

ESF/SCH Exploratory Workshop

WHITHER ARCHAEOLOGY?

Maðralin near Warsaw, Poland

12-13 October 2001-11-28

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The exploratory workshop *Whither archaeology? (Quo vadis, archaeologia?)* was intended to initiate a critical analysis of the contemporary scientific, cultural and social roles of archaeology in the face of the economic, social, legislative and political transformations connected with the progressive integration and enlargement of the European Union and processes of globalization. The workshop, with 18 participants from 13 European countries, was located at Maðralin near Warsaw in Poland, in the small conference centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The workshop was organized by the European Science Foundation, with additional financial help from the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, the Office of the Commissioner-General for Historical Monuments of Poland, and the Foundation „Res Publica Multiethnica”.

Full programme of the workshop had been executed, with only minor changes caused by the absence of Prof. A. Guidi from Italy, Dr. J. Oexle from Germany and Dr. Martin Kuna from the Czech Republic. Altogether 18 papers were presented, each of them lasting ca. 20 minutes. Papers were organized in four thematic parts, followed with ca. 60 minutes of discussion after each part. The workshop ended with final discussion, lasting for more than three hours. Altogether more than 7 hours of lively discussion was recorded.

Conference centre at Maðralin appeared to be perfect place to organize this sort of meeting, offering all the necessary facilities, as well as the beautiful surroundings of pine forest.

At the opening of the workshop, in the evening of the 11th October, Prof. R. Schild, the Director of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology welcomed the participants. His speech was followed with short speeches by Prof. Stanisław Tabaczyński from the Standing Committee for Humanities of the ESF and the letter written to participants by Dr. Marek Rubnikowicz, deputy Commissioner-General for Historical Monuments of Poland. The last welcome speech was delivered by Dr. Zbigniew Kobyliński, the convenor of the workshop.

Next morning, on the 12th of October, the workshop began with lecture by Prof. S. Tabaczyński, representative of the ESF/SCH, who presented structure and activity of the European Science Foundation and the ESF Standing Committee for Humanities (SCH). Prof. Tabaczyński presented also how the idea of international discussion on the future of archaeology emerged in Poland.

The workshop itself (12-13th October) was divided into four thematic parts covering various roles which archaeology plays (or will play) in contemporary and future world: cognitive, cultural and educational role, its role in preserving cultural heritage of the humankind, its role in the process of globalisation and unification of the Continent, as well as the necessary changes which archaeology should undergo to be able to fulfill these new roles. Logical structure of the workshop allowed participants to discuss all the aspects of the contemporary and future archaeology: from the general issues to their practical consequences.

In the first section (***Archaeology in the uniting Europe: its cognitive, educational and cultural role***) Jean-Claude Gardin (France) analyzed the impact of information technology on production of knowledge in archaeology, Bjornar Olsen (Norway) and Bozena Werbart (Sweden) discussed advantages and threats of globalization for archaeology, Ivan Gatsov (Bulgaria) showed examples of archaeology as a cultural activity contributing to bridging gaps between former Eastern and Western blocks, Evzen Neustupny (Czech Republic) and Kristian Kristiansen (Sweden) discussed linguistic and cultural barriers in developing really European archaeology.

In the second section (***The archaeological heritage in the uniting Europe: its protection, management and use***) Zbigniew Kobyliński (Poland), Willem Willems (the Netherlands) and Adrian Oliver (United Kingdom) analyzed the role of archaeology in preserving the past for the future generations.

Finally in the fourth section (***The significance of the past for the present and for the future***) Ludmila Koryakova (Russia), John Carman (United Kingdom), Wojciech Brzeziński (Poland) and Isabel Martinez Navarrete (Spain) spoke about presenting the archaeological knowledge gained thanks to the methodology, described in previous section, to various sectors of society.

On the second day of the workshop the participants were able to pay short visit to the Old Town in Warsaw, enlisted on the World Heritage List. This visit also stimulated interesting discussion on the criteria of authenticity of heritage and on the cultural role of historical heritage.

After following the programme of the workshop, three participants – Prof. Evzen Neustupny, Prof. Jean-Clade Gardin and Prof. Martin Carver - presented their summaries of the lectures and discussions. These summaries opened long and lively discussion leading to the final conclusions.

There was consensus that there is urgent need to continue discussions on the problem of future directions of the development of archaeology. The participants accepted that logical structure of such discussions should follow this which was outlined during the Mađralin meeting, namely that this is not possible to discuss problems of methodology of research or those of heritage management, university didactics, or popular presentations, without previous discussion on the complex roles of archaeology in the modern world. It was also obvious for the participants that such discussions should be best continued under the aegis of the European Science Foundation.

The volume of collected papers presented during the workshop should be printed by the end of this year. This volume is meant as the beginning of international discussion, rather than the presentation of final solutions. It has been therefore approved by all the participants that the planned publication should include also in extenso recording of the interventions in the discussion, to give a reader possibility to follow the dynamics of the Mađralin workshop. The discussion has been recorded and edited by young Polish archaeologists Sławomir Rzepka and Piotr Szpanowski.

SCIENTIFIC CONTENT OF THE EVENT

Although the future of various aspects of archaeological activities has been discussed also in other fora, the workshop „Whither archaeology?“ enabled for the first time the holistic and comprehensive analysis of archaeology in the modern world. Such an approach appeared to be extremely fruitful, showing clearly that the archaeology cannot be understood as limited only to its research aspect. Contemporary archaeology is an important part of social and cultural life of Europe, contributing potentially to development of new understanding of human history and therefore to new European social consciousness, to preservation of cultural heritage and through this to preservation of cultural diversity of peoples, to sustainable development of regions and through this to higher quality of life. There are, however, great dangers for archaeology in the modern world: commercialization and loss of ethics, political misuse and manipulation with research results, isolation and loss of social interest in archaeological activities, total destruction of archaeological heritage due to large-scale developments, intensive agriculture or to clandestine excavation for profit. Other factors which slow down the process of integration of archaeology with social and cultural life of Europe, seem to be impossibility to find new channels of information exchange, adequate to demands of the age of information technology, as well as linguistic barriers leading to isolation of certain archaeological communities.

To cope with these threats and to make full use of the potentials, the archaeology must undergo serious transformations, preceded with intensive discussions and further analysis. The present workshop initiated such a discussion, and showed clearly the need to continue the debate in wider context.

What became obvious during the workshop was that the research, the heritage protection, and the dissemination of archaeological knowledge and the presentation of the past, are just various aspects of the same process, and cannot be seen in isolation. It became also obvious that all these aspects equally need both the theory and the practical guidelines, which would be accepted on the European level. The lack of theoretical considerations is extremely dangerous for the archaeological heritage management and for popular presentations of the past. Without a theory, these domains are usually considered as realms of pure practice, which leads to serious biases and irreversible losses.

During the Workshop a logical structure of further discussion has been outlined. First step should be comprehensive and multiaspectual analysis of the present situation, of the external and internal factors determining the development of contemporary archaeology. Bjornar Olsen (Norway) and Bozena Werbart (Sweden) analyzed benefits and dangers of globalization and roles archaeology can – and should - play in social and cultural transformations observed now in Europe. Ivan Gatsov (Bulgaria) showed particular examples of archaeological excavations as cultural activities contributing to bridging gaps – existing for more than 50 years – between the East and the West of Europe. Evzen Neustupny (Czech Republic) and Kristian Kristiansen (Sweden) showed factors acting against European integration: linguistic barriers and regional traditions. Jean-Claude Gardin (France) presented difficulties in the transfer of archaeological knowledge within and between archaeological communities, advocating launching internet journals and wide use of electronic data storage.

This analysis led the participants to the definition of new roles of archaeology. Among these role, the most important seems to be the conservation of the archaeological heritage. Zbigniew Kobyliński (Poland) presented new paradigm of archaeology as preventive conservation of human environment. Willem Willems (the Netherlands) showed that protection of the archaeological heritage can be fruitfully combined with scientific research, and Adrian Oliver (United Kingdom) presented new pro-active approach to various threats for the archaeological heritage.

These general considerations led the participants to the formulation of direct practical guidelines for archaeological research, seen as both the preservation and the creation of new knowledge. Martin Carver (United Kingdom) presented elaborated model of field archaeological activities. Nicholas Conard (Germany) showed examples of new strategies and methods in archaeological research on the Stone Age, Maria Iacovou (Cyprus) proposed methods of research enabling to avoid destruction of the archaeological heritage due to modern development plans, and Jean Bourgeois (Belgium) discussed the need to accept minimum scientific standards in any archaeological excavation.

The last part of the Workshop analyzed the ways how the archaeological knowledge contribute to cultural development of the general public. Ludmila Koryakova (Russia) analyzed how the new situation of archaeology is reflected in changing ways of teaching archaeology at the universities, and John Carman (United Kingdom) discussed the creation of archaeological knowledge for wider community. Isabel Martinez Navarrete (Spain) discussed problems of public access to the results of research through scientific journals, and Wojciech Brzeziński (Poland) showed contemporary challenges for archaeological museology.

The discussion enabled to explore some aspects in more detailed way. Especially lively and fruitful was the discussion on the impact of globalization on archaeology, and the question of European identity of archaeology. Another aspect intensively debated was the archaeological heritage management, in relation to ethical issues, to educational matters and to methodological problems.

It was common feeling of the participants that the workshop should be treated as the necessary first step in further debate, and the convenor was encouraged to continue his efforts towards organization such a debate under the aegis of the ESF.

FINAL PROGRAMME

Thursday, 11th October

Arrival of the participants

20.00: Welcome speeches

Prof. Romuald Schild, Director of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences,

Prof. Stanisław Tabaczyński, member of the Standing Committee for Humanities of the European Science Foundation,

Dr Marek Rubnikowicz, deputy Commissioner-General for Historical Monuments,
Dr Zbigniew Kobyliński, convenor of the workshop.

Friday, 12th October

9.00 – 9.20 Opening lecture by Prof. Stanisław Tabaczyński on behalf of the European Science Foundation

Part I. Archaeology in the uniting Europe: its cognitive, educational and cultural role

Session 1. Cognitive role of archaeology

- **9.20 – 9.40: *Jean-Claude Gardin*** (France): Logicist modelling and the transfer of knowledge in the humanities

- **9.40 – 10.00: *Evzen Neustupny*** (Czech Republic): Cognitive role of archaeology in modern times

Session 2. Cultural and educational role of archaeology

- **10.00 – 10.20: *Kristian Kristiansen*** (Sweden): Borders of ignorance. Research communities and language

- **10.20 – 10.40: *Bjornar Olsen*** (Norway) Excavating the other: European archaeology in the age of globalisation

10.40 – 11.00: Coffee/tea break

Session 3. Role of archaeology in bridging the gap between the East and the West

- **11.00 – 11.20: *Bozena Werbart*** (Sweden): Role of archaeology in bridging the gap between the Eastern and the Western Europe

- **11.20 – 11.40: *Iwan Gatsov*** (Bulgaria) Some remarks about Bulgarian archaeology: 1944 -1989

11.40 – 12.00: Discussion

Part II. The archaeological heritage in the uniting Europe: its protection, management and use

Session 4: Protection and management of archaeological heritage as new tasks of archaeology as scientific discipline

- **12.00 – 12.20: *Zbigniew Kobyliński*** (Poland): Archaeological heritage and archaeological sources: new vision of the subject matter of archaeology

- **12.20 – 12.40: *Willem Willems*** (the Netherlands): Archaeological heritage management and research

Session 5. The role of archaeology in the concept of multiple use of cultural heritage

- **12.40 – 13.00: *Adrian Oliver*** (United Kingdom) Changing approaches to the historic environment

13.00 – 13.30: Discussion

13.30 – 14.30: Lunch break

Part III. Methodology and programming strategy of archaeological research

Session 6. Methodology of contemporary and future archaeology

- **14.40 – 15.00: *Martin Carver*** (United Kingdom): The future of field archaeology

- **15.00 – 15.20: *Nicholas Conard*** (Germany): Changing research strategies and methodological advances in Paleolithic archaeology

Session 7. Strategies of scientific response to modern-life threats to archaeological heritage

-15.40 – 16.00: **Maria Iacovou** (Cyprus): Survey archaeology and its scientific potentials: not a panacea but a step to the right direction

Session 8. Archaeological field research – definition of minimum scientific requirements

- 16.00 – 16.20: **Jean Bourgeois** (Belgium): Archaeological field research – definition of minimum scientific requirements

16.20 – 17.00: **Coffee/tea break**

17.00 – 19.00: **Discussion**

Saturday, 13th October

9.15 – 10.00: **Visiting the Old Town in Warsaw**

10.00 – 11.00: **Visiting the King's Castle**

Part IV. The significance of the past for the present and for the future

Session 9. Teaching of archaeology and about archaeology

- 12.00 – 12.20: **Ludmila Koryakova** (Russia): Teaching archaeology in higher education – a glance from Russia

- 12.20 – 12.40: **John Carman** (United Kingdom): Towards a 21st century archaeology for everyone: uniting current theory with the wider community

Session 10. Presenting the past – public access to the results of scientific research

- 12.40 – 13.00: **Isabel Martínez Navarrete** (Spain): Presenting the past through scientific journals

- 13.00 – 13.20: **Wojciech Brzeziński** (Poland): Archaeology in the museum. Presenting the past to the general public.

13.30 – 15.00: **Lunch break**

15.00 – 16.00: **Discussion**

16.00- 17.00: **Summary of the workshop**

(*Evzen Neustupny, Jean-Claude Gardin, Martin Carver*)

17.00 – 17.30: **Coffee/tea break**

17.30 – 19.00: **General discussion**

Sunday, 14th October

7.30-9.30: **Departure of all the participants from Mađralin**

ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS, CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE FIELD

The Exploratory Workshop „Whither archaeology?” enabled a first holistic analysis of archaeology seen as both the scientific discipline, and the social and cultural activity, in relation to the complex and rapidly changing political, social and cultural situation in Europe. The workshop showed clearly that the archaeology cannot be any longer understood as a discipline isolated from the main current of daily life; that it cannot be any longer practiced as „pure artefactology”, understood and interested only for the closed group of experts. Direct and indirect mutual relationships between archaeology and various social, cultural, economic and political phenomena, have been defined and analyzed. Potential value of archaeology has been identified, together with numerous and diverse threats to archaeology in the modern times. Some practical solutions have been proposed, but the need for further intensive discussions has been clearly identified and agreed upon.

The main results of the workshop are:

- outlining the logical structure of further discussions on future archaeology (starting from the identification of typical contemporary social and cultural phenomena, through definition of the roles archaeology can and should play in these phenomena, to the methodology of research, and - finally - to the direct practical consequences for the development of archaeology);
- identification of potential contributions of archaeology to the social and cultural development of contemporary and future humankind, by means of gaining and making available the historical and anthropological knowledge;
- identification of potential contribution of archaeology to the sustainable development of Europe;
- identification of the main problems archaeology faces in the modern world:
 - threats to the substance of the archaeological heritage,
 - danger of political misuse of the results of archeological research,
 - isolation of regional communities of archaeologists,
 - lack of public interest in the way the past is presented by archaeologists,
 - commercialization of the archaeological activities;
- outlining the necessary actions on the European level:
 - creation and enhancement of links between regional archaeological communities, especially between „mainstream” and „minority” communities, according to the definition proposed by Prof. Evzen Neustupny;
 - designing new models of archaeological scientific publication, adequate to the modern information technology (as proposed by Prof. J.-C. Gardin);
 - formulation of scientific foundations for the archaeological heritage management, with particular stress on the required pro-active approach;
 - definition of the minimum scientific requirements in archaeological field activities;
 - designing new models of presentation of the archaeological knowledge;
- identification of the value of diverse theoretical orientations in archaeology in the process of maintaining diversity during the growing unification of Europe;
- proposal for a network under the aegis of the European Science Foundation, to explore problems outlined during the Exploratory Workshop.

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STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON PARTICIPANTS

Countries of the present scientific employment of the participants

COUNTRY	N
<i>Belgium</i>	1
<i>Bulgaria</i>	1
<i>Cyprus</i>	1
<i>Czech Republic</i>	1
<i>France</i>	1
<i>Germany</i>	1
<i>the Netherlands</i>	1
<i>Norway</i>	1
<i>Poland</i>	3
<i>Russia</i>	1
<i>Spain</i>	1
<i>Sweden</i>	2
<i>United Kingdom</i>	3
TOTAL	18

Age structure of the participants

AGE GROUP	N
<i>30-40</i>	3
<i>40-50</i>	7
<i>50-60</i>	5
<i>60-70</i>	2
<i>70-80</i>	1
TOTAL	18