



EAA 2023

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WEAVING NARRATIVES



ABSTRACT BOOK

29TH EAA ANNUAL MEETING

30TH AUGUST - 2ND SEPTEMBER 2023



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29th EAA Annual Meeting (Belfast, Northern Ireland 2023) - Abstract Book

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ABSTRACT BOOK

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and are thus particularly impacted by the heavy urbanisation of the region. The diachronic survey of the area around Amarynthos launched in 2021 has revealed a number of medieval sites which need to be protected. Especially when religious and socio-political interests are at odds with archaeological concerns, it is essential to share the importance of the Byzantine remains with the local population and visitors alike in order to gain a wider appreciation of the Byzantine heritage and the necessary support for its protection.

8 UNCONQUERED AND WELL-FORTIFIED? NOT ANYMORE: THE PELOPONNESIAN FORTIFIED SETTLEMENT OF GARDIKI IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC CRISIS

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Abstract format: Oral

Located atop a precipitous rocky outcrop of the Arcadian Mt. Hellenitsa, the fortified settlement of Gardiki boasts a dominating position over the uplands of the Southwestern Peloponnese. In the past, its critical location provided the Byzantine Despotate of Morea with an excellent offensive base against the nearby Crusader lands in Messenia for almost two centuries (13th-15th c.). A typical example of a late medieval Byzantine *kastropoliteia* (i.e. fortified town), the site and most of its structures developed over an inhospitable, steep uphill terrain, carefully chosen for its exceptional defensible capabilities. However, after the settlement's destruction by the Ottomans in 1460, Gardiki was left completely abandoned and essentially in limbo until its re-discovery in 1840/41 by J. A. C. Buchon. Ever since the site would only occasionally appear as short notice in various publications of scholars recording the diachronic cultural heritage of the Peloponnese. To this day, Gardiki remains a mostly neglected medieval site left to ruin atop its isolated ridge. The dangers against its remaining standing structures are always-present since its abandonment in the 15th c. A.D.: anthropogenic activities like systematic looting and goat-grazing wreaked havoc on Gardiki's remains for centuries, along with the naturally occurring process of erosion. Accompanied by the newly-arisen byproducts of climate change, such as summer wildfires and severe winter storms, these phenomena threaten not only Gardiki itself, but many similar fortified settlements located in the Peloponnese and beyond. All these challenges call for the urgent introduction of countermeasures by the local communities, authorities, and foremost, by the long-absent academia.

9 THE UNDERGROUND AS PLACE OF WORSHIP. BYZANTINE HERMIT CAVES AND UNDERGROUND CHURCHES IN CALABRIA THROUGH DIGITAL SURVEY

Abstract author(s): Stilo, Francesco (Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria)

Abstract format: Oral

The research deals with issues related to the theme of the underground as a place of worship, in a dialogue between architecture and archaeology. The use of the underground in Christianity refers both to the cultic purpose (hermit caves, rock churches, crypts) and to the sepulchral purpose. The rock phenomenon is widespread in the Mediterranean area, and in particular expresses, in southern Italy, the moment of maximum propagation between the tenth and eleventh centuries, in close relationship with the Italian-Greek monastic nuclei. For Calabria, rupestrian testimonies consist largely of natural caves and caverns adapted to the purpose or of excavations that are difficult to trace back to sub-*divo* architectural experiences or to well-defined architectural models.

Through the investigation it was possible to ascertain that to date, for Calabria, the phenomenon is still very obscure, both due to the general absence of dating elements, and due to the chronic lack of written sources (except for hagiographic sources), and, lastly, due to the almost total absence (with rare and commendable exceptions) of archaeological investigations. Among the elements that put the investigated archaeological sites at risk, in addition to those that typically threaten rocky contexts (mainly soil erosion and landslides), there are human factors generated by public inattention to the value of such sites.

The synthesis of a campaign of digital photogrammetric surveys is presented, aimed at documenting the selected case studies, and at the production of itineraries for the knowledge of the Byzantine hermit caves and the underground as a place of worship in Calabria. From this point of view, the production of digital surveys has allowed the creation of a database consisting not only of photographs and graphics but also of three-dimensional point clouds, meshes and textured elements (digital replicas of cavities and details) useful for preserving this Cultural Heritage.

10 CARIČIN GRAD (JUSTINIANA PRIMA): RESEARCH, RESTORATION AND PRESENTATION

Abstract author(s): Ivanisevic, Vujadin (Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade) - Đukanović, Dubravka (Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia) - Bugarski, Ivan (Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade)

Abstract format: Oral

Caričin Grad is one of the best preserved early Byzantine cities, revealing several fortification lines around the urban core, suburbs, workshop areas, a water supply system which included the aqueduct and dam, and a fairly untouched landscape. This all makes the site unique and gives its researchers the opportunity to study the issues of its establishment,

short life and monuments in a most comprehensive way. Its remains provide a possibility for truthful presentation of this unique heritage.

The long-lasting excavations, ongoing from 1912, were performed primarily within the city limits. Owing to the use of modern technologies - geoelectrical and geomagnetic surveys are being carried out since 1980, GPR surveys since 2015, and LiDAR scanning since 2011 - the outer defences were documented, as well as numerous buildings, which has had a huge impact on our understanding of the city's size and its urban planning. This knowledge has been deepened by traditional field surveys, which all led to the obtaining of accurate ground plans of the forts in the vicinity and the reconstruction of the 21km-long aqueduct route.

This broad approach also dictated a significant enlargement of the protected area of Caričin Grad as an immovable cultural property, from some 0.9 km² to 10 km², now encircling the entire aqueduct line, while the area of the site is already included into the Nature Park Radan, which is crucial for the preservation of landscape and biological diversity.

Moreover, a special investment programme has been launched by the Government of the Republic of Serbia, aiming at preservation and presentation of Caričin Grad, the cultural-historical centre of southern Serbia. Restoration should not be overwhelming and go beyond the reliable presentation of architectural remains. The study of the site's monuments, especially its numerous churches, has already been facilitated with the creation of detailed 3D models.

11 PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE BYZANTINE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY OF UKRAINE

Abstract author(s): Skulbodenko, Artem (Treasury of the National Museum of History of Ukraine)

Abstract format: Oral

Since the first archaeological activities in the 19th century, many pieces of byzantine culture had been found throughout Ukraine. Ukrainian Pontic steppes, the Crimean Peninsula and territories related to them saw a huge population migration of different ethnic groups throughout the 4th – 8th centuries. They actively relied on trade and diplomatic relations with Byzantine Empire. Moreover, Kyivan Rus' was the main cultural and trade ally of the Byzantine Empire in Eastern Europe in the 10th – 12th centuries.

The rise of the interest in history among Ukrainian intellectuals of 19th – early 20th century provoked the creation of massive private collections. The Bohdan and Varvara Khanenko Collection of Western and Eastern art was the biggest of them all. After the passing of the owners, it contributed greatly to newly created Ukrainian museums in Kyiv. Artifacts of Byzantine provenance were among the most precious of the collection's pieces.

Since 2014, when the Russian-Ukrainian war began with the occupation of the Crimean Peninsula, many Ukrainian museums were damaged or robbed. Ukrainian historians and archaeologists had been rethinking the context of Ukrainian archaeological and museum heritage. Safety and preservation became as important as implementing new approaches for scientific research and popularizing Ukrainian history and museum culture.

This paper explores the roots, history of accumulation, current state, and future challenges of the Byzantine collection of The National Museum of History of Ukraine. In the wake of the Russian aggression, its entire existence needs to be revised with a comprehensive approach.

116 WEAVING NEW CULTURAL NARRATIVES: INNOVATIVE CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT FOR POST-PANDEMIC SOCIETIES

Session theme: 3. Heritage Narratives and Representations

Session organisers: Chroni, Athina (Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs; National Technical University of Athens) - Hamari, Pirjo (Finnish Heritage Agency) - Nilhamn, Bonnie (University of Helsinki, Doctoral Programme in Geosciences; "Nilhamn" - Dutch Museum and Cultural Heritage consult company)

Session format: Regular session

The COVID-19 pandemic functioned as a catalyst in helping cultural heritage (CH) management professionals to adopt and experiment with new management and engagement models, for which there is a growing need. On one hand, safeguarding cultural heritage, increasingly under threat due to anthropogenic activity and physical disasters, with climate change emerging as a key component, calls for an urgent global rethinking of the ways we manage our heritage assets. On the other hand, the sudden loss of contact and engagement possibilities with physical audiences and the public forced on a sudden reorientation in the ways these contacts could be maintained in meaningful ways.

The "new normal", as shaped out during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighted new technologies and new ways of engagement as the way forward: new or improved ways of providing on-line access to shared CH assets, working together with communities in valorising CH, innovative methodologies of CH management, hybrid procedures for social involvement, and new models of scientific collaboration. That this is the way, is supported by several CH management charters and conventions, which have advocated for expanded public participation and open data/