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Archaeology in Europe: Alles wird besser, aber nichts wird gut

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growth which extends distally and measures 20 mm in length and 19 mm at its widest point.

It is believed that the trauma resulted from a hard blow to the back of the head, which probably caused an avulsion fracture of the man's atlas. Cervical vertebrae 2-7 did not show any pathology, and the occipital condyli were absent (along with other parts of the base of the cranium due to post mortem damage) to help verify our hypothesis. Calcium deposition may have been the result of infections of the initial fracture post-traumatically.

Today, patients with such types of axial fractures are operated on and/or immobilised in a cervical orthosis. However, despite such measures there is no successful healing in 17% of the cases, and a permanent measurable loss of motion is observed, irrespective of the modality of the treatment. On the other hand, it is known that a person can survive this type of fracture without incurring any neurological complications.

In the Early Iron Age it is not known what this individual could have done to ease his pain, but it is certain that he survived the trauma long enough to develop the post-traumatic calcification of the injured vertebra, and it is possible that he may have died from other causes. A review of the literature concerning such traumas to the atlas has not revealed any similar cases in ancient Greece.

EAA News

Archaeology in Europe: *Alles wird besser, aber nichts wird gut*

Willem J.H. Willems, EAA PRESIDENT

In March, I visited the magnificent exhibition *Menschen - Zeiten - Räume, Archäologie in Deutschland* in Berlin, devoted to 25 years of archaeological research and heritage management in Germany. On my way from the Potsdamer Platz subway station to the Martin Gropius Bau, I passed an older building where someone had expressed dissatisfaction in the above graffiti statement which seems to me to apply very well to archaeology in Europe at the moment.

In October last year, the Council of Europe in Strasbourg celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Malta Convention and many statements were made on its impact and on how much the management of the archaeological heritage had improved. There are considerable differences between countries, but it is certainly true that the Malta treaty has set an important standard, which has led to major improvements in most European countries. In that sense, 'all has indeed become better'. But it seems that if we look around in Europe today the above statement is very true: nothing seems to have become really good and in fact some recent improvements are already falling apart again.

A case in point is France, where a dissatisfied MP has managed to get an amendment passed in parliament, which effectively shattered the less than two year-old new French law on preventive archaeology. Budget cuts affect the INRAP institute but what is worse is that the French system will probably die an untimely death and economic competition will be introduced in an 'archaeology market' like in so many other countries.

France is not the only country where archaeological heritage management has serious problems. The breakup of *Duchás*, the Irish heritage service, is another such case and in several of the German states *Ämter für Bodendenkmalpflege* are also in serious problems; even well established ones, as is shown by the major budget cuts in Bavaria and the intended breakup of the *Landesdenkmalamt* in Baden-Württemberg. The Dutch state service ROB has also been struck with major budget cuts and faces an enforced merger with the service for built monuments.

In TEA, we try to assemble reports on as many of these developments as possible, and on some others as well, such as the bizarre policies of the Italian government regarding the archaeological heritage. We have also offered the Rumanian *Service Archéologique* an opportunity to present their own views on the situation at the famous Roman mining site of Alburnus Maior (Rosia Montana). The international community, including EAA, has joined Rumanian scholars in protest against its destruction by an American mining company, but regrettably our offer for public discussion was not accepted. The latest news on this issue is that, for the time being, the planned development will be halted.

Most of this does not add up to a very happy tale, but what the 'old countries' in Europe are doing to their heritage because of perceived economic needs does not even remotely compare with the damage that Americans and their allies have just done to the heritage of Iraq by sheer negligence. On behalf of EAA, I sent a statement to the US and UK governments and to various international bodies (also printed elsewhere in this issue of TEA). Meanwhile, it seems the damage by looting is less than it was originally feared to be, but the priorities during the war have become abundantly clear. That is especially disappointing when one considers that it was the USA who, during World War 2, took an important initiative by creating a special army unit called 'Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Officers' which were charged with protection and salvation tasks. The current administration apparently couldn't care less. At the same time at home, the US government's drive for reducing the size of the federal government seems to have dramatic effects in store for the archaeological functions of the National Park Service.

The negative developments affecting archaeological heritage management institutions are thus not limited to Europe, but that is hardly any consolation. The realisation that authorities everywhere obviously believe that archaeology is a luxury, the costs of which should be strongly reduced in economically less flourishing times, is a sobering experience. On the other hand, things have

'become better' in the past decades and public support for and acceptance of archaeology have increased dramatically so the foundations for our work should be fairly solid. In addition, one thing that has definitely become better is the creation and growth of EAA that gives us an important tool at the European level. Archaeology remains important for Europe and not many fields, certainly not in the cultural sector, have European networks as efficient and well organised as archaeology.

In just two short months, we shall meet again in St. Petersburg, created exactly three centuries ago by Tsar Peter the Great as Russia's window on Europe. The town has regained much of its old grandeur in recent years, and will form the perfect background for what will be in fact our tenth meeting (including the inaugural meeting in Ljubljana in '94). It looks like this Annual Meeting will be quite well attended again and I hope it will further contribute to the fruitful processes of exchange between Russian and western archaeology that have gained momentum in the past decade. For myself, St. Petersburg will be the place to transfer the presidency of the EAA. It will be a strange experience, after so many years on the EAA board I shall probably need to go into some detox program, but I am pleased to be able to leave a flourishing and financially stable EAA into the able hands of Anthony Harding. I am glad I have been able to contribute to making the EAA better and perhaps, in the next years, it will actually become 'good'.

It is hoped that summaries of the developments present situations in Italy, Germany, and the Netherlands will be ready for inclusion in the next issue of TEA.

EAA Strategic Plan 2003-2008

Elin Dalin, EAA Vice-President

The strategic plan is a result of a process started with a joint meeting of the Executive and Editorial Board in Budapest in February 2002. At the Thessaloniki conference last year a Round Table was held to discuss the future of the EAA. In the discussion several challenges were identified. The results from the Round Table were presented to the members at the ABM. All members were invited to take part in the work to formulate the plan through our website and newsletter.

This plan should be seen as a dynamic document and presents the current thoughts on strategies for the future growth and development of the EAA over the next five-year period.

The Executive Board welcomes any further comment from members on the content of the plan within the next few weeks. The intention is to put forward a final version of the document for approval by the ABM at the coming conference in St. Petersburg in September.

Principles

Sustainable development, different sectors having the responsibility for the environment and cultural heritage, principles like- the principle of user-pays, the principle of precaution and the principle of participatory democracy – these are all important for the protection of the archaeological heritage. It is

seen as an important challenge to strengthen the general consciousness about cultural heritage and its significance for quality of life both in a European and a local perspective.

- The world is constantly changing. This has an effect on archaeological heritage. Some important trends in this perspective are:
- Globalisation
- Unified Europe
- Democratic control on cultural heritage management
- Privatisation where private companies are taking over tasks and authority from the state
- Urbanisation and mobility changes the exploitation of resources and area
- The EAA has to meet such challenges:
- Through the expansion of the organisation the EAA shall serve professional needs
- Increased knowledge and friendship allows the development of unique opportunities for co-operation within the EAA
- The organisation aims to stimulate the work of archaeologists and to secure a diverse and peaceful Europe

Leading role

- The EAA has several important roles:
- Has consultative status for the Council of Europe and cooperates with other organisations with similar aims
- The development of archaeological research programmes and the exchange of archaeological information
- The management and interpretation of the European archaeological heritage
- Setting proper ethical and scientific standards for archaeological work
- Looks after the interests of professional archaeologists in Europe

Vision/Aims

- Before 2010:
- The Malta-convention is implemented in all European countries
- Most professional archaeologists in Europe are members of the EAA

Goals

1. The EAA shall actively work to influence major European organisations and to develop relations with the Council of Europe
2. The EAA shall create and support arenas for contact and communication between different regions in Europe, between theory and practice and between different disciplines and professions within archaeology
3. The EAA shall host interesting and attractive conferences
4. EAA shall make the Journal, Newsletter and Web appealing to the members
5. The EAA shall be a stable and dynamic organisation

Strategies

The numbers in brackets () refer to points 1-5 under Goals

1. Influence the political development for cultural heritage, research and teaching in Europe (1)
2. Establish a strategy for non-professionals in order to change attitudes from excluding to including (2)