

EAA Matters

From our President

by Felipe Criado-Boado, EAA president, on the behalf of EAA Executive Board and Committees
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This is turning out to be a very busy but productive year for the EAA and its Officers and Secretariat.

External affairs. As your president, I have represented the EAA at the annual conferences of the SAA (Vancouver), ClfA (Newcastle) and the Prehistoric Society (Southampton), and in the final meeting of the ARIADNE project (Florence), as well as a number of other official meetings and commitments that I attended myself or delegated to other EAA officers, such as the EAC general assembly (Athens), attended by our Vice-president, and the European Heritage Alliance meeting (Brussels), attended by our Treasurer. The EAA has become a member of the European Heritage Alliance, and has participated in the meetings to prepare the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

The SAA in Vancouver was marked by the presentation of its new president, Susan Chandler. We are looking forward to maintaining the same strong connections the EAA has enjoyed in the past with the former SAA presidents Diane Gifford-González and Jeffrey Altschul. In the coming months we will be exploring ways of promoting interaction between our members and organizations. We are also discussing inroads for common complementary cooperation with the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (ClfA), and we are working on a Memorandum of Understanding between both organizations with Chief Executive Peter Hinton. One year after Brexit we are still keeping a close eye on its potential effects on our British members and those who work in and with UK Archaeology. Amidst the new wave of nationalisms that are currently appearing in Europe, the EAA will continue to defend and support the advantages of a pan-European perspective on archaeological practice, heritage and research. This is an interest that we share with many other different organizations, with whom we will foster cooperation in the near future; this is the case of *The Prehistoric Society*, with whose president, Alex Gibson, we are considering the most practical venues to enhance symmetrical cooperation. Moreover, I have been elected, as EAA president, to the Council of Europa Nostra, which will help to nurture mutual relationships.

Forthcoming Annual Meetings. The plans for the Barcelona 2018 annual meeting have intensified over the past few months, and have now received full support from the Directorate of Cultural Heritage of the regional government of Catalonia (the *Generalitat*) and the Department of Culture of Barcelona City Council. The Scientific Committee has already been created, headed by Margarita Díaz-Andreu. Apart from this, plans for Bern 2019 will soon be announced, and progress has been made in organising Budapest 2020. In addition, the EAA is exploring a series of promising options for arranging meetings after Budapest.

Maastricht and the new media strategy. 2017 will be the first Annual Meeting where we will experience a number of new developments for our conferences. Beyond many others that have been already announced, Maastricht will be the first meeting where we expect to host a full delegation of journalists from different European countries, including a number of prominent journals. In addition to this, the EAA will shortly be rolling out its own media strategy. You will have realised by now that we are using mass e-mails to provide you with practical information, albeit with a firm commitment to avoid frequent and repetitive use of this system: the last thing EAA wants is to spam its members. There are alternative ways of disseminating different kinds of information, and you will have seen that the EAA is increasingly present in social media. We encourage you to follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

Forthcoming organisation of EAA Communities. The announcement of the new system to engage members in the social life of the EAA and promote your basic interests through the creation of the

new “EAA Communities” has opened the way to new initiatives. There are detailed plans for the creation of a new “Community of Research on Wild Plant Resources”. But we also expect that those of us engaged in Contemporary Archaeology, Archaeology of Mountains and certain other issues will start up their own movements and consolidate them as an organized interest group within the EAA. In general, we envisage the quick and effective transformation of the current Working Parties into more active and empowered Communities, for whom a special meeting with representatives of the EAA Working Parties and Committees will be held in Maastricht (see the meeting programme for details).

Publications. This has been a successful year for EAA publications. The release of the first volume of the EJA published with CUP has been a success. We recently found out that the EJA is listed in the SCIMAGO journal, in 23rd position amongst 262 international archaeological journals. Work is underway to develop a strategy to update and promote our *Themes* series. Also, a new series of CUP will be soon launched, under the editorial direction of the EAA. The series, entitled “*Elements on the Archaeology of the Europeans*”, will cover the period from the Palaeolithic through the present day, and will boost the visibility of the EAA and the type of archaeology that the EAA considers necessary at this current moment in time. After a public call to select the editor(s) of the series, this will be announced after the summer once the formal decision has been taken. EAA members should note that they will benefit from a 40% discount when buying individual copies.

Europe and beyond. A number of important decisions will be submitted for approval by members at the next Annual Members Businesses Meeting (AMBM, see the meeting schedule for details; *if you have still not registered to make up the quorum of the AMBM, please do not forget to do so*), including a minor change in our fees system which, without causing any increase in current membership fees, will facilitate the engagement of archaeologists outside of Europe. This is important because the EAA, as part of the strategy to promote an ideal of continental perspectivism for archaeological practice and heritage, also intends to become global in scope, in order to incorporate different inputs and diverse archaeological traditions. By looking beyond regional and nationalist approaches, and then going even further by way of a global critique of Europeanism, we will be able to develop the perspective we need to promote the interests of our members, of those working in Archaeology, and of those societies we serve.

Strategic Planning at the next AMBM. In order to facilitate this, at the AMBM we will also present the EAA Action Plan, Government Plan and Secretariat Plan that develops our Strategic Planning, as announced in Vilnius.

Please use your personal profile on the EAA website. I will finish with two remarks, the first of which is eminently practical, and the second quite general. As members, you should take advantage of the new capabilities of our new web-based system that not only includes personal services but also enhanced personal profiles that support your visibility and further interaction. Please take the time to explore them and make use of them.

Archaeology matters. Finally, I would like to make a closing comment. When I became president two years ago, I said that the future of archaeology lies in the process of connecting it with the big issues currently facing mankind. I proposed that whatever we do, whichever session or paper we review for being presented at our Annual Meetings, should clearly address these big issues. This means accepting that we should become politically engaged on many occasions, not in partisan politics, but in the social and cultural policies that go hand-in-hand with the societal dimensions of archaeological heritage and practices. This also means that all of us, and the EAA, should start thinking about *why archaeology matters*, what it means, and to whom, in terms of other fields of knowledge, research and social action. I share with all of you the sensation that our future as a discipline and professional activity – a future that is under threat, despite archaeological research continuing to be highly dynamic and archaeological heritage becoming significant for many sectors of the general public –

will depend on our ability to convince others of the social relevance of what we do, what we know, and what we learn every day.

Editorial

It is summer now, and on fieldwork or not, we are all looking forward to our annual meeting in Maastricht. EAA 2017 is coming up soon, so please remember to book your travel and your hotel or other accommodations. Also, please remember to vote in the EAA election, before 1 September. You should have received an email, or you can vote through the link in your personal profile.

You will notice that this issue of TEA is rather slim in comparison to the ones we previously edited – we have decided to combine the Spring Issue 52 and the Summer Issue 53 as one pdf to archive. Our TEA website is up-to-date, however, as we aim to disseminate all news, announcements and reports as soon as we receive them. Please keep the information coming – we are happy to include all items relevant to the EAA community.

Note that a few contributions to this newsletter by our Vice-president Sophie Hueglin are concerned with archaeology and processes of its professionalization. A united front of professionals makes heritage concerns visible and advocates their relevance to society in competing European interests.

We are still looking for short articles about Open Access in archaeology. This issue of TEA includes a brief discussion of Image Rights for publication and dissemination. The topic of image rights is a good example of the variety of national laws surrounding copyright and permission to reuse data and images. With multi-national archaeological projects becoming ever more common, and multi-national publishers attempting to control copyright, we need to know the applicable laws, and perhaps push for European – or even global – laws governing the dissemination of publicly funded research. Open Access and Creative Commons licensing will not resolve all the differences in national legal systems. EAA, through its cooperative efforts and Europe-wide scope, is positioned to offer guidance and contribute to policies as they develop. We need our membership to offer thoughts and experiences that the EAA can use to address OA in European heritage policies. You can send comments to TEA, or comment directly on the [Debate page](#) on the EAA website.

In addition to matters concerning EAA governance and the upcoming 23rd Annual Meetings, this issue also contains several announcements, research, and a tribute to Bernhard Hänsel.

Please send us your debates, research updates and conference announcements for the next issue, Autumn/Fall 2017, by 15 October 2017 at tea@e-a-a.org.

Katharina Rebay-Salisbury and Roderick B. Salisbury



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