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1. FROM THE COORDINATOR

Welcome to ICOM-CC's newest Working Group! The Archaeological Materials and Sites Working Group has been created as a direct result of years of lobbying by ICOM-CC members and has received strong support from other Working Groups, particularly Metals, Wet Organic Archaeological Materials (WOAM) and Murals, Stone, and Rock Art. Indeed, I am very grateful to the Coordinators of these Working Groups, Claudia, Emily and Lori (affectionately referred to as our Godmothers), for all their help and advice. It is hoped that our group can provide a forum for discussing issues which do not neatly fall into these other groups' programs. Potential topics are listed in the Triennial Program below.

How can you help? First, please officially join our group! Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties with the ICOM-CC website, it is not currently possible to join via this route. In the meantime, please send an email directly to me at the email below. I will need your contact email to include you on a mailing list, but it is also useful to know your place of work and county. You need to be a paying member of ICOM in order to have voting rights, so if you are not currently a member, please consider

joining! Once an ICOM member, you can join as many Working Groups as you wish. Spread the word among friends and colleagues!

You can also check out and share information on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalMaterialsandSites/>

If you are not active on social media, our other forms of communication will be through newsletters such as this one, or direct emails, so if you have something you wish to share, please send it to me and I will distribute it. Items for the newsletter are also much appreciated, so please consider this avenue as well. In this issue, you can read a report on the 2018 European Archaeological Association (EAA) conference in Barcelona in September as well as an exciting new project beginning in the Netherlands.

Finally, we are still under provisional status, so in order to show the ICOM-CC Board that we are an active and essential group, we urge you to consider a submission for the next ICOM-CC Triennial Conference, to be held in Beijing in

2020. The Call for Abstracts will be issued early next year.

It is my great privilege to serve as Coordinator of this new Working Group. I welcome your feedback and look forward to corresponding with you.

Emma Hocker

emma.hocker@gustavianum.uu.se

Uppsala, December 2018

2. TRIENNIAL PROGRAM (2017-2020)

The following program has been approved by the ICOM-CC Board: The Archaeological Materials and Sites Working Group is interested in holistic approaches to archaeological collections and sites, including but not limited to the following:

1. Conservation and restoration of archaeological materials.
2. Conservation strategies and management of archaeological sites: *for example, impacts of climate change; protective shelter design; new techniques for documentation and interpretation; physical vs virtual reconstruction; rescue and post-conflict conservation; managing mass tourism;*
3. Conservation strategies and management of archaeological collections in storage: *for example, environment control; protective furniture and packaging; documentation; encouraging and involving stakeholders.*
4. Education and training: *for example; bridging the gap between educators, archaeologists, conservators and site managers; improving guidelines for on-site conservation; strategies for interpreting sites for the public.*

3. WELCOME TO YOUR ASSISTANT COORDINATORS

I am delighted to introduce your new Assistant Coordinators who have provided invaluable support, ideas, as well as a wealth of global field and research experience to get our Working Group up and running:

Stefania Chlouveraki holds a position as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Conservation of Antiquities and Works of Art and is the Site Conservation Scientist at the Institute for Aegean Prehistory - Study Center for East Crete (INSTAP-SCEC).

She received her BSc in Archaeological Conservation from the Athens University of Applied Sciences (T.E.I. of Athens) and her PhD from the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. She had a leading role in numerous object and site conservation programs of the British School of Archaeology, the American School of Classical Studies and the Australian Archaeological Institute of Athens. From 1997 until 2014 she was the Head Conservator of the W.D.E. Coulson Conservation Laboratory at INSTAP-SCEC, where she worked on both movable and immovable heritage in several archaeological programs.



Stefania Chlouveraki

Stefania has worked in building and mosaic conservation programs in the Levant since 1993 and over the last two decades, she designed and implemented several conservation/training

programs for the European Center for Byzantine and Post Byzantine Monuments, in Jordan and Syria. She also worked on the development of a conservation and management plan for the Castle of Rash Al Hadd in Oman, in collaboration with Hellenic Society for Near Eastern Studies.

She coordinated the two-year INSTAP - J.M. KAPLAN Fund conservation program 'A New Paradigm for the Preservation of Prehistory: the Future Role of Conservation Master Plans on Sites with Rubble and Earthen Architecture in Greece' (2014-2016) and the INSTAP-KAPLAN Site Conservation Grant Program in 2015. Since 2015 she is coordinating the field-school of the Architectural Conservation Laboratory of the University of West Attica, which focuses on condition surveys, vulnerability assessment and the development of a strategy for the preservation and conservation of Minoan sites on East Crete. In 2016 and 2017 she organized and supervised the Site Conservation Program of the Global Heritage Fund at the Mycenaean Palace of Sparta. Since 2017, she acts as a consultant of the Global Heritage Fund on the Greek heritage program. She is currently involved in several mosaic and site conservation programs in Greece, Jordan and Cyprus.

She is a member of the Directory Board of the International Committee for the Conservation of Mosaics (ICCM) since 2008 and its Vice President since 2014, as well as a Founding Member and member of the Directory Board of the Hellenic Society for Near Eastern Studies (HSNES). Her professional and research interests include the documentation and conservation of rubble/earth architecture, the conservation of mosaics *in-situ*, the development of light-weight mounting systems for detached mosaics, preventive conservation and reburial of architectural remains. She has participated in scientific and organizing committees of international conferences and has published articles in peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings and books.

Leslie Friedman is a conservator specializing in the conservation of architectural materials and archaeological sites, as well as decorative surface finishes such as mosaics. She has been with the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) since 2009, where she works on projects related to archaeological sites and is the project manager of a series of courses on the topic, which train archaeological site managers primarily from the southern and eastern Mediterranean region. With particular focus on the countries of North Africa and the Middle East, these training courses have taken place in Lebanon, Cyprus, and Morocco, have been taught in English, Arabic, and French, and have trained approximately 60 people to date. She also works on a number of other projects related to the issues of *in situ* mosaics and archaeological sites, including a field project at the site of Bulla Regia, Tunisia, to develop a long-term conservation plan for the approximately 400 *in situ* mosaics at the site, as well as a research publication on the design, construction, and evaluation of protective shelters for archaeological sites.



Leslie Friedman

Prior to coming to the Getty Conservation Institute, she was a conservator in private practice, and has worked on a diversity of projects world-wide, ranging from the ancient site of Gordion in Turkey, a Mughal-era palace in India, the World Heritage site of Mesa Verde in the American southwest, Spanish colonial adobe missions in California, modern sculpture, murals and mosaics in Los Angeles, and an urban archaeological site in historic Jaffa, Israel. Leslie completed her undergraduate and graduate studies in Social Anthropology and Archaeology, and holds an MSc in Historic Preservation (Architectural Conservation) from the University of Pennsylvania. She is an expert member of ICAHM, the ICOMOS International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management and serves on the board of the Architectural Specialty Group of the American Institute for Conservation. Leslie has authored numerous articles and conference proceedings.

Holly Jones-Amin is the senior objects and archaeological conservator at the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation at the University of Melbourne (UoM) where she manages the objects and textiles consultancy program. She is a foundation lecturer and tutor for the Masters of Cultural Materials Conservation at UoM, for which she intensively lectured, tutored and coordinated subjects for over 11 years (2004 – 2014). She continues to teach sessional lectures at UoM and Monash University. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology, The University of Sydney (1994), and BAppSc in the Conservation of Cultural Materials, University of Canberra (1997).

Holly has over twenty-two years of experience as an Archaeological Conservator. She has conducted archaeological conservation in Australia, Italy, the Middle East, South-east Asia and Central Asia. As an archaeological conservator Holly engages with multiple archaeological communities. She works and researches with archaeological academics excavating Indigenous Australian and Pacific sites and overseas with archaeologist excavating and studying the Kura Arax culture in the

Caucuses. She also works with consultant archaeologists in Victoria Australia. She is an associate investigator to CABAH (Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity and Heritage) and is the only cultural materials conservator on the CABAH team. The team of academics are from eight Australian universities and a number of museums in Australia and overseas. CABAH is undertaking research that will safeguard Australia's national heritage, transform research culture, connect with communities and inform policy. As part of the CABAH team, Holly aims for materials conservation to take a more active role within archaeological projects in Australia and beyond, and to change post-excavation processing techniques to increase research outcomes.

Holly is also a part-time PhD candidate at Monash Indigenous Studies Centre, Melbourne investigating materials conservation strategies for low-fired pre-Lapita, Lapita, and post-Lapita ceramics from Caution Bay Papua New Guinea. The ceramics from Caution Bay are very friable, they crumble like a biscuit and flake like fish and without conservation, it would not be possible to analyse the form of the vessels in any detail. Holly's research takes place in the lab at Monash University where she stabilises and conjoins super fragile ceramics.



Holly Jones-Amin

4. NEWS AND EVENTS

The European Archaeological Association (EAA) 24th conference, 2018

Holly Jones-Amin

The 2018 EAA conference was held 5-8 September at the 'Universitat de Barcelona', Spain. EAA conferences are huge! In 2018, 2987 delegates attended, 2865 delegates presented and there were 259 sessions run over a period of just three days.

Each year EAA has a different theme and this year was 'Reflecting futures', with five overall themes:

- [1. Theories and methods in archaeology](#)
- [2. The archaeology of material culture, bodies and landscapes](#)
- [3. Mediterranean seascapes](#)
- [4. Archaeology and the future of cities and urban landscapes](#)
- [5. Archaeology and the European Year of Cultural Heritage](#)
- [6. Museums and the challenges of archaeological heritage in 21st century](#)

Several things make EAA conferences quite different to ICOM-CC conferences. Firstly, anyone can propose a session that is in line with the overall conference themes. Secondly, there are no pre- or post-conference published papers, accepted abstracts form the basis of presentations. Thirdly, there are up to 42 (yes, 42, that is not a typo) parallel sessions which means that you can be in a constant state of FOMA (fear of missing out), and it is prudent to select which sessions to attend before the conference commences. Fourthly, the session rooms tend to be small, catering for 30-60 attendees. Mostly this is adequate, occasionally it is insufficient, and the attendees spill out into the corridor. Fifthly, not all presenters of accepted papers attend the conference and revised timetables are pinned up outside the allocated presentation room just prior to the session, this means that you can turn up to a

session for a particular presentation and find that it has been cancelled. Lastly, presentation times are dependent on what the session organisers submitted when they proposed their session and range from six PowerPoint slides for six minutes to 15-30 minute presentations.

In 2018 there were three sessions dedicated to conservation all of which were held on the last day of the conference. Unfortunately, two of these sessions were at the same time. Session 183 'Out of the Past into the future – Professional Cohesion through Diversity' was organised by Vivian Smits (Sweden) with myself (Holly Jones-Amin, Australia), Maruchi Yoshida (Germany), Ineke Joosten (Netherlands) and Evelyn Godfrey (United Kingdom) as co-organisers. We had all attended EAA 2017 and met at the session dedicated to rewriting 'First Aid for Finds' (FAFF) by David Watkinson and Virginia Neale (2001). Our overall feeling after the FAFF session was that at least 90% of our session attendees were conservators and as a result, we were talking to ourselves, instead of talking to archaeologists. Therefore, one of the aims for our 2018 session was to engage with archaeologists. Consequently, we did not use the word 'conservation' or 'preservation' in the title of our 2018 session. Our 2018 session attracted conservators and archaeologists as presenters and we had an audience of archaeologists working in public archaeology, heritage destruction and museum collections as well as conservators. The session had ten presenters of which seven are archaeological conservators, one archaeological conservation student and two archaeologists. Presentations ranged from field projects where collaboration with conservators improved research and management outcomes, reducing excavation and conservation costs; the need for tight collaboration between conservators and scientists; digital outreach in the field; to our choice of words (e.g. object, thing, artefact, find), and how these affect communication and collaboration between archaeologists and conservators and working with traditional owners.

Session 694; 'Preventive conservation and Valorization of Archaeological Heritage – Open Issue and Best Practices' was organised by conservators Mònica López Prat (Spain), Simone Martinelli (Italy), Lidia Font Pagès (Spain) and was held at the same time as 'Out of the Past ...'. I managed to attend the second half of this session. The presenters, who were mostly Spanish and Italian, presented on the conservation of immovable archaeological material such as earthen archaeological sites, plaster surfaces and murals.

The last session focusing on conservation was 636 titled 'Conservation issues and preventive measures in open-air rock art sites', was organised by archaeologists Ines Domingo Sanz (Spain), Irene Rodríguez (Spain) and Mel Marshall (Australia). This session was very reflective and papers by Ines and mural conservator Maria Antonia Zalbidea particularly demonstrated a reflective and honest analysis on what had and had not worked during their collaboration.

Other sessions I attended demonstrated the breadth of the EAA conference and included; 'Archaeological biomolecules from museum specimens – striking a balance between curation and destructive sampling'; 'Rock art and archaeological science – exploring methodological adaptations, innovations and limitations' and 'Cultural heritage in modern conflicts', the full program can be found here:

https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA2018/Programme.aspx?WebsiteKey=35414e88-a032-42d3-9e9b-d34ff524c79a&hkey=9ba73740-1809-47c0-bd96-13055196e087&Program_ContentCollectionOrganizerCommon=3#Program_ContentCollectionOrganizerCommon

In both 2017 and 2018, I have found that the EAA conference has plenty of papers that will be of interest to archaeological conservators. It is important for conservators to present at archaeological conferences to demonstrate that

we are vital contributors to the archaeological process and crucial for telling the artefact and sites story. Significantly, our attendance increases our international conservation/archaeological network; we raise awareness of current conservation practice that will assist in artefact survival and demonstrate that conservators should routinely be part of excavation planning and archaeological education.

The 2019 EAA Conference will be in September in Bern, Switzerland.

Silver from the Sea: New Research Project in the Netherlands

Maarten van Bommel, Ineke Joosten, Tonny Beentjes and Janneke van der Stok

Archaeological artefacts made of precious metal contain a wealth of information. The surface especially is very important, as it often contains original surface decoration and platings. However, that same surface is subject to degradation, and interventive conservation treatments like polishing can have a negative influence on the readability of the metal. Since it is important that relevant information about the object and its context is not lost after excavation, it is thus necessary to seek the best way to extract information from archaeological metals before it is lost through post-excavational degradation and/or conservation treatments.

Currently, best practices for precious material from a marine context are underdeveloped and occasionally applied in practice in the Netherlands. Therefore, the aim of our project is to establish an optimum research and conservation strategy for salvaged precious metal after excavation. This project, with the acronym 'AMOR' (translated from Dutch as *archaeological metal surface research*), is a collaboration between the University of Amsterdam and the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands. It started in September 2018

and is funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research.

As part of the project, a selection of 17th-century silverware, retrieved from a shipwreck recently found in the Netherlands ('Palmhoutwrak'), will be investigated with multiple analytical techniques. Some of these archaeological artefacts probably belong to a well-preserved 17th-century personal ensemble - a unique situation without known parallels, since historically, these items were often split up through legacies. The current set contains amongst others a textile toiletry bag with a comb, a mirror, a powder box, scissors, a rectangular box and candle-stands, several of which will be studied in this project. Other metallic objects to be studied are richly decorated standing cups, filigree spheres and an apparent hand warmer with an internal three-axis gimbal set.

The precious metal objects are also interesting from a material-technical point of view, since they are in a practically pristine, unworn state. In the technological investigation, special attention is therefore paid to the occurrence and application of decoration techniques, such as engraving and gilding. This research will lead to a better understanding of the artefacts and their mutual association, and with other finds from the wreck, like textiles and book covers.

A single object has recently been treated (see Fig. 1), while the others remained untreated. This group of silver artefacts therefore offers a unique interdisciplinary opportunity to study historical technology and the establishment of an optimum conservation strategy for precious metal from a marine context at the same time.

If you have questions, suggestions, useful information about archaeological precious metal and/or best practices, please get in touch by sending an e-mail to janneke@metals-inc.nl.



Fig. 1: Precious metal objects recovered from the Palmhoutwrak. Upper left: untreated oval powder box with the image of Venus and Cupid, gilded brass; lower left: untreated foot of silver standing cup with life-cast animals; right: treated standing cup, gilded silver.