

The European Archaeologist

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In this issue

(Click your mouse over the item you would like to read):

That Bosnian pyramid! (Anthony Harding).....	2
Round table meeting on the European Landscape Convention (J.H.F. Bloemers).....	5
Obituary: Andrew Sherratt 1946–2006 (Anthony Harding).....	7
EAA Elections 2006 (Sylvie Květinová).....	8
EAA Calendar: June–December 2006.....	11
Announcements.....	12
Forthcoming events and conferences	12
Europa Nostra Awards 2006 – Call for entries.....	14

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Letenská 4, 118 01 Praha 1
Czech Republic
Tel./Fax: +420 257014411
eea@arup.cas.cz
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Editor: Michael Potterton
(michael@discoveryprogramme.ie)
Assistant Editor: Sylvie Květinová
(eea@arup.cas.cz)
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That Bosnian pyramid! (by Anthony Harding)

Few EAA members will have escaped the news about the “discovery” of a colossal pyramid at Visoko in Bosnia. It has been everywhere in the media in recent months. If you have been on another planet recently, then go to <http://www.piramidasunca.ba/indexeng.htm> or one of many other websites where you can find comparable information. Details vary, but in essence the hill in question is said to be a vast man-made structure: “The hill of Visočica is a colossal step pyramid with its height of 220 meters and a monumental paved access plateau 420 meters long, and with an underground complex of tunnels”, to quote the website. And the date? 12 000 BP apparently.

I was first alerted to the existence of this project in January, through a message from an army major serving with the European Force (EUFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I confess that I took little notice of it at the time, imagining that it was another crackpot idea which would go the way of all such notions. I could not have been more wrong. The promoter of the scheme, one Sam Osmanagic (an expatriate Bosnian who has made his money in the US), has cash to throw around and sees his role as a mission not only to investigate and safeguard the “pyramid”, but also to provide help for the impoverished region in which it lies. Unfortunately neither he nor any of his collaborators appear to have any qualifications whatsoever to be conducting archaeological investigations, and it seems that there are genuine ancient sites on the hill in question. All this is apart from the fact that the whole thing is a colossal piece of charlatanry, as the slightest acquaintance with archaeology would have shown.

On 15 April the London *Times* devoted a whole page to the story, without consulting their archaeology correspondent, Norman Hammond. I wrote to the editor pointing out that it would be much better to support Bosnia’s imperilled sites and monuments, and those who are trying to protect them, than to give credence to crazy stories like this (see below). My letter was printed on 25 April, and the published version can be read at <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,59-2150036.html>.

There are two aspects to this sad affair, it seems to me. The first is the situation of archaeology and heritage management in Bosnia-Herzegovina. From what we hear, professionals in these fields are doing their best on slender resources but are commonly ignored or bypassed, with the result that anyone with money or connections can do more or less what they want in terms of development or building. In June I will visit Sarajevo with Predrag Novaković and Sylvie Květinová to talk to some of the people who are trying to protect Bosnia’s heritage, and to find out how our support could best be mobilised.

Secondly, it is striking how this story has come to be regarded as genuine. Most people, including many journalists, seem to want to believe it, and treat the objections to it as motivated by jealousy or ignorance. I have been asked by several journalists why there could not be pyramids at 10 000 BC, and invited to pit my views against those of Osmanagic. Clearly there is a demand for stories like this; people want to believe them. It is timely that a new book, *Archaeological Fantasies* (published I believe in the US as *Pseudo-archaeology*), ed. Garrett Fagan, has just appeared (Routledge 2006). This useful collection of essays explores some of the ways in which fantastical theories come to be accepted as genuine by some segments of the population – including educated people who might otherwise be sceptical if it was something within their own field of knowledge.

Meanwhile I shall no doubt continue to receive emails, including some that are barely polite. But I hope all EAA members will agree that we have a duty to support our Bosnian colleagues in difficult times like these.

Stop Press.

I visited the "pyramid" together with Predrag Novakovic and Sylvie Květinová on 8 June, and we confirmed that the stone exposed is of entirely natural origin. At a news conference the next day in Sarajevo, held to discuss the situation of heritage protection in Bosnia, all that journalists wanted to ask about was the pyramid. We stated that in our opinion the hill was entirely natural. Since then the clamour from the nationalist press in Bosnia has increased and I continue to receive insulting emails from pyramid enthusiasts.

We have posted a short statement on the EAA public website. You will find a longer account in the Members section (log in needed). Please do what you can to support our Bosnian colleagues.



Letter to the London Times, April 2006

Professor Anthony Harding, President
European Association of Archaeologists
Department of Archaeology
University of Exeter
North Park Road, Exeter, EX4 4QE
United Kingdom
Email: a.f.harding@exeter.ac.uk

The Editor
The Times
1 Pennington Street
LONDON
E98 1TT

18 April 2006

Sir,

Stories about hidden pyramids in deepest Bosnia, being investigated by “hobby archaeologists” (“Indiana Jones of the Balkans”, 15 April 2006), may appeal to those for whom the dry facts of archaeology hold little attraction, but they also do little to assist the cause of heritage protection in that beautiful but unlucky country. Professional archaeologists in the various countries of the former Yugoslavia, and in international organisations such as the European Association of Archaeologists, have known about these claims for some time, and various “scientific” reports are available in the public domain. In most countries of Europe those with wacky theories about “hidden mysteries” on presumed archaeological sites are free to propound them but not to undertake excavation, which by its very nature destroys much of what it uncovers; let alone excavation by those who appear to be completely unqualified in terms of training and experience.

According to your report there are indeed archaeological sites on the hill in question – Illyrian (Iron Age), Roman and Medieval; yet the work under way or planned makes no mention of what steps will be taken to safeguard them, and other potential sites as yet undiscovered, from inappropriate earthmoving or other investigations. The situation of professional heritage management in Bosnia-Herzegovina is, since the Bosnian war, in a poor state, with a tiny number of people trying to do what they can to protect their rich heritage from looting and unmonitored or unauthorised development. It adds insult to injury when rich outsiders can come in and spend large sums pursuing their absurd theories (the construction of a colossal pyramid so large that it dwarfs even those of Egypt or Mesoamerica? 12,000 years ago?), in ways that most other countries would never countenance, instead of devoting their cash to the preservation of the endangered genuine sites and monuments in which Bosnia-Herzegovina abounds. And the cause of protecting that heritage is also diminished when a publication that prides itself on being a newspaper of record devotes a whole page spread to such nonsense.

Yours faithfully

Professor Anthony Harding
President, European Association of Archaeologists

Round table meeting on the European Landscape Convention, Cork, September 2005 (by J.H.F. Bloemers j.h.f.bloemers@wanadoo.nl)

Keywords: European Landscape Convention, community of practice, monitoring progress

Participating organisers: Nora Andrikopoulou-Strack (Bonn), Graham Fairclough (London), Karsten Paludan-Müller (Oslo), Tom Bloemers (Amsterdam)

During the EAA conference in Cork last year we organised for the first time a round table on the European Landscape Convention. Adopted by the Council of Europe in Florence, Italy, on 20 October 2000 and in force since 1 March 2004 in countries that have ratified it (currently 22: see http://www.coe.int/T/F/Coop%E9ration_culturelle/Environnement/Paysage/), the European Landscape Convention aims to promote the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and to organise European-wide co-operation on landscape issues both between countries and between disciplines. The Convention covers all types of landscape in all places – natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas and it deals with ordinary and degraded landscapes as well as those of outstanding beauty.

In our opinion this creates an extraordinary strategic opportunity for all those institutions, professionals and policy makers who care for a sustainable future for the archaeological-historical landscape. Every EAA conference demonstrates that there is a high level of interest and activity among European archaeologists in landscape research and management. In 2002 the *Europae Archaeologiae Consilium* (EAC) published a volume dealing with this topic which contained papers from two EAA sessions at the Bournemouth 1999 and Lisbon 2000 conferences (G. Fairclough & S. Rippon (eds.), 2002: *Europe's Cultural Landscape: archaeologists and the management of change*. EAC, Brussels). Nevertheless, the awareness of the strategic importance of the European Landscape Convention among archaeologists and archaeological institutions involved in heritage management remains in some ways very limited. As a consequence, ecology and planning are seen in many countries as the leading or even the only disciplines concerned with implementing this Convention at both national and trans-national levels and the cultural perspectives of an integrated environmental approach with an appropriate time depth are weakly represented. This is despite the Convention's insistence that landscape is a multi- and even trans-disciplinary study and action area.

As a follow-up to the interest within the EAA and the initiative of the EAC, the creation of a 'community of practice' dealing with the integration of the archaeological-historical landscape in the European landscape policy might be useful. This community could act as a network for raising the awareness of the strategic importance of the Convention, for the discussion of approaches and experiences and for the exchange of information. The network could aim to support the more coordinated and formal actions of the national representatives in the Convention and prepare a source of knowledge and experience for its implementation on a national and European level.

The Round Table on the European Landscape Convention in Cork 2005 was attended by almost thirty participants from ten countries who reported on the present policy in their countries towards the Convention. The situation varies from ratifying the Convention and taking the position that present policy is already in agreement with the recommendations of the Convention to not signing and giving the Convention no particular attention. Useful suggestions were made on how to proceed: for example referring to article 10 of the Convention on the monitoring of the implementation, the EAA could persuade governments to report periodically on the work carried out. The

EAA could also contribute by functioning as a European research framework for the dissemination of best practices.

It was agreed to meet again in a Round Table during the EAA Conference in Krakow in September 2006. If you are interested, please contact one of us.

Literature:

Fairclough, G./Rippon, S. (eds.), 2002. *Europe's Cultural Landscape: archaeologists and the management of change*. Brussels.

Contacts:

n.andrikopoulou-strack@lvr.de;

j.h.f.bloemers@wanadoo.nl;

graham.fairclough@english-heritage.org.uk;

cpm@niku.no

Obituary: Andrew Sherratt 1946–2006 (by Anthony Harding)

The archaeological world in Europe and beyond was shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Andrew Sherratt on 24 February, a few months short of his sixtieth birthday. Although in recent years he was not active in the EAA, he was well known to many members, and, indeed, one of the best-known prehistorians in Europe. He gave a keynote lecture at the opening of our Bournemouth conference in 1999, and published two notable articles in our Journal. Few European prehistorians will not have heard of the “secondary products revolution”, a phrase he coined in 1981 and which has entered the standard vocabulary of archaeology.

I first knew Andrew at Cambridge when I was still an undergraduate student and he was a research student, in the late 1960s. Our paths have crossed many times over the years. In 1973 he joined the staff of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, where he remained until last year. Oxford gave him unrivalled opportunities to meet the archaeological world and keep abreast of the literature, even if in some ways he found it a frustrating place to work. He was not in essence a “museum man” and sometimes found the demands placed on him irksome; he was an “ideas man”, an academic above all, and it is interesting to speculate on what course his working life might have taken had he gone into a teaching position rather than a museum. Would he have produced the “big book” which many people awaited from him, and the absence of which arguably held up the progress of his academic career? Or would the demands of administration and teaching have taken up his time? It is especially sad that only last year he took up a Chair in Old World Prehistory at Sheffield University, a position created specially for him. This would, we all believed, have given him the time and opportunities to do much more of the writing for which he was so well known.

Andrew Sherratt was a man of wide learning, who seemed to have read everything and, what is more, thought about it; and he was able to pass on his ideas in interesting and stimulating ways to others. Many of his friends and colleagues remember his penchant for sketching out ideas on the backs of envelopes over coffee, taking the conversation in directions only he could have thought of. He was greatly sought after by prospective research students in Oxford, even if their research topic was seemingly far from his own areas of specialism. His initial enthusiasms in the Balkans rapidly expanded to include all of Europe, indeed the world. Few people at the present day can have published on so wide a range of topics, from Bronze Age world systems to megaliths to Indo-European studies. A selection of his best articles were republished in 1997 under the title “Economy and Society in Prehistoric Europe” (Edinburgh University Press), but there was much more still that Andrew wanted to achieve, including most recently the ArchAtlas project which uses satellite images and maps to show how processes such as the origins of farming developed and spread (<http://www.archatlas.dept.shef.ac.uk/IndexAAP2.htm>). Andrew was sometimes compared to Gordon Childe in his panoramic vision and wide knowledge; indeed, I remember that at a conference in Russia in 1991 he was irreverently referred to by some of the British participants as V. Gordon Sherratt – a joke that while somewhat barbed in intent he was actually rather pleased about.

The EAA mourns the loss of a major figure in archaeology in the prime of his life, and extends its deepest sympathies to his wife Susan (herself a noted Aegean prehistorian, with whom Andrew wrote several articles) and his three children.

Anthony Harding, EAA President

An obituary of Andrew Sherratt can be found on the Sheffield University website (<http://www.shef.ac.uk/archaeology/andrew-sherratt.html>)

EAA Elections 2006 (by Sylvie Květinová)

Dear EAA member,

This year sees consolidation of our Association after the Secretariat moved to Prague. It is therefore vital to assure the smooth running of the Association not only on a day-to-day basis, but most importantly by electing committed representatives to the Executive and Editorial boards. You, as an EAA member, can not only vote in the elections but you are encouraged to become a candidate yourself. The chart below represents the current situation in the EAA boards and committees – positions that will be available for election in 2006 are highlighted in **bold green**. If you are interested in serving the EAA in any of these positions or if you have any suggestions for candidates, just send the filled out candidate form (to be found in the members only section at <http://www.e-a-a.org> and in this issue) to the EAA Secretariat. The nominations must be received at the EAA Secretariat no later than **1 July 2006** to be further considered in the election process. Candidate forms must be accompanied by a statement and a short biography (see the regulations in the members only section at <http://www.e-a-a.org>). Candidates running for a position on the Executive board must be supported by 10 full members of the EAA. Candidates running for a position on the Editorial board must be supported by 5 full members of the EAA. Supporters may indicate this by separate communication. On 1 July the nominations received will be forwarded for consideration to the Nomination Committee which will produce candidate lists to be sent to all full members at the end of July together with ballot papers. You may then vote by post – deadline 12 September – or by e-mail – deadline 21 September; alternatively, you may vote using your ballot papers at the Krakow conference.

Please participate for the future of the EAA!

EAA Executive Board		
President	Anthony Harding	2003-2006 2006-2009
Vice-President	Margaret Gowen	2004-2007
Secretary	Predrag Novaković	2005-2008
Treasurer	Carsten Paludan-Muller	2004-2007
Board Member	João Zilhão	2003-2006
Board Member	Dagmar Dreslerová	2003-2006
Board Member	Eszter Bánffy	2005-2008
Board Member	Graham Fairclough	2004-2007
Board Member	Zbigniew Kobylinski	2005-2008
EJA Editorial Board		
Editor	Alan Saville	2004-2007
Assistant Editor	Martin Bartelheim	2004-2007
Reviews Editor	Cornelius Holtorf	2005-2008
Assistant Reviews Editor	Troels Myrup Kristensen	2005-2008
Board Member	Håkan Karlsson	2003-2006
Board Member	Martijn van Leusen	2005-2008
Board Member	Marinella Pasquucci	2005-2008
Board Member	Christina Marangou	2004-2007
Board Member	Philippe Della Casa	2003-2006

CANDIDATE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ELECTION

☆Please type or use block capitals

European
Association of
Archaeologists

Proposed for election to the post of: (delete as appropriate)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER / EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER

Title:.....

Last / family name:.....

First name:.....

Male / Female (*delete as appropriate*)

Date of birth:.....

Nationality:.....

Institutional affiliation:.....

Country:.....

Contact (*e-mail, telephone, address*):.....

.....

.....

.....

Short biographical notes to be presented to Full Members (at least 100 words, see EAA Regulation No. 2.5):

Position statement: please state why you think you are suitable for the position you are applying for and what you could offer the EAA (see EAA Regulation No. 2.5 for further information):

Supported by 10 *current* Full Members (for election to the Executive Board):

Supported by 5 *current* Full Members (for election to the Editorial Board):

	Printed Name	Country	Signature / other method of confirmation
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Please return to: EAA Secretariat
c/o Institute of Archaeology CAS
Letenská 4
118 01 Praha 1
Czech Republic

Tel + Fax: +420 257014411

eea@arup.cas.cz

Please return this form as soon as possible, but no later than 1 July, 2006

EAA Calendar: June–December 2006

May	Candidate letter and form sent out to members, also available in the members section of the web site
June	<i>TEA</i> 25 Summer 2006 issue sent out to members
30 June	Final date for conference fee concession
1 July	Deadline for receipt of completed candidate forms from the nominees for the EAA election
Before 23 August	Letter sent to all voting members, together with short biographies and candidate statements of the candidates for the EAA election and ballot papers
11 September	Submission of papers for Student Award
12 September	Deadline for postal ballot papers
21 September	Deadline for electronic voting at 5pm
22 September	Deadline for ballot papers to be returned to the ballot box at the conference (at 5pm)
19–24 September	EAA Annual Meeting in Cracow, Poland
23 September	Announcement of the election results at the ABM
November	Winter issue of the <i>TEA</i> sent out to members

Forthcoming events and conferences

The Second Plenary Meeting and Field Trip of IGCP 521 "Black Sea-Mediterranean Corridor during the last 30 ky: sea level change and human adaptation", August 20-28, 2006, Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University (Odessa, Ukraine).

This conference will provide a cross-disciplinary international forum for academics, professionals and young scientists to correlate their discoveries on the influence of climatically/tectonically induced sea level changes and coastline migration on humanity. It will be arranged in five dimensions: anthropological, ethnological, archaeological, geological and mathematical.

Main topics to be discussed:

- a.. Rival scenarios of the Black Sea development
- b.. Palaeo-environment and palaeo-climate of the "Corridor"
- c.. Controversy concerning the influence of sea level change on human migration, settlements and interaction of Late Palaeolithic groups
- d.. Controversy concerning the influence of the Black Sea Late Pleistocene-Holocene sea level change on early farming communities and crisis of early agriculture
- e.. Influence of the Black Sea Late Pleistocene-Holocene sea level change and coastline migration on Greek colonies
- f.. Archaeological, biological, cultural and linguistic anthropology of the "Corridor"
- g.. Black Sea-Mediterranean quantitative and computational archaeology
- h.. Ecological anthropology with an interdisciplinary focus on human interactions with the environment in the "Corridor"
- i.. The Black Sea Flood Question: changes in coastline, climate and human settlement
- j.. Active tectonics and sea level changes in respect of human adaptation in the "Corridor".
- k.. Re-colonization of the Black Sea by Mediterranean organisms and biodiversity
- l.. Radiometric dating and geochemical proxies
- m.. GIS-added mathematical modelling
- n.. Geo-information systems

Conference will include 4 days of plenary sessions and 3 days of field trips (3 field trips):
1/ ancient polices of Tyra and Nikoniy, medieval fortress of Belgorod; Dnister estuary and Dnister interspersions, sediments of Late Pleistocene and Holocene times,
2/ ancient police of Olbia Dnipro-Bug and Berezan` estuary accumulative wave terraces corresponding to the Kalamitian and Dzemetinain transgression stages,
3/ ancient settlement of Koshary (Odessos), Berezan island, accumulative wave terraces corresponding to the Kalamitian and Dzemetinain transgression stages (0.5-0.1 m above present sea level, 3.9-4.5 ky BP).

Further information about the conference please find at the official site of the IGCP 521 www.avalon-institute.org/IGCP

21st Century Celts

The Inaugural Conference of the Celtic Education and Research Network
8-10 September 2006

Key speakers currently include Dr Marion Bowman (Open University) and Associate Professor Celeste Ray (Sewanee University, USA)

What constitutes Celtic identity in the 21st century? How does the definition of Celtic identity differ across the world, particularly around the Atlantic seaboard? How are Celtic identities' transformed at cultural and geographical borders? What are the motivations behind the increasing number of self-identifying Celtic communities across the world? And how can such Celtic identities be reconciled within increasingly diverse spatial cultures?

How do modern Celtic identities continue to use (and abuse?) the past? What is the role and significance of cultural memory, oral traditions and the ancient landscape in the construction of Celtic identities? And to what extent should the local cultural significance of ancient monuments affect their conservation and representation as sites of national importance?

21st Century Celts is a three-day 'public' conference, to be held at the County Hall, Truro, Cornwall. This conference will combine a program of academic papers with discussion forums, question and answer panels and displays and evening performances (including art and poetry) from local schools and 'Celtic' groups. The objective is to encourage a lively and informed academic debate surrounding the construction, manifestation and significance of 'Celtic' identities in the 21st century, whilst also providing a public celebration of 'Celtic' culture.

For further information, please contact: 21stcenturycelts@exeter.ac.uk

Dr Garry Tregidga (Institute of Cornish Studies, University of Exeter in Cornwall)

Laura Cripps (Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester)

**European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards
CALL FOR ENTRIES 2006**

Closing date for applications:
Category 2: 1 September 2006
Categories 1 & 3: 15 September 2006

Outstanding heritage achievements will be awarded six monetary "Prizes" of €10,000 each, in addition to "Medals" and "Diplomas" in the following categories:

1. Conservation of:
 - A) Architectural heritage
 - B) Landscapes
 - C) Works of art
 - D) Archaeological sites
2. Study in the field of cultural heritage conservation
3. Dedicated Service to heritage conservation by individuals or groups

For more information click on www.europanostra.org
or contact the Heritage Awards Co-ordinator, EUROPA NOSTRA,
tel. +31 70 302 4052, ao@europanostra.org

**Prix du Patrimoine culturel de l'Union européenne / Concours Europa Nostra
APPEL À CANDIDATURES 2006**

Date limite de soumission des candidatures :
Catégorie 2: 1er septembre 2006
Catégories 1 & 3: 15 septembre 2006

Des réalisations exceptionnelles seront récompensées par six « Prix » de 10.000 € chacun, ainsi que par des « Médailles » et des « Diplômes » dans les catégories suivantes:

1. Conservation du/des :
 - A) Patrimoine architectural
 - B) Paysages
 - C) Œuvres d'art
 - D) Sites archéologiques
2. Etude dans le domaine de la conservation du patrimoine
3. Contribution Exemplaire à la conservation du patrimoine par un individu ou une organisation

Pour plus d'information cliquer sur www.europanostra.org
ou contacter la Coordinatrice des Prix du Patrimoine, EUROPA NOSTRA, tel. +31 70 302 4052, ao@europanostra.org