

The European Archaeologist

10th Anniversary Conference Issue

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Dear Reader,

It is hard to believe the EAA has been organising conferences for ten years now. To mark this event we felt it would be interesting to ask some of the key figures in the Association over the last decade to reminisce over their own first contacts with the EAA. In this TEA, you will find contributions written by Anthony Harding, Kristian Kristiansen, Henry Cleere, Willem Willems.

Ten years on and Europe itself has changed and expanded in a way perhaps none of us could have predicted, and the premises for archaeology within Europe have changed immeasurably. For many of us it comes as quite a shock to look back over the last decades and wonder how the time has gone by so quickly. Within this period careers have been made, and changed, and reassessed. For a growing number of European archaeologists the EAA has had a significant impact on their professional lives. This is increasingly evident in the enthusiasm with which the annual conferences are organised and attended and the many spin-offs that can be observed from the conference in the form of joint ventures in heritage and research programmes, the development of standards in training and policies as well as European joint ventures between commercial companies. Perhaps most important of all are the many professional and personal friendships that have been made and renewed on an annual basis.

The EAA remains a dynamic and relevant organisation for the future of European Archaeology. The annual conference is and particular remains the driving force behind the Association, and with this in mind, the present conference in Lyon promises to continue this tradition.

We look forward to (at least) the next ten years of your continued support for the EAA and, of course the TEA- the success and relevance of the newsletter depends on your contributions: enjoy the reading and the meeting!

*Karen Waugh, Editor TEA
Petra Nordin, Ass. Editor TEA*

Welcome to the 10th EAA Annual Meeting!

Anthony Harding, President EAA

It seems like yesterday that we met in Ljubljana to inaugurate our Association, but amazingly, it is ten years. In that time we have gone from strength to strength, and I am sure that the Lyon conference will enable us to become even stronger.

We owe the chance to meet in Lyon principally to two individuals: Françoise Audouze and Jacques Lasfargues. Both of them have worked tirelessly to organise the meeting and to assure the financial viability of the enterprise. For the latter, we also owe a great debt of thanks to the City of Lyon and the Rhône regional council. Many people do not realise how complicated and expensive it is to put on a conference like ours – it costs far more than what the conference fee brings in. Françoise and Jacques have succeeded brilliantly in bringing the tenth meeting to fruition, and we offer them our warmest thanks, in anticipation of what will I am sure be a highly successful event.

Since I took office in St Petersburg last year, a lot has happened within the EAA. By the time we leave Lyon we will have seen a change of Vice-President, Treasurer, Editor, and several Board members; and from January next year we will have a new home for our Secretariat and a new Administrator. A year from now we must choose a new General Secretary.

Members of the EAA perhaps do not realise that all of these people, with the single exception of the Administrator, work for the Association for free, and largely in their own time. All of them give hours of devoted service so that our Association can benefit. We need to bring in more people who believe in the EAA and are prepared to devote some time and effort to help it succeed – if you or someone you know can offer your services, then please come forward.

During our conference we will have the chance to say farewell and thank you to our retiring officers and Board members – Elin Dalen, Cecilia Åqvist, Mark Pearce, Felipe Criado Boado, and Teresa Chapa Brunet. They have given us an enormous amount of their time and our Association has profited greatly from it. We will thank them properly at Lyon but I want

to take this opportunity to express my deep personal thanks to them all – as well as to the continuing Board members and officers.

This will be the last conference where Petra Nordin serves as our Administrator, though she will continue to work for us till the end of 2004. It is hard to overestimate the debt that the EAA owes Petra. All of you who know her – and that seems to be about 95% of the membership – realise what a devoted servant we have had in Petra. Not only has she run our organisation with efficiency and economy; she has been a warm and welcoming presence at our meetings and in our computer inboxes. We will miss her, and we hope she will continue to come to our Annual Meetings.

At Lyon I shall pay proper tribute to all these colleagues and I am sure you will want to add your personal thanks and best wishes.

2004 has been interesting for public archaeology in many ways, some positive and some not so positive. The Board of the EAA has tried to keep up with developments, though lack of resources does not enable us to be as visible on the international scene as we would like. We have been urged to take a stand on a number of issues affecting the archaeological heritage, among them the development of the Roşia Montana gold mines in Romania and the construction of the M3 motorway near the Hill of Tara in Ireland. I have rapidly discovered that any statement we make has repercussions, since there are usually two sides to any such debate. In St Petersburg we held a Round Table to consider how far the EAA should get involved in national heritage issues of this kind, where we agreed that where the Board had full information and the issues seemed clear-cut, a statement could be made on the EAA's behalf. The Board does need correspondents in each country to advise it on these issues, and members are asked to offer their services. We do not want to be seen as completely toothless and passive; equally we do not want to offend people who are doing their best for the archaeological heritage. In this, we are surely right to develop and maintain sets of standards that can apply internationally whenever the heritage (sites, artefacts, or buildings) is threatened.

The expansion of the EU in May means that the vast majority of our European members now come from EU countries, and with a further enlargement in prospect in 2007 or

2008, the process will continue. We would like to be able to use some of the EU programmes to help the EAA, though this is more easily said than done. I do urge those of you with skills in extracting money from Brussels to think about the EAA when you construct your proposals, to see whether a partnership of some kind could benefit both sides. We also need people to represent us at the meetings of the Council of Europe and other international gatherings. Please let me know if you can help.

I wish you all an enjoyable and stimulating conference!

EAA: Beginnings, Memories and Retrospective Reflections

Kristian Kristiansen



Annual Business Meeting in Riga 1996: Kristian Kristiansen (President –1998), Peter Chowne (Treasurer) and Harald Hermansen (EAA Secretariat).

There is a privilege of youth that keeps the world moving: intuition (to do the right things at the right time without knowing it at the time) and idealism (to dare). There is a privilege of age that keeps it stable: experience and realism (sometimes killing the right things at the wrong time without knowing it at the time). However, when the two meet great things can happen. That is the short version of how EAA came into being. But there is of course more to it - a narrative with names, events, progress, backlashes, unexpected changes and opportunities.

The formation of the EAA did not come into being as the fully-fledged result of a well-planned strategy, but emerged unexpectedly out of my wish to create a journal of European archaeology. It took time, much more time and work than expected. I had been thinking about a European journal of archaeology for some time during the 1980's when a two-year research grant and sabbatical at the newly created Research Centre for the Humanities in

Copenhagen from 1987 to 1989 suddenly allowed me the time to do something about it. And I was still young - that is to say, still below 40 (to begin with at least).

Whenever you want to start an international project you need good friends and colleagues in the right places, so I contacted what became the first core group of the *Journal of European Archaeology* (the first editorial group for Volume One). This was back in 1988-89. I remember Chris and Anne Chippingdale hosted a planning meeting in their lovely house in Cambridge for the group. Ian Hodder had obtained a small grant from the British Academy to get started; we decided the name and had contacted some senior publishers, all, however, who reacted negatively, to our surprise. Not so astonishing perhaps, as they all had another archaeological journal and their editors probably did not want competition. On the suggestion of Mike Rowlands we then met with Ms. Berg from Berg publishers; an impressive lady dressed all in red, who asked if we had a society behind the journal. We looked at each other and said no, but on the spot decided that of course a society should be created. At that time, which must have been around late 1990, we already had most of the articles for Volume One ready, but decided to delay the journal and create a European Association of Archaeologists. (We later found an enthusiastic publisher in Ross Samson and Ashgate, who had to give way to a more established international publisher with more economic back up when the journal and the EAA grew larger).

The creation of an Association started a whole new series of meetings and demands: we needed a representative founding group much larger than the editorial group of the journal, one that included all sectors of archaeology - from heritage to universities. In the new Europe that was emerging Eastern Europe had to be strongly represented, just as graduate students and junior archaeologists. And we needed funding for travel and meetings.

Whenever you want to start an international organisation you need financially well connected friends and colleagues in the right places, with institutions that can provide infrastructure and financial back up without too much bureaucracy. I now began to mobilise old friends with whom I had worked during the 1980's on developing an international framework for the heritage sector, and from whom I had learned a lot in the process. There was Alain Schnapp in Paris, who had hosted the first round tables around 1980 that got things started, and Gustav Trotzig from Swedish Heritage whom I had worked with in the Council of Europe. The Nordic Heritage

agencies had formed the secretariat for the newly created International Council for Heritage Management (ICAHM, under the auspices of ICOMOS) chaired by Margaretha Björnstad, which produced the first International Charter on Archaeological Heritage Management. Here Henry Cleere had been one of the main initiators. Henry had come into my office one day just after I had started work as the young Director of the Danish Archaeological Heritage Administration in late 1979. He was on his study trip for what became a classic book on archaeological heritage on CUP, for which he persuaded me to contribute. That began a long lasting friendship. Willem Willems I had got to know in the same circles as Gustav.

We also needed prominent Professors, and Colin Renfrew willingly agreed to lend his support in absentia. But he was active when we got started and gave the inaugural lecture in Ljubiana. In order to represent junior researchers and PhD students we approached Arek Marciniak from Poland, from the senior ranks Bogdan Brukner from former Yugoslavia, Albrecht Jockenhövel from Germany, as well as Evgeniye Nosov from St. Petersburg. We were rather unbalanced in terms of gender, but had strong female representation in Ilse Loze from Latvia, Isabel Martinez Navarette (Maribel) from Spain, and Anna Maria Bietti Sestieri, from Italy. Together with the core group from the journal we now had a group of 15-16 people who needed to meet frequently.

The vision of a unified forum for archaeological theory and practice was something we all shared, since we had already decided on similar goals for the journal. Now began the hard work of putting it into practice. Alain Schnapp offered to host our meetings in Paris. This became a tradition we continued to follow during my presidential period (all institutions need traditions), and I was able to provide some support for travel expenses. We also had a memorable meeting in Prague hosted by Evzen Neustupny. Here we did the hard work of formulating the basic lay out of the statutes after studying many examples from parallel organisations. This work was carried to its successful end by Henry thanks to his long international experience. When we approached the launching of the Association, I turned to my good friend and colleague Övind Lunde in Norway, who had just become State Antiquarian (Director of Cultural Heritage) and asked him to host the secretariat. That meant carrying the expenses until the Association had grown strong enough to carry them on its own. Although warned about the consequences by his new young Head of Secretariat Harald Hermansen (he was only doing his job!),

Övind shared the vision and soon both Harald and also Elin Dalen were enthusiastic members of our travelling business secretariat. And travel we did (which is exactly why you need institutions with a large travel budget that can be used without too much formality). The board meetings were held three times a year: twice in Paris and once at the annual meeting. In addition, the President and the Secretariat (plus sometimes Secretary and Treasurer) had to meet several times per year with the upcoming organisers of the annual meeting.

The support received from the Heritage administrations in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, England and Museum of London, plus Maison des Sciences de l'Homme in Paris was absolutely crucial during the formative years of the EAA. Once the EAA was launched, the Wenner Gren Foundation generously supported travel expenses for colleagues from former Eastern Europe, and has continued to do so. I had met Sylvia Sydel, then president of the Wenner Gren, at a conference and told her about the EAA. She saw it as an important achievement comparable to the European Association of Social Anthropologists, also supported by Wenner Gren. I consider the continued support from Wenner Gren as one of the most crucial elements in generating a truly European association.

To underline the EAA's role as a European Association with a mission, our first annual meetings were held in those recent European democracies that supported the EAA most strongly and themselves needed support, such as Slovenia (Ljubiana), Spain (Santiago de Compostela), and Latvia (Riga), as well as in established countries, with established archaeologies such as England (Bournemouth) Italy (Ravenna) and Sweden (Gothenburg) with many EAA members and institutional support as well. The old archaeological countries such as Germany and France were rather slow in getting interested and therefore came later in hosting the meetings (in Esslingen, and this year Lyon).



Kristian at excursion in Santiago 1995.

Each annual meeting has its own fascinating story that cannot be told here, but the organisers of all these meetings did a fabulous job, (and were always financially supported by their heritage institutions and ministries), and we made many new friends as a result of our collaborations. I remember, for instance, a Russian colleague who had travelled for several days on the train from Siberia to attend the meeting in Santiago de Compostela, and he was not alone in showing such enthusiasm.

Many members attended every year, or nearly every year. A family feeling accompanied these early meetings, and it still prevails. This is also seen in the elections to the EAA Board, where many have been associated in some function or other since the early days.

Our goals for the first years of the EAA (expressed in the first long term action plan) were basically two: to establish codes of conduct for European Archaeology, ensuring for the EAA a kind of ethical and moral role in the formation of archaeological practice across archaeological sectors. This was later backed up by the formation of the European Heritage Prize. It was established with support from English Heritage, and stands as a proud legacy of the organisation's early support, and not least Jeff Wainwright's own support, of the EAA. The second goal was to establish an active and engaged membership through the annual meetings, the journal and the newsletter, that could secure the future stability of the EAA. Our slogan was *1000 by 2000* (a thousand members by the year 2000). A goal we reached already in 1999!

In 1998 I hosted the annual meeting in Gothenburg at our department (where I had become Professor in 1994) together with the Swedish Heritage, which paid their share of the expenses (as did our department, since funding did not cover all expenses and never does).

By this time I had worked for the EAA for nearly 10 years and was mentally exhausted. Nevertheless I was extremely happy to see our vision materialised, and happy to be able to retire as president from a vital and expanding association that had become the shared vision and the property of more than a thousand colleagues, many of whom had become friends during the process.

The Emergence of an Association

Henry Cleere

For me it all started on the afternoon of Friday 1st February 1991. I had had a somewhat mysterious telephone call from Ian Hodder, asking if he and Mike Rowlands could come to my office (I was Director of the Council for British Archaeology at the time) and talk to me about an idea that they were working on that involved a European perspective on archaeology. This intrigued me and so I readily agreed to meet them: ever since my Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship in 1989 had taken me to eight European countries to look at the management of archaeology and archaeological sites I had urged the creation of some kind of forum for discussion of mutual problems and their solution.

What I learned from my two visitors that cold afternoon was that they had attended the TAG meeting in December where, over several beers with Kristian Kristiansen and Alain Schnapp (two old friends of mine who shared my vision), plans had been laid for a new journal on European archaeology. They wisely saw that this venture would have a better chance of success if it were to be linked with a membership organisation, and this is where they thought I might be able to help, with my experience as one of the founders of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) in mind. I readily agreed to help out in any way that I could – and that was the last I heard about the project until the end of that year.

By this time I had retired from the CBA and was beginning to work with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in Paris, coordinating their work in the field of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. Kristian telephoned me, and in his customary beguiling way persuaded me to take part in a meeting that was to take place at the beautifully restored medieval Maison Suger in Paris at the beginning of November 1991. He assured me that the United Kingdom was going to be represented by Ian and Mike, and so my role would simply be to offer guidance from time to time, and so I innocently consented to attend.

It was a memorable meeting, attended by a distinguished group of European archaeologists and heritage managers. In addition to the original "Gang of Four" I recall Gustaf Trotzig from Sweden, Øivind Lunde from Norway, Evžen Neustupný from what was still Czechoslovakia, Anna Maria Bietti Sestieri from Italy, Willem Willems from The Netherlands, Arek Marciniak from Poland, and Maribel Martinez Navarrete from Spain. I am

sure there were others, and I apologise profoundly to them. An enormous amount of enthusiasm was engendered, and the meeting solemnly constituted itself as an International Steering Committee, onto which I found myself co-opted.

It was Kristian who drove the work of the Committee forward. Single-handed he contacted organisations and individuals all over Europe, gathering information and support. The Committee met at least twice a year from August 1992 onwards, at the Maison Suger. This splendid academic retreat in the heart of the Rive Gauche was owned by the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, where Alain Schnapp had excellent contacts and was able to negotiate a very favourable grant for our activities. At some time during this period it appears that I was elected (or more likely nominated by Kristian while I was out of the room) as Secretary of the Committee, and even more mysteriously I found myself editor of the organisation's newsletter, *The European Archaeologist*. Öivind was at that time head of the Norwegian Antiquities Service, Riksantikvaren, and he generously made the services of a splendid trio of his staff, Elin Dalen, Tina Wiberg, and Harald Hermansen, available to provide the Secretariat, without which my work as Secretary would have been impossible.

They were heady days, with a great deal of hard work, not infrequent robust arguments (I will confess to having resigned from the post of Secretary at least once towards the end of a particularly gruelling session, but nobody seemed to take me seriously), and a lot of good fellowship. I particularly remember our riotous dinners at the Alsatian restaurant close to the Maison Suger, where Alain (by now our Treasurer – after all, he was the only Committee member who had managed to secure some substantial finance) had negotiated a special rate. The taste of *choucroute garnie* and *Gewürztraminer* will always bring happy memories of the early days of the EAA to mind.



Henry Cleere, Secretary, at work at the EAA Secretariat in Santiago 1995.

As Secretary I was charged with the responsibility of drafting the statutes, along with Harald (a lawyer by training). The meeting at which we went over our draft line by line was, I think, the first held outside Paris. Evžen had secured the use of a delightful historic country house outside Prague, the property of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, for the weekend, and it was the ideal setting for work of this kind.

The statutes were due to be presented to the Inaugural Meeting in September 1994 of what had now been formally designated the European Association of Archaeologists (and choosing the name led to some heated discussions). Ljubljana was decided upon thanks to the enthusiasm and skill at getting financial backing from official bodies of Mitya Guštin. One of the most fascinating discussions I took part in was in Ljubljana with Kristian, Mitya, and Predrag Novaković when we hammered out the programme for this crucial meeting and established a pattern that continues to the present day.

My memories of the Inaugural Meeting are a mixture of pride and relief that the EAA was up and running. The business meeting was somewhat nail-biting, since I had the task of presenting the draft statutes. My experience with other organisations is that there is nothing archaeologists enjoy more than arguing over the statutes of organisations such as the CBA or the IFA with a fine-tooth comb, and I was not to be disappointed in Ljubljana. Perhaps the most contentious issue was that of language. Because of our severely limited funds formal translation of official meetings into more than one language could not be contemplated, and so it was proposed that, in the early years at any rate, the official language of the Association would be English. However, there was a formidable delegation from Spain who contested this proposal vigorously, and I well remember Felipe Criado acting as spokesman for the group of Spanish woman archaeologists led by the redoubtable Angeles Querol. However, everyone had the chance to speak and at the end of this lively debate the statutes were approved.

After my period as Secretary came to an end in 1996, when I handed over to Willem Willems, I retained the responsibility of drafting the EAA Code of – Ethics, Conduct, Practice? This proved highly controversial, and I found myself chairing round tables at successive Annual Meetings. I have one particular memory, that of Cornelius Holtorf vigorously contesting my proposal that it should be a Code of Ethics and initiating a long wrangle over the precise meaning of the word 'ethics.' We eventually agreed on 'Code of Practice,' and it was

approved at the Annual Business Meeting in Ravenna in 1997.

My association with the EAA in its formative years has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career in archaeology. I have so many memories of great friendship at meetings in every corner of Europe, from Ljubljana to Göteborg, from Santiago de Compostela to Prague, from Ravenna to Riga: we worked hard but we managed to enjoy ourselves and laugh a great deal, as well as sampling Europe's rich culinary and vinous heritage. Like most professional institutions of this kind the EAA has been slow to attract members and to establish a role in the wider world of politics and government. However, I am confident that the turning point has now been reached and that I shall have the inestimable pleasure of watching the Association grow

Reminiscence

One of my most vivid memories concerns the outstanding rock art of Foz Côa in Portugal, which was threatened with submersion beneath the waters of a new reservoir. At the time of the 1st Annual Meeting in 1995 the University of Santiago de Compostela, where we were meeting, was celebrating its Quincentenary. The King and Queen of Spain were in town, as was the then President of Portugal, Mario Soares. Our Portuguese colleagues managed to secure a meeting with him, and Kristian and I went to meet him in his suite at the sumptuous Parador, accompanied by Susana Oliveira Jorge and Teresa Marques from Portugal. We were told that the President could only spare us fifteen minutes, and so we made a rapid presentation of the facts. He was, of course, fully aware of the situation and in complete sympathy with our case. However, as he pointed out, the President is no more than a figure head and unable to influence policy matters such as this. But he went on to remind us that a general election was imminent in Portugal and that the opposition (his own party) was certain to win. He advised us therefore to have a letter ready to land on the new Prime Minister's desk on his first day in office. We drafted a letter immediately and Kristian had it on its way as soon as the result of the election was known. The rest, as they say, is history.

For me this important meeting also represented a personal triumph. Susana and Teresa, two intense and eloquent young women, had been told that they could join the delegation to meet Dr Soares on pain of death should they try to monopolize the conversation, since we needed to present a case on behalf

of the whole community of European archaeologists. I take pride in having succeeded in the possibly unique feat of keeping them quiet for forty-five minutes - for that was how long our meeting eventually lasted. After the first fifteen minutes an aide appeared but was waved away, and this was repeated fifteen minutes later. It was only when the anguished aide appeared for the third time that the President finally brought the interview to a close. I like to think that he explained his lateness to Los Reyes Católicos by recounting to them the case that we had put.

How the EAA came into my Life

Willem Willems

The EAA came into my life sometime in early 1991. It began with a telephone call from my friend Kristian Kristiansen, who at that time was Head of the Danish State Organisation for the Protection of Ancient Monuments. I had become the Director of ROB, the Dutch State Antiquities service, some years before, so we were more or less direct counterparts. More than that: we were also soulmates in that we both were passionate about the role of research as an integral component of archaeological heritage management and the need to keep both branches into one united field of archaeology. I remember being interested in what he had to say about the need for a European journal, but suddenly being poised on the edge of my chair when the conversation turned to the need for European-level organisation in archaeology

Those were hectic days, full of change. I had been called to Strasbourg in late 1988, to represent my government in a committee of experts convened by the Council of Europe that was to rewrite the rapidly outdated Convention of London of 1969 into a new European Convention on the protection of the archaeological heritage, more geared to the needs of modern society with its rapid infrastructural and spatial development. Being accustomed to international meetings firmly within the ivory tower context of strictly academic archaeology, working on this committee under the chairmanship of Gustaf Trotzig from Sweden had opened my eyes to much broader and more inclusive international perspectives on archaeology. In those same years, the Iron Curtain had disappeared and especially through my close contacts with German colleagues, I had become aware of the enormous consequences for the role and the organisation of archaeology and the need for reunification after almost half a century of

separation. Internationally, there was only IUPPS, the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, that had been able to survive only by a strict policy of 'pure' scientific research interests and a formal structure that – at that time – was rather unappealing to many of us, then still the 'younger generation'.

So of course I promised Kristian to come to the Maison Suger in Paris and take part in the discussion that followed and, like Henry Cleere, by the end of that meeting I found myself co-opted on an International Steering Committee under the driving force of Kristian. I vividly remember the need for a very large beer at the end of the day. So did many of us, and we settled down on the first available pavement café which was at the Boulevard Saint Michel around the corner. Alain Schnapp must have been absent, because there was no warning. We ordered big beers, then a second round, and when it was time to settle up we had a collective heart attack: pavement cafés on the 'Boule Miche' are the most expensive in all of Paris. I vividly remember Gustav Trotzig producing his most devious smile and declaring "I am the only one for which these beers are still cheap". Worst of it, he was right, too.

Such minor setbacks serve to hone a person into the realities of life in international cooperation, which for me has never stopped since. Parallel to the work in the Steering Committee of what was to become the EAA, the activities with the Council of Europe continued after the new convention was formally adopted by the Council of Ministers on Malta in January 1992. The 'Bronze Age Campaign' was launched, primarily intended to raise public awareness of a common European heritage. In mid-September 1994 that took me to Vienna, on a boat trip along the Danube with a passenger's list that must have read as the 'who-is-who in archaeological Europe'. That was the first occasion where Øivind Lunde, myself, and some others involved in both processes such as Geoff Wainwright from English Heritage, first discussed the need for closer cooperation not only between archaeologists in Europe, but also between the state organisations responsible for heritage management in European countries. But first, there was the formal inauguration of the EAA. At the end of that 3-day boat trip, on Wednesday September 21, we – I remember the entire Kristiansen family and Colin Renfrew – were taken by a van that the efficient Predrag Novaković had sent for us from the Danube to Ljubljana, making some detour to avoid Croatia where the war was going on. The

inaugural meeting went well, with Colin as kind of a European archaeological godfather presenting a memorable inaugural address, Henry Cleere in his inimitable way piloting the meeting through discussions about the statutes and such, and Kristian being in charge and elected as the inspiring first President of the Association. I was glad to be off the hook, because at home the pressure for reorganisation of the State Service was mounting and I could ill afford spending ever more time on international business.

In 1995, my hands were so tied by work at home that at the last moment I was unable even to attend the first EAA meeting in Santiago. I remained involved in the initiative, born on the Danube, to start a discussion platform for the heads of State Antiquities Services, but it was Øivind Lunde that organised a first meeting in Santiago in the form of an EAA round table. As he was going to leave office by the end of that year, we had agreed that I would take over after Santiago and that is what happened. Out of this process of EAA round tables finally emerged what is now the *Europae Archaeologia Consilium* (EAC) at an inaugural meeting in Strasbourg in November 1999.¹ At the European level, EAC is the necessary complement to EAA and there are many things the one is more suitable for than the other. By its very nature, for example, EAC as an umbrella for State organisations cannot lobby for archaeology or criticise official policies in the way that EAA can, and EAA cannot put into practice many of the initiatives discussed at its meetings in the way that the members of EAC can. I was President of the EAA in 1999 so I was glad the Presidency of EAC could pass into the able hands of Adrian Olivier. I continued to serve as secretary for one year, providing a direct link between the two now separate bodies. I still regret, however, that I have never been able to realise completely my vision of creating more force for archaeology in Europe by cementing the two together as fully independent but closely interrelated bodies. Fortunately, in practice, things seem to work out pretty well so far.

I am happy that, after Santiago, I never missed another EAA Annual Meeting. By 1996 things at home had settled in a way that gave me more room to manoeuvre and in Riga in 1996 I was elected Secretary and took over from Henry Cleere. Working with Kristian – still very much in his role of inspiring leader with less concern for practicalities – and together with

¹ The birth of EAC is described more fully in my paper *The Europae Archaeologia Consilium*, in the publication W.J.H. Willems (ed.), *Challenges for European Archaeology*, Zoetermeer 2000.

Peter Chowne taking care of finances in sometimes mysterious English ways, I remember heated but always amiable and inspiring board meetings, usually in Paris where for some time Alain Schnapp continued to succeed in finding some financial support. But money was getting ever more tight, and lots of time and energy went into the problems with the Journal of European Archaeology, finally relaunched in 1998 as the European Journal of Archaeology.

In that same year, during his second term as president, Kristian who had meanwhile left Denmark for a Professorship in Göteborg Sweden, decided it was time to retire before he ran out of steam. At that very same time, Peter Chowne changed jobs and had to resign as Treasurer which for the sake of continuity made it almost inevitable for me to take over the Presidency. I was elected without even an opponent but fortunately – after completing that last year of Kristian's term – I was reelected in a proper election. Elisabeth Jerem had meanwhile become the Vice-President, and found suitable accommodation for Board meetings in the guest house of the Academy of Sciences in Budapest, high above the city on the hill of Buda. At first, these were not only beautiful, but very economical indeed. I remember, after my first visit, presenting my expense claim to the travel office in the Ministry. The guy looked at the Hungarian bill from the Academy, made a calculation, looked incredulously at me and asked "Have you been sleeping under the bridge, sir?". For the EAA, such favourable prices were of course of vital importance as many Board members are not supported by their organisation.

I remain eternally grateful for the stroke of genius that caused our Swedish colleagues to think of Cecilia Åqvist as a suitable replacement for Peter Chowne as Treasurer. One of the very few archaeologists I have ever met with a real knack for figures. Together with Arek Marciniak, who had been part of the Steering Committee and was now elected Secretary, we set out on the task to make EAA more robust and reliable organisationally. That was not an easy task, but I think we largely succeeded: a conference manual was created, a structure of guidelines and regulations put in place, and an efficient website provided. We also had the good fortune that, in 1999, Tim Darvill succeeded in making Bournemouth the site of the first really big EAA meeting with well over a thousand delegates and a subsequent increase in membership. For me, personally, the conference rather than the journal has always been the heart and soul of the EAA because that is where people really meet and discuss and where creative ideas and

approaches surface. Big conferences create not only the quantity that the EAA needs to survive, but also more quantity always produces more quality. Admittedly, they generate more bullshit as well, but one learns to avoid certain sessions and besides, who cares after a great annual party and a wonderful annual dinner...?

I should not forget to mention that the Swedish commitment to EAA made it possible to move the Secretariat from the Museum of London offices in London to the Riksantikvarieämbetet branch office in Kungsbacka. The Museum of London was fully prepared to let us stay, but when Natasha Morgan left the Secretariat, it was more practical to move. That brought Petra Nordin to the EAA, who has been the administrative force that kept the board in line, strong-headed, with humour and an unparalleled workaholic. When Elin Dalen was elected to the Board, a formidable Nordic trio came into being that may well have fuelled rumours about the EAA being an Anglo-Nordic conspiracy anyway. I remember one time I was away from home my wife phoned to ask how I was doing, and I had to admit to at that very moment sitting in my bedroom with three Scandinavian ladies, sharing a bottle of whatever it was. Fortunately, I could explain away the bedroom part by the fact that I was the one that needed to smoke as well....

Being part of archaeology at the European level in this way for more than a decade and a half has been a great deal of work but also a very rewarding experience in many ways. I have tried also to convey a sense of how much fun it was. The EAA is now well out of diapers and has reached adolescence. Its role and importance for archaeology itself are unquestionable, but it needs to develop further its political role on the European scene, difficult as that may be. I have experienced those difficulties, but I hope to be around to see the current board, and its successors, make real progress there.



Willem Willems (President 1998-2003) at the ABM in Saint Petersburg 2003.



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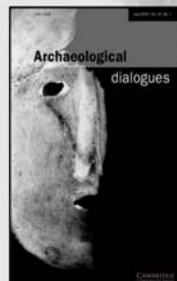
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