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26th EAA Virtual Annual Meeting

Abstract Book

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26th EAA Virtual Annual Meeting

Abstract Book

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Index of Authors includes all session organisers and only the main authors of contributions.

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Within the context of development and well-being of society, exploitation of archaeological heritage is closely linked to cultural, social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Therefore, there is a growing debate about development of an interdisciplinary approach both to identifying and developing the opportunities presented by this heritage, and to identifying and mitigating its threats. Thus, by analyzing the situation in Latvia and other countries and based on the findings of archaeological science, integrated socio-economic and legal approach will be utilized in the presentation, providing both theoretical and practical insights into the challenges and possible solutions for assessing the damage to archaeological heritage caused by unauthorized activities.

4 FROM THE GATHERING OF MUSHROOMS AND BLACKBERRIES... TOWARD AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL NARRATIVE OF A BRONZE DEPOSIT IN EASTERN ROMANIA

Abstract author(s): Bobolan, Neculai (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi) - Gafinciu, Alexandru Marian (Complexul Muzeal Județean Neamț)

Abstract format: Oral

The activity of the Romanian treasure hunters has become the weekend routine for a bunch of "amateur archaeologists". Recently, the spectacular growth of interest in unearthing ancient metal objects was boosted by a huge monetary breakthrough in southern Romania. In 2013, the discoverer was rewarded by a prime minister and then the boom followed. As metal discoveries multiply, the need to build the story behind these discoveries dramatically decreases.

In what follows I will present some case studies regarding the hunt for metal treasures and the manner in which these findings can be recovered and integrated into local historical narratives or into grand narratives specific for historical periods.

This activity implies, in the absence of coherent legal provisions, the development of special skills of interaction with the discoverer, with the institutions that have the purpose of preserving the heritage and with the guild of archaeologists or colleagues specialized in metal analysis.

The final activity will involve the scientific valorization and public involvement. About how we will manage to work together to meet the challenges of institutional cooperation, multiple ethical issues and the social and economic impact, the responses will be modeled by grafting the local specific on regional realities. If we do not succeed we will return to gather mushrooms, blackberries and metal scraps!

5 COLLECTION-DRIVEN EXPLOITATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD. WHO IS NETWORKING WITH WHOM AND WHY?

Abstract author(s): Godfrey, Evelynne (Uffington Heritage Watch) - Barford, Paul (Independent Researcher, Warsaw)

Abstract format: Oral

The explosive growth in recent decades of the collecting of 'portable antiquities' and the antiquities trade have led to substantial damage being done by artefact hunters to the archaeological record all over the world. Archaeologists were unanimous in raising concerns from the 1950s, and this led to legislative changes in some countries as a response. By the late 1990s, the problem was widely perceived as having reached crisis proportions. Yet at the same time, new attitudes towards archaeological collecting were beginning to emerge, in the archaeologies of the English-speaking world in particular. Some archaeologists saw artefact hunters as allies, with 'common interests' with archaeology. But above all, they discovered new and interesting objects for study. As a result, archaeologists in several countries are now collaborating with 'responsible' individuals engaged in their collection-driven exploitation of the archaeological record primarily in order to gain access to many decontextualised artefacts. As a result of their constant and uncritical praise of artefact hunting and the alleged benefits it has brought to the discipline they are unwittingly involved in promotion of the hobby. These supporters of collectors dismiss offhand, sometimes in a hostile manner, the concerns and questions raised by those urging that archaeologists should be collaborating with each other in the protection of the archaeological resource from this kind of unsustainable exploitation. This paper will attempt to consider why these differences have emerged within parts of the archaeological community. This seems to be based on fundamental differences in conceptualising the nature, aims and responsibilities of the discipline.

6 THE ANTIQUITIES MARKET ON EBAY.COM: THE CASE OF ROMAN ANTIQUITIES AND THE UN-EXISTING PROVENANCE

Abstract author(s): Giovanelli, Riccardo (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)

Abstract format: Oral

What's the shape of the antiquities market with the birth of internet 2.0? Is it, as the prevailing narrative would like to say, an elite market? Or has the power of the "touch to pay" technologies and e-markets also changed such a showcase that has been always thought as an elite hobby? With my paper, I analysed the features of the antiquities market as it is on eBay: where the sellers are from? What they highlight within their advertising pages? What does it matter for the antiquities electronic market world? I then focused more in deep on the shape of the highest value Roman antiquities market on the same platform, in particular reflecting on the value of the "Provenance" issue, as witnessed by sellers, buyers and the platform itself.

Data collected in 2017 and 2019 show clearly that the majority of listings on the platform doesn't declare any Provenance at all and

that when existing, it's often unverifiable and of poor quality, but anyway legalised within a market, whose rules are easy to overcome and played with. The high-end fraction of the market resulted as similar to the traditional art market plaza, but in eBay it is more possible that looted items can easily be put on sale and easily virtually moved from a place to another, consolidating the narrative of a "laundered" item.

7

INVESTIGATING THE PROVENANCE OF EGYPTIAN BLUE PIGMENTS IN ANCIENT ROMAN POLYCHROMY

Abstract author(s): Rodler, Alexandra - Matthey, Sarah (Analytical, Environmental and Geo-Chemistry Research Group, Department of Chemistry, Vrije Universiteit Brussel) - Artoli, Gilberto (Department of Geosciences, University of Padova) - Brons, Cecilie (The Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek) - Goderis, Steven (Analytical, Environmental and Geo-Chemistry Research Group, Department of Chemistry, Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Abstract format: Oral

So-called Campana reliefs, named after Pietro Campana who published part of his private collection of antiquities in 1861, are polychrome and architectural terracotta reliefs dated between c. 50 BC and 60 AD and depicting, for example, mythological scenes. The studied relief shows a scene with two satyrs picking grapes and was acquired by the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Denmark, at an auction in Rome in 1899. Its specific provenance, however, is unknown and is it assumed to be from Rome or elsewhere in Central Italy, where most Campana reliefs have been found. The preliminary, non-invasive investigation included VL imaging and portable XRF, which revealed an abundance of Egyptian blue pigments that dominate the background as well as the floral decoration on top of the of the scene. Egyptian blue pigments were used throughout Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece and the Roman Empire from as early as c. 2,500 BC to c. 800 AD. It is the earliest artificial pigment and was produced in a complex process involving heating a copper compound along with calcium carbonate, silica and a few percent of a flux. Despite its widespread use amongst ancient Mediterranean cultures, little is known about production centres and the source of materials used for producing Egyptian blue pigments. We collected several samples of Egyptian blue pigments of the studied Campana relief for subsequent, lead isotope analysis. The variations in lead isotopic composition of the analysed Egyptian blue samples can be useful for narrowing the geological sources of the copper used for producing these specific pigments. This can indicate whether the Egyptian blue pigments were locally produced in Italy or imported.

8

FORMULATING A CODE OF ETHICS FOR THE SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIALS

Abstract author(s): Mödlinger, Marianne (University of Genoa) - Godfrey, Evelynne (Uffington Heritage Watch) - Kariss, Andrijs (Riga Technical University) - Hajdas, Ika (ETH Zürich)

Abstract format: Oral

Members of the EAA Community on the Illicit Trade in Cultural Material formed a Task Force working on the formulation on a Code of Ethics for the scientific analyses of archaeological material. The justification, objectives and structure of the code will be briefly described in the course of the presentation.

This code aims to set minimum standards of professional practice and performance for archaeologists, conservators, and scientists from other disciplines undertaking analysis and investigative conservation of archaeological materials.

In recent years, archaeologists and scientists based in laboratories of different kinds have experienced increasing demands for scientific examination and expert appraisal of archaeological artefacts and samples. These requests derive not only from archaeological field units, public museums, Local or Regional Authorities, universities or other public research institutions, but also from private clients such as antiquities dealers, auction houses, private collections, and individual owners or their representatives.

Private clients requesting such work often seek to obtain a "Certificate of Authenticity". These documents typically focus on scientific measurement of the approximate age of the object by archaeometric dating methods, or evidence for possible forgeries. Presentation of data from scientific analyses, or an expert archaeological appraisal, can in effect help to enhance the saleability, and to increase the financial value, of the object, hence supporting the commercial trade in archaeological material on the art market.

263

FROM FRAGMENTED ARTEFACTS TO HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES. POTENTIALS OF HOUSEHOLD ARCHAEOLOGY IN SETTLEMENT RESEARCH

Theme: 5. Theories and methods in archaeology: interactions between disciplines

Organisers: Szabó, Dóra (University of Exeter) - Soós, Eszter (University of Pécs) - de Souza, Jonas Gregorio (University Pompeu Fabra)

Format: Regular session

Household archaeology has undergone profound changes since the establishment of its methodology in the 1970s and remained on the horizon of settlement archaeology right until today. Its fluidity and interdisciplinarity catalyses its constant improvement by the application of diverse methodological techniques. Its flexibility also enables its use in different time periods in a broad geographical scale.

The potential of household archaeology for settlement research is that it can contribute to the understanding of social dynamics of past communities by focusing on the spatial structure and material culture of settlements. Thus, it can provide invaluable informa-