htm)

## **RECONSTRUCTING THE HAITIAN HERITAGE SECTOR**

**First ICC Haiti meet on 7-8 July**

**By René Teijgeler**

The picture on the present state of Haiti is a gloomy one. As of July 1.5 million people still lived in tents with the hurricane season underway. Logistics are the main problem for the many humanitarian organizations at work in Haiti. The ruins and rubble of destroyed buildings are not cleared yet. Consequently the food, tents and other aid cannot reach Haitians in dire straits. The last few weeks the newspapers reported on the rising rice prices caused by the tremendous amount of food aid. Now to buy rice from abroad is cheaper than buying rice locally. That is why the UN World Food Program changed their policy. Instead of handing out rice they give out money or a voucher to the starving people to buy rice at the local market. Thus by the same token 'Cash for Work' works better than 'Food for work'. These problems are worsened by the increasing crisis over land. With so many people deceased and buried in unknown mass graves, so many displaced persons, so many buildings demolished and hardly any official records left, title deeds and land registry records, it is next to impossible to prove to whom a building belongs. All the more since some 16,000 civil servants were killed.

Perhaps these problems are some of the reasons the interest in rebuilding and reconstructing Haiti after the 12th January earthquake is clearly decreasing. The number of attendants at the 1st International Coordination Committee for the Protection of Haitian Cultural Heritage (ICC) on 7-8 July at the UNESCO'S HQ in Paris was smaller than expected: Hall XII was poorly filled.

The discussions during the one and a half day meeting were rather confusing and many participants misunderstood each other. It seems that the capacity of the Ministry of Culture and its subsequent institutions, especially ISPAN (Haitian Institute for the Preservation of the National Heritage), is the main problem. In the end this was recognized by all and put as the number one recommendation. The UNESCO secretariat set up four thematic sub-groups, respectively on cultural and natural heritage, including world heritage; intangible heritage; museums, archives and libraries; cultural industries.

According to ActionAid the rebuilding reflects the wishes of donor countries – mainly the US and the EU - rather than the needs of Haitians themselves. The Haitian people must be included in the reconstructions plans, ActionAid continues. The foreign aid troops represent the western centric model for administration and political culture lead by concepts as democracy, transparency, efficiency, efficacy, science, high-tech, etc. It is no wonder that this seems to disagree with the Caribbean-French oriented style of administration and management: hierarchy, status & prestige, emphasis on personal relations, micro-management, centreperiphery, capital-countryside, etc. One of the recommendations at the ICC meeting was to *encourage* the international community to restrict their requests.

**This is Development without Culture!**

Another huge problem is the fragmentation of aid. The lack of the big three C's – Communication, Cooperation, Coordination – is without a doubt the major cause. One of the ways to overcome this lack could be 'twinning.' In particular, national heritage institutions, but not only, could link up with one partner abroad. This idea has already been put into practice in the past by the American Museum Association and by the Middle East Librarians Association (for other examples see Palestine Think Tank and UNESCO World Natural Heritage Sites).

The Ministry of Culture is in great need of donor money to hire local staff and office equipment. As Mme Comeau Denis Magali, special advisor to the ministry, pointed out at the ICC meeting: the lack of internet facilities and electricity hampers them enormously in their daily activities. The second step is training that staff in basic skills: (western) management; computer literacy; language skills (basic English); accounting; budgeting; proposal writing. Some positive actions already undertaken by UNESCO include:

- UNESCO calls for ban on trade in Haiti art objects
- UNESCO emergency funds for documents
- U.N. Supports Move to Protect Haiti Heritage
- UNESCO Forum on Haiti
- UNESCO launches Mobile Multimedia Unit for internally displaced persons in Haiti
- Michaëlle Jean designated UNESCO Special Envoy for Haiti

To link to the full article, please visit:

<http://www.cultureindevelopment.nl/file.php/78/Reconstructing%20the%20Haitian%20heritage%20sector%20ICC%20Unesco%207-8%20juli%20Rene%20Teijgeler%20veslag%202.pdf>

## **UK COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY BURSARY PROJECT GIVEN HUGE FINANCIAL BOOST**



In June, the [Council for British Archaeology](#) was awarded a £604,000 grant from the [Heritage Lottery Fund \(HLF\)](#) towards a new project providing funded training for community archaeologists across the UK. The project will run for three years and will deliver 27 (9 per year) placements across the UK. These will provide on-the-job training for individuals to increase their skills and knowledge of working with communities and volunteers.

The bursaries will be aimed at individuals from any background who can demonstrate sound archaeological knowledge and experience and who wish to pursue an archaeological career specifically involving supporting communities.

The bursaries will be hosted by organisations with established track-records in supporting to communities and voluntary groups. This will benefit not only the UK's archaeology, but also the communities and volunteers who are so passionate about it.

The application was developed with support from [English Heritage](#), and we look forward to working in partnership with a variety of partners across the UK, including English Heritage and [Cadw](#).

The first round of bursaries will be offered from early 2011. Details of the bursaries, their locations, and how to apply will be advertised in due course. Please keep an eye on our website at <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/community/bursaries> or contact [bursaries@britarch.ac.uk](mailto:bursaries@britarch.ac.uk).

## **MONUMENTA'S "LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND MONUMENTS" PUBLIC DIALOGUE EVENT**

Building upon the ratification of the European Landscape Convention by the Greek State, MONUMENTA's programme "Local Communities & Monuments" organises a day conference - public dialogue event on the 27th of August, 19.30 at Mitropolis' Square, Chora, Naxos, titled: "Something is wrong on the landscape of Naxos. The ratification of the European Landscape Convention, precious or a lost chance for the island?"

This is the 4th event, in the last four years, and it is organized under the auspice of Naxos and Drymalia Municipalities. The main target is to present and discuss the concept of the landscape as promoted by the Convention, and build up a dialogue that will eventually lead to measures for protection, management and design of the naxian landscape by the Local Administration and the citizens.

The proceedings of the second meeting of the programme, titled: "Monuments of Naxos at risk. The citizens' voice." have already been published.

Further info: [www.monumenta.org](http://www.monumenta.org) / [stelios.lekakis@monumenta.org](mailto:stelios.lekakis@monumenta.org)

## **EXCAVATIONS BY THE IRISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL (IAFS) AT BLACK FRIARY, TRIM AND AT BECTIVE, BOTH IN CO. MEATH**

Excavations at Bective and at Black Friary took place this summer. Both are Abbeys, Bective was Cistercian, the second abbey to be built in Ireland, and Black Friary was a Dominican foundation. Students from Australia, Canada, Italy and the United States were joined by Irish students and interested volunteers. The excavations in Black Friary, which is in the medieval town of Trim, were facilitated and supported by the Town Council and there is great interest in the project as the site is currently unused waste ground. The remains of the Friary buildings have been traced by topographical, geophysical and resistivity surveys, and excavation has shown that the walls survive up to a height of 1.5m. It is hoped that this community archaeology project will involve local townspeople in decisions as to the use of space and the display of the remains of the buildings. Students have the option of earning credits as well on all IAFS digs, on completion of a minimum of two weeks digging, keeping a fieldwork diary and completing an essay after they finish fieldwork.

For more information see: [www.iafs.ie](http://www.iafs.ie)

## **OFFSHORE DRILLING REFORM DOES NOT INCLUDE FULL FUNDING FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

On the evening of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) announced that the Senate would not proceed to debate that chamber's version (S. 3663) of offshore oil drilling reform prior to the August recess. Opposition to the bill came from both sides of the aisle. Some thought the legislation did too much, such as removing the \$75 million liability cap on damages

from oil spills. Others, including environmental groups, were disappointed that it did not include a strong alternative energy standard.

The bill also did not include a provision guaranteeing full funding (\$150 million per year) for the Historic Preservation Fund. The House version of oil drilling and energy policy reform, H.R. 3534, which was passed by that body last week, does contain the full funding guarantee.

Once senators return to the issue in September, it is unclear if they will take up the current legislation, or start over with a new bill. Either way, members of both parties indicate that the debate will be "wide open", with a substantial number of amendments being considered.

### **3. New publications by WAC members**

#### **Archaeology and the Global Economic Crisis. Multiple Impacts, Possible Solutions**

Edited by Nathan Schlanger and Kenneth Aitchison

Published by the ACE project and Culture Lab Editions

This 150 page publication can be downloaded completely free of charge at:

<http://www.ace-archaeology.eu/fichiers/25Archaeology-and-the-crisis.pdf>

The editors plan to publish a follow-up volume in the course of the year with further cases and analyses regarding the multiple effects of the global crisis on archaeology. Potential contributors are welcome to get in touch.

***New From Left Coast Press, Inc. WAC members receive a 20% discount on hardcovers and a 30% discount on paperbacks (insert discount code L3410 at checkout)***

#### **Recently Released!**

##### **Indigenous Archaeologies: A Reader on Decolonization**

Edited by Margaret Bruchac, Siobhan Hart, and H Martin Wobst

August 2010, 304 pages, \$89.00 Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-59874-372-2

<http://lcoastpress.com/book.php?id=162>

This comprehensive reader on indigenous archaeology shows that collaboration has become a key part of archaeology and heritage practice worldwide. Collaborative projects and projects directed and conducted by indigenous peoples independently have become standard, community concerns are routinely addressed, and oral histories are commonly incorporated into research. This volume begins with a substantial section on theoretical and philosophical underpinnings, then presents key articles from around the globe in sections on Oceania, North America, Mesoamerica and South America, Africa, Asia, and Europe. Editorial introductions to each piece contextualize them in the intersection of archaeology and indigenous studies. This major collection is an ideal text for courses in indigenous studies, archaeology, heritage management, and related fields.

##### **Bridging the Divide: Indigenous Communities and Archaeology into the 21st Century**

Harry Allen and Caroline Phillips

July 2010, 304 pages, \$79.00 Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-59874-392-0

<http://lcoastpress.com/book.php?id=285>

The collected essays in this volume address contemporary issues regarding the relationship between Indigenous groups and archaeologists, including the challenges of dialogue, colonialism, the difficulties of working within legislative and institutional frameworks, and NAGPRA and similar legislation. The disciplines of archaeology and cultural heritage management are international in scope and many countries continue to experience the impact of colonialism. In response to these common experiences, both archaeology and indigenous political movements involve international networks through which information quickly moves

around the globe. This volume reflects these dynamic dialectics between the past and the present and between the international and the local, demonstrating that archaeology is a historical science always linked to contemporary cultural concerns.

**Now Available in Paperback:**

**Handbook of Landscape Archaeology**

Bruno David and Julian Thomas, editors

<http://lcoastpress.com/book.php?id=96>

**Archaeologies of Placemaking: Monuments, Memories, and Engagement in Native North America**

Patricia E. Rubertone

<http://lcoastpress.com/book.php?id=182>

**Coming soon (and available for preorder!):**

**Handbook of Postcolonial Archaeology**

Jane Lydon and Uzma Rizvi

Coming in October 2010! 600 pages, \$129.00 Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-59874-182-7

<http://lcoastpress.com/book.php?id=299>

This essential handbook explores the relationship between the postcolonial critique and the field of archaeology, a discipline that developed historically in conjunction with European colonialism and imperialism. In aiding the movement to decolonize the profession, the contributors to this volume—themselves from six continents and many representing indigenous and minority communities and disadvantaged countries—suggest strategies to strip archaeological theory and practice of its colonial heritage and create a discipline sensitive to its inherent inequalities. Summary articles review the emergence of the discipline of archaeology in conjunction with colonialism, critique the colonial legacy evident in continuing archaeological practice around the world, identify current trends, and chart future directions in postcolonial archaeological research. Contributors provide a synthesis of research, thought, and practice on their topic. The articles embrace multiple voices and case study approaches, and have consciously aimed to recognize the utility of comparative work and interdisciplinary approaches to understanding the past. This is a benchmark volume for the study of the contemporary politics, practice, and ethics of archaeology.

**Coexistence and Cultural Transmission in East Asia**

Naoko Matsumoto, Hidetaka Bessho, and Makoto Tomii, editors

Coming in November 2010! 304 pages, \$89.00 Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-59874-335-7

<http://lcoastpress.com/book.php?id=319>

This is the first volume to introduce the data, theory and methodology of contemporary archaeological work in Japan and other parts of East Asia archaeology in English to western audiences. It also introduces a new theoretical concept to archaeologists interested in the relationship between ancient cultures—coexistence. Archaeologists traditionally examine the boundaries between different cultural groups in terms conflict and dominance rather than long-term, harmonious adaptive responses. Chapters in this book cover evidence from burials, faunal and botanical analysis, as well as traditional trade goods. It is of interest to archaeologists conducting research in East Asia or studying intercultural interaction anywhere around the globe.

This is a sampling of WAC-sponsored titles. To order or for more information on additional WAC-sponsored titles, visit our website at:

<http://www.lcoastpress.com>

For more information, contact Caryn Berg at [archaeology@LCoastPress.com](mailto:archaeology@LCoastPress.com)

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**For more information and to order the following books:**  
**E-mail: [kovacs@archaeologia.hu](mailto:kovacs@archaeologia.hu); <http://www.archaeologia.hu>**

**KULCSÁR, G.: THE BEGINNINGS OF THE BRONZE AGE IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN**  
**Varia Archaeologica Hungarica 23**

The book focuses on the mid-3rd millennium history of the central regions of the Carpathian Basin, corresponding to the late Vučedol and post- Vučedol period. The book is divided into two main sections, one dealing with the Makó–Kosihy–Čaka culture, the other with the Somogyvár–Vinkovci culture, both based on extensive data collection and a re-assessment of the already published material. The typo-chronological analysis of the period's known find assemblages and the conclusions drawn thereof will hopefully provide a sound basis for future studies in this field. The detailed overview of settlement patterns and burial customs, combined with a fresh interpretation of the artefactual material from a broader perspective have contributed to a better understanding of the cultural trajectories and interactions leading to the emergence of the Bronze Age in the Carpathian Basin.

**526 pages**  
**Arch.Inst.of the HAS, 2009**  
**ISBN: 978-963-7391-95-8 (963-7391-95-8)**  
**Price: 60 EURO**

**SITUATING GENDER IN EUROPEAN ARCHAEOLOGIES**  
**Liv Helga Dommasnes, Tove Hjørungdal, Sandra Montón-Subías,**  
**Margarita Sánchez Romero and Nancy L. Wicker (eds)**

This volume contains fifteen studies of gender and archaeology in Europe from different perspectives, including contributions to the research history of gender in archaeology as well as case-studies that focus on gender relations in Iberia, Scandinavia, Russia, Eastern Europe, and the Eastern Mediterranean. In addition, two introductory essays place these various approaches in context, explicitly considering how knowledge is created by scholars located ("situated") in time and space, how different academic traditions and regional approaches are (or are not) represented in the dominant English-language literature, and how gender research is disseminated to the public and to academic audiences.

**309 pages, with illustrations**  
**2010**  
**ISBN: 978 963 9911 15 4**  
**Price: 36 EURO**

**THE MASTER OF ANIMALS IN OLD WORLD ICONOGRAPHY**  
**Derek B. Counts and Bettina Arnold (eds)**

Old World iconography from the Upper Paleolithic to the Christian era consistently features symbolic representations of both female and male protagonists in conflict with, accompanied by or transmuted partly or completely into, animals. Adversarial relationships are made explicit through hunting and sacrifice scenes, including heraldic compositions featuring a central figure grasping beasts arrayed on either side, while more implicit expressions are manifested in zoomorphic attributes (horns, headdresses, skins, etc.) and composite or hybrid figures that blend animal and human elements into a single image. *The Master of Animals in Old World Iconography* assembles archaeological, iconographical, and literary evidence for the Master of Animals from a variety of cultural contexts and disparate chronological horizons throughout the Old World, with a particular focus on Europe and the Mediterranean basin as well as the Indus Valley and Eurasia. The volume does not seek to demonstrate relatedness between different manifestations of this figure, even though some are clearly ontologically and geographically

linked, but rather to interpret the role of this iconographic construct within each cultural context. In doing so, *The Master of Animals in Old World Iconography* provides an important resource for scholars confronting similar symbolic paradigms across the Old World landscape that foregrounds comparative interpretation in diverse ritual and socio-political environments.

**262 pages, with illustrations**

**2010**

**ISBN: 978 963 9911 14 7**

**Price: 56 EURO**

**ISTVÁN ZALAI-GAÁL**

**Die Soziale Differenzierung im Spätneolithikum Südtransdanubiens**

**Varia Archaeologica Hungarica 24**

Im vorliegenden Buch versucht der Autor die Unterschiede zwischen Bestattungen von Männern und Frauen der spätneolithischen-frühkupferzeitlichen Lengyel-Kultur (5. Jahrtausend v. Chr.) in Südtransdanubien zu bestimmen. Es werden auch die Fragen der Schichtung innerhalb der kleineren und größeren Gruppen und Dorfgemeinschaften sowie der Hierarchie bzw. der Rangordnung zwischen den begrabenen Personen und Familien untersucht. Weitere Fragen sind, ob in dieser Gesellschaft eine Handwerkerschicht existiert hat und ob spezialisierte Fachkenntnisse innerhalb der Familien weitervererbt wurden. Was ist im geistigen Gebiet Ergebnis einer autochthonen, lokalen bzw. regionalen Entwicklung, was ist „fremd“ und was kann auf Kontinuität und was auf Diskontinuität hinweisen? – stellt der Autor die Frage auf.

Die Untersuchungen zu diesem Buch wurden auf Grund der in den vergangenen 150 Jahren ausgegrabenen Gräberfelder- und -gruppen der behandelten prähistorischen Gemeinschaften (Lengyel, Zengővárkony, Villánykövesd, Mórágó, usw.) mit Hilfe der archäologischen Merkmalanalyse vorgenommen.

**314 pages**

**Arch.Inst.of the HAS, 2010**

**ISBN: 978-963-9911-13-0**

**Price: 54 EURO**

## **4. Conferences and Opportunities**

### **MIDDLE EAST RESEARCH COMPETITION (MERC)**

#### **Call for Proposals**

MERC is pleased to announce the 10th round of research awards and invites proposals from qualified researchers. Deadline for receiving proposals in their final format is 15 October 2010. While open to all research ideas and topics, the program encourages proposals that apply rigorous social science methodologies and theories particularly in the following areas:

- **Public life in the Arab World:** including the public sphere and the development of public life in societies under study and the enhancement of opportunities of public participation for different social groups with emphasis on women, youth, and marginalized groups.
- **Development:** Research on various aspects of sustainable development, both local and national.
- **Knowledge and Educational Capacities:** Research on educational capacities and socialization, including educational reform, educational policy, use of IT, academic curricula, and the role of various actors in the educational field.
- **Social and Political Transformations:** including research on the family, the elderly, childhood, gender socialisation, social reproduction, social mobility, political and civil society.
- **Regional and International Relations:** This includes research on economy and diplomatic relations, post-conflict situations, the psychological and political impact of conflicts and the rehabilitation of victims of conflict.

#### **Eligibility**

Residents of Arab countries and Turkey are eligible to apply for the awards. Residents are persons of any nationality whose current and planned future place of professional practice is in the region. Temporary residence outside the region for purposes of advanced study does not preclude eligibility. Research proposals may include non-residents as co-investigators. Former MERC awardees are not eligible to apply. Research Awards are intended for Ph.D. holders in the early stages of their professional careers. For exceptionally strong cases, research awards may also be made for Ph.D. dissertation research in the region by students from the region. In the case of projects involving team research, the principal investigator must have a Ph.D. degree. Proposals can be submitted in Arabic, French, or English. A final proposal should not exceed 20 typed double spaced pages in length. Additional pages are needed for an abstract, time-line, budget, and curriculum vitae of all proposed project members.

For the components that the Selection Committee expects to find in good research proposals, please visit MERC website [www.mercprogram.org](http://www.mercprogram.org) – “call for proposals”. For Ph.D. dissertation research in the region, students are required to provide at least one letter of evaluation and support by their dissertation supervisor. The supervisor should clearly explain the candidate’s academic status (e.g. if candidate has completed course work, is ready to begin field work etc...) as well as his/her strengths and weaknesses.

A response from the MERC Secretariat can be expected four weeks after the meeting of the Selection Committee in July. Final and complete research proposals are due on **15 October 2010**.

Applications and letters of recommendation for Ph.D. candidates are to be sent electronically to the following email address: [contact@mercprogram.org](mailto:contact@mercprogram.org)

## **APPEL À CONTRIBUTIONS BOURSES DE RECHERCHES**

Le programme MERC a le plaisir d'annoncer son dixième cycle de compétition pour les bourses de haut niveau et d'appeler les chercheurs qualifiés et intéressés à soumettre leurs propositions. Cette compétition est ouverte à toutes les propositions et thématiques de recherche touchant à :

- **La vie publique:** avec tous ses aspects institutionnels et individuels, comme l'intérêt public, le service public, le rôle de la sphère publique et le développement de la vie publique via la multiplication des opportunités de participation publique pour tous les groupes sociaux, en mettant davantage l'accent sur les femmes et les jeunes et les modes de conflit et de compromis.
- **Le développement:** et la recherche dans les différents domaines du développement, local, national et internationale, en mettant l'accent sur les aspects actuels et quotidiens de la durabilité, l'environnement et la gouvernance urbaine.
- **Les capacités éducationnelles et l'économie de la connaissance:** et la recherche dans le domaine de l'éducation, les politiques éducationnelles, les réformes et l'usage des TIC et des rôles des différents acteurs dans le domaine éducationnel.
- **Les transformations politiques et sociales:** incluant les recherches sur le genre, la famille, le troisième âge, l'enfance, la socialisation, la reproduction sociale, la mobilité, la société politique et la société civile.
- **Les relations régionales et internationales:** incluant la recherche en matière de relations économiques et diplomatiques, les situations post conflictuelles, l'impact psychologique et politique des conflits et la réhabilitation des victimes des conflits armés.

Les bourses de recherche sont octroyées aux étudiants ayant déjà témoigné d'une expérience de recherche réussie dans le domaine des sciences sociales. Le programme encourage davantage les doctorants et les docteurs en début de carrière universitaire. Dans certains cas exceptionnels, des bourses peuvent être octroyées pour des recherches doctorales en cours sur la région menées en dehors du monde arabe. Les propositions peuvent être soumises en arabe, en français ou en anglais. La proposition finale ne doit pas dépasser les 20 pages tapées, avec interligne double. D'autres documents seront demandés, comme un abstract, un calendrier prévisionnel d'avancement, un budget, un curriculum vitae. Les rubriques du budget

peuvent prévoir des achats d'équipements nécessaires à la recherche, les dépenses de transport et de voyages, des salaires, une assistance technique ou autres dépenses. Les bourses sont généralement octroyées par tranches et peuvent aller jusqu'à 15,000 \$.

Les propositions doivent parvenir au programme avant la date limite du **15 Octobre 2010**. Les candidatures et/ou demandes de renseignements doivent être adressées à **contact@mercprogram.org**.

## **PLACES, PEOPLE, STORIES: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Linnaeus University, Kalmar, Sweden  
28-30 September 2011**

### **Call for Sessions**

We are now inviting session proposals. **Deadline 31 October 2010.**

This conference investigates the relations between people and places, focusing on the role of stories in constructing meaning and affecting human emotions. Both rural and urban landscapes contain numerous locations that become meaningful places through their association with stories. These stories may be told orally by narrators or by material design; they may be permanent or temporary. The stories may be linked, for example, to the vegetation, the geology, the wild life, the cultural heritage, the mundane built environment, or metaphysical creatures. Whether such stories are historically accurate, purposefully invented or created entirely in residents' or visitors' minds is however less important than their potential to touch human beings.

### **Main aims of the conference**

- 1) to explore the relations between people, places, and stories in the context of notable trends in the Experience Society such as the role of affect, emotion, and sensual stimulation.
- 2) to investigate how the visual and performative arts can complement academic research by generating both new questions and new kinds of responses to topics at the interface between places, people and stories.

### **Invitation**

This is the fourth conference in a series of meetings of the Scandinavian interdisciplinary research network on *Geography and Emotion*. The conference is organized by the interdisciplinary research network "Places as stories", based at Linnaeus University in Växjö and Kalmar and supported by a network grant from *Riksbanken Jubileumsfond 2009-11*.

The conference will take place over three days and involve plenary lectures, parallel seminars, site-specific art and performed events. It will be possible to extend the stay in order to attend the annual Harvest Celebrations on Öland.

Please send your ideas for sessions or any other suggestions for the conference to **cornelius.holtorf@lnu.se**.

## **43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CHACMOOL CONFERENCE: ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE PUBLIC EYE November 12–14, 2010**

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chacmool Conference is hosted by the Chacmool Archaeological Association and the Department of Archaeology, University of Calgary.

It has been 15 years since the "Public or Perish" Chacmool Conference. This conference succeeded in highlighting the importance of making archaeology a publicly accessible discipline and predicted the intensification of public archaeology projects. It seems an apt time for a follow-up. Public interest in archaeology is unquestionably strong and it is up to archaeologists to present archaeology in a form compatible with that interest. This is not, exclusively, a "Public

Archaeology" conference though this subject is expected to contribute a significant number of papers. Some sessions are instead concerned with various ways of making archaeological research relevant to a public audience including the increasingly prevalent use of blogs, web-based resources, and popular publication. Other sessions are intended to act on this ethos and include open general interest, current research and culture history papers presented in a manner accessible to a wide, potentially non-academic audience.

### **Important Dates**

**19 May:** Conference Registration Begins  
**11 October:** Last day to Submit Abstracts for Papers and Posters  
[Registration and Payment Deadline for Presenters](#)  
**28 October:** Last day to request refund  
**11-14 November:** Chacmool Conference

### **70 NEW BANTING POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Please consider the new Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships ( <http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/fellowships/banting-eng.aspx> ) that have been established in Canada. There are 70 new fellowships available this year and they are valued at Canadian \$70,000 per year (a total of \$140,000). The fellowships are open to Canadians **\*\*and\*\*** foreign citizens.

These fellowships offer a fantastic opportunity for students interested in continuing to engage in their own research in advance of securing a tenure-track position. The 70 awards will be divided between medical research, science and engineering, and the social sciences and humanities. Current graduate students must have completed their PhDs prior to Dec 31, 2010.

The Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships Program will be distinguished from existing postdoctoral fellowships programs by its emphasis on the synergy between an applicant's individual merit and potential to launch a successful research-intensive career and the host institution's commitment to the research program and environment with which the applicant is to be affiliated. As such, an application to the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships Program must be completed in full collaboration with the proposed host institution.

### **WAC STUDENT WRITING COMPETITION**

The WAC Student Committee (WACSC) is proud to announce the World Archaeology Congress Student Writing Competition -- a newly organized annual prize intended to showcase original student research as an integral part of WAC and the future of the discipline of archaeology. All student members of WAC are eligible to submit a paper for consideration of this prize.

The papers will be evaluated by the WACSC along with a distinguished archaeological scholar representing the Editorial Board of the WAC journal *Archaeologies*. The winner of the WAC Student Writing Competition will receive a citation from the WAC Executive, a 4-year membership to WAC, and guarantee of review for publication of the paper in a future edition of *Archaeologies*.

The deadline for submission is **October 1, 2010** (June 1 annually thereafter). For more information, please visit:

<http://www.worldarchaeologicalcongress.org/component/content/article/1-latest/452-wac-student-writing-competition>

### **FELLOWSHIP AVAILABLE AT THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL HISTORY**

The International Institute of Social History (IISH) of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) is now accepting applications for a number of fellowships. The International Institute of Social History (IISH) of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) is located in Amsterdam. Founded in 1935, it is one of the world's largest documentary and research institutions in the field of social history in general and the history of the labour movement in particular. IISH holds over 3,000 archival collections, some one million printed volumes and about as many audio-visual items. Gathered from across the globe, the IISH collections provide a unique body of materials on social conditions and social movements in many parts of the world.

See for more information about the fellowships: <http://www.iisg.nl/research/fellowships.php>

## **ANCIENT PORTS OF INDIAN OCEAN AND INDIA'S MARITIME LINKAGES WITH THE IOR LITTORALS**

**February 2011**

**India International Center, New Delhi, India**

The India International Center (IN) and ASI are organizing 4th International Seminar on Marine Archaeology for February 2011, in New Delhi, India. The theme of the seminar is "Ancient Ports of Indian Ocean and India's Maritime Linkages with the Indian Ocean Region Littorals". Related topics may also be discussed.

Please contact [isma4delhi@gmail.com](mailto:isma4delhi@gmail.com) for more details and a registration form.

## **17<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON STONE CONSERVATION – SC11**

**Dates: 13 April - 1 July 2011**

**Place: ICCROM, Rome, Italy**

### **Partners**

ICCROM ([www.iccrom.org](http://www.iccrom.org))

Getty Conservation Institute ([www.getty.edu/conservation/](http://www.getty.edu/conservation/))

### **Background**

In many regions of the world stone was historically the predominant material used for building and artistic purposes. Accordingly, the conservation and maintenance of architectural and decorative stone is a core activity in such regions. Factors such as climate change, pollution, use demands, lack of maintenance, and inappropriate past treatments present challenges for the conservation of stone buildings, structures and objects. In addition to these factors, the decline in traditional building techniques, craft practices and repair methods is also threatening our ability to sustain stone structures and objects into the future. These conservation issues require a multidisciplinary approach that involves professionals, craftspeople, policy makers and owners.

### **Course objectives and programme**

The course adopts a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach and is designed for professionals involved in the conservation of historic stone structures and artifacts. The primary goal of the course is to improve the practice of stone conservation internationally by providing participants with a holistic understanding of the decay and deterioration of stone, disseminating effective conservation methodologies, and ensuring a practical understanding of appropriate repair methods and long-term management strategies. Through lectures, discussions, laboratory sessions, demonstrations, site visits and field exercises, participants will discuss both the fundamental theories of conservation as well as consider how advances in technology and research have influenced practical approaches as they pertain to all phases of stone conservation. Group fieldwork exercises at a worksite will provide participants with the opportunity to address actual work scenarios where multidisciplinary solutions and collaboration are required. Throughout the course, participants will be encouraged to draw upon their collective expertise from various specializations to help them arrive at more effective conservation solutions.

The course will be divided into six modules over eleven weeks. These modules will include topics such as:

- Conservation principles and theories;
- Material sciences as a tool for identification, analysis, and design of conservation treatments;
- Mechanisms of deterioration;
- Diagnostic techniques for identifying causes and effects of observed conditions;
- Condition assessment methodology;
- Developing a conservation strategy for immediate and long-term actions including prevention, maintenance, repair and treatment; and
- Managing stone conservation projects and the value of working within multidisciplinary teams

The course may include a preparatory phase prior to arrival in Rome.

### **Language**

The course will be conducted in English. Candidates must have a thorough technical knowledge and command of English. A certificate of language proficiency is required.

### **Course fee**

1,300 EUR (Euro)

### **Application**

Please fill the ICCROM application form (obtainable from ICCROM web site) and send it together with the following by mail to the contact address below.

### **Stone Course 11**

#### **ICCROM**

13, Via di S. Michele

I-00153 Rome, ITALY

Tel: 39 06 585 531

Fax: 39 06 5855 3349

E-mail: [stonecourse11@iccrom.org](mailto:stonecourse11@iccrom.org)

Applications must be received by ICCROM by **30 September 2010** to ensure inclusion in the selection process.

## **5. Excerpts from the newsletters of other archaeological associations (used with permission)**

### **5 (a) SALON**

#### **Salon 239: 9 August 2010**

##### **World Heritage decisions**

At its 2010 meeting in Brasilia, capital of Brazil, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee inscribed fifteen new cultural heritage sites on the World Heritage list, five natural heritage sites and one 'mixed'. Reports from the meeting said that a concerted effort was made this year to redress 'a perceived bias towards Europe's well-documented cultural hotspots and recognize unique areas in developing countries hitherto overlooked'. As a result, only two new European heritage sites were inscribed — Amsterdam's Grachtengordel (Canal Circle) and the city of Albi, in France.

Among the other sites inscribed were an imperial palace in Vietnam, temples in China, an Australian penal colony, a historic bazaar in Iran, fourteenth-century villages in South Korea, an eighteenth-century astronomical observatory in India and the Bikini Atoll Nuclear Test Site in the Marshall Islands. The full list of sites can be found on the UNESCO [website](#).

Four sites were added to the World Heritage List of Sites in Danger, including Florida's Everglades, but the Galapagos Islands were removed from the list of thirty-one sites on the danger list, despite UNESCO's own consulting body on heritage matters stating that the archipelago was still under threat.

The World Heritage Committee also voted unanimously to keep Istanbul on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List, despite evidence that the city's historical sites have not been appropriately conserved to international criteria. Necmi Karul, Chair of the Istanbul Archaeologists Association, greeted the news with relief, saying that 'had UNESCO decided otherwise, it would have opened the way to further depredation of our historical sites'.

Karul also called on UNESCO to press the Turkish authorities more strongly to fulfil the country's obligations under international agreements it has signed, particularly the European Convention for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, signed in Malta in 1992. As part of its decision to keep Istanbul on the list, the World Heritage Committee has asked Turkey to report back to it on plans to relieve the city's traffic burden, to protect Istanbul's traditional wooden houses, to restore the city walls and to conduct independent environmental impact studies on the effects on the city's historic environment of major transport projects such as the Golden Horn (Haliç) metro line and the building of road tunnels under the Bosphorus Strait.

Eighteen sites that had been nominated for World Heritage Site status were not inscribed, including the UK's nomination of 'Darwin's Landscape Laboratory'. Supporters of the bid argued that Down House and its surrounding woods and fields have outstanding universal value as the laboratory in which Darwin made observations and conducted the experiments that led him to develop his theory of evolution by natural selection — a theory that has had a 'profound influence on the life sciences, medicine, agriculture, philosophy, the creative arts and general views of humankind's relation to other living creatures in the natural world'.

The World Heritage Committee decided that, although Darwin's Landscape Laboratory was very strong in terms of recognising scientific achievement, further study and analysis was needed before the site could be considered for World Heritage designation. The Committee voted to defer the nomination back to the UK authorities for these issues to be addressed.

### **Our sites need protection too, say Aboriginal leaders**

The inscription of eleven Australian Convict Sites in the 2010 list, including Old Government House, Hyde Park Barracks and Port Arthur in Tasmania, has been greeted with anger by members of the Aboriginal community, who have asked why '200 years of white history' has resulted in so many nominations, while 'the evidence of 50,000 years of human existence in Australia is in danger of extinction'. 'That suggests a strong ethnocentric bias towards everything Anglo-Saxon and a prejudice or ignorance about the Aboriginal past and a lack of understanding of its value', said Michael Mansell, director of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.

Michael Mansell pointed to Australia's endangered rock art heritage as worthy of immediate protection and said that the lack of Aboriginal sites on the list could be blamed on the fact that there were no indigenous people on the board that decides on the country's UNESCO nominations.

The penal sites were selected 'from thousands established by the British Empire on Australian soil in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries' as 'the best surviving examples of large-scale convict transportation and the colonial expansion of European powers through the presence and labour of convicts'.

### **Australia's earliest contact rock art discovered**

Australian academics and members of the Aboriginal community working together to record and protect rock art in the Wellington Range, Arnhem Land, have stumbled across the oldest 'contact rock art' yet discovered in Australia. This depicts a south-east Asian sailing vessel

known as a *prau*, and a large beeswax snake overlying the ship has been radiocarbon dated by Stewart Fallon at the Australian National University (ANU) to between AD 1624 and 1674, providing a minimum age for the sailing vessel painting.

The discovery was made by SALON Fellow Paul Taçon (Griffith University), Ronald Lamilami (Senior Traditional Owner) and Sally May (ANU) as part of their fieldwork for the ARC-funded 'Picturing Change: 21st-century perspectives on recent Australian rock art' project. So far, some 1,200 individual paintings and beeswax figures have been found in the area under study.

Historians and archaeologists have long speculated that south-east Asian ships must have visited the northern parts of Australia long before European settlement, but this is the first dated evidence. 'This part of Arnhem Land is well known for its south-east Asian heritage and extensive pioneering archaeological research undertaken by Campbell Macknight, although rock art was not a focus of his early archaeological research', said Dr May.

The Djulirri site where the ship depiction was found 'has more diverse contact period rock art than any other site in Australia', said Professor Taçon. 'Besides paintings of south-east Asian ships, there are European tall ships and many other forms of watercraft, all of which can be placed in chronological sequence.' The research will be published in a forthcoming issue of the journal *Australian Archaeology*.

### **Humans in the Philippines 67,000 years ago**

Possibly the earliest human fossil in the Asia-Pacific region has been found in Callao Cave in Cagayan province, Luzon, in the Philippines, dating from 67,000 years ago. The remains of the so-called Tabon Man of Palawan, the archipelago's earliest human remains until this discovery, date from 50,000 years ago. Uranium-series dating was used to establish the age of the remains and the results have been published in the journal *Human Evolution*. The discovery was made by a team of archaeologists led by Armand Mijares, of the University of the Philippines-Diliman, who said that Callao Man, or his ancestors, probably reached Luzon from what is now Indonesia by raft. The remains of butchered animals were found in the same layer of sediment, but no stone tools. 'We can only speculate that they were using different tools. From our initial analysis of the cut marks on the animal bones, they could have used organic tools such as bamboo which is ubiquitous in the region', Mijares said.

### **The Stone Age seafarers of the Mediterranean**

*Hesperia* 79 (2010), the journal of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, has published evidence that early humans (such as *Homo heidelbergensis*) navigated from Africa to Crete at least 130,000 years ago. The evidence, in the form of Lower Palaeolithic stone tools, was found by members of a team of archaeologists led by Professor Thomas Strasser, of the Department of Art and Art History at Providence College, USA, and Dr Eleni Panagopoulou, of the Greek Ministry of Culture, at nine sites on the island. The survey team surveyed caves and rock shelters near the mouths of freshwater streams along a stretch of the south-western coast of Crete facing Libya. Up to 300 pieces were found at each site, and the geological contexts at five of the sites have enabled the finds to be dated to at least 130,000 years ago, though some of the hand axes, cleavers and scrapers could be much older, as they closely resemble hand axes fashioned in Africa about 800,000 years ago by early hominins.

By this period, Crete had already been an island for several million years. The journey from Africa would have involved an open-sea crossing of some 200 miles. The Cretan finds add to a growing body of evidence for early sea journeys: tools that look Palaeolithic have been made on the island of Gavdos, off the south coast of Crete, and the much earlier date of 1.3 million years ago has been proposed for occupation at Atapuerca, near Burgos, in northern Spain, perhaps the result of a relatively short sea journey across the Straits of Gibraltar.

SALON fellow Curtis Runnels, of the Boston University Archaeology Department and the Palaeolithic expert on the Plakias survey team, says these finds 'are a first step on the path of

research leading to a better understanding of the movements of early prehistoric peoples among the Mediterranean islands and beyond’.

## Salon 238: 26 July 2010

### Italy ends funding for archaeological bodies

Merging heritage bodies to save money is a better solution perhaps than the response of the Italian government to the challenge of reducing its £1.5 trillion national debt; it has ceased its funding to a number of research institutes, including the Istituto Storico Italiano per il Medioevo (the Rome Institute for Medieval Italian History), the Istituto per la Storia e l’Archeologia della Magna Grecia (the Institute for the History and Archaeology of Ancient Greece, based in Taranto) and, perhaps most seriously of all, the Scuola Archeologica Italiana di Atene (the Italian Archaeological School at Athens, known as SAIA). The latter has just celebrated its centenary, having been founded in 1909 and having served as a graduate training school for many of Italy’s leading archaeologists and historians of antiquity, including officials of the Italian Archaeological Superintendence. More recently it has served to train conservation architects engaged in the restoration, preservation and study of ancient Greek monuments, and it has mounted major excavations at Pale (Cephalonia), Poliochni (Lemnos) and the Cretan sites of Ayia Triadha, Phaistos, Monastiraki Apodolou, Thronos, Prinias and Gortyna. SAIA is now trying to raise private funding for the continuity of its activities, library and archive.

The Italian government is also planning to privatise a huge range of state-owned assets, including Rome’s Villa Giulia, home to the National Museum of Etruscan Archaeology, and the former royal palace in Palermo, Sicily. Salvatore Settis, the archaeologist and head of the prestigious Pisa-based university, the Scuola Normale Superiore, has denounced the sales as ‘draining and dismantling the state’, adding that ‘the country hasn’t realised that we are all having our pockets picked’. The scale of the sell-off reveals the range of assets owned by the Italian state. They include the island of Sant’Angelo della Polvere, in the Venetian lagoon, home to a ruined Benedictine monastery, parts of Rome’s Porta Portese flea market, beaches on Lake Como and ski resorts in Cortina d’Ampezzo, in the Dolomites. The concern amongst conservationists is that new owners will want to develop assets that have been protected up to now.

## Salon 237: 12 July 2010

### Happisburgh: ‘the earliest known settlement in northern Europe’

A little bit of local rivalry was sparked by the report published in *Nature* last week by Simon Parfitt and colleagues from University College London announcing that they had discovered 78 flint tools and flakes at a coastal site near Happisburgh that date from between 814,000 and 970,000 years ago, which makes them at least 100,000 years older than the previous oldest stone tools from a UK site, also found by Simon and his colleagues at Pakefield, Suffolk, in 2008.

As a consequence, Happisburgh now boasts of being the ‘earliest known human settlement in northern Europe’, though settlement is perhaps stretching a point: as at Pakefield, the tools were probably left by hunter-gatherers on what was then part of the flood plain and marshland bordering one of the ancient courses of the River Thames. The Happisburgh hunter gatherers shared the landscape with rhinos, hyenas and mammoths, whose fossil bones have also been found at the site, and endured a climate not unlike that of southern Scandinavia, where the winters are around 3°C colder on average than in Britain today. The only hominid known to have been living in Europe at this time was the now-extinct *Homo antecessor* species, which is known mainly from sites in Spain.

Professor Chris Stringer from the Natural History Museum and the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain project said that the discovery showed that ancient humans were better adapted to

surviving colder conditions than previously thought, and were almost certainly advanced enough to wear rudimentary clothing, build shelter and make fire.

### **Has one of the central questions about the British Neolithic been answered?**

Despite a century of research, archaeologists still disagree about how farming began in Britain, with some arguing that it was a result of indigenous groups adopting the practice via trade and exchange and others contending that it was the consequence of a migration of farmers from mainland Europe. SALON fellow Stephen Shennan, along with co-authors Mark Collard, Kevan Edinborough and Mark G Thomas, now think they might have the answer. In a paper published in *The Journal of Archaeological Science* (Volume 37, Issue 4, pages 671—900, April 2010) they present evidence for a marked and rapid increase in population density in southern England and in central Scotland around 6000 cal BP, which is the time when cultivated grain first appears in Britain. They argue that this finding is best explained by the migrant farmer hypothesis, with two sets of farmers from the Continent independently colonizing England and Scotland at this time.

Based on ethnographic data, the authors argue that farming usually supports much higher population densities in temperate regions than hunting and gathering and that the timing and rate of change in population size should provide clues as to the date and nature of the change to domesticated husbandry. They also reasoned that the number of monuments and settlements at any given period in prehistory could be used as a proxy for population size.

Plotting carbon-dated sites by 100-year time slices revealed that between 8000 and 6100 cal BP all regions of Britain were sparsely populated. Then, between 6100 and 5400 cal BP there was a dramatic increase in population density. South-west England was the first region to experience an increase. It was followed in the succeeding century by central Scotland. Subsequently, nearly all the regions of Britain experienced an increase in population density. Post-5400 cal BP, there were complex and varied demographic patterns. The maps indicate that the migration to south-west England occurred before the migration to Scotland and not the other way around (as argued by our Fellow Alison Sheridan) and that (based on close similarities in animal bones) the migrants in both cases probably came from the Pas de Calais region or the Paris Basin in northern France.

Because each map covers 100 years, the authors say that it is difficult to be precise about how much time elapsed between the two migrations, but that the gap was probably less than a century. They also argue for rapid adoption of farming practices by the indigenous population of Britain, rather than the model proposed by some archaeologists (such as SALON fellow Julian Thomas) that sees domesticated animals and crops used initially for occasional rituals and not becoming economic staples for hundreds of years.

The authors conclude that 'the case for believing that the Neolithic transition in Britain was mediated by a large influx of farmers from continental Europe is compelling. The migrants' arrival resulted in sudden and dramatic economic, demographic and social change that seems to have led to a "boom-to-bust" cycle lasting 600 to 700 years, with the initial rapid rise in population followed by an equally rapid decline, heralding the very different cultural patterns of the later Neolithic.'

**Next Issue: November 2010**

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