



Meeting of the International Advisory Board of the Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague held on 6 September 2023

Minutes

Present:

- Felipe Criado-Boado
- Wolfgang Haak (on-line)
- Cynthia Dunning
- Jerzy Piekalski
- Claus von Carnap-Bornheim
- Jan Mařík (Director; IAP)
- Petr Květina (Co-Director; IAP, on-line)
- Jaroslav Řídký (Co-Director and PR Manager; IAP)

1. Introductory word

Jan Mařík, Director of the Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague (hereafter IAP) has introduced program of the meeting.

2. Report on the IAP's structure and economic situation in 2023 (Jan Mařík)

Institute's structure did not change since the last meeting (departments), only the "Department of Medieval Archaeology" changed name to "Department of Historical Archaeology".

- Q: C. von Carnap-Bornheim is asking why we changed the name of the Department of Medieval Archaeology.
- Q: C. von Carnap-Bornheim, F. Criado-Boado and W. Haak about the functions of the IAP's „boards and councils“ and also about the interaction between the International Advisory Board and the inner organs of IAP.
- A: J. Mařík explains the role and function of the Council of IAP and Supervisory Board.

3. Long-term Research Concept of the IAP

Study the full breadth and complexity of the human past and its interactions with a wide range of cultural, biological, and environmental factors.

Project based research and applied research (rescue excavations within archaeological heritage management, the IAP's obligations under Act No. 20/1987 Coll., on State Heritage Care).



- Q: C. von Carnap-Bornheim: what is the relation between IAP and NPÚ (National Heritage Institute)?
- A: J. Mařík is explaining the system of licensed companies to conduct the excavations and how is it financed.
- Q: F. Criado-Boado is asking about the law 20/1987 which is extremely outdated.
- A: J. Mařík: We have done many attempts to change the law and fill the gap but overall the politicians do not take it as a priority. So that is why we have contracts and agreements with licensed companies that they will follow the rules and use for example the electronical system and give reports.

New objective of the IAP is transfer of knowledge to the public.

Formerly the IAP's activities were strictly limited to the geographical area of Europe. It has been changed 5 years ago and at present we have several activities in distant geographical areas (Sudan and Sahel in Africa, Turkey, Oman, India).

- Question about internationalization of the IAP. The Institute is shifting from the regional focus to the broader European context. We are focusing on cooperation with the institutes abroad.

Two major research journals are published by the IAP (Archeologické rozhledy - AR and Památky archeologické - PA) and both were recently categorized as impact journals (WoS). Especially "Archeologické rozhledy" are currently transformed into the standard international archaeological journal focused on the middle Europe.

- Discussion about how to internationalize PA and AR. AR has now articles about 50% CZ and other countries is another 50%. PA is bigger format and has articles based more on arch. material.

4. Research Departments of the IAP

The IAP conducts its activities within the framework of scientific departments consisting of individuals and teams assigned to specific projects.

TEAM 1 – Department of Prehistory

- Overview of major projects in 2023:
- The department does not focus in detail on the prehistoric period only: the Neolithic and later periods in Europe and beyond Europe we are going even deeper to the prehistory (Sudan, Turkey).
- Shaqadud Archaeological Project - Alternative forms of cultural adaptation to mid-Holocene desiccation of North Africa (Ladislav Varadzin, Lumina Quaeruntur project)
- Creators of Bronze Age (Michal Ernée, Praemium Academiae)



- Big stones in settlements: Social strategies and macrolithic artefacts during the Neolithic and the Chalcolithic in Anatolia (Jaroslav Řídký, Czech Science Foundation).

TEAM 2 – Department of Historical Archaeology

- Newly established in 2023 by the transformation of the Department of Medieval Archaeology.
- The department followed the chronological span of the Department of Prehistoric Archaeology and deals with the interval from late antiquity to modernity.

The strategy team 1: Study of historical settlements

The strategy team 2: Archaeology of modernity and contemporary Archaeology

TEAM 3 – Department of Natural Sciences and Archaeometry

- Geochemical and isotopic laboratory
- Material analysis and restoration laboratory
- Genetic laboratory
- Osteological and anthropological laboratory
- Archaeobotanical and environmental group
- International expeditions:

Praemium Academiae Award (Viktor Černý)

OP JAK program (<https://opjak.cz/en/>) – from 2024

TEAM 4 – Department of Information Sources and Landscape Archaeology

- Archive
- Geophysics
- Czech Radiocarbon Laboratory
- Archaeological Information System of Czech Republic

5. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair positions of the International Advisory Board (hereafter IAB)

- Due to absence of two IAB members in the last meeting, the voting was postponed to this meeting.
- The Chair of the IAB is C. von Carnap-Bornheim



- The Vice-Chair of the IAB is C. Dunning

6. Operational Program Johannes Amos Comenius (OP JAC) - Excellence in Research

<https://opjak.cz/en/>

Ready for the future: understanding long-term resilience of the human culture (RES – HUM) is aimed at: clarifying the basic principles of human society's resilience from a historical perspective, using long data series, and based on empirical data obtained by archaeological and palaeoecological research, and at transferring the knowledge gained into societal practice. This objective will be achieved by promoting excellent research and developing ongoing successful cooperation between humanities and natural sciences, such as archaeology, art history, anthropology, genetics, geology, climatology, botany, geophysics, and nuclear physics.

Expected commencement date: 1. 1. 2024

Expected completion date: 30. 6. 2028

Expected duration (in months): 54

IAP is engaged in Work Packages 3 and 4

WP 3 - CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC INNOVATION ON HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ADAPTABILITY IN THE LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE. IAP - Team 1 – Department of Natural Sciences and Archaeometry, leader – Mgr. Alžběta Frank Danielisová, Ph.D.

WP 4 - CENTRE FOR THE CHRONOLOGICAL RESEARCH OF CULTURAL, SOCIETAL AND NATURAL PROCESSES FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT, IAP - Team 2 – Department of Information Sources and Landscape Archaeology, leader - PhDr. Dagmar Dreslerová, Ph.D., DSc.

7. Oppidum Závist

Daniel Bursák has held online presentation about the past and present of the oppidum Závist research: **Crossing the Borders Between Heritage Management, Public and Archaeology**

8. Conclusions

- C. von Carnap-Bornheim is suggesting to write “IAB recommendation“ after every meeting and include it into the program and create section just for discussion of IAB members.
- The concept of internationalization should be clearer. What is the vision of the IAP in the future?
- Balance in financing: what is from the Czech Academy of Sciences support and what is from the projects.



- The most research activities are supported by major Czech grant agencies, e. g. Ministry of culture but also Czech Academy of Sciences.

9. Any Other Business

- Next meeting of the IAB will take place at the end of September or beginning of October 2024