



Newsletter

International Council for Archaeozoology

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ICAZ 2010 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HUGELY SUCCESSFUL!



The 11th ICAZ International Conference took place in Paris, France, at the University Pierre et Marie Curie and the Muséum National d' Histoire Naturelle on August 23-28, 2010.

The conference hosted 714 delegates from 56 countries (see Figure 1 on page 2). This was the largest ICAZ meeting to date, with the broadest geographical representation ever. The distribution of registrants by country was not balanced, however. Twenty-two countries were represented by only one or two delegates, while three countries (France, UK, and USA) shared 48% of the delegates with more than 90 persons attending per country. Five countries (Argentina, Canada, Germany, Italy, and

Spain) had more than 20 delegates each. And, China, Japan, and Russia were represented by more than ten delegates per country, which is another indication that archaeozoology is becoming increasingly important outside of its traditional European and North American geographic areas. Three to nine delegates represented another dozen or so countries from five continents (including Chile, Brazil, and México for Latin America, Australia and New Zealand for Oceania, South Africa for Africa, Israel and India for Asia, and Estonia, Czech Republic, Romania, and Serbia for Eastern Europe). The growth of archaeozoological research in an increasing number of countries is also attested to by the representation of about 20 countries with one or two delegates (including Philippines for Indonesia, Kazakhstan for Central Asia, Kenya, Algeria, and Tunisia for Africa, and Iran, Palestine, United Arab Emirates, Cyprus, Lebanon, and Turkey for the Near and Middle East).

It is more difficult to get a clear and accurate idea of the breakdown of participants by professional group since the information provided to us by each delegate in his/her registration form was sometimes vague. Nevertheless, it appears that 40-50% of the delegates were professors (including assistant and associate level), curators, or engineers (see Figure 2 on page 2). The very high number of students (M.A., Ph.D., and post-doctoral), which also comprised about half of the delegates, is another important and satisfying point that speaks to the long-term health and vitality of archaeozoological research.

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JUNIOR RESEARCHER OPEN PRIZE WINNERS

The Junior Researcher Open Zooarchaeology Prize competition awards the best open access, reusable content based on presentations at the 2010 ICAZ International Conference by a junior researcher (current student or degree in the past 10 years). A panel of five judges from the ICAZ community evaluated the contestants, with the primary criterion being the presentation's value for reuse in teaching or research. The winners of the prizes are:

1st Place—David Orton (University of Cambridge) wins \$500 for the project “The Skeleton as a Map: Using GIS Technology to Facilitate the Display and Dissemination of Anatomical Data.”

2nd Place—Jillian Garvey (La Trobe University) wins \$200 in books from the David Brown Book Company for her project “Bennett's Wallaby Marrow Quality vs Quantity: Evaluating Human Decision-making and Seasonal Occupation in Late Pleistocene Tasmania.”

To view the winning entries, visit Bone Commons at <http://alexandriaarchive.org/bonecommons/items/show/882>. 

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regional publications, a bibliographic database is necessary. We will keep you informed on this project in the NZWG Newsletter.

The first NZWG academic meeting will be held in Santiago, Chile, in May 2012 in conjunction with the II Encuentro Latinoamericano de Zooarqueología. The meeting will focus on a specific theme; suggestions are welcome. One proposal is the formation of the zooarchaeological record in Neotropical environments.

For forthcoming news and updates, please subscribe to the NZWG Newsletter, and visit <http://www.alexandriaarchive.org/icaz/workneotropical.htm>. The NZWG Coordinators are Isabel Cruz (E-mail: isabelcruz55@yahoo.com.ar), Pablo M. Fernández (E-mail: pfernand@retina.ar), Mariana Mondini (E-mail: mmondini@filo.uba.ar, also ICAZ NZWG Liaison) and A. Sebastián Muñoz (E-mail: amunoz@filo.uba.ar, also ICAZ Liaison).

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NORTH ATLANTIC BIOARCHAEOLOGICAL ORGANIZATION ZOOARCHAEOLOGY WORKING GROUP¹

The ICAZ North Atlantic Bioarchaeological Organization Zooarchaeology Working Group (NABO ZWG) has embarked on a new book project. The NABO ZWG is sponsoring a new edited volume titled "Zooarchaeology in the North Atlantic: From Prehistory to World System." Current editors include George Hambrecht, Ingrid Mainland, Julie Bond, Sophia Perdikaris, and Tom McGovern. We are hoping to publicize the wide range of new zooarchaeological projects and results (from bone counts to isotopes, vertebrate and invertebrate) that have come to light in the past few years, many as the result of new collaborative projects. We are looking for papers from deep prehistory to the recent past, and from Barents Sea to Labrador to Azores. We are especially encouraging younger researchers to submit articles and results of current doctoral, M.A. and M.Sc. projects are most welcome. Both magisterial final statements and in-progress preliminary reports of ongoing work will be considered. We will make use of the new fully peer-reviewed online Journal of the North Atlantic (<http://www.eaglehill.us/jona>) to provide great flexibility in length, use of color illustrations, and possible data attachments. Deadlines are December 15, 2010, for title and short abstract; November 1, 2011 for review copy submission; and publication online will be in early 2012. Please send information to nabo@voicenet.com.

The Global Human Ecodynamics Alliance (GHEA) has launched. We are happy to report that the new GHEA website is live (<http://www.gheahome.org>) and all are invited to visit and join online. GHEA is free, informal, and aimed at building connections between the many people and organizations interested in mobilizing the long-term perspective of the past to serve present and future global change planning. Education and outreach as well as scientific collaborations will be emphasized. Conference and workshop series are being organized, and suggestions and ideas are most welcome. Your ideas and input are needed and valued!

New downloads are available from NABO Website, so visit <http://www.nabohome.org> for new postings of reports on field projects and zooarchaeological reports (in PDF) as these are added regularly: Ramona Harrison has just posted her preliminary report

on the medieval site of Skuggi (Shadows) from northern Iceland as lab report #50—collect the whole set!

¹Contributed by Thomas H. McGovern, Department of Anthropology, Hunter College, The City University of New York, USA, E-mail: thomas.h.mcgovern@gmail.com.

TAPHONOMY WORKING GROUP¹

The new ICAZ Taphonomy Working Group (TWG) had its first meeting at the ICAZ International Conference in Paris, France. This was well attended on the back of the highly successful session titled "New Perspectives on Taphonomy," the longest session in the entire conference. The interest in the session and the quality and diversity of the presented papers and posters from researchers from six different continents emphasizes the dynamic research culture in the broad field of taphonomy.

Plans are afoot to organize the inaugural conference of the TWG. This is anticipated to take place in 2012 and offers to host it are invited. So far, offers from both Cambridge, UK, and Poznan, Poland, have been put forward, although plans remain at the early stage. It is hoped that the event will incorporate some form of practical day as well as an excursion.

If you are interested in being part of the TWG or would like to suggest a host institution for the first conference, please contact Ana Belén Marín (abm38@cam.ac.uk) and you will be added to the mailing list. @cam.ac.uk.

¹Contributed by Ana Belén Marín (TWG Liaison), Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies, University of Cambridge, UK, E-mail: abm38@cam.ac.uk.

WORKED BONE RESEARCH GROUP¹

The ICAZ Worked Bone Research Group (WBRG) continues to hold regular meetings every two-years. There also have been WBRG-oriented meetings held at ICAZ International Conferences in México City in 2006 and now Paris this past August which have been or will be published in the same spirit as the four conference proceedings which have already come out. This year, the successful session at ICAZ 2010 concentrated on various aspects of raw material research in the study of worked osseous materials. From identification issues, problems of identification and social organization, and new techniques for identifying heavily worked objects, the session covered a wide range of important research questions for archaeozoologists in general. It is hoped that this kind of work will encourage all of our colleagues to take a more active interest in this class of archaeological artifacts. We firmly believe that archaeozoologists represent the first line of defense against having all the worked materials examined and not only large and special objects, as regrettably still happens all too often. Furthermore, the expansion of the field beyond identification of raw material and typo-chronological issues into social interpretation offers another good link between our field and the archaeological community in general.

The 7th WBRG international meeting was held in Wrocław, Poland, at the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Wrocław on September 7-11, 2009. It was organized by Drs. Bernadeta Kufel and Justyna Baron. Altogether 64 registered participants from 14 countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Spain, UK, and USA) attended the meeting. Romania and Spain were particu-

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larly well represented for the first time, reflecting increased interest in this field in those countries. A total of 28 papers were presented as well as 16 posters (12 of which were presented by their creators during the poster session).

The next WBRG meeting will be held in Salzburg, Austria, on August 29 to September 2, 2011. It will be hosted by the University of Salzburg. Felix Lang (felix.lang@sbg.ac.at) will organize it. Dr. Xiaolin Ma from Henan province in China has proposed to hold the 2013 WBRG meetings at his institute.

Recent publications of the WBRG include the following:

Materials of Manufacture: The Choice of Materials in the Working of Bone and Antler in Northern and Central Europe During the First Millennium AD edited by I. Riddler (2003). British Archaeological Reports International Series 1193. Archaeopress, Oxford (first unofficial WBRG meeting).


Crafting Bone: Skeletal Technologies through Time and Space edited by A. Choyke and L. Bartosiewicz (2001). British Archaeological Reports International Series 937. Archaeopress, Oxford (2nd WBRG meeting).

Bone, Antler, Teeth. Raw Material for Tool Production in Pre-historic and Historic Periods edited by J. Schibler, C. Becker, and A. Choyke (in preparation for 2011). Verlag Maria Leidorf GmbH, Rahden/Westf. (3rd WBRG meeting).

From Hooves to Horns, from Mollusc to Mammoth: Manufacture and Use of Bone Artifacts from Prehistoric Times to the Present edited by H. Luik, A. Choyke, C. Batey, and L. Lõugas (2005). Muiaasaja Teadus 15, Tallinn (4th WBRG meeting).

The proceedings of the 2007 WBRG meeting came out in time for the ICAZ 2010 International Conference in Paris. It includes a section from the South American bone tool session held at the ICAZ 2006 International Conference in México City organized and edited by Vivian Scheinsohn. The volume details are: A. Legrand-Pineau, I. Sidéra, N. Buc, E. David, and V. Scheinsohn, eds. (2010) *Ancient and Modern Bone Artefacts from America to Russia, Cultural, Technological and Functional Signatures*. British Archaeological Reports International Series 2136. Archaeopress, Oxford.

During talks at the WBRG meeting at the ICAZ 2010 International Conference, new substantial changes have been made to the WBRG website which is starting to take a real form. Dreamed up by Jörg Schibler and Alice Choyke during the WBRG meeting in Basel, Switzerland, the website largely remained in the realm of fantasy until Hans Christian Küchelmann and Petar Zidarov jump-started the project again. The website has finally gotten off the ground through the initiative and hard work of Hans Christian Küchelmann (info@knochenarbeit.de) and Andi Jacomet who built the site based on what was decided by members at the WBRG meeting in Wrocław, Poland. Please check out the WBRG Website (<http://www.wbrg.net>) because lots of new information has been added to it, including experiments and typology pages, a "mystery" bone tools page, information about upcoming conferences as well as past meetings, publications and ordering information, among other items. The mystery bone page is a good place to post images of problematic worked bones, especially for people not on the mailing list. Please check out our new website, and take advantage of its new features.

¹Contributed by Alice Choyke (WBRG Liaison), Aquincum Museum or Department of Medieval Studies, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, E-mail: choyke@ceu.hu. 

A meeting of the ICAZ Executive Committee (EC) was held on August 23, 2010, at the ICAZ International Conference in Paris, France. What follows are the minutes from that meeting.

Present: László Bartosiewicz (president), Luís Borrero (vice-president), Pam Crabtree (treasurer), Umberto Albarella (secretary), Sarah Whitcher Kansa (web administrator), Heather Lapham (newsletter editor), Jean-Denis Vigne (current conference organizer), Christine Lefèvre (current conference organiser), Melinda Zeder (chair of task force for changes to the statutes), Elizabeth Reitz (elected EC member), and Richard Meadow (elected EC member). **Apologies from:** Joaquín Arroyo-Cabrales (former conference organizer), Roel Lauwerier (representative of task force for changes to the statutes) and Sebastian Payne (elected EC member).

It was agreed that the EC meeting would have no formal agenda in order to guarantee the tackling of the most urgent issues concerning the opening and running of the conference as they arose.

Changes to the ICAZ Statutes: It was agreed that Melinda Zeder would introduce the topic of proposed changes to the ICAZ Statutes at the General Meeting (GM) and also present the proposed changes that had already been circulated to the membership via e-mail. As previously agreed by e-mail, a vote will be required, and this will be added to the e-mail vote. Members who are present at the GM, but have already voted by e-mail will not be asked to vote again. Some discussion about the details of changes to the statutes and how to organize their presentation to the IC and the GM followed. It was agreed that the task force for changes to the statutes, which will meet on Thursday, August 26, just before the International Committee (IC) meeting, will discuss the best way to present the amendment discussion to the IC.

Newsletter: Heather Lapham reiterated the point that she had already made to the EC that she intends to resign as newsletter editor, following the autumn (fall) 2010 issue. A poster advertising the job of newsletter editor was posted at the registration desk. Interested people were asked to approach the registration desk. An e-mail to reiterate the need to appoint a newsletter editor will be sent to members. Heather will draft desirable criteria for a newsletter editor to be circulated to the membership. It was decided that a deadline for expressing interest in the position will be set at September 15. A discussion about the possibility of moving the newsletter to a digital format followed and was generally met with favor. Elizabeth Reitz mentioned that, in case of digital posting, a hard copy should be kept for archiving purposes. Melinda Zeder mentioned that ICAZ documents can be archived at the Smithsonian Institution's National Anthropological Archives. Personal data or sensitive information will not be archived.

ICAZ 2010: Jean-Denis Vigne and Christine Lefèvre distributed summary information and statistics regarding the conference. Details of this can be found on pages 1-3 of this newsletter.

EC and Committee of Honor: Umberto Albarella reminded the meeting participants that the upcoming IC meeting will provide an opportunity to nominate members for the Committee of Honor. Nominations for additional EC members were also still open. Elizabeth Reitz reiterated the point she had already made by email that she does not intend to stand again for the EC.

ICAZ Registration: Pam Crabtree, Sarah Whitcher Kansa, and

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