

# 24<sup>th</sup> EAA Annual Meeting

BARCELONA,  
5-8 SEPTEMBER 2018

REFLECTING FUTURES

## Abstract Book VOLUME II



**EAA** | European Association  
of Archaeologists

 UNIVERSITAT DE  
BARCELONA

2018  
EUROPEAN YEAR  
OF CULTURAL  
HERITAGE  
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Edicions

## 18 MECKLENBURG COLLECTION: TO LARGE TO BE CONSIDERED

**Author(s):** Novakovic, Predrag (University of Ljubljana)

**Presentation Format:** Oral

In 2006 Gloria Polizzoti Greis (Peabody Museum, Harvard) published a book about the largest European prehistoric collection held in the USA. She also included a short biography of the Duchess of Mecklenburg who created this collection by excavating in Slovenia between 1906 and 1914. The 'Mecklenburg collection' which is kept in the Harvard Peabody Museum since the 1930s contains more than 20,000 objects from more than 20 sites, mostly from the Iron Age period. In spite of a large amount of work invested in cataloging and publicizing it for the auction, only very small parts of the collections were published so far. The personal biography of the Duchess of Mecklenburg, an enthusiast amateur archaeologist, and the circumstances of how she was able to accumulate such a vast collection in a very short period of time are well explained in G. Polizzoti Greis's book, as well as the ways how the collection ended in Harvard. However, in the years following its acquisition by the Peabody Museum, the collection became almost forgotten and known only to archaeologists in Slovenia and a small number of other experts in Iron Age archaeology in Central Europe. The collection's great potential for developing detailed typology and chronology, as well as for studying cultural contacts in SE Central Europe in the first place was lost. Indeed, in Slovenia, it took almost 60 years to accumulate enough new data from the new excavations of the same sites represented in the Mecklenburg collection to create referential typological and chronological frameworks for the Late Bronze and Iron Ages in the SE Alpine region. In our paper we do not want to elaborate in detail different 'what if' scenarios but, by using the peculiar case of the Mecklenburg collection, reflect different ways of building our knowledge in archaeology.

## 19 A MARITIME COLLECTION SAILING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

**Author(s):** Heamagi, Christin (Maritime Archaeology Trust; Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum)

**Presentation Format:** Oral

This is the story of a professional diver, passionate collector and a keen historian who in 1978 when he was 29 years old wanted to share his growing collection of items recovered from shipwrecks with the public to ensure that everyone would be as fascinated as he was with the discovery, recovery and conservation of items from lost ships. To reach the public he bought a cottage in a small village and set up his own Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum, funded and managed by himself. The museum and the collection grew over the next 28 years and in 2006 the building was deemed too small necessitating a move to a larger facility within a Craft Village which supports a pub, craft shops and a glass museum.

It is also the story of the artefacts that make up this private collection. The museum is filled to the brim with unique, amazing and surprising objects, most brought up from the seafloor and all on display, although few are labelled or catalogued. In early 2017 in a move towards the long-term safeguarding of the collection the owner decided to pass over the museum to The Maritime Archaeology Trust that is an established organisation researching and managing marine cultural heritage.

As is well known, the history of museums started with private collections in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries however our story is happening now. While we transform the museum and the collection from a collector's paradise into an accredited museum and modern attraction we need to ask ourselves who we are doing it for? What will get lost if we focus only on the history of the items themselves but forget why they are in there and who collected them. Is this for us, as academics, or the public?

## 20 UNVEILING THE "CHERNAYA MOGILA" ("BLACK MOUND") COMPLEX: PAST DEVELOPMENTS AND NEW FINDS

**Author(s):** Murasheva, Veronika - Zozulia, Sergey - Shevtsov, Alexey (State Historical Museum, Moscow) - Yatsishina, Ekaterina (National Research Center «Kurchatov Institute») - Kashkarov, Pavel (National Research Center «Kurchatov Institute»; Moscow Institute of physics and technology) - Tereschenko, Elena (National Research Center «Kurchatov Institute»; FSRC «Crystallography and Photonics» RAS) - Loboda, Anastasiya (National Research Center «Kurchatov Institute»)

**Presentation Format:** Oral

It would not be an overstatement that the burial mound "Chernaya Mogila" (Black mound) situated in modern-day Chernigov is the most famous 10th c. Old Rus' pagan barrow. Prof. Samokvasov D.Ya. excavated the 10 m high mound in 1872-1873. The complex consisting of rich burial goods was first exhibited at the University of Warsaw where the archaeologist held office. This was the beginning of the collection's journey. In 1874 the finds were exhibited during the 3rd Russian Archaeological Congress in Kiev. The artifacts from the elite burial were then included in the Russian Empire's exposition during the World's Fair in Paris in 1878. Finally, in 1892 Samokvasov donated his collection to the Historical museum in Moscow. Thenceforth the burial goods from the mound "Chernaya Mogila" became the trademark of the museum's medieval collection and have never since left its permanent exposition.

Surprisingly enough the complex's uniqueness and fame led to it remaining virtually untouched by scholars. Over the years comprehensive studies regarded only certain artifacts, such as the silver-adorned rhytons, the idol (a figurine of Thor), the cross-inlaid spearhead, while the whole complex was thoroughly examined only twice: the first time by Samokvasov himself while a second scientific publication occurred in 1949. The latest research of the "Chernaya Mogila" collection using modern scientific methods began in 2017 with the support of the Russian Science Foundation (project 17-18-01399). X-ray tomography of the artifacts revealed that the barbaric restoration of the mid-20th c. tampered with the initial shape of the finds: fragments of different artifacts were assembled and pasted together thus fabricating altered imaginary objects. This paper aims to present the unexpected results of

the latest investigations on these artifacts, which put the history, structure, and dating of the “Chernaya Mogila” collection into a completely new perspective.

## **21 PHOTOGRAPHY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS: DOCUMENTING AND ARCHIVING TREASURES OF THE PAST**

**Author(s):** Cetin, Seyda (Koc University’s Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations)

**Presentation Format:** Oral

Photography is a key component of archaeological documentation since the formalization of the discipline in the mid nineteenth century. Carefully developed documentation of archaeological finds as well as photographic archives of excavations offer the opportunity to provide evidence returning an artefact, or a cultural object to its former life.

In recent years, a great number of investment has been made in digitizing photographic collections and excavation documents through initiatives based in museums, libraries and university archives. These digitizing projects brought about an unprecedented access to and interpretation of information. This paper will present case studies from photographic collections of international archaeological excavation projects in Turkey discussing the collection management from a public engagement perspective. What the excavation photographs tell us about the objects that are preserved in the museum collections? What is the story behind them when those significantly precious objects were first discovered in-situ? How these photographs were produced in the field? How they were catalogued and stored in the archives? How they were remediated in the gallery displays when showcased along with historic objects within permanent or temporary exhibitions in museums? What is the role of the photographic archives in cataloging, storing, preserving and displaying the collections? To investigate the listed questions above, this paper will address examples of photography collections of archaeological fieldwork. It will discuss the challenges and share experiences of the international excavation projects held in archaeological sites in Turkey and the relationships between archaeologists, museums, state agencies, archaeological research centers and heritage management organizations.

## **22 THE HARLYN BAY COLLECTION: REDISCOVERING CORNWALL’S LARGEST IRON AGE CEMETERY**

**Author(s):** Jordan, Alexis (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

**Presentation Format:** Oral

This case study explores the excavation, creation, dis/re-assembling, and significance of the Harlyn Bay collection, a British Iron Age cemetery (c. 1st century BCE-1st century CE) excavated between 1900-1906 in the southwestern peninsula of Cornwall. Discovery of the site piqued local interest and regional antiquarian societies and museums funded and staffed an excavation, provided public tours, and assisted the landowner in founding an onsite museum. The site’s slate-lined cist burials came to define the Iron Age South-Western Cist mortuary tradition and the excavation generated one of the largest and best-preserved collections of human remains from prehistoric Cornwall as well as one of the earliest photographic collections of archaeological excavations in the region. Harlyn Bay materials have featured in the permanent exhibitions of multiple southwestern museums over the course of the last century. Despite the site’s significance to Cornish archaeology and the early history of these institutions, no site report or inventory of the burials was ever produced and the collection’s subsequent history limited the research potential of this important assemblage. Repeated collections splitting, relocation, and rehousing resulted in the loss of the majority of excavation notes, the commingling of skeletal remains from multiple individuals, and the disassociation of the remains from specific records. Biogeochemical and commingled skeletal analyses of the human remains as well as a reexamination of newly discovered site documentation has now revealed a more diverse picture of the mortuary practices at the site than traditionally assumed. A reassessment of Harlyn Bay provides an opportunity to rethink Iron Age burial practices in southwestern Britain more generally.

## **23 THE GRAVITATE PLATFORM - A NEW WAY TO APPROACH AND STUDY DISPERSED COLLECTIONS OF CULTURAL OBJECTS**

**Author(s):** Polig, Martina (STARC) - Hermon, Sorin - Vassallo, Valentina - Sorrentino, Giusi (STARC, the Cyprus Institute) - Modafferi, Stefano (IT-Innovation)

**Presentation Format:** Oral

Large archaeological collections are often dispersed across several museums and institutions located in different countries. Moreover, objects belonging to such collections may be fragmented and different parts of the same object stored in various locations. Studying objects from such collections poses considerable challenges in terms of accessibility. GRAVITATE, an ongoing EU funded project, addresses these issues by creating a platform for the Re-unification, Re-association and Re-assembly of fragmented artefacts.

One of GRAVITATE’s case studies is the Salamis terracotta collection, an assemblage of over 200 fragments of votive statues from the 7th-6th century BC, unearthed in Cyprus more than a century ago and currently hosted in different museums and private collections across Europe. Since its physical re-unification is not considered, given the current state of heritage policies in Europe, we 3D digitized available fragments and stored the virtual collection in a single repository, following a metadata structure based on CIDOC-CRM. Consequently, a range of digital tools were developed to allow the scientific visualization and analysis of these 3D models in order to study style, production techniques and suggest restoration matchings. Such tools integrate semantic approach-