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VII. Forthcoming conferences

Two conferences on the history of archaeology advertised in the BHA 13(2) are both in the final phases of organization.

Histories of Archaeology: Archives, Ancestors, Practices

A major international conference on the history of archaeology will be held in Göteborg, Sweden, on June 17–19, 2004. Organised by the AREA research network – **Archives of European Archaeology** (www.area-archives.org) – with the support of the **Culture 2000** programme of the European Commission, this conference will promote the latest directions and advances in the field.

The histories of archaeology explored here will move beyond traditional regional or chronological frameworks, and encourage thematic and problem-oriented historical approaches which, drawing notably on archives and other primary sources, will shed new light on the scientific, cultural and ideological contexts of archaeology.

The conference will be held in the Department of Archaeology, Göteborg University. Address: Olof Wijksgatan 6, Göteborg. Tel +46 31-773 46 14, Fax +46 31-773 51 82. Website www.hum.gu.se/ark/.

The conference will begin at 14:00 on Thursday the 17th June and end on the evening of Saturday the 19th. Poster sessions will be held in the main hall of the Archaeology building. The language of the conference is English. The themes covered by the speakers include 'Sources and methods for the history of archaeology', 'Visualising archaeology', 'Archaeological practices', 'Questions of identity'. Speakers, both established scholars and emerging researchers, will come from across the world, and cover a range of archaeological periods, areas, and themes. There will be no parallel sessions, and enough time will be left to ensure further discussions and exchanges.

It is envisaged to publish the proceedings of the conference, depending on their quality and interest. As part of the social programme are planned a reception at Dicksonska palatset and also a boat excursion with onboard festive dinner on the steamship S/S Bohuslän (costs included in the conference fees).

Online registration is NOW open through the web site: www.hum.gu.se/ark/

For more information on the conference please contact the conference organisers at: historiesofarchaeology@archaeology.gu.se

Call for Papers – The University of Cambridge Conference on Archaeological Historiography 2004:

Past Perspectives: Future Directions? The Value of A Critical Historiography for the Practice of Archaeology

The writing of 'Histories of Archaeology' has often been regarded as a disciplinary sideline having little part to play in the construction of new archaeological knowledge. One reason for this is that the majority of papers that have passed for the 'History of Archaeology' are merely exercises in documenting the intellectual progress of specific niches within the discipline of archaeology. Such accounts tend to be uncritical and progressive. Knowledge is shown to be constantly increasing as archaeologists have chipped away at the frontiers of the known. In this way historical accounts of the past read as if there was an orderly progressive development of the discipline. Such 'Whiggish' tendencies have long been criticised as such accounts have ignored any differences or deviations from the 'established path of development' and the contributions these made. Herein lies their major flaw.

However, recent critical and problem-oriented historiographies have done much to readdress the balance, and, many exciting studies have now been done. Yet, the fact remains that the significance of this recent work has yet to make a critical impact on the wider archaeological community. The aim of this conference is to find ways in which historians of archaeology can impact current archaeological thought and practice.

For example, one neglected area of study is the whole process of knowledge construction. How do archaeologists come to their conclusions? What is the process through which a consensus in understanding is reached? How do we evaluate competing knowledge claims? As Historians of Archaeology, we are well placed to address such issues and to reappraise the way(s) in which knowledge of the past is constructed in the present. In order to further current archaeological practice it is essential that contributors relate their particular 'history' (ancient or modern) to new understandings of knowledge construction, theory or methodology within archaeology.

Venue: The Bateman Auditorium, Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge.

Date: Saturday, 26 June – Sunday, 27 June 2004

Payment: The cost, per person, incl. 2 nights accommodation, breakfast & banquet is £100 (or £35 without accommodation). Cheques to be made payable to the 'University of Cambridge' (to arrive by May 1 2004).

Contact: Dr. Andrew Martin, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge. Email: amm44@cam.ac.uk

Applications to give papers should include a proposal of not more than 300 words.

It is intended that a collection of the papers will be published.