EAA Matters

Letter from the President

by Felipe Criado-Boado, EAA president, on the behalf of EAA Executive Board and Committees (felipe.criado-boado@incipit.csic.es).

Following the Brexit referendum and especially addressing all our English, Welsh, Northern Irish and Scottish members, those who work across Europe and those European who live and work in the UK, this is a time to pause, reflect and to look forward with confidence. It is a time to remember that all societies are composed of individuals and what they create. It is a time to bring to mind that solidarity and friendship build trust, integration and unity.

Archaeologists generally, and especially those within the EAA, have demonstrated the capacity to creatively work across borders and the great value of fostering international, open communities. We in the EAA are even more committed to this focus now. We will maintain our enthusiasm for imagining a more inclusive, solidary and stronger Europe and a more representative EAA in that context. We will, therefore, create time at our next Annual Meeting in Vilnius for a Round Table to discuss the impact of the Brexit vote for European archaeology, for all the members of the EAA and especially for our UK colleagues, whom we will continue to hold in the highest regard.

We collectively need to consider how to react and respond, and how to position the EAA in this new and complex cultural, social and political environment, recognizing that this event in the UK is reflective of more widespread processes in European societies that we must recognize for intervening in them. This is a moment when an organization such as ours needs to establish and align its position with clarity, drawing on the very significant intellectual capital of its members. We look forward to this important discussion at Vilnius. We look forward to keep our founding European projection in this challenging time.
Editorial

The 22nd EAA Annual Meetings in Vilnius, Lithuania are less than three months away (see Welcome to Vilnius in this newsletter). The Vilnius organizing committee has a lot of helpful links and advice for planning your trip to Vilnius on their Useful information for planning your trip page. The Timetable of sessions has been posted online, along with the Scientific Programme. Thanks to the generous support of the Wenner-Gren Foundation, all delegates with economic need were eligible to apply for financial support to attend the meeting.

The Opening Ceremony, which will take place on Wednesday, 31st August in the palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, will include the presentation of the European Archaeological Heritage Prize and the Welcome Reception. The EAA Annual Party, which takes place, as usual, on Thursday evening, will include the Opening Ceremony of the new archaeological exhibition at The Bastion of the Vilnius Defensive Wall.

The European Journal of Archaeology (EJA) will have a transition in the Book Reviews editors, which will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) on Friday 2nd September in Vilnius. The results of the EAA election, including the positions of Treasurer, two Executive Board members, and a Nomination Committee member, will also be announced at the ABM, and will be published in the autumn issue of TEA. We strongly encourage everyone to attend the ABM, which will include other announcements and discuss the progress and development of your EAA. This is an opportunity for all members to participate directly in EAA business and decision-making. Even if you do not make it to Vilnius, please take a moment to vote in this year’s EAA election.

In the aftermath of the Brexit-poll, EAA president Felipe Criado-Boado would like to assure us all the EAA remains an inclusive society that welcomes members of all nationalities and is dedicated to fostering collaborations between all members with an interest in European archaeology.

In this issue of TEA, Executive Board member Maria Guarova presents a possible strategy for the EAA and Affiliate Organizations. The EAA Committee on Illicit Trade in Cultural Material presents their assessment of the illegal antiquities market, and their aims to tackle this problem. They remind everyone that there will be a round table discussion on ‘Illicit trafficking of Cultural Heritage’ and a related session ‘Heritage Crime: Definition, Development and Duty-based ethics’ at the Annual Meetings in Vilnius. EAA Executive Board Member Sophie Hüglin reports on ‘Archaeology and Power’, the theme of the DGUF conference in Berlin, and relations between the EAA and DGUF. In addition, there are announcements, reports on recent conferences, and reports of ongoing research projects in Scotland and Hungary.

The deadline for the Autumn Issue of TEA is 31 October 2016. As always, please e-mail us at tea@e-a-a.org if you would like to get in touch.

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