

## **EAA and the aftermath of the European Year of Cultural Heritage**

**Statement of the EAA Executive Board, adopted in Barcelona in September 8, 2018**

*by Felipe Criado-Boado, EAA President, on behalf of the EAA Executive Board ([president@e-a-a.org](mailto:president@e-a-a.org))*

2018 has been the European Year of Cultural Heritage. With a motto “Past meets the Future”, it has been a year that has successfully acknowledged and reinforced that cultural heritage lies at the heart of European life, reflecting a Europe of multiple and diverse peoples, wonderful achievements in cultural heritage and a long and often troubled history.

It has been recognised that Cultural Heritage must now become a central part of European social and political policy and inform a strong and innovative agenda for the future.

The European Association of Archaeologists was proud to be chosen as a member of the Stakeholder Committee that partnered the European Commission in the planning, promotion and realisation of EYCH 2018. Our voice and contribution was recognized and it gave us the opportunity and responsibility to award events with the EYCH labels.

EAA has used this position, as a privilege and opportunity to vindicate Archaeology in the context of the EYCH and to promote Cultural Heritage generally at professional, social and political level. We advocate for heritage in all its myriad forms, from the intangible values of our vast variety of cultural traditions to our rich resources of architecture, monuments, landscapes and material cultural objects. Archaeology has the capacity to integrate them all in its study of their multiple material processes.

Archaeological understanding and practice can also demonstrate how Cultural Heritage mediates the passage of culture from the Past into the Future, how individuals meet communities, how communities meet societies, how societies meet together, and how Cultural Heritage helps to reconcile the many challenges of European modernity.

In this special year we have demonstrated the social, economic and political importance of Cultural Heritage. We have supported the dedicated programme for its promotion and the call for a central and embedded position for Cultural Heritage in social policy and political agendas, ranging from economic and social cohesion policy to spatial planning, structural development, education and science.

This must be the continuing legacy of the EYCH. It will also underpin the EAA’s future policy and work in the coming years.

The EYCH is not only about past cultural heritage and its legacies, but a Europe that is continually creating its heritage. There is a recognition now that Europe’s past and living cultural heritages underpin its future in a fundamental way. European policy now seeks to use this concept to create the foundations for setting a new and innovative long term agenda for Europe.

The year has had a high profile and has been a singular success. It has demonstrated how many Europeans care about Cultural Heritage. In the 2019 European Parliamentary elections, the European Association of Archaeologists together with National Partners will be issuing benchmarks for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage during these elections.

The benchmarks will prompt politicians to position themselves in policies and political topics concerning Cultural Heritage; encourage and allow civil society to make informed decisions at the voting booth; and hold politicians accountable for promises they make during elections.

We live in dynamic political times when new political developments in many European countries will fundamentally influence our lives as Europeans in the future, whatever our nationality. Our past assumptions are being disputed and challenged. Many of the established pillars of the European Union are being rocked. It will not only be naive but irresponsible to deny that there are serious risks in

the socio-political arena that challenge the standards of what is understood as the European social model. While this is a concern, we must embrace the future with confidence in our abilities.

Archaeology has got the capacity to reflect on how past futures came into existence. As archaeologists our task is to apply this principle in our daily work, and use it for the benefit of our profession and our societies.

## **Calendar for EAA members**

15 January	Call for nominations to the EAA election circulated to the members
15 January	Announcement of grant selection criteria for 25th EAA Annual Meeting
1 February	Final list of sessions and session organisers published at <a href="https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA2019">https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA2019</a>
14 February	Deadline for paper / poster submissions
14 March	Deadline for 25th EAA Annual Meeting session organisers to evaluate papers / posters / other contributions
14 March	Deadline for volunteer application form for 25th EAA Annual Meeting
22–24 March	EAA Executive Board meeting, Prague
26 March	Announcement of contributions acceptance / rejection to presenters at <a href="https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA2019">https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA2019</a>
26 March	Application for travel grants opens
26 March	Announcement of 25th EAA Annual Meeting volunteers selection results
31 March	Deadline for early bird membership fee payment
8 April	Deadline for 25th EAA Annual Meeting early bird registration
9 April	Deadline for nominations by members to the EAA election
11 April	Deadline for travel grants application
12 April	EAA Nomination Committee meeting
15 April	Deadline for submissions to <i>TEA</i> spring issue (to be published in late April)
23 April	Announcement of successful grant applications
24 April	Deadline for membership and conference registration payment for presenters (first authors)
13 May	Preliminary version of 25th EAA Annual Meeting scientific programme announced
31 May	Deadline for booking accommodation and excursions, deadline for refund for excursions
31 May	Deadline for booking a stand at European Archaeology Fair

TEA

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*The newsletter of EAA members for EAA members Issue  
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Editorial.....	2
EAA Matters .....	4
Letter from the President .....	4
EAA and the aftermath of the European Year of Cultural Heritage .....	6
Calendar for EAA members.....	7
Upcoming Events .....	8
Nomination for the EAA election 2019.....	9
EAA Nomination form 2019.....	11
The European Archaeological Heritage Prize 2019.....	13
EAA Community: Integrating the Management of Archaeological Heritage and Tourism.....	15
Session Report .....	17
Hashtag Scicomm: communicating archaeology in a post-factual age .....	17
Bern 2019.....	20
Call for Volunteers .....	20
Application for Travel Grants for the Meeting in Bern.....	21
Hints and tips: Travel Switzerland.....	23
Debate.....	25
Harnessing the power of social media: a link collection to popular archaeology journals across Europe.....	25
ClfA briefing on Brexit.....	27
Conference Reports .....	33
Genes, Isotopes and Artefacts: how should we interpret the movements of people throughout Bronze Age Europe?.....	33
Report on the European Year of Cultural Heritage Closing Conference, 6-7 December 2018, Vienna.....	35
Announcements.....	38
Archaeology of Hengistbury Head: Past, Present, and Future .....	38
Monumental Computations.....	39
Europeana colouring book.....	40
Cultural Heritage App .....	40
Obituary .....	41
Roger J. Mercer (1944–2018).....	41
25 years of EAA.....	42

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