

ICAZ IC meeting 2010 – Minutes

Paris, Grand Amphi d'Entomologie, Thursday 26th August 17.30-19.30

Participants:

Umberto Albarella (UA) (Secretary), Joaquin Arroyo Cabrales (JAC) (vice-president), László Bartosiewicz (LBa) (president), Zbigniew Bochenski (ZB) (working groups liaison officer), Luis Borrero (LBo) (current conference organiser), Ariane Burke (AB), Canan Çakırlar (CC), Pam Crabtree (PC) (Treasurer), Simon Davis (SD), Hitomi Hongo (HH), Sarah Kansa (SK) (Web Page Master), Hans Christian Küchelmann (HCK), Heather Lapham (HL) (Newsletter Editor), Christine Lefèvre (CL) (past conference organizer), Xiaolin Ma (XM), Richard Meadow (RM), Mariana Mondini (MM), Greg Monks (GM), Marta Moreno García (MMG), Sebastián Muñoz (SM), Terry O'Connor (TOC), Sebastian Payne (SP), Ina Plug (IP), Elizabeth Reitz (ER), Jörg Schibler (JS), Jean-Denis Vigne (JDV) (past conference organizer), Melinda Zeder (MZ).

Apologies from:

Guy Bar-Oz, Donald Grayson.

LB introduces the meeting with special thanks to the conference organizers for what is already shaping up as a highly successful meeting.

UM reiterates the current compositions of the IC as a result of recent elections, as well as the current composition of the EC and the need of the current meeting to elect additional members of the EC.

UA reports for the task force on changes to the statutes that, as an outcome of the meeting just held by the task force, the proposed procedures for changes to the statutes approved by the EC before the conference have been revised. Basically the vote for changes to the article of the constitution that regulates its changes will not be held at the General Meeting (GM), but modifications of this article will rather be presented to the membership, together with other statutes' changes, via a virtual GM occurring by email. LBa, SP and RM all contribute with further details, while MZ explains the more general implications of changes to the statutes. The IC approves this course of action.

PC reports about the financial situation of ICAZ (full report elsewhere), which she regards to be healthy (ICAZ currently owns c.39000 in USD). Renewals at the conference have boosted membership and contact with members is facilitated by the fact that batch e-mails to the whole membership are now possible. There are currently 588 members representing 57 countries, but this number will grow as a consequence of the ICAZ 2010 meeting. Banking issues that existed in the past with USD accounts have now been solved, but there are still some problems with the NatWest in England. PC's suggestion to pay a lawyer up to a maximum of 1,000 USD to review the 501 c 3 (i.e. non-profit in US law) status form is approved. She has already sorted out some of the paper work needed for ICAZ to obtain such status. RM makes the point that the citizenship and tax status of the treasurer may become an issue if this form is filled out and we become not-for-profit. UA raises the point that participation to EC and IC meeting is becoming increasingly onerous and that ICAZ may have to consider the possibility to provide some financial support for travel expenses. LB emphasises that this should be a last resort and the possibility that meetings may be occurring via Skype is also discussed.

ZB reports on the activities of the Working Groups (WGs). All groups (11) are active and all of them have provided a short report of their activities to the IC. Some WGs have web pages, others do not, but in most cases the web pages need updating. The desirability for all groups to emphasise their ICAZ

affiliation is mentioned and discussed. The requirements for WGs as specified in the ICAZ web page may need some revision. For instance no recommendation for a minimum number of ICAZ members should be provided but the point that the WG liaison officer should be an ICAZ member should be preserved. ZB will take action about organizing a rewording of the recommendations for the WGs and will also encourage the WGs to update their web pages. A discussion about the desirability of WGs to have sessions at ICAZ conferences is discussed: LB, JDV and MZ all contribute.

HL reports on the newsletter. She is going to step down as editor following the fall (autumn) issue. Until now the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale has covered postage costs, which raises the issue of what would happen when the newsletter editorship is moved. However, also as a consequence of the increased cost of printing, supplies and mailings, the possibility of moving to digital production and distribution is discussed. The IC unanimously votes for this switch to an e- newsletter, but by leaving the option open for members who specifically request it to be sent a hard copy (there will be a call in the next newsletter). HCK emphasises the point that members who do not have easy access to internet should not be left out. Concerning the appointment of a new editor a volunteer has already come forward, but it is felt by the IC that another call is needed. This further call will be announced at the GM and an email will be sent to the whole membership with the aim of reaching a decision by the end of September.

LBo presents his bid to organize the next ICAZ conference (2014) in San Rafael, Argentina. The conference will be hosted by the local museum and will have governmental support. San Rafael has a conference centre that can host up to 1,000 delegates divided into a maximum of seven parallel sessions. LBa explains the process that led to the presentation of this bid. Two bids were sought (the other being in New Zealand) but eventually only one materialized. TOC asks if any visa problems are envisaged, but LBo and MM do not think that this should be a problem. The IC approves unanimously the San Rafael bid. LBo will act as current conference organizer on the EC but he will work closely with his colleagues physically based in San Rafael. Possible dates for the conference are discussed and a decision is taken that these will be sorted out at a later stage.

SK reports on the webpage. She thanks HL for facilitating the handover of the website. There is a plan to set up a regular update of the website, which will continue to be hosted by the Alexandria Archive Institute. There is a new section for members – it took a long time to sort out the ‘people search’ facilities, but this is now working. Bone Commons was overhauled in the last year to make it less susceptible to spam and hacking. This was funded through an external grant so there was no cost for ICAZ. The abstract from the Mexico ICAZ 2006 conference will still be kept on the site, with the approval of JAC. UA wonders whether the website management should not need regular – rather than ad hoc – financial support from ICAZ. SK believes that such support could help in paying regularly a helper, who is currently already working with her and PC. It is suggested by SP and PC that up to a max of 2000 USD are made available for the management of the website. This is unanimously approved by the IC.

JDV and CL circulate a document summing up the main details of the conference. Congratulations and gratitude are expressed by the whole IC to the organizers for their stellar work.

GM suggests the creation of a WG or Task Force on zooarchaeological digital resources. RM suggests that SK could liaise such initiative. CL also comments on the danger of the overuse of digital collections for identification purposes.

RM nominates HL and UA nominates SP and Louise van Wijngaarden-Bakker for the ICAZ Committee of Honour. All nominations approved by the IC through a secret ballot (i.e. a majority of participants vote in favour).

Four additional members to the EC are required and need to be elected. Of the previous four additional members only RM is again a candidate. ER and SP will step down and Arturo Morales is not eligible as he is no longer an IC member (a requirement to be on the EC according to the ICAZ statutes). Further nominations include: AB, SK, JS, HH, TOC, CL and HCK. SK, CL, RM and HCK are eventually elected through a secret ballot. There is tie for 4th place between TOC and HCK that is resolved by TOC voluntarily stepping down in favour of HCK.

Various possible venues are suggested for the next meeting of the IC to be held in 2012. Istanbul (Turkey) is suggested by CK, but she will need to confirm in November. XM also suggests Zhengzhou (China) as a further possibility. Back up options include York, England (TOC) and Edinburgh, Scotland (LBa). After the meeting UA is approached by Isabel Cartajena, who suggests that Santiago (Chile) may also be prepared to host the meeting.

As the final item of the meeting, Jim Morris is invited to present his proposal of setting up a survey to profile the 'global zooarchaeologist'. He is seeking ICAZ sponsorship of the project and a modest funding of 58USD that will be used to keep a 'Survey Monkey' questionnaire live for three months. LBa proposes to support this proposal with the proviso that Jim will keep author's rights but ICAZ will be handed over a copy of the eventual database.

Umberto Albarella 14.10.10