



# Newsletter

International Council for Archaeozoology

Volume 6, No. 2 (Fall 2005)

## It's ICAZ Election Time—Cast Your Vote Today!

Fall 2005 is ICAZ election season. We need you to choose the next ICAZ President and Vice-President and to select the members of the next International Committee (IC). We have enclosed election materials with this newsletter. These include candidates' biographies and position statements, two ballots (one for President/Vice-President and the other for the IC), and an addressed envelope for the return of the ballot. Ballots must be sent by post to Arturo Morales, and must be postmarked no later than **February 1, 2006**.

The ICAZ Nominating Committee (Jon Driver, Chair; Luis Borrero, Terry O'Connor, Hitomi Hongo, and Christine Lefèvre) did a superb job of lining up three highly qualified people to run for the offices of ICAZ President and Vice-President. The candidates are: Jim Enloe (USA), László Bartosiewicz (Hungary), and Luis Borrero (Argentina). All three of these individuals have made important contributions to archaeozoology. All have been active in ICAZ. We can be certain that ICAZ will be in good hands no matter what the outcome of the election is.

Remember that, following ICAZ election procedures as specified in the article 8.1 of the ICAZ Constitution (<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/icaaz/pdf/statutes.pdf>), the selection of the ICAZ President/Vice-President follows a preference voting system in which voters rank candidates by preference. The candidate receiving the most first preference votes is elected President. The candidate receiving the second highest number of first preference votes is elected Vice-President.

The list of candidates for the IC is equally strong. Thirty-nine highly qualified individuals have agreed to run for membership on the IC. The list includes 23 current members of the IC who expressed an interest in running for office again. It also includes 16 individuals nominated by individual members who are committed to serving on the IC. Altogether they represent 16 of the 58 countries in the ICAZ membership.

During these transition years, the IC has proven a particularly active and effective body. They have helped shape critical initiatives and procedural changes that ICAZ has needed to take on in the past eight years. They have served as a pool for key ICAZ task forces on Working Groups, Data Bases, and Professional Protocols. Please read the candidate statements included with the ballots carefully before you make your choices. You may vote for up to 30 candidates for the IC. But be careful because, following ICAZ statutes, ballots with more than 30 candidates marked will be discarded.

In addition, elections for ICAZ Secretary and Treasurer will be held soon. The ICAZ

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## BoneCommons

BoneCommons is being developed by the Alexandria Archive Institute, as part of its broader "ArchaeoCommons" initiatives, and is generously sponsored by ICAZ. The goal of BoneCommons is to enhance the exchange of scholarly content from the ICAZ 2006 International Conference by providing the broader zooarchaeological community access to the meeting's content and discussion forums. BoneCommons will not replace face-to-face meetings, but will enhance the upcoming conference in the following ways:

- Conference participants can post papers and related scholarly content;
- Conference participants can contribute to continuing discussions on works presented in the scholarly program; and
- Conference organizers can post announcements and information related to the meeting and other events throughout the year.

As a comprehensive portal for the meeting's scholarly program, news, and events, BoneCommons will make it easy to find conference information, enabling users to make the most of the ICAZ 2006 International Conference to be held in México City, México, on August 23-28, 2006.

The developers of BoneCommons recognize that intellectual property and copyright issues have increasing significance on

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## ICAZ 2006 International Conference México City P August 23-28

See the special ICAZ 2006 International Conference insert in this newsletter for all the latest information about the upcoming meeting. Additional information about the program, social events and field trips, accommodations, registration, and more can be found online at:

<http://www.alexandriaarchive.org/bonecommons/icaaz2006/>

## FISH REMAINS WORKING GROUP REPORT

(Contributed by Heide Hüster-Plogmann<sup>1</sup>)

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Fish Remains Working Group (FRWG) took place Basel, Switzerland, on October 4-9, 2005. The event, organized by Heide Hüster-Plogmann, was hosted by the Institute for Prehistory and Archaeological Science (IPAS) at the University of Basel. The conference venue was located in the Kastelen House at the Museum of Augusta Raurica in Augst, a former Roman provincial capital. The conference was attended by 45 participants, representing as many as 22 countries—a diversity characteristic of this long-standing working group. This was partly made possible by the generous sponsorship of the University of Basel (in the form of accommodation), as well as by private sponsors, whose donations particularly supported the participation of younger colleagues from less affluent countries. This way, the group as a whole could share both scholarly and social events.

During the 25 year history of the FRWG, this was the first meeting ever held in a landlocked country. The main topics therefore included the reconstruction of special aspects of freshwater fishing, in addition to the interdisciplinary treatment of fish remains. The latter inspired a vivid discussion of to what extent future FRWG conferences should integrate the study of related aquatic animals such as birds, molluscs, and small mammals. This welcomed holistic approach shows the interesting dynamics between specialization and synthesis not only vertically, between ICAZ as a central body (hosting large meetings every four years) and its “satellite” working groups, but also horizontally, between the specialist working groups themselves.

Perhaps not surprisingly, owing to the usual success of FRWG meetings (thanks to an enthusiastic membership, organizers, and participants alike), several proposals were put forward to host the next conference in 2007. These included proposals from members in Alaska (USA), France, Poland, and Scotland. Following numerous, sometimes informal discussions throughout the week, the majority of participants voted to accept the invitation to hold the 14<sup>th</sup> FRWG Meeting in Antibes, France.

<sup>1</sup>Heide Hüster-Plogmann, Archäobiologische Abteilung, Seminar für Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Universität Basel, Switzerland; E-mail: heide.huester-plogmann@unibas.ch

## WORKED BONE RESEARCH GROUP

(Contributed by Alice M. Choyke, WBRG Liaison<sup>1</sup>)

The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Worked Bone Research Group (WBRG) was held in Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria, in late August 2005. Dr. Milena Stanceva (Regional Historical Museum, Veliko Turnovo; E-mail: milenastanceva@abv.bg) with help from Petar Zidarov (Ph.D. candidate, Tübingen University, Germany; E-mail: topetar@yahoo.com) organized a splendid meeting with 39 participants from 15 countries in Europe and the US in attendance.<sup>2</sup> There were 28 presented papers and 11 posters. The Department of History at the University of Turnovo together with the Archaeological Museum of Veliko Turnovo hosted the event.

Lively scientific discussions were prevalent throughout the

meeting, with many younger colleagues participating. Although most papers and posters were concerned with prehistoric bone materials, the essence of these discussions dealt with methodological and theoretical considerations that went far beyond the details of local typologies. It was determined that worked osseous objects were intimately linked to raw material selection, the technical style of their manufacture, and the way the objects were used. Discussions of the social meaning of bone objects included: the identification of marks on bone as abstract thinking in the Middle Paleolithic of Bulgaria (1.1 million ky); the discussion of the manufacture and meaning of bone idols from the Bulgarian Chalcolithic; bone tools as templates for tools and ornaments in other raw materials; problems with pseudo-morphs (skates and runners again!); and interpretation of tools with better written documentation from Medieval Hungary and Bulgaria. Among the papers from later time periods one theme was repeated—the strong association of bone and antler workshops with other crafts such as knife-making. French colleagues beautifully integrated their groundbreaking work on manufacturing and use wear within individual social contexts. A grasp of microscopic wears elucidates the full range of functional variability occurring in this class of archaeological objects. Identification and separation of flint scraping versus scraping with metal knives, for example, appears much more difficult than first imagined, at least at low magnifications.

Time was also set aside for discussions of the many excellent posters. Material presented ranged in time from early modern age materials from Holland and Medieval “anvils” from Spain, to an experiment on the use of copper knives in Chalcolithic Turkey, to the Neolithic of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Armenia, as well as Mesolithic objects from Estonia. Publication of the proceedings is being organized by Petar Zidarov in Bulgaria and the publication date is estimated to be sometime before the next meetings in 2007. The deadline for submission of papers was set at the end of February 2006 by mutual agreement of the conference participants. Hopefully, it will be possible to arrange, once again, the publication and distribution of this volume through Oxbow Books.

With the proceeding from the 4<sup>th</sup> WBRG meeting recently published (see notice on page 10 of this newsletter) and the 5<sup>th</sup> WBRG meeting proceedings due out early in 2006 in the German series of “Archaeologie International” we shall be well stocked with interesting bone tool papers in the coming year! Announcements of the volumes will be made on the mailing list bonetool@listserve.iif.hu as well as in subsequent ICAZ newsletters.

After a lively discussion, Isabelle Sidera agreed to hold the next WBRG meeting in Nanterre, France. She has already begun to search for outside funds to insure that researchers from all countries can participate. The work by the French CRNS group on bone tools over the last 40 years represents an incredible data resource for less well-funded researchers in this field around the world. I hope that future meetings will also be held outside the European continent to more fully involve colleagues from around the world.

<sup>1</sup>Alice M. Choyke, Aquincum Museum, Budapest, Hungary; E-mail: H13017cho@helka.iif.hu

<sup>2</sup>Representation by country: Austria (2), Bulgaria (5), Czech Republic (1), Estonia (3), France (4), Germany (3), Hungary (8), Moldova (1), Poland (2), Scotland (1), Slovakia (1), The Netherlands (1), Turkey (1), UK (2), and USA (4) 