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Archaeological Materials & Sites Newsletter

No. 4, March 2021

Editor: Emma Hocker

FROM THE COORDINATOR

Dear Colleagues,

Spring is almost here in Stockholm! The snow has melted and snowdrops and aconites are gradually blooming. The pandemic may still be with us but the longer, sunnier days make it somewhat easier to deal with, especially with the roll out of a number of promising new vaccines. Although travel restrictions still apply for many of us, we still have the opportunity to embark on a virtual journey to the Far East in May, to hear from colleagues and to experience the many cultural treasures of China.

Planning for the 19th ICOM-CC Triennial Conference is in full swing, with the local organizing committee, the ICOM-CC Directory Board, and conference planners (KIT) working diligently to make sure that the online events proceed as smoothly as possible. Special mention should be given to the former Chair, Kristiane Straetkvern, for coordinating this. While we would all prefer to be visiting Beijing in person and experiencing the wonderful cultural attractions for ourselves, a digital conference can reach a much wider audience, allowing access to all the presentations and site visits in our own time and from the comfort of our own homes. Make sure to register before **25 March** to take advantage of the Early Bird rates!

<https://www.icom-cc2020.org/conferenceregistration.aspx>

This is the first newsletter of our new Triennium. Consequently, we would like to present the new Triennial Program for our Working Group. In line with the Directory Board' Strategic Goals, a major focus is on *sustainability* issues, so please share your thoughts and ideas on how to incorporate this into our professional activities and, indeed, our daily lives. Inspiration can be found in the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by member states in 2015 to provide:

“a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all

while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.¹

The Directory Board and Coordinators support these actions and encourage the Working Groups to contribute as much as we can.

We would also like to advertise the Calls for Papers for METAL 2022 in Helsinki -- the first time this event will be held in the Nordic Countries -- as well as a Call for Papers for the Journal of Conservation and Museum Studies' special collections on museums and social justice. There are also updates on the MOSAIKON initiative and the European Heritage Awards.

Normally with a new Triennium comes a new group of Coordinators and Assistants. However, since our group is so new and we have yet to experience a whole Triennium, the Coordinator team remains unchanged. I am happy to report that Holly Jones-Amin, Stefania Chlouveraki, Leslie Friedman and Vivian Smits have agreed to continue as Assistant Coordinators, while I remain as Coordinator

through to 2023. We shall then be seeking new candidates to join our team!

If you have any questions about our Working Group, our Triennial Program or other issues you would like to raise, please do not hesitate to contact me at the following email: emma.hocker@gustavianum.uu.se.

I hope you are remaining safe and healthy in your part of the world.

See you at the Conference in May, if only in two-dimensional form!

Emma Hocker

Coordinator

The 19th ICOM-CC Triennial Conference - Beijing

The Beijing conference will take place from 17-21 May, 2021. The first three days will consist of pre-recorded Working Group presentations and live plenary and Q&A sessions, while Thursday and Friday are reserved for the live Working Group business meetings. The sessions for the first three days will be broadcast on 4 parallel channels, with Channel 1 reserved for sessions with Chinese papers (although some presentations in English will also be broadcast here). Chinese papers will have English sub-titles, while the live Q&A sessions will offer simultaneous English / Chinese translation. Unlike a regular conference, you will be able to see all the presentations, as well as enjoy virtual tours to all the heritage sites, rather than having to choose just one. Access to the papers and

tours is included as part of your modest registration fee, from 17 May till 17 June 2021.

If you have not already done so, **REGISTER NOW** at <https://www.icom-cc2020.org/>. The deadline for Early Bird rates is **25 MARCH 2021!** For ICOM members, the Early Bird rates are 800 CNY (990 CNY after 25 March); for non-ICOM members, the fees are 960 CNY (1150 CNY late fee) and for students, 400 CNY (500 CNY late fee).

NOTE: A student ID or official letter from your University must be provided. To qualify for the student rate you must be a FULL TIME student at a tertiary (undergraduate/post-graduate) institution at the time of the conference.

The registration fee includes:

¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

- 1 month access (from 17 May to 17 June 2021) to all Working Group sessions and video presentations;
- access to plenary sessions, keynote and International Museum Day event;
- access to pre-recorded technical visits in various museums throughout China;
- access to Preprints from 1 May to 17 June 2021;
- posters in PDF format to be downloaded;
- real time Q&A sessions;
- virtual exhibitions.

If you have questions, please contact:

icom-cc2020registration@kit-group.org

The international nature of our membership means some challenging mental gymnastics when getting to grips with the different time zones, especially if you want to view them live, but persevere – there are some excellent papers and presentations for you to enjoy.

The session for the Archaeological Materials and Sites Working Group is currently planned for Tuesday 18th May, with the following papers:

- Where there is a will, there is a way: Preserving the bedding on detached mosaics - **Chlouveraki, Stefania**, Eleftherios Charalambous, Theocharis Katrakazis.
- Fifty-plus years of on-site metals conservation at Sardis: Correlating treatment efficacy and implementing new approaches - **Frank, Emily**, Brian Castriota.
- Conservation and preservation strategies for royal painted tombs in Kurru, Sudan: Acknowledging the past while planning for the future - **Hatchfield, Pamela**, Camille Bourse, Evelyn Mayberger, Jan Cutajar, Janelle Batkin-Hall.
- Bronze corrosion on archaeological sites: Correlation of past and present microenvironments via in situ pH, chloride and redox measurements - **MacLeod, Ian Donald**, Alice Boccia Paterakis.

- Identification and analysis of floor mosaic substructures revealed by ground-penetrating radar - **Maris, Christos**, Meropi Manataki, Apostolos Sarris.
- Identification of polymer-based artefacts from the former Wheeler Residence at the Mernda archaeological site in Victoria, Australia: A comparison of attenuated total reflectance and reflectance spectroscopic techniques - **Wong, Sharon Shu Hui**, Petronella Nel, Barbara Stuart, Clare Kim.
- Research on the comprehensive protection of the Xi Xia Mausoleums site - **Xiaoyan, He**, Ning Jin.

Additionally, the following posters will be available to download:

- Hidden Hands: Early conservation work on Petrie's Egyptian Excavations - **O'Dwyer, Olivia**
- The smell of Egyptian mummies: a new analytical approach - **Timbart, Noëlle**, Agnès Lattuati-Derieux, Hélène Guichard, Marc Etienne, Rukshala Anton, Stéphane Moularat, Faisl Bousta, Isabelle Colson, Lise Thierion.
- New insights into a decorated wooden staff of King Tutankhamun using handheld XRF spectroscopy - **Abdrabou, Ahmed**, Hussein. M Kamal, Medhat Abdallah, Nada Sayed.
- The mechanical properties of ceramic coupons consolidated with cyclododecane and their relationship to porosity, application method and sublimation rate - **Turner-Walker, Gordon**, Yun-Ching Hung.
- Laboratory cleaning of the horse-and-chariot pit from the Western Zhou dynasty at the Zhouyuan site, Shaanxi province - **Xiaojuan, Huang**, Shao Anding, Wang Zhankui.

Archaeological Materials & Sites Triennial Program 2020-2023

In line with the ICOM-CC Directory Board's strategic goals for the 2020-2023 Triennium, the Archeological Materials & Sites Working Group proposes the following Triennial Program:

Specific themes for investigation/research

Sustainable approaches:

- to mitigate and prepare for impacts of climate change on archaeological sites;
- in preventive conservation, object treatment and storage;
- to rescue and post-conflict conservation.

COVID-19 Issues

The impact of the pandemic on archaeological conservation, site preservation and conservation education.

Projects

ICOM-CC Publications Online Platform Project

The Working Group will assist with gathering information for the Publications Online Platform Project related to the Working Groups' past publications, as well as any further work required to place publications generated in this triennium.

Although the Archaeological Materials and Sites Working Group is new, and has therefore, no past publications, individual members may have contributed to previous publications via other Working Groups.

Activities

- Proposed Joint Interim Meeting (digital) with the Murals, Stone and Rock Art Working Group to be held in 2022.
- Encourage submissions for the 20th Triennial Conference in 2023.
- Establish closer working relationships with regional archaeology groups (such as the ICON Archaeology group, the European Association of Archaeologists, the AIA Archaeology Group and the Australian Archaeological Association, among others) in order to encourage dialogue between professions and to integrate conservation as part of archaeological practice.
- Communication with the membership will take place primarily through emails sent from the ICOM-CC website, as well as notifications via the Working Group's Facebook page.

Call for Papers Metal 2022

5-9 September, 2022 Helsinki, Finland

<http://www.icom-cc.org/51/news/?id=559#.YEdGwo5KhPY>

The ICOM-CC Metals Working Group, The National Museum of Finland and Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland, are pleased to announce the call for papers for the 10th Interim Meeting of the ICOM-CC Metals Working Group. The conference will be held at Suomenlinna Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located at the entrance to Helsinki's harbour. The conference will be offered in a hybrid format with in-person AND virtual

programming. This is a new format for the Working Group as we try to expand inclusion and outreach. Although we are very hopeful that we can meet in person in 2022, the conference may transition to a 100% virtual event depending on the COVID-19 situation. Selected papers will be published as digital Preprints and provided to attendees at the meeting (whether in-person or virtual) and will also be available after the meeting as print on demand at

www.lulu.com. Please note that for the publication, all authors will be asked to transfer copyright of the contribution to ICOM-CC.

Metal 2022 will also feature a dedicated Young Conservation Professionals session.

Deadline for submissions: **April 15, 2021.**

Conference organizers: Paul Mardikian (Coordinator, ICOM-CC Metals Working Group), Liisa Näsänen (Conference Chair, The National Museum of Finland) Eero Ehanti and Heikki Häyhä (Steering Committee, The National Museum of Finland and Metropolia University of Applied Sciences).

Call for Papers – Extended Deadline - Journal of Conservation and Museum Studies

Special Collection on Museums and Social Justice

Museums, as products of the European Enlightenment, have been implicated in imperialist and colonialist exploits since their beginnings. Following the international protests sparked by the unjust police killings of Black Americans, institutions must respond better to the needs of black, indigenous, and other people of colour (BIPOC), as well as other marginalized communities. Addressing diversity, equity and inclusion has been promoted as the way to fight historical injustices and systemic racism.

But, what does this mean for museums? How are museum staff, volunteers, and communities affected? How do museums distance themselves from their histories of perceived neutrality and take responsibility for myth-making? How do museums ensure that BIPOC representation reaches all facets of their organizations including staff, visitors and exhibition content? Is collecting statues of personalities implicated in racist, colonial or imperial histories a threat or an opportunity

for museums? What is the role of preservation/conservation when dealing with these components of cultural heritage? Have there been stories of success or failure that can inform museums' next steps?

We invite submissions of research articles or short reports addressing these issues in the context of conservation and museum collections. To make a contribution, please register at www.jcms-journal.com and follow the instructions for article submission, including suggestions for peer reviewers. Please indicate in the cover letter (step 1) that you are submitting in response to this call.

In response to feedback to the original publication of this call, the initial deadline for submissions has been extended until **1st April 2021**. If you require assistance (or to discuss a potential contribution or a late submission), please contact Caitlin R. O'Grady, caitlin.r.ogrady@ucl.ac.uk.

MOSIAKON update

Leslie Friedman

In light of delays to the MOSIAKON initiative course, *Advanced Training in Protective Conservation Measures for Archaeological Sites: Reburial and Shelters*, which has been rescheduled for spring 2022 in Amman, Jordan, the course team has developed a series of webinars for the course participants to be delivered throughout 2021.

These monthly online meetings will serve to bring together the course participants and the teaching team on a regular basis, as well as provide additional content to the planned in-person course program. This course is provided by the Getty Conservation Institute and ICCROM-Sharjah, in

partnership with the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.

As part of the MOSIAKON initiative, the Getty Conservation Institute has recently made didactic materials available for free download on its website in the form of 24 PowerPoint lessons developed for its courses for mosaic conservation technicians. They are accessible to all at: https://www.getty.edu/conservation/publications_resources/teaching/index.html

And the Winner is...The European Heritage Awards 2020

Our last issue noted the call for applications for the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2020 in categories for conservation, research, dedicated service and education and training. On 10 November 2020, the following winners were announced:

CONSERVATION: the exemplary restoration of the **Basilica of Santa Maria di Collemaggio, L'Aquila (Italy)**, heavily damaged by the devastating earthquake of 2009;

RESEARCH: the outstanding project **Tramontana Network III (France, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain)**, dedicated to the research of the tangible and intangible heritage of Europe's mountainous regions;

DEDICATED SERVICE: the major exhibition - **Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away**

(Poland/Spain), marking the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the largest Nazi concentration camp.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: The Public Choice Award went to the education, training and awareness-raising project: **The Ambulance for Monuments (Romania)**, which has rescued hundreds of heritage-listed buildings in the country through a large network of active heritage organisations. This project received the largest number of votes, cast via an online poll with the participation of over **12,000 citizens** from all over Europe.

<https://www.europanostra.org/european-commission-and-europa-nostra-announce-europe-top-heritage-award-winners-2020/>

Conservation of Beeswax - help requested

My name is Lina Hedberg, I'm a bachelor student at the Department of Conservation at Gothenburg University. I am trying to gather literature and information on my topic for my dissertation: *Conservation of archaeological objects made of beeswax*.

The reason for the chosen topic was my interest in archaeology and archaeological objects, and the fact some beeswax objects have been found during excavations in Gothenburg, but the conservators have had difficulties in finding advice on the proper materials for treatment. Most research has been done on historical objects like seals in archives.

I am reaching out to international conservators who might be able to shed light on this matter. Covid-19 is also making it difficult for me to get access to objects in the museums, so I am trying to find case studies.

I would be very grateful to hear from you. Any suggestions for further study would be welcome!

Lina Hedberg

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