

# M ICOM-CC

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## Archaeological Materials & Sites Newsletter

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Editor: Emma Hocker

### FROM THE COORDINATOR

The Archaeological Materials and Sites Working Group was created in 2018 to answer the needs of ICOM-CC members who work with a broad range of archaeological materials from site to laboratory to storage, or those who manage large, complex archaeological sites.

This need was confirmed by the wide-ranging scope of papers, both in subject matter and geographical terms, submitted to our first conference in Beijing. I am delighted to say that this momentum has continued through the contributions for the Valencia conference, where there will be presentations about ethnographic pottery techniques; archaeological documentation; new materials for lifting fragile objects; organic compounds in Egyptian mummies; protective shelters for monuments and the effects of climate change on coastal sites. Geographically, the papers and posters reflect work undertaken in France, China, Malta, Australia, India, Syria, Egypt and Kenya.

I am delighted that our Working Group has such a broad global appeal and I hope this interest continues. It is heartening to see that our official membership (via ICOM-CC registration) exceeds 150, from 43 countries, and that our Facebook membership continues to grow. The question is now, where do we go from here? Should we

continue with the broad scope of topics and ideas that are in our current mission statement? Should we focus more closely on certain issues? How can we best help you, our members? Please think about how our Working Group should proceed, as a new Triennial Program must be submitted to the Directory Board by the end of 2023. Also, please consider helping out in a management role, as Coordinator or Assistant Coordinator.

My time as Working Group Coordinator is coming to an end. I have served two terms and must now step down. Currently there are no candidates for this role, but anyone interested should contact the ICOM-CC Board. To stand, you need to have the backing and financial support from your employer. Although ICOM-CC cannot offer any financial assistance, your local ICOM national committee may provide some funding for travel. The workload is varied, and there are some periods that are especially busy, but with good planning and organization, this can be managed. The work can also be shared with up to six Assistant Coordinators, who can assist with tasks such as gathering items for newsletters, planning an running workshops and updating social media news, as well as the primary task of planning for the Triennial Conference. For more information

about the roles, see the latest ICOM-CC Directory Board newsletter:

<https://www.icom-cc.org/en/downloads/icom-cc-newsletter-on-board-volume-25-april-2023>

I have been fortunate to work with four terrific Assistant Coordinators, colleagues whom I had never met prior to 2018, but who have given me fantastic support over the last few years, particularly in putting together two great sessions of presentations for Beijing and now Valencia. I might point out that during this time, two of them have completed their PhDs and another gave birth, so they are high achievers by all accounts! Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Holly Jones-Amin, Stefania Chlouveraki, Leslie Friedman and Vivian Smits.

We are still a new group who came into being during a difficult period. Our first conference in Beijing had to be adapted from an in-person event to an on-line event, due to the global pandemic. Many of you, like myself, will have joined on-line and listened to many exciting presentations (assuming you had a stable internet connection!), but missed the camaraderie of chatting with colleagues during meals and coffee-breaks and

getting to know the person behind the name in the programme.

For a working group trying to establish itself, this has been trying period, and particularly frustrating for me not to be able to meet you all in person. As Valencia approaches and I pass the baton on to someone new, I am confident that our Working Group will continue to flourish and do great things. But to do this, we need your input, your ideas, your feedback!

Looking ahead to a new Triennial!

With thanks,

Emma Hocker

Coordinator 2020-2023

## AIC Archaeological Heritage Network Survey

The **American Institute for Conservation's Archaeological Heritage Network** has developed a survey with the goal of determining:

- Who are field conservators (their primary employment while not in the field, their specialties, their years of experience)?
- How are field conservators compensated (by field projects or by other sources? What expenses are reimbursed? Are they compensated for any time spent working on the project while not in the field?)
- How much are field conservators compensated?

Respondents do not need to be AIC members, and can be any nationality. They can be students,

unpaid volunteers, people who draw their academic or institutional salaries while they're digging: anyone who's gone into the field in the last five years.

The survey is anonymous and no person or field project will be identifiable in the data. The analyzed results will be made available to the conservation profession with the goal of aiding salary transparency.

If you have worked as a field conservator between 2018 and 2022, please consider taking the Archaeological Heritage Network's anonymous archaeological field conservation compensation survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DZHQQH5>.

Your response is much appreciated and will provide important data to assist others in

negotiating for better salaries and conditions. We ask for just 10-15 minutes of your time!

Thank you!

### Call for Papers: Restoration of Archaeological Treasures, May 2024

The Bode-Museum, Berlin is organising the international conference kulturGUTerhalten Rekonstruktion – Ergänzung – Retusche. Geschichte(n) der Restaurierung archäologischer Schätze (Reconstruction – Addition – Retouching; Histories of the Restoration of Archaeological Treasures), to be held on 29 to 31 May 2024.

The Call for Papers has now been released: [www.smb.museum/fileadmin/website/Nachrichten/2023/05/...](http://www.smb.museum/fileadmin/website/Nachrichten/2023/05/...)

The rediscovery of the cultures of classical antiquity also marked the beginning of the history of restoring and conserving these previously hidden artefacts, a history that now stretches back almost 500 years. Quickly, a number of central aspects of this work emerged: piecing together fragments, the stylistic reconstruction of missing sections, speculative additions, as well as the preparation of surface treatments. Today, these objects are often seen as the product of outdated

approaches to restoration, however they are also repositories of various forms of knowledge, providing information about reconstruction efforts situated between desire and reality, about the historically determined technical limitations and capacities of conservator-restorers, about materials and materiality, and about early and contemporary approaches to the traditions of restoration.

The international symposium kulturGUTerhalten will bring together current research from scholars in classical and ancient studies and archaeological studies, and from practicing conservator-restorers, facilitating an interdisciplinary dialogue focused on these issues.

Presentations in English are welcome, deadline for submitting abstracts is **31 July 2023**.

Posted on behalf of Uwe Peltz (Antikensammlung Berlin)