



Newsletter

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ICAZ Working Group Reports

FISH REMAINS WORKING GROUP

(Contributed by László Bartosiewicz, FRWG Liaison)¹

The 12th Fish Remains Working Group (FRWG) meeting was held September 4-12, 2003, in Guadalajara, Jalisco, México. Ana Fabiola Guzmán and Óscar J. Polaco organized the conference with institutional support from the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia and the Museo de Paleontología de Guadalajara "Federico A. Solórzano Barreto". Local colleagues and museum staff also extended their hospitality and help to ensure a successful meeting. A dozen conference participants were given free, luxurious accommodations and some additional financial help from the organizers, which made it possible for them to attend the conference.

More than 30 participants presented 21 of 26 anticipated papers. Unfortunately, six registered participants were unable to attend: three from Latin America, one from Europe, and one from the US. Three posters were displayed. Presenters were given 20 minutes for their paper followed by 10 minutes for discussion. Research topics by region included Europe (10), Latin America (6), Asia/Near East (5), North America (2), and Oceania (1). Presenters discussed a wide range of topics, from osteomorphology to angling equipment, and a variety of research problems. Small conferences with single sessions, such as the FRWG meeting, seem to be the best format for this kind of diversity. The variety of topics could be easily managed and added interest and dynamism to the discussions.

Half day trips to view museum exhibits and collections and to a fish market allowed time to relax and have informal discussions. Field trips have become a strength of FRWG conferences. Although this meeting began with a visit to tequila distilleries, studying such heritage sites is serious work. We toured the Tequila National Museum, the *Los Toriles* archaeological site at Ixtlán del Río, and visited an oak-pine mountain reserve near Tepic. In Nayarit State on the Pacific Coast we saw the (fish) market and colonial sites in San Blas, the *La Tobara* mangrove forest, and a crocodile farm. We joined fishermen in Santa Cruz and exchanged lectures at the National School of Fisheries, University of Nayarit. Finally, we explored an opal mine at Magdalena and visited a paleontological site renowned for fossils of the fish *Tapatia occidentalis*.

We are grateful that the organizers published extended abstracts (each eight pages in length). The 167 page volume, edited by Ana Fabiola Guzmán, Óscar J. Polaco and Felisa J. Aguilar, is entitled, "Presence of Ichthyoarchaeology in México". The volume is an excellent solution for the worrisome absence of complete FRWG conference proceedings, the last of which was published after the 1995 meeting in Madrid, Spain.

During the FRWG business meeting, all present unanimously accepted a written proposal submitted by Heide Marie Hüster-Plogmann to host the next FRWG meeting in 2005 at the University of Basel, Switzerland. This venue will be more accessible to European scholars than locales in the Americas and Oceania where the last four conferences have been held. There was also agreement that future locations should alternate among regions so that the FRWG gets optimal exposure around the world.

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IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Working Group Reports | 1 |
| EC Meeting Report | 1 |
| Letter from the President | 2 |
| A Porcine Postscript | 2 |
| Training for Students | 3 |
| Member News and Notes | 6 |
| Working Group Liaisons Named | 6 |
| New Books and Manuals | 7 |
| Workshops, Jobs, and Fellowships | 7-9 |
| Calendar | 10 |

EC Meeting Report

On September 6, 2003, the ICAZ Executive Committee (EC) held its annual meeting at the Museo de Paleontología in Guadalajara, Mexico. Attending the meeting were Joaquín Arroyo-Cabrales, László Bartosiewicz, Heather Lapham, Arturo Morales, Óscar J. Polaco, Betsy Reitz, and Melinda Zeder. Zeder opened the meeting. She reported that the past year has seen the successful decentralization of ICAZ functions. Membership rolls and responsibility have been transferred to Arturo Morales who is working with Juan Rofes to maintain membership files. The membership renewal drive has been orchestrated by Morales and Richard Meadow. Production of the ICAZ newsletter and maintenance of the web site has moved with Heather Lapham to Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Vice-President László Bartosiewicz has coordinated the production of letters to officials in South Africa and Portugal advocating support of archaeozoological activities. Zeder stressed the need to formally name liaisons for each ICAZ Working Group (WG). Last year, at the International Conference in Durham, the International Council (IC) passed a new policy to enhance and strengthen ties between ICAZ and its active WGs. The policy mandated that each WG appoint a liaison to be responsible for maintaining communication between the group and ICAZ. Bartosiewicz was given the

Continued on page 4

Continued on page 5

GRUPO DE ZOOARQUEOLOGÍA DE CAMÉLIDOS

(Contributed by G. L. Mengoni Goñalons, GZC Liaison)¹

The 3rd South American Camelid Zooarchaeology workshop was held August 21-24, 2003, in Tilcara, a small picturesque town located in the Quebrada de Humahuaca, Jujuy province, Argentina. The meeting focused on current approaches used to study camelid management practices. Sixteen papers were presented. Several participants discussed vicuñas and llamas. Topics included the exploitation of the vicuña in colonial time (H. Yacobaccio, L. Killian, and B. Vilá), the role of llamas in rituals and economics of puna communities (P. Catá and S. Frete), biological approaches to vicuña sustainable utilization today (B. Vilá, Y. Arzamendia, A. Wawrzyk, and C. Bonacic), actualistic economic anatomy (M. De Nigris and G. Mengoni Goñalons), and taphonomic studies (D. Olivera and L. Grana).

Other papers dealt with guanacos. Topics included temporal trends in the utilization of the guanaco (D. Rindel), technological aspects associated with its exploitation (P. Fernández), taming and introduction into new territories and exploitation sustainability models (D. Rivero), exploitation patterns (P. Messineo), and age profiling (C. Kaufman).

Several participants also discussed issues and problems associated with domestication. Paper topics included methodological criteria for the identification of domesticates in northern Chile (I. Cartajena, L. Nuñez, and M. Grosjean), indicators of the domestication process in the puna (D. Olivera), valleys and quebradas (A. Izeta; C. Gómez Cardozo and N. Nasif), and central highland environments of Argentina (S. Pastor and M. Medina).

Conference participants enjoyed two day-long field trips. One tour, guided by Bibiana Vilá (MACS Project), was to the Laguna de Pozuelos, which is a natural reserve for vicuñas and llamas. The second trip was to the Sapagua archaeological site located at the Quebrada de Humahuaca that has rock art depictions of camelids, rheas, native peoples, and Spanish battle scenes, among other outstanding motifs. For additional information about the meeting, please contact its organizers: G.L. Mengoni Goñalons (wmengoni@yahoo.com.ar), D.E. Olivera (deolivera@movi.com.ar), or H.D. Yacobaccio (yacobaccio@aol.com).

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WORKED BONE RESEARCH GROUP

(Contributed by Alice M. Choyke, WBRG Liaison)¹

The 4th Worked Bone Research Group international meeting was hosted by the Institute of History, Estonian Academy of Sciences, in Tallinn, Estonia, on August 26-31, 2003. Heidi Luik, with help from Lembi Lougas, organized the meeting. Participants came from regions throughout Europe and from Israel. The conference lasted four days. Posters and lectures were interspersed with visits to exhibitions in the historic town and a one day excursion. This format gave participants an opportunity to learn about one another's research in a formal and informal atmosphere.

Several scholars, from the US, Rumania, Bulgaria, Austria, France, and Italy, contributed posters because they were unable to attend the conference. The meeting organizers are to be commended for their careful display of posters around the perimeter of the lecture hall and for scheduling time for discussion of the posters. All posters were well-crafted and carefully thought out. Participants who attended the meetings gave a brief five-minute talk about their poster.

Papers were organized chronologically. Twenty-five presenters spoke on diverse topics, from a variety of view points. They discussed many different types of worked bone assemblages. Assemblage provenience ranged from the early prehistoric to the historic period and varied over a wide geographic area. Participants were lucky to have the opportunity to see so many different kinds of worked bones and ornaments since such assemblages are often inaccessible to scholars in the field. All presenters were careful to identify raw materials accurately. Lively discussions followed each presentation. Approaches differed, but crosscut rigid boundaries that sometimes become artificially imposed by time period and geographic location.

The number of young researchers using experimental methods to better understand their material, either incorporated within a larger research project or as the main goal of their research, was a new and noticeable pattern. Two categories of experimental research were apparent in these papers. One group studied the way worked bone objects once functioned and the reconstruction of past manufacturing techniques. Another group used high magnification data to identify wear patterns on bone tools.

After the papers on the first day of the conference, we were given a tour around the Institute's museum and then treated to an ice-breaking reception. On the second day of the conference, following the lectures, Anu Mänd guided a short excursion to the Niguliste Church-Museum. The next day, participants enjoyed a full-day excursion to the Bronze Age cemetery and Museum in Jõelähtme. That afternoon, we were shown the impressive Medieval Varbola hill-fort. The day ended in a picnic at the Estonian Open-Air Ethnographic Museum, and the organizers even managed sunshine for the picnic!

Proceedings of the 4th WBRG meeting will be published in the Journal of the Institute of History, Estonian Academy of Sciences. It was also announced at the meeting that the proceedings from the 3rd WBRG meeting held in Basel, Switzerland, will be published in early 2004. An announcement will be sent via the bone tool mailing list (bonetools@listserv.iif.hu) on how to order the upcoming volume.

Following the final discussion period, it was agreed that the next WBRG meeting will be held in Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria, at the end of August 2005. Milena Stanceva, with help from Petar Zidarov and Aleta Guadelli, will organize the meeting. The Department of History, University of Turnovo, together with the Archaeological Museum of Veliko Turnovo will be the host institutions. For more information, please send an e-mail to Milena (milenastancheva@abv.bg) or to the bone tool mailing list (bonetools@listserv.iif.hu).

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Continued on page 5