



Newsletter

International Council for Archaeozoology

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KSAM Renews Archaeozoological Research in Kuwait

Contributed by Zora Miklíková¹ and Peter Barta²

The Kuwaiti-Slovak Archaeological Mission (KSAM) is a joint project of the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters, State of Kuwait, and the Institute of Archaeology, Slovak Academy of Sciences. KSAM was established in 2004 and originated from an idea put forward by Shehab A. H. Shehab, Director of the Department of Museums and Antiquities, National Council for Culture, in Kuwait. The main project, developed and directed by Lucia Benediková and Peter Barta, is an interdisciplinary research endeavor focused on the endangered Dilmun site of Al-Khidr which is located on the northwestern shore of Failaka Island. The site dates from the late 3rd to early 2nd millennium BC. Excavations at Al-Khidr in 2004, 2006, and 2007 have exposed part of the settlement along with evidence of pottery, copper, and stone industries, Dilmun seals, and palaeoenvironmental remains. In contrast to Dilmun ruins from the southwestern part of the island, Al-Khidr has domestic structures with smaller rooms and seems to represent a village-like settlement.

Research, undertaken by Mária Hajnalová and Zora Miklíková, is a key component of the ongoing research at Al-Khidr. Investigations include the most current scientific recovery methods; up to 80% of all sediments are dry sieved and more than 25% subjected to flotation. The Al-Khidr excavations have produced the largest prehistoric archaeofaunal assemblage recovered to date in Kuwait. Archaeozoological studies aim to shed light on food production, animal husbandry practices, site seasonality, and information about the local and regional palaeoenvironment. Zora Miklíková is overseeing the study of the mammal and bird bones. The fish remains are being analyzed in cooperation with two other scholars working in the Gulf region, Dr. Mark Beech, from the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (fish bones), and Dr. Mohsen Al-Husaini, from the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (fish otoliths). Preliminary analysis has identified at least three mammalian species (cattle, sheep, and goat) and twelve species of fish representing ten different families (Carcharhinidae, Pristidae, Ariidae, Serranidae, Carangidae, Haemulidae, Lethrinidae, Sparidae, Scaridae, and Sphyraenidae). A preliminary study of otoliths from sea catfish suggests that fishing at Al-Khidr took place mostly during the spring, between April and June.

In addition to ongoing research, a comparative collection of 26 local fish species has been established at the laboratory this year and new publications have been added to the environmental section of the newly founded library at the excavation house on Failaka Island. Scientists with the KSAM have also been collaborating with local specialists since 2006 to map the island's current flora and fauna. Additional information about KSAM and the project at Al-Khidr is available online at <http://www.kuwaitarchaeology.org>.

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ICAZ 2006 Update

Dear Colleagues,

It has been more than a year since we hosted the 10th ICAZ International Conference in México City. Over this past year we have been working diligently to compile the presentations from the Plenary Session for publication as promised to those who attended the conference. As you may remember the Plenary Session focused on the current state of archaeozoological research in Latin America. To date, we have collected nine out of the 11 manuscripts that will appear in the book and we have secured the funds to print and mail it. We hope to have this publication ready to be shipped to all ICAZ 2006 conference participants in early 2008, hopefully by February. We are grateful to have received assistance on this project from our friend and colleague, Guillermo Mengoni Goñalons (Argentina), as well as editorial assistance from Felisa Aguilar-Arellano (México).

Several other symposia from the conference are currently in the process of being published. Eight papers from the session titled "Herding Practices and Techniques: Models and Methodological Tools for Archaeozoological Analysis" have been reviewed and accepted for publication in the journal *Anthropozoologica* (volume 42, issue 2), which is forthcoming in December 2007 (Jean-Denis Vigne, pers. comm.). In addition, one paper from the session titled

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**The next ICAZ International Conference
will be held in Paris, France, in 2010.
Stay tuned for more details!**

ARCHAEOMALACOLOGY WORKING GROUP

Contributed by Daniella E. Bar-Yosef, AMWG Liaison¹,
and Esteban Álvarez Fernández²

Following the successful 1st Archaeomalacology Working Group meeting (which was held in Gainesville, Florida, USA, in 2005), the 2nd meeting will take place February 19-22, 2008, at the Escuela Técnica Superior de Náutica, Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain. The meeting, titled “Not Only Food: Marine, Terrestrial and Freshwater Molluscs in Archaeological Sites,” is being organized by Esteban Álvarez Fernández, Instituto Internacional de Investigaciones Prehistóricas de Cantabria (E-mail: esteban.alvarez@unican.es), and Diana Rocio Carvajal Contreras, University of Calgary (E-mail: drcarvajal@ucalgary.ca). It will consist of two days of paper presentations plus two days of field trips to archaeological sites in the region. The deadline for paper and poster abstract submissions is October 30, 2007. Registration costs consist of the following: 80 Euros for full registration (which includes a copy of the meeting proceedings), 50 Euros for students (also includes a copy of the meeting proceedings), and 30 Euros for registration only. For more information, please contact the conference organizers at the e-mail addresses listed above. Additional details about the upcoming conference have also been posted on the web at http://triton.anu.edu.au/santander_meeting.htm.

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FISH REMAINS WORKING GROUP

Contributed by László Bartosiewicz, FRWG Liaison

The proceedings of the last ICAZ Fish Remains Working Group (FRWG) meeting, held in Basel and Augst, Switzerland, in 2005 have been published. This attractive volume, titled *The Role of Fish in Ancient Time*, is edited by Heidemarie Hüster Plogmann. It is a welcomed achievement for the FRWG in the often hectic publication record of conference proceedings. Congratulations to Heide and the volume contributors. For information about how to order this new book go to the publisher's website at <http://www.vml.de/e/detail.php?ISBN=978-3-89646-438-5>.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the 14th FRWG meeting (titled “Archéologie du Poisson”) will have taken place on October 18-20, 2007, in Antibes, France. The conference, organized by Sandrine Grouard, Philippe Béarez, and Benoît Clavel, is dedicated to celebrating 30 years of scholarly research by Jean Desse and Nathalie Desse-Berset. The 39 papers and 16 posters to be presented during the 2-½ day program represent a rich array of topics from around the world. In addition to the old guard, there will be new young scholars, colleagues from far away countries, and senior archaeozoologists previously not seen at FRWG meetings participating in this event. The broad geographic representation and discussions of research conducted by international teams are sure to be attractive features of this conference.

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WORKED BONE RESEARCH GROUP

Contributed by Alice M. Choyke, WBRG Liaison¹

The 6th Worked Bone Research Group (WBRG) meeting was held at the University of Paris in Nanterre from August 27 to September 1, 2007. Drs. Isabelle Sidéra, Eva David, and Alexandra LeGrand-Pineau worked very hard to organize this splendid event that featured 39 oral presentations and nine posters. There were more than 60 participants from 22 countries (including co-authors); eight hailed from the Americas and 54 from Europe. The breakdown by country is as follows: Argentina (2), Armenia (2), Austria (4), Bulgaria (1), Canada (1), Czech Republic (3), Estonia (1), France (15), Germany (3), Great Britain (3), Greece (1), Holland (1), Hungary (2), Poland (3), Portugal (2), Republic of Moldova (1), Rumania (3), Spain (2), Switzerland (3), Russia (3), Ukraine (1), and USA (5).

The Maison de l'Archéologie et de l'Ethnologie René Ginouvè at the University of Paris hosted the meeting, although individual sessions were held in three separate venues, including the Maison de l'Archéologie et de l'Ethnologie, the Musée de l'Archéologie National in the Château de Saint-Germain-en-Laye, and in Saint Denis with support of the Service Archéologique de la Ville de Saint-Denis. Arrangements were made at the latter two venue for conference participants to view worked osseous material from the collections. In Saint Denis, delegates were given guided tours through the under church of the great cathedral and shown bone, antler, and ivory materials recovered from medieval sites in the surrounding township. We were particularly impressed by the efforts of the researchers at Saint Denis in their application of modern, complex research methods in the study of these historic finds.

The quality of scientific discussion at the meeting was extremely high and enhanced by the participation of many younger colleagues. The research presented ranged in time from the Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic periods to early modern times. There were many more papers dedicated to the proto-historic and historic periods than at past meetings, which was a welcomed development since bone tool research has often favored studies of prehistoric materials. It must be noted that participants felt free to comment about different assemblages that crossed chronological boundaries because many of the methodological and theoretical issues related to material culture and society seem to be similar regardless of time period. For many participants, exposure to chronologically and geographically “exotic” materials shed new light on their own assemblages. I should also note that a consensus seems to have developed about how to deal with and talk about worked osseous assemblages that has given participants a common language with which to communicate their ideas. For example, researchers with an archaeozoological training dealt more with technological issues while researchers with a more purely typo-chronological and technical orientation paid proper attention to issues surrounding raw material selection. This tendency to merge methodologies first appeared in papers at the WBRG meeting in Tallinn, Estonia, in 2003 and again at the next conference in Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria, in 2005. This is precisely the reason that there will never be a substitute for face-to-face meetings.

Thanks to the generous support by French government agencies it was possible for a number of researchers to participate who otherwise would not have been able to attend the meeting for fi-


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Fellowships

THE DIENJE KENYON FELLOWSHIP

A fellowship in honor of the late Dienje M. E. Kenyon is offered to support the research of women archaeologists in the early stages of their graduate training. An award of \$500 will be made to a student pursuing research in zooarchaeology, which was Kenyon's specialty. To qualify for the award, applicants must be enrolled in a graduate degree program focusing on archaeology with the intention of receiving either the M.A. or Ph.D. on a topic related to zooarchaeology, and must be in the first two years of graduate studies. Strong preference will be given to students working with faculty members with zooarchaeological expertise. Applications are to consist of the following: 1) a statement of proposed research related to zooarchaeology, toward the conduct of which the award would be applied, of no more than 1500 words, including a brief statement indicating how the award would be spent in support of that research; 2) a curriculum vitae; and 3) two letters of support from individuals familiar with the applicant's work and research potential. One of these letters must be from the student's primary advisor, and must indicate the year in which the applicant began graduate studies. The statement and curriculum vitae should be sent as an e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to Dr. Ariane Burke at a.burke@umontreal.ca. Letters of support should be e-mailed separately by the people providing them. Applications are due no later than January 5, 2008.

PALAEO VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

PALAEO (Palaeoecology, Archaeology and Evolutionary Origins) is an interdisciplinary training centre dedicated to the recovery of information about past peoples and their environment from sources that range from human skeletons to ancient biomolecules. As part of PALAEO's commitment to the mobility of people and skills within and beyond Europe, we offer a number of six month visiting research fellowships. The aim of these fellowships is to provide research collaboration at the University of York as part of a PhD programme based elsewhere, to provide an opportunity to acquire specific research or analytical skills, or to allow the applicant to attend postgraduate training modules offered at the University of York as a part of our Masters programmes. In the latter case, applicants may wish to consider registering for our MSc programmes in Zooarchaeology, Bioarchaeology, or Archaeological Research to undertake the taught component of either course during their placement at the university (please note that a tuition fee is required for course registration). If considering attending the MSc programmes, the value of the award is approximately £7,000, but varies slightly depending upon circumstances. Applications for six month placements will be considered throughout the year, however the intention is that up to three placements will start in April and October of 2006, 2007, 2008, and April 2009. Applicants wishing to register for MSc programmes should begin in October. To apply, please submit the following electronically: 1) letter of application, including an outline of proposed research, 2) curriculum vitae, 3) letters of support from two referees (your referees should not be related to you). Applications are considered at the May and November meetings of the Palaeo Management Team. Applications should be e-mailed to Holly Wright, PALAEO Coordinator, Department of Archaeology, University of York, E-mail: hew503@york.ac.uk. For additional information and deadlines, please check the website at <http://admin.palaeo.googlepages.com/6monthplacement>. 

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ford [ISBN-13: 978-0-19-920704-6. £85.00 (Hardback). 488 pages, 57 in-text photographs, 93 line drawings]. Contents: Introduction (Umberto Albarella, Keith Dobney, Anton Ervynck, and Peter Rowley-Conwy) • Part I. Evolution and Taxonomy • Current Views on Taxonomy and Zoogeography of the Genus *Sus* (Colin Groves) • Current Views on *Sus* Phylogeography and Pig Domestication as Seen Through Modern MtDNA Studies (Greger Larson, Umberto Albarella, Keith Dobney, and Peter Rowley-Conwy) • The Molecular Basis for Phenotypic Changes During Pig Domestication (Leif Andersson) • Part II. The History of Pig Domestication and Husbandry • The Transition from Wild Boar to Domestic Pig in Eurasia, Illustrated by a Tooth Development Defect and Biometrical Data (Keith

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ICAZ Working Group Reports*

nancial reasons. It will be difficult but critical for future meeting organizers to make sure that colleagues working on assemblages from outside Europe also have a chance to take part in this kind of information exchange. Seeing all the many surprising ways worked osseous materials have been manufactured and used around the world reminds us that what we think we know as certainties may not be as secure as we think. This realization should represent both a challenge and a joy to people working in this relatively new field.

Jörg Schibler, Hans-Christian Küchelmann, and Petar Zidarov also presented a paper on the status of the WBRG Website, which was first proposed by Jörg and myself at the Basel meeting in 2001. It has taken the youthful enthusiasm of Hans-Christian and Petar, however, to jump-start the work along with Jörg Schibler. The website will be maintained at the Institut für Prähistorische und Naturwissenschaftliche Archäologie, Universität Basel. The website is being constructed by Andreas Schibler and Andreas Walter. It will contain news and information about the WBRG, the different typologies used by our members, technology and traceology visual data, raw material identification, conservation, a searchable list of references related to worked osseous materials, contact information for scholars in the field, and links to the WBRG Mailing List (bonetools@listserv.iif.hu) and Bone Commons. I will notify ICAZ members about future developments on the website.

Isabelle Sidéra suggested at the Paris conference that we initiate an online journal related to worked osseous materials. Isabelle along with Eva David and Alexandra Legrand-Pineau are planning to publish the proceedings of these meetings, possibly in the new journal. Announcements concerning the website and upcoming publications will be made on the WBRG mailing list (bonetool@listserv.iif.hu) as well as in subsequent issues of the ICAZ Newsletter.

The next WBRG meeting will be held at the University of Wrocław in Poland in 2009. Dr. Justyna Baron is the contact person (E-mail: jbaron@hist.uni.wroc.pl). Happily, we had another offer from Dr.

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