CIfA Annual Conference Leicester 2016

Thursday 21 April, 15.00-15.20
Room 528, Ken Edwards, University of Leicester

International Practice Group
AGM

#CifaInternationalHeritage
AGM Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 2015 AGM & matters arising
3. Chair’s welcome and opening remarks
4. Hon Secretary’s Report
5. Hon Treasurer’s Report
6. Business plan 2014-17
7. Elections to committee
8. AOB
2. Minutes of 2015 AGM
3. Chair’s welcome and opening remarks

- Formed in 2013 – has grown to 474 members
- Providing a forum for discussion
  - Conference sessions at IfA Conference
    Glasgow (2014) & European Association of
    Archaeologists Annual Conference (2015)
- Providing advice to CIfA Executive & Policy Advisers –
  - Advocacy work with DfID
  - World Bank draft Environmental and Social Framework
  - DCMS Cultural Protection Fund
- Articles in CIfA Archaeologist Magazine, Yearbook & e-Bulletins
- Development of Competence Matrix
Consultation response: World Bank Draft Environmental and Social Framework:

In November 2014, the IFA’s Senior Policy Adviser Tim Howard, together with Gerry Walt and Leonora O’Brien of the IFA International Practice Group committee, prepared a response to the World Bank Draft Environmental and Social Framework. The submission welcomed the World Bank’s revision of its current set of safeguard policies and its development of an Environmental and Social Framework. The IFA particularly welcomed the broad objectives of the World Bank in formulating proposed Environmental and Social Standard 8 (Cultural Heritage) to protect cultural heritage from the adverse impacts of project activities and support its preservation, to address cultural heritage as an integral aspect of sustainable development; to promote the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of cultural heritage”. Detailed comments were provided on aspects including linkages to other related World Bank standards, approaches to unsustainable projects, definitions of ‘expertise’ and ‘competence’, definitions of cultural heritage including intangible heritage, definitions of ‘internationally recognized practices’, issues around politicisation, and assessing significance in the context of disputed heritages. A copy of the consultation letter can be viewed at https://consultations.worldbank.org/DataHub/file/IFA_response_to_consultation_on_world_bank_environmental_and_social_framework_final.pdf.

In addition, CIFA IPSIG committee member Dr Gerry Walt and CIFA Chief Executive Peter Hinton met with Dr David Harrison of the International Development Committee (IDC, House of Commons) and discussed various means of cementing the role of heritage in international developments supported by the Department for International Development (DFID).

Cultural Heritage as a Weapon of War: The Destruction of Cultural Property in The Middle East

The recent and persistent destruction of ancient cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria has shocked us all. The attacks are the just the latest in a historic catalogue of systematic crimes committed under the sinister guises of cultural cleansing and war-time propaganda. Furthermore, the illicit trade of pillaged artefacts...
International Cultural Heritage Practice group: a new Special Interest Group

Leahora O’Brien, Chair

The newly formed International Practice Group provides a forum for archaeologists, historic environment and cultural heritage professionals working on international projects and initiatives (or based outside the UK and the Republic of Ireland), and advises IFA Council on issues relevant to the International practice of archaeological and cultural heritage management. The group brings together international commercial, academic and public sector practice on fieldwork and surveys, research, heritage management and policy.

The inspiration for the group came from the Archaeology and Economic Development conference at UCL in September 2012. We explored the ethics and practicalities of working in countries other than our own, and discussed ethical approaches, professional best practice, ways to build local heritage capacity and effective methods of engaging local communities, identifying an opportunity to create a forum and support network within the IA.

The International Practice SIG was formally established at the Annual Conference in Birmingham in April 2013. The committee elected at the AGM are: Leahora O’Brien (Chair, NIA 7437), Gerry Waite (Treasurer, NIA 7437), Alice Hodson (Secretary, AFA 6741) and ordinary members: Emer Aldridge (NIA 178), Paul Ball (NIA 5369), David Finney (NIA 1092), Ian Chilvers (NIA 440) and Annette Razo (NIA 174). The group currently has 39 members from the UK and Ireland, Spain, Italy, Norway, Sweden and Australia, working on cultural heritage projects across the world.

Despite extensive soft law, voluntary codes and best practice documents, practical guidance on international heritage work is relatively recent. These are

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A call for the mobilisation of CIfA talents and capabilities to participate in the protection of World Heritage Sites and resources under threat

Frank Meldens and Gerry Waite

In recent decades there has been a steady onslaught of destruction of archaeological sites and cultural heritage assets around the world resulting from wars and targeted intervention by militant groups, the antiquities trade, ignorance, greed and natural disasters. Examples of such events include the looting of the site of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001, where the sculptures of Buddha were destroyed.

The destruction of the giant Buddhas of Bamiyan, and the sites of Bamiyan and other UNESCO World Heritage sites in Afghanistan in March 2001, received wide international press coverage. These sites were

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SITES IN YERNA AND THE CIVILIZATION OF AFGHANISTAN PRIOR TO THEIR RECENT DESTRUCTION. CREDIT: WALTER HUGHES
3. Activities 2015-2016

**May 2015** – **Summer social**: visit to Indigenous Australia exhibition at the British Museum

**Sep 2015** – ran session at **European Archaeological Association** conference, Glasgow: Intangible Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Studies of Social Identity. Papers on sites or practices in Mongolia, Scotland, Mauritania, Netherlands, Switzerland

**March 2015-Jan 2016** – Issued SIG **Competency Matrix**

**Jan 2016** – Frank Meddens & Gerry Wait ‘**Call to Action**’ article on disasters, climate change and conflict issues in The Archaeologist magazine

**Jan 2016** – Committee meeting. Refreshed **committee** with a number of co-options to ordinary members following call for help to membership.
* Retiring: Kenneth Aitchison, David Jennings, Ian Oxley, Annette Roe
* Joining: Rob Early, Richard Lee, Frank Meddens, Heather Tanner, John Sode Woodhead
* ‘Special Correspondents’: Evelyne Godfrey (ICOM), Zsolt Magyar (Central & Eastern Europe), Kevin Wooldridge (Scandinavia); experience offered by John Sode Woodhead (Israel/ Middle East), Sam Dix (Australia), Stephen Isaac (W Africa)

**Feb-March 2016** – **Survey** of International SIG membership

**March 2016** – **Consultation** response on government commitment of £30 million towards a new **Cultural Protection Fund**

**Challenges**
- Preservation in conflict areas
- Rapid infrastructure development
- Inadequate recording and protection
- Heterogenous national and cultural interpretations of international policy documents. Lack of global conservation frameworks.
- Complex compensation procedures for local communities and their living cultural heritage
- Politicisation of cultural heritage
- Fragmented sector approaches & government policies
- Funding challenges
- Brexit ‘would be very detrimental to international cooperation in Europe’

**Opportunities**
- Methodological and ethical standards and guidance
- Application of innovative survey and conservation, GIS, recording standards
- Working together with common aims
- Opportunities to create and maintain international collaborations between specialists/countries
- Post-conflict and post-natural disaster heritage management
- Recognition of heritage and its importance and value to communities
3. Activities 2016+

Upcoming events/actions
• Form committee for next three years
• Consider priorities

• Support to existing networks, funneling CIfA member skills/concerns in their direction
• Training workshop – Introduction to community consultation and participation in international cultural heritage
• ICA March 2017 – Paris (CFP 29-09-16)
• CIfA Conference, Newcastle, April 2017 – ‘Archaeology: a global profession’
• IAIA Montréal, April 2017
• EAA Conference Sep 2017 – Maastricht
4. Hon Secretary’s Report
Apologies for absence

5. Hon Treasurer’s Report
Solvent.
Annual budget: £800
Spent: £590.49

- Committee meetings 3 x year, Spring, Summer, Winter
- Prepare membership competency matrix
- Events – annual CIIfA or EAA conference session
- CPD workshop(s) – jointly with Committee on Professional Associations in Archaeology @ EAA conference annually
- Group member survey
- E-Bulletin/newsletter 1 or 2 times a year
- Maintain and update publicity materials
- Linkage to other organisations – as and when opportunities arise, forge and develop links with other groups
7. Elections to committee

Stepping down
- Chair – Leonora O’Brien
- Secretary – Alice Hobson
- Treasurer – Gerry Wait
- OCM John Sode-Woodhead
- OCM Paul Belford
- OCM Rob Early
- OCM Heather Tanner

Nominations for OCM received:
- Peter Clark
- Mark Dunkley
- Richard Lee
- Leonora O’Brien
- Jamie Quartermaine
- (+ Rob Early – co-option)

Nominations for Treasurer received:
- Frank Meddens

? Secretary
? Chair
About the International Practice Group

The group was formed in 2013 with to provide a forum for archaeologists, historic environment and cultural heritage professionals working outside their country of origin, and to advise CIfA Executive and Policy Advisers on issues relevant to international practice of archaeological and cultural heritage management.

The group focuses on:

• Promoting the advancement of archaeological and cultural heritage practice and initiatives on professional practice outside the UK and Ireland
• Exploring issues related to professional standards, methodology, ethics, training and capacity building in countries and cultures with diverse social, cultural and legal systems
• Working towards the preparation of an international code of conduct/best practice guide
• Exchanging and developing knowledge, ideas and practical experiences, to develop best practice
• Organising seminars and workshops to act as a forum for developing and maintaining best practice in matters relating to international cultural heritage
• Establishing relationships and strengthening CIfA links with other international associations and organisations involved in international cultural heritage (e.g. EAA, ICOMOS, ICAHM, IAIA)
• Advising Council on actions it might take in an advocacy role to effect advances in archaeological and heritage practice and management (e.g. European Union, Council of Europe, UNESCO)
• Bringing together international commercial and academic practice on survey, research, heritage management and policy
• Increasing understanding of the role of archaeologists in society and improving our status