EAA Matters

From our President

by Felipe Criado-Boado, EAA president, on the behalf of EAA Executive Board and Committees
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Step by step, EAA reaches new milestones that demonstrate our lasting tradition, as the Association matures, accumulates and secures its considerable knowledge and experience.

This anniversary issue of TEA comes on the crest of the wave of our 2016 annual meeting. EAA members enjoyed a great meeting in the renowned city of Vilnius, with a broad, timely and relevant academic programme, blended with superb social events. The final registration figure was 1476 delegates. The organisers and EAA committees of EAA 2016 under the leadership of Prof. Albinas Kuncevicius and Dr. Agne Agnė Žilinskaitė deserve our fulsome thanks for their splendid organisation. Successful Vilnius innovations will become appropriated and used in future EAA annual meetings, such as: i) the open forum of EAA Working Parties; ii) the transformation of the “presidential lunch” (with the leading representatives of other societies) into a working-lunch of topic-led discussion; iii) a President’s Session; and iv) a new relationship forged with EAA annual meeting volunteers.

Despite the regrettable coincidence of EAA 22nd and WAC-8, both meetings were very successful for both societies. This sort of clash is not desirable, but we were proud of the strong delegation of EAA members at Kyoto who contributed to WAC’s work on the consolidation of world archaeology. Catherine Frieman (our EJA deputy editor) acted as EAA’s official representative. She gave a splendid address about EAA during the plenary session entitled “Give the Past a Future”. She was also EAA’s representative in the approval of the “Kyoto Statement on the Future Collaboration of International Archaeological Learned Communities”.

EAA Strategic Planning. Now it is autumn, and we face a new EAA year ahead. Our most important mission in the coming months is the development of the EAA strategic plan for the coming years. The aim of this plan is to develop the collective intelligence and value of EAA as a corporate entity and build cooperative action around it. That action must be effectively engaging, useful for all members and relevant to the societies we serve.

Put in other way: cannot we imagine that any one person can embody everything that is learnt at an EAA Annual Meeting? In my view, achieving this entails the entire dilemma of the reflexive modernization (what some other call “second modernity”): how to take practical advantage of all we know, of the upper level of conscience our history has produced, for the benefit of our societies and their welfare. To catch this is what transforms EAA as a learned community.

EAA must now take full practical advantage of all we know and move forward with that knowledge. As already outlined to members, this will involve three plans: i) a Governance Plan that deals with the roles of the EAA Board, Working Parties, Committees and members; ii) a Financial Plan; and iii) a plan for the development of the Secretariat.

The process will be deployed throughout this year, presented to members in Spring for a preliminary discussion and then proposed for acceptance at the Maastricht annual meeting. Please remember that right now the Strategic Plan is open for discussion and the input of members. It is good example that the practical tools on new EAA website provide members with capacity to engage as never before.

Maastricht 2017. Now we are looking forward Maastricht, our 23rd Annual Meeting. The coincidence with the 25th anniversary of Maastricht Treaty and 25 years of the Malta Convention is crucial, especially now amidst all the changes that Europe is experiencing. We aim to take the opportunity to
think about EAA’s role in the next 25 years within Europe. These topics will be discussed in organised sessions, together with the usual topics and some new topics. Maastricht will give us a chance to explore new formats, new themes and new events in EAA meetings. Some of these include: as sharing key-notes sessions; arranging an open day for the general public to come along; and developing the Exhibition towards an archaeological fair.

**Barcelona 2018 and beyond.** Beyond this, plans for Barcelona 2018 and Bern 2019 are now on their way (the cheaper accommodation for Bern has already been-booked by the local organizers!). At this stage, I am happy to announce that EAA 2020 will take place 26 - 30 August 2020 in Budapest, a destination I think every EAA member will appreciate. This is also an acknowledgment of the strong engagement of our Hungarian fellows in the Association from its early beginnings. UISPP recently announced its 2020 congress in Genève, a week before EAA. This is a challenge, but we must deal with it as best we can. In close cooperation with its president Koji Mizoguchi, WAC and EAA will coordinate about our respective conference in 2020 and beyond. WAC 2020 will be held in Prague but the dates are still to be decided.

Let me finish these quick words with something that deserves focus. The Board of EAA and I are very aware that low participation means lack of member representation at the AMBM. We must therefore look for new formats and media to foster debate and the approval of EAA strategies and politics. The future development of current Working Parties and Communities within EAA will play a critical role in this regard.
Editorial

Welcome to the 50th issue of TEA! This anniversary issue marks another step in the evolution of TEA, and the EAA more broadly. Have you visited our new webpage? EAA has a brand new website, integrated with the iMIS system. One advantage of this is that TEA content will now be available online as html pages, and debate articles will be available for members to add comments and discussion. This new format, the first of several upcoming changes, will make TEA easier to read online, particularly on mobile devices. And keep an eye out for TEA's new look, which will be more efficient and have a cleaner visual appearance. TEA will also continue to be available as a pdf document, archived on the website.

This issue contains reports from the 22nd Annual Meeting in Vilnius, including the Minutes of the EAA Annual Membership Business Meeting (AMBM). We emphasize that this is an important document. We ask that members read the minutes and contact the EAA executive board and administrator with any comments, questions or concerns. The EAA works for the membership, but we need to hear your voice! In addition to the Minutes of the ABMB, there is a proposal for an EAA working party on archaeology and the EU Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, and ‘A Survey regarding The EAA Code of Practice for Fieldwork Training’ from the Committee on the Teaching and Training of Archaeologists (CTTA). This latter raises a series of questions, and some troubling compliance issues, and the committee asks that EAA members respond by contacting the committee chair Raimund Karl directly, or by sending a response to be published in TEA. And, we also would like to hear your opinions about the EAA Strategic Development Plan.

During the next year, between Vilnius 2016 and Maastricht 2017, we are promoting a TEA debate theme on Open Access, data accessibility, and ownership of archaeological information. Our first essay is ‘Open Access and the EJA: some preliminary thoughts’ by EJA Deputy Editor Catherine J. Frieman. We encourage you to read this, to comment on the EAA website, and to send us your opinions and essays on this topic.

Two EAA European Archaeological Heritage Prizes were awarded at Vilnius 2016: to L’Unité d’archéologie de la ville de Saint-Denis for exemplary achievements that unite archaeological heritage management and research with local community outreach, and to Dr. Caroline Sturdy Colls for her innovative contribution to the research on Nazi-German terror in camps and in massacres. Caroline Sturdy Colls contributed to this newsletter with ‘Investigating Holocaust-Era Crimes’, an introduction to her stimulating research in our Research section. Nominations for the 2017 European Heritage Prize must be received by the EAA Secretariat at administrator@e-a-a.org before 1 June 2017.

Now is the time to propose a session for the 23rd EAA Annual Meeting in Maastricht. Session submission for EAA 2017 Maastricht is now open: the deadline is 30 November 2016.

This issue also includes reports from session and roundtables from the 22nd Annual Meeting in Vilnius, along with reports from other conferences and several announcements. Our next issue, Winter 2017, has a deadline of 15 January 2017. Send your opinions, research updates and conferences to us at tea@e-a-a.org.

Katharina Rebay-Salisbury and Roderick B. Salisbury
The European Archaeologist
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In this issue
Editorial ................................................................................................................................................... 3
EAA Matters ............................................................................................................................................ 4
From our President ............................................................................................................................. 4
Annual Report: Minutes of the AMBM in Vilnius, 2nd September 2016........................................... 5
EAA Strategic Development Plan ...................................................................................................... 15
EAA 27th Annual Meeting, Budapest, Hungary, 26 - 30 August 2020 ............................................... 16
WAC@30 – Give the past a future. Some comments from Europe.................................................. 18
Rising citations and ranking for the European Journal of Archaeology ........................................ 20
Proposal for an EAA working party on archaeology and the EU Environmental Impact Assessment
Directive ............................................................................................................................................ 21
Calendar for EAA members November 2016 – March 2017 ............................................................ 22
Upcoming Events .............................................................................................................................. 23
Debate ................................................................................................................................................... 24
Open Access and the EJA: some preliminary thoughts..................................................................... 24
EAA Working Parties and Committees .................................................................................................. 34
A Survey regarding the EAA Code of Practice for Fieldwork Training ........................................ 34
EAA Annual Meeting Reports................................................................................................................ 39
Committee on the Teaching and Training of Archaeologists: Round Table on Practical Skills
Training in Archaeology at EAA Vilnius 2016 .................................................................................... 39
The “Working Parties”-Round Table ............................................................................................... 40
Petrification Processes in (Pre-)History ........................................................................................... 41
All that Glitters is Not Gold: New Approaches to Sumptuous Burials between Western Europe and the Eurasian Steppe .............................................................................................................. 44
Transcending Borders in Later Prehistoric Europe ........................................................................... 45
Successful partnerships: recognising and improving heritage management in landscape and rural
land use policy and practice .............................................................................................................. 47
Working with many partners – a holistic approach to archaeological research and heritage
management ..................................................................................................................................... 50
## Table of Contents

- **Climate Change and Heritage: Impact and Strategies** .................................................. 55
- **Conference and Workshop Reports** .............................................................................. 56
  - Multiple femininities – multiple masculinities: the diversity of gendered identities in the Bronze and Iron Ages .......................................................................................... 58
- **Announcements** .............................................................................................................. 61
  - Archaeology and history of Lydia from the early Lydian period to the late Antiquity (8th century BC - 6th century AD): an international symposium .................................................. 61
  - Dare to Choose: Making Choices in Archaeological Heritage Management .................. 62
  - Zwischen Pragmatismus und Inszenierung? Zur sekundären Nutzung von Objekten, Orten, Räumen und Landschaften in prähistorischen und antiken Gesellschaften .................. 64
  - V (XXI) Russian national archaeological congress ............................................................ 65
  - Free issue of EXPRESSION ................................................................................................. 65
  - Historic England digital magazine ..................................................................................... 66
  - CIPA ..................................................................................................................................... 67
- **Research** ........................................................................................................................... 68
  - Investigating Holocaust-Era Crimes .................................................................................. 68
  - RomanArmy.eu: A multivocal research project on the Roman army presence in NW Iberia from the margins of Academia ................................................................. 72
- **From our correspondents** ................................................................................................. 76
  - Alpine area ........................................................................................................................... 76
- **Obituaries** ......................................................................................................................... 76
  - Mark Pluciennik (11.11.1953 – 7.5.2016) ........................................................................ 76
- **ArchaeoCakes** ................................................................................................................. 80