

Notes of the EXARC meeting in Százhalombatta (H), October 14th, 2003

as remembered by Roeland Paardekooper.

See for the addresses of the EXARC members, the address list on the website

Present: Apala, Zigrida (Lv); Boer, Miriam de (NL); Holten, Lars (DK); Olthof, Dorothee (NL); Paardekooper, Roeland (NL); Pajusi, Arwo (S); Poroszlai, Ildikó (H); Schöbel, Gunter (D); Strassmeir, Andreas (D); Vicze, Magdolna (HU); Vilka, Anda (Lv); Wunderli, Marlise (CH)

12 people

Aspiring members: Cotoi, Ovidiu (RO); László, Attila (RO); Tencariu, Felix Adrian (RO).

3 people

Not Present (with notification): Andrian, Barrie (UK); Apals, Janis (Lv); Banghard, Karl (D); Bartoli, Angelo (It); Boonstra, Anneke (NL); Confalonieri, Joel (F); Dixon, Nicholas (UK); Ghirardi, Danilo (It); González Marcén, Paloma (ES); Hein, Wulf (D); Jakobsson, Björn (S); Kern, Anton (A); Peise, Fabian (D); Piotrowski, Wojciech (PL); Rasmussen, Marianne (DK); Reschreiter, Hans (A); Saint-Georges, Ingeborg (N); Schmidt, Martin (D); Thér, Richard (CZ); Tichy, Radomir (CZ); Tikovsky, Ondrej (CZ); Veltman, Jack (NL); Vemming, Peter (DK); Walter, Peter (D); Wellin, Lars (S); Zajackowski, Wieslaw (PL)

26 people

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1. Opening

After respectfully showing tribute to our late president Tomas Johansson by all present, *Roeland* opens the meeting. The 'reports by members' were given in the afternoon in Hotel Training, the rest of the meeting took place in the Matrica Museum in the evening.

Since last meeting we welcome two new members. Now, 23 organisations are represented with a total of 36 people. We have about 80 people on our mailing list.

2. Last Year in Europe: reports by members

Lejre: (Lars Holten) It is inspiring to be back among you. This informal exchange is good. We are all in the same kind of boat. This week is the last week of our season. July was a bad month with 15% minus in visitor numbers. But not for all: the Copenhagen Zoo had a great season.. Our centre is in the middle of the countryside. We have more schools visiting us than previous. We are working on a new €5,000,000 project and next year we will have our 40 Year's anniversary.

Archeon: (Miriam de Boer & Dorothee Olthof) We had the same problems as all others last summer. We had some events in which we invested a lot, but for which we had hardly any visitors. But now the season is almost over, things are getting more stable: we have moor school children. All theme parks together in the Netherlands had a minus last summer of 10% in visitor numbers. We have experimented with technical theme weekends, like on textiles or coming weekend on metals. These are no living history events as most of ours are, but we invite specialists. The results are good.

Zug / AEAS: (Marlise Wunderli) We had an exhibition in Zug from Leipzig "the religion of the Celts" which was very successful. Our normal exhibition is now 6 years old. 50% of all visitors are through schools.

The AEAS is burning a low fire. It has 80 members, a magazine and yearly one meeting. There will be some changes in the board in the near future.

Düppe! (Andreas Strassmeir) There is a slight decline in visitors.

Good news was our first time ever participation in the city wide organised "long night of the museums". During the Pentecost weekend, we normally have "the return of the crusaders", but this year they showed too little effect.

Bad news is that the museum is leaning for 95% on volunteer work. The animal keeper (paid) and the maintenance man leave and more money is needed.

Kalmar: (Arwo Pajusi) We have a show case museum but have Eketorp as well. Beginning of July we had problems with too much rain. Eketorp had 70.000 visitors in 2002, this year it will be 60.000.

"Under" Kalmar, resorts as well a small "medieval" town, 'Salve'. It had 35.000 visitors this year. Hopefully one will soon build up to 25 "houses".

On another site in the county, there is a "Mesolithic" house where this season 15 school classes were counted. The last site, Västaby (Neolithic) was visited by 2.000 people.

Lars Wellin from Skäftekärr is not present, but Arwo knows they had a loss of 15% of visitors.

Unteruhldingen: (Gunter Schöbel) The EU-project 'Archeolive' (with the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna and the Museo Civico Archeologico Etnologico in Modena, It.) is working out well. In Unteruhldingen, the work in the 5 new houses is progressing.

Over last summer, there was a decrease noted of 15.000. However, school group visits and incentives are gaining popularity. Unteruhldingen is well covered in TV: re enacting, because of the setting as scenery as well as being scanned for back grounds in Hollywood movies.

A new project is set up because of the 150 years' anniversary of lake dwelling research. There are three main partners in different countries with own specialities. Next summer, a travelling exhibition will pass by.

Araisi: (Zigrida Apala – member of the board, Anda Vilka – executive director) For some years, Araisi has a steady amount of 30.000 visitors per year. It was not different in 2003. However, after ten years, some reconstructions need to be repaired, like the wooden platform itself. The 10th anniversary was celebrated with "the Day of the Balts" but it rained that day. As an example of the great PR: the newspaper reported: "heavy rain cannot stop the course of history".

There are 16 houses built up to this moment. The newest phase is to work on the interior design. The problem is the right (modern) lighting.

Araisi takes part in 'Destination Viking' where many open air centres are member.

There are developments concerning EU and national funding for a multi culturally project.

Szászablombatta: (Ildikó Poroszlai, Magdolna Vicze) A large event last season was a Fashion Historical Day, including textile experiments. Continuous work results in projects like the first CD-rom of a series on ancient techniques. It costs HUF 4.500.

The number of visitors has not changed over the past three years: 20.000 per year, of which 80% school groups.

There are as well three day courses for teaching history students.

HOME: (Roeland Paardekooper)

Last summer, two houses burnt down and we had a new (interim) director. We clearly realised how precarious the situation is in Eindhoven. Many things are changing and the group should become more professional. Roeland is working to re-establish contacts with professionals (a.o. archaeologists) but all people together are responsible for keeping the museum up and running. If they manage, the museum will be in a much better shape in one year from now, or it will have gone down. The latter is improbable; the first is an objective which needs a large effort.

To be continued...

3. The EU plans of EXARC

After last meeting, *Tomas*, *Gunter* and *Roeland* each were looking for information and advice on EU funding for EXARC. The most useful advice was not to start a more year project with as many EXARC partners as possible, but to start a one year Culture 2000 project with a selection of members. INTERREG is more complicated than Culture 2000 and a one year project would be good to gain experience. This does not exclude anybody: the three chosen partners will have to exchange their experience and EXARC members are invited to take part in the activities, for example as external

advisors. At the beginning, 4 partners were chosen. For different reasons these were: Arais, Archeon, Barcelona and Unteruhldingen. Because of the complicated process, Barcelona unfortunately could not be included at the end.

Anda (Arais), *Gunter* (Unteruhldingen) and *Miriam* (Archeon) report. The 1-year project goes by the name "Delphi" and will run from May 1st 2004, provided that the EU accepts it.

Three pilots have been developed

1) House of Questions

This is related to Internet. The point is to collect and answer the most frequently asked questions which can be answered by archaeology;

2) Info points

Within the landscape, outside the museums, info points will be set up by which the environment is involved in archaeology;

3) Time islands

Within the museums, new 'time islands' will be constructed. In Archeon, this is for example an early medieval (re)construction.

If we succeed in getting this 1 year project running, we should try to give it a follow up with more EXARC members.

4. Report of the board meeting

The board had a meeting on October 13th, when *Arwo* replaced *Lars Wellin*. The board proposes to keep the contribution fee unchanged, being € 50 for Western European members and a minimum of € 15 for Eastern European members. The members present agree.

Marlise asks if private people can be member of EXARC or not. Founding members can remain member, even if they are no longer connected to their original institute. In all other cases, the membership relates to the institute or organisation where EXARC has one or more contact persons. If the persons move on to another job, the organisation will point another contact person.

Gunter, our treasurer, mentions that the costs for EXARC this year were about €75. On the account in Unteruhldingen, of which numbers will be added to the website when possible, there is about € 125. *Roeland* still has one or two bills as well as money from people who paid cash to him. *Roeland* promises to help *Gunter* out with an overview who paid for 2003 and who is still in debt.

Andreas asks if EXARC can remain operational. The answer is yes.

5. Next EXARC meeting

The participants agree on having our next meeting as the board suggested in the second half of March. Possible locations are Barcelona or Biskupin. Important is to keep the costs of the conferences low.

Roeland mentions that the next meeting is technically our year meeting. Therefore, he suggests that the board makes a year report, both in figures and words. Members will be asked to contribute with data on the year 2003, information which will be made public.

6. Brochure

Of the original 1.000 copies, *Gunter* has about 460 left. 180 were sold in Unteruhldingen itself. The costs per brochure are € 2,50. On the condition not to sell them for more than that (no profit) *Gunter* suggests members to order the brochure at his place (please check the website for detailed information).

When the stock will be depleted, a new version might be made. Much changed!

7. New President

It has been only a few months since we lost *Tomas*. The board is in discussion with candidates and asks if we can wait with electing a new president until the meeting in March. The members present agree.

8. EXAR – EXARC – AIN

Marlise mentions the assembly of EXAR last weekend in Vienna. EXAR is planning on developing a travelling exhibition on wood-culture. This might be an interesting item for different EXARC members.

Roeland suggests EXARC members to join the Fansa club in order to remain informed and to get the yearbook. *Martin Schmidt* stepped back as treasurer in EXAR.

We, EXARC profile ourselves better and we should not care too much. Are there indeed "swimming two sharks in the same aquarium"? We must do our own thing and develop. If anybody is wondering about the difference, please refer to the different internet sites.

The AIN has through *Ralf Baumeister* good contacts with among others Százhalombatta. In November, the AIN will convene in Zug, Switzerland. In autumn 2004, different public conferences will be organised. Some members of EXARC are member of AIN.

The idea of a session on experimental archaeology by EXARC at the EAA conference in 2006 in Kraków remains in the hands of *Marianne* and *Roeland*.

9. PR of EXARC

An old idea is to have each EXARC member having a shield with 'Member of EXARC' on it near their gates. The board will undertake action.

The idea of an own leaflet or brochure is mentioned, but a decision was taken, to propagate EXARC members to take the symbol of the association on their own brochure with a text in the own language "member of EXARC, the European association of ..." and the website. This material can be produced (jpg, psd or whatsoever) by the secretary in cooperation with the individual members. We should use the channels and materials we already have.

A discussion was raised on an idea of *Miriam*: teacher's cards with which they get discount when visiting another EXARC project. The idea is not accepted, but *Miriam* is asked to write down how Archeon approaches the educational market and what EXARC members could take over from that.

Please put EXARC on your website under "links".

10. The EXARC Award

Lars Holten explains the idea as formulated and discussed by the board. We need as EXARC new products, new methods for presenting archaeology. An example of a case study of Scandinavian reconstructions and their use (*Föreställningar om det Förflutna*, B. Petersson 2003) will be described soon at the website (*Roeland*).

Another example is the proposed work of a Hamburg student on quality management and classification in archaeological open air centres (*Martin*).

A third example is the question: "what role do our centres play in society".

We suggest installing an Award for promising talent. They need to do work which is relevant to all EXARC members. They can get financial support of, say € 2.000 and can do internal research at different EXARC centres. In return, the laureate will get his or her research published and can join and present at an EXARC meeting. The research or project cannot be focussed on one single EXARC member, but should involve more.

If possible, we would like to have an EXARC AWARD in memory of *Tomas Johansson*. The different ins and outs have to be discussed with Tomas' relatives and our Swedish colleagues.

At the start, the board of EXARC will be the judge. We should start it off in January.

PR is very important, not just through the normal EXARC channels (internet, e-mail) but we will as well mobilise our members to have it published in their respective national archaeological magazines.

A first draft will be set up by *Lars Holten*, sent to members for approval.

We will clearly need the help of all members to make this a success.

11. Last round of remarks

Gunter: we have projects (EU, for example), products and have had a good conference. EXARC and all of us are moving forward to profile us. Each of us should engage the important professors on the national level. They and we need good news.

Andreas: it was nice to see all of you again.

Atilla, Felix & Ovidiu: Thank you for your invitation to this meeting and for showing interest in the developments in Rumania. We would like to become member.

Lars Holten: The meeting was inspiring and a lot of things have happened. We have some goals now! Thank you for the conference.

Arwo: It was nice to meet all of you again and many thanks.

Ildikó: it was a great pleasure to invite you here, thank you all for coming.

Zigrida: sorry for my lack of communication, but I am really glad to meet you all again after such a long time. I am as well glad to have seen *Ildikó's* park, a nice experience.

General: thanks to *Roeland* for his secretarial work.

Closed at 19:30h