



Association for Environmental Archaeology

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Edited by Wendy Carruthers and Vanessa Straker

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AEA website <http://www.envarch.net/>

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EDITORIAL

Many thanks to Roel Lauwerier for his interesting piece on Archaeozoology in the Netherlands – we welcome other contributions from members for future Newsletters.

The details of the Spring conference in Winchester are published in this edition – please use the form at the back to book a place.

As this is the last Newsletter of the year, it is timely to remind members about subscriptions for 2005. Please note the sections on subscriptions in the *News from the Committee*.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2005.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS by standing order – a special notice for members NOT currently paying by standing order, but who would like to do so in future!

Should any member wish to pay future subscriptions by standing order then the relevant form is attached at the back of this newsletter. The completed form should be SENT TO JANE

RICHARDSON, who will then forward the details onto the bank. Unfortunately, at the moment, standing orders can only be set up by members who hold British bank accounts. Please return the form to Jane by 8th December at the latest.

Current subscription rates are £38 for waged members (plus £6 postage for overseas members) and £28 for student/unwaged members (with no postage charge for overseas).

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AEA PUBLICATIONS

Due out any day now (yes, really!):

Rupert Housley and Geraint Coles (eds) (2004) *Atlantic Connections & Adaptations: Economies, Environments and Subsistence in the North Atlantic Realm*. Papers from the Glasgow (joint AEA/NABO 2001) conference. Oxbow Books.

The recommended retail price will be £60, but the AEA is currently negotiating with Oxbow a discounted rate for AEA members.

Contents of the 'special issue' of the journal due to be distributed in December:

Environmental Archaeology 9.2

Worlds Apart? Human Settlement and Biota of Islands: Papers from the 2003 AEA Conference at Belfast, N. Ireland

Nicki J. Whitehouse, Eileen M. Murphy and Gill Plunkett, Human Exploitation and Biota of Islands

R. J. Berry, Island Differentiation Muddied by Island Biogeographers

D. W. Yalden and R. I. Carthy, The Archaeological Record of Birds in Britain and Ireland Compared: Extinctions or Failures to Arrive?

Stephen A. Royle, Human Interference on Ascension Island

Everett Bassett, Reconsidering Evidence of Tasmanian Fishing

Rick Schulting, Anne Tresset and Catherine Dupont, From Harvesting the Sea to Stock Rearing along the Atlantic Façade of North-West Europe

David Bukach, The Mesolithic-Neolithic Transition on the Channel Islands: Adopting Agriculture in an Emerging Island Landscape

Eileen Murphy, Richard Gregory and Derek Simpson, Post-Beaker Period Death and Burial at Northton, Isle of Harris, Scotland

Christina Fredengren, Meriel McClatchie and Ingelise Stuijts, Connections and Distance: Investigating Social and Agricultural Issues Relating to Early Medieval Crannogs in Ireland

Emily Murray, Finbar McCormick and Gill Plunkett, The Food Economies of Atlantic Island Monasteries: The Documentary and Archaeo-Environmental Evidence

Rachel Ballantyne, Islands in Wilderness: the Changing Medieval Use of the East Anglian Peat Fens, England

Nicki J. Whitehouse and David N. Smith, 'Islands' in Holocene forests: Implications for Forest Openness, Landscape Clearance and 'Culture-Steppe' Species

BAD BUCHAU conference volume – a reminder for contributors

Contributors to the monograph from the Bad Buchau (2004) AEA conference, *Economic and environmental changes during the 4th and 3rd millennia*, are kindly reminded to send their papers to **Sabine Karg** by 30th November 2004. The address is:

Dr Sabine Karg, The National Museum of Denmark, Research and Exhibitions,
Environmental Archaeology, Ny Vestergade 11, DK – 1471 Copenhagen K, Denmark.
E-mail: Sabine.Karg@natmus.dk

Guidelines for contributors are available on the AEA website:

<http://www.envarch.net/publications/aeaconferences-00-09.html>

These guidelines are based upon the guidelines for the Association's journal, *Environmental Archaeology*.

SUMMARY OF THE AEA AGM MEETING, 2 SEPTEMBER 2004, FEDERSEEMUSEUM, BAD BUCHAU

At the AEA AGM in Bad Buchau, a review of the committee's activities was presented along with elections for new committee members and a vote to amend the constitution. A summary of the main items, announcements and reminders is presented below:

CONFERENCES UPDATE

Conference publications:

The monograph from the Glasgow (2001) conference will be available very soon and the next issue of *Environmental Archaeology* contains papers from the Belfast (2003) conference – see the notice above. In addition, the following volumes are in progress:

David Smith, Megan Brickley and Wendy Smith (eds) *Fertile Ground: Papers in Honour of Susan Limbrey*. Papers from the one-day meeting in Birmingham (2001). The manuscript is complete and currently with Oxbow.

Papers from the Bad Buchau (2004) conference, *Economic and environmental changes during the 4th and 3rd millennia BC* will be published as a monograph edited by Ralf Baumeister, Sabine Karg, Helmut Schlichtherle, and David Robinson.

Upcoming events:

Details of the spring conference at King Alfred's College, Winchester, are advertised below.

The autumn meeting will be held at the University of Hull, organised by Jane Bunting. Further details will follow in the New Year.

The spring 2006 conference will take place at the University of Exeter, organised by Alan Outram, with the theme *Novel Environmental Archaeology: integrating new lines of evidence and rethinking established techniques*.

Meetings in 2004:

Two meetings took place this year. Thanks are extended to Jill Thompson and her team at Bradford University for organising a very successful one-day meeting held on the 24th April. Ralf Baumeister, Sabine Karg and Helmut Schlichtherle organised a very special 25th anniversary conference in Bad Buchau, southern Germany, 2nd-5th September, during which the AGM was held. The Bad Buchau conference was clearly very much enjoyed and appreciated by all the participants and the committee's thanks are warmly extended to the organisers.

JOURNAL UPDATE

Volume 9.2 of *Environmental Archaeology* will be distributed in December. Please see above for the contents of this 'special issue' of papers from last year's conference in Belfast.

Members of the AEA are particularly encouraged to submit papers to the Co-ordinating Editor of the journal for consideration. As you know, *EA* publishes contributions that include all fields of environmental archaeology from all regions of the world. Papers on new techniques, philosophical discussions, current controversies and suggestions for new areas for research, as well as more conventional research papers, are all acceptable. Please send your manuscripts to:

Professor Glynis Jones, Co-ordinating Editor of *Environmental Archaeology*, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Sheffield, Northgate House, West Street, Sheffield, S1 4ET, UK. Tel: 0114 22 22904, Fax: 0114 272 2563, E-mail: g.jones@sheffield.ac.uk.

Guidelines for authors are on the website at:

<http://www.envarch.net/publications/envarch/infoauth.html>

WEBSITE UPDATE <http://www.envarch.net/>

The results of a recent count of visits show that the website is very popular with almost 4,000 visits to the homepage in June and July this year alone (and this is likely to be an underestimate as multiple computers behind a firewall or a proxy server will count as only one address). Members are reminded that in order to keep the website as up to date as possible, they should keep sending items to the Webmaster: r.craigie@sheffield.ac.uk. Images for the image gallery are particularly welcome because, according to the statistics, this, along with the jobs and bibliography pages, is one of the most popular.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

The Newsletter is now overwhelmingly circulated to the membership by e-mail as .pdf files.

From November – this issue! – a series of features on environmental archaeology in outside the UK will begin. Members who would like to contribute a short article on environmental archaeology in their region or centre are invited to contact the Newsletter Editors.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Jane Richardson became the AEA Membership Secretary in September last year. Thanks are extended to Jane for all the work she has already done in overseeing the increase in subscription rate in 2004. Membership is currently just above 360 members.

Members are reminded to contact the Membership Secretary (membership@envarch.net) or submit the form on the website (<http://www.envarch.net/aea/aeaform.html>) if any of their details change, e.g. a change of e-mail address.

There was a request from the floor at the AGM to set up a payment system so that members in the Euro currency area can pay membership fees annually by standing order or, even, by cheque as some members do not possess a Visa card. The committee was asked to investigate possible options again and is actively looking into this.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts for 2003 were published at the end of the August Newsletter. The greatest expenditure of the organisation continues to be the cost of the journal. The year end assets

were significantly depleted following the production of two issues in 2003 before the subscription increase. However, there is slightly more in the account than was anticipated at the last AGM, which is good news for maintaining the subscription rate at its current level in the longer term.

The 2003 accounts are at: <http://www.envarch.net/publications/newsletters/news85.html#6>

VOTE TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

The proposed changes to increase the terms served by AEA committee members from three to four years and, thereby, to increase the number of ordinary committee members from nine to twelve were accepted.

The full constitution is available on-line at: <http://www.envarch.net/aea/constitution.html>. The new sections now read:

10. The affairs of the Association shall be handled by a Management Committee which shall include twelve ordinary elected members and an elected Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
 11. Three ordinary members of the Managing Committee shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting. Candidates for election must be Members of the Association and can be nominated by any Member of the Association. Nominations must be submitted to a member of the Managing Committee not later than the beginning of the Annual General Meeting. Elected members of the Managing Committee will normally serve until the fourth Annual General Meeting after the one at which they were elected and may not immediately stand for re-election, with the exception as given in clause 12.
 12. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting from the membership. Candidates for election must be members of the Association, and can be nominated by any member of the Association. Nominations must be given to a member of the Managing Committee no later than the beginning of the AGM. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will normally serve until the fourth Annual General Meeting after the one at which they were elected. An outgoing ordinary committee member may be elected as Chair, Secretary or Treasurer.
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ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Due to the vote to change the constitution, current committee members will continue to serve for an additional year. The following new ordinary committee members were also elected: Ingrid Mainland, Meriel McClatchie and Richard Thomas. Biographies of these three candidates were included in the last Newsletter: <http://www.envarch.net/publications/newsletters/news85.html#6>. The current committee is as follows:

The current committee structure is as follows:

ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS (elected term in [])

Paul Davies (Bath Spa) - [2003-2006]
Andy Howard (Birmingham) - [2001-2005]
Jacqui Huntley (Durham) - Treasurer [2002-2006]
Tim Mighall (Coventry) - [2001-2005]
Carol Palmer (Sheffield) - Secretary [2001-2005]
Roel Lauwerier (ROB, Amersfoort) - [2002-2006]
Ingrid Mainland (Bradford) – [2004-2008]
Véronique Mattered (CRAVO, Compiègne) - [2003-2007]
Meriel McClatchie (UCL, London) – [2004-2008]
Alan Outram (Exeter) - [2003-2007]

Ruth Pelling (UCL, London) - [2001-2005]
Jane Richardson (Archaeological Services WYAS) - Membership Secretary [2003-2007]
David Earle Robinson (CfA, Portsmouth) - Chair [2003-2007]
Richard Thomas (Leicester) – Publicity Officer [2004-2008]
Nicki Whitehouse (Belfast) – Conference Officer [2002-2006]

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Wendy Carruthers (Llantrisant, Wales) - Co-editor of the Newsletter
Glynis Jones (Sheffield) - Co-ordinating Editor of the Journal
Vanessa Straker (English Heritage, Bristol) - Co-editor of the Newsletter

Full contact details of the committee can be found at:
<http://www.envarch.net/aea/committee.html>

Thinking about standing for election to join the AEA Management Committee?

If you would like to find out more about becoming a member of the AEA Management Committee in 2005, please contact the AEA Secretary for more information and encouragement. Alternatively, if you know someone who you think would be a good, active committee member and you would like to nominate them, please get in touch with the Secretary or, if you prefer, another committee member (but do make sure have the approval of your nominee too).

Dr Carol Palmer, AEA Secretary, Dept of Archaeology, University of Sheffield,
Northgate House, West Street, Sheffield, S1 4ET, UK. Tel: [0]114 2222926.
E-mail: c.palmer@sheffield.ac.uk

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

AEA Spring Conference 31st March 2005: Environmental archaeology in Landscape Archaeology

**Venue: University College Winchester (formerly King Alfred's College,
Winchester)**

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

The focus of archaeologists on the wider landscape (so-called 'Landscape archaeology') from an approach that was previously site-based, is one of the most significant changes to our discipline in the last 20 years. To quote one major archaeological textbook:

"... fieldwork used to be seen almost exclusively in terms of the discovery and excavation of sites. Today, however, while sites and their excavation remain of paramount importance, the focus has broadened to take in whole landscapes, and surface survey at sites in addition to – or instead of - excavation. Archaeologists have become aware that there is a great range of "off-site" or "non-site" evidence, from scatters of artefacts to features such as ploughmarks and field boundaries, that provide important information about human exploitation and the environment." (Renfrew, C. and Bahn, P. [1996] *Archaeology: theories, methods and practice*. Second Edition. Thames and Hudson, London, p. 67)

Landscape archaeology has been the subject of many conferences, but never one dedicated to environmental archaeology. Nevertheless as landscape archaeology has become more prominent environmental archaeology has itself had to change in approach and methodology. Such developments are the subject of the Association of Environmental Archaeology Easter conference hosted by the Department of Archaeology, University College Winchester on Thursday 31st March 2005. Presentations (in either verbal or poster form) are therefore invited in any of the following themes:

- Bioarchaeological and geochaeological methods in and approaches to landscape archaeology
- The environmental archaeology of extensive and intensive field survey
- Environmental archaeology and field evaluation: aims and methodologies

Those interested in presenting a (20 minute long) paper or poster should submit a title and a c. 200 word abstract by **10th January 2005** to:

Robin Bendrey
 Department of Archaeology
 University College Winchester
 Winchester
 SO21 1QH
 Email: Robin.Bendrey@winchester.ac.uk

A provisional programme will be put on the AEA website (<http://www.envarch.net>) in late January 2005.

The conference has a registration fee of £28 for AEA members/students and £35 for non-members (who are not students). This fee includes conference attendance, a book of abstracts, morning and afternoon refreshments and a two course buffet lunch. Limited accommodation is available on campus for the nights of 30th and 31st March at a cost of £30 per person.

Those who wish to attend **Environmental archaeology in Landscape archaeology** (including speakers) should fill in the form at the back of the Newsletter and send it to Robin Bendrey at the address given above.

ARCHAEOZOOLOGY IN THE NETHERLANDS¹

Roel C.G.M. Lauwerier

A little bit of history

Back in the early days of Dutch archaeology, it became clear that the study of the animals used by humans is an important factor in describing and understanding the way humans behaved in the past. In 1913, inspired by Rüttimeyer's 1862 study of *Die Fauna der Pfahlbauten der Schweiz*, Prof. Albert Egges van Giffen, one of the founding fathers of Dutch archaeology, published a Dutch version, entitled *Die Fauna der Wurten* ('The Fauna of the Dwelling Mounds').² The ancient fauna of the *terps* (dwelling mounds) in the northern Netherlands had in fact been the subject of an earlier study, which had resulted in a series of articles, some published in 1908 and 1910, by the Broekemas, a father and son.³ Although Van Giffen subsequently produced a number of other publications on archaeozoology, he shifted his focus to other aspects of archaeology, and it was not until 1959 that this area was given full attention, with the appointment of Anneke Clason at the Biological-Archaeological Institute at the University of Groningen. Posts for archaeozoologists were later created at other institutions: at the University of Amsterdam in 1963, at the National Service for Archaeological Heritage (ROB) in 1979, and at the University of Leiden in 1993. With this early profiling of archaeozoology, the Netherlands played a leading role in the development of the discipline, alongside institutes in Germany, Switzerland and France.

¹ Thanks to Chiara Cavallo (University of Amsterdam and Leiden), Kinie Esser (Archeoplan Eco), Wietske Prummel (University of Groningen), Liesbeth Smits (University of Leiden) and Jorn Zeiler (ArcheoBone), my co-authors on the archaeozoology chapter of the National Research Agenda (in preparation).

² Rüttimeyer 1862; van Giffen 1913; Clason 1983.

³ C. Broekema 1910; L. Broekema 1908, among others.

Private companies, integration and agendas

Since the early 1990s, private companies have played an increasingly important role in archaeology. By the start of this new millennium, they were carrying out the majority of materials research.⁴ As a result, a great deal of archaeozoological research is sub-contracted out by 'excavation companies'. Under market mechanisms, the position of archaeozoology is now at risk because, more and more in recent times, it seems to be included as little more than an afterthought. In consultation with the *College voor de Archeologische Kwaliteit* (CvAK, Archaeological Quality Board), established by the State Secretary for Culture in 2002, more attention is now being drawn to archaeozoology and archaeobotany in the specifications ('Programme of Requirements') that have to be drawn up for every archaeological investigation. The new format of the 'Programme of Requirements' means that it must explicitly encompass eco-archaeological work. We expect this to have a positive impact on the amount and quality of eco-archaeological research being conducted.

As in other European countries, the object of study, research questions and methodology have undergone major changes in the Netherlands over the years. Differences in premise meant that archaeozoologists and other archaeologists originally worked in isolation from each other. However, archaeozoology gradually developed from a separate discipline into a permanent component of archaeology. A more or less parallel development saw research questions changing from primarily biological or zoological in nature to more archaeological, economic and cultural. One might say that the initial focus on animals has now shifted to humans.

Another shift of emphasis can be seen in the growing interest in how the landscape was used and in the ecological aspects of archaeology. These changes have had implications for the collaboration between specialists and other archaeologists. Research – on a project basis or otherwise – is now more integrated than in the past. Nevertheless, the full scientific potential of collaboration is seldom realised because of the archaic habit – compared with other disciplines – of not performing and publishing the synthesis stage of a study jointly, under the responsibility of all the researchers. Instead, the results of all the individual studies are generally brought together by one of the researchers. A small change in this respect could produce a major yield in academic terms, not least because it would prevent any conflicting results from appearing in the same publication. The recommendations in the recently published archaeological publication handbook, which propose that research be presented in an integrated manner, are certainly a step in the right direction.⁵

The debate on the status of archaeozoology within archaeological research as a whole is typified by the debate on what position – literally – archaeozoology should occupy in the National Research Agenda. Initially, we were granted the traditional separate chapter to ourselves. The debate that ensued – we of course wanted to have some input into the period/region chapters – resulted archaeozoology appearing in two places. We have managed to integrate ourselves as much as possible by ensuring that many of the issues requiring archaeozoological investigation are incorporated into the period/region chapters. We also have our 'own' chapter, which covers a number of interregional and diachronic subjects, as well as matters specific to research within our discipline. It is also perhaps worth mentioning – certainly in the context of integration – that researchers from companies, universities and government institutions work together with great enthusiasm on all elements of the National Research Agenda.

The late 1970s saw a major step forward when, under the influence of the *New Archaeology*, we in the Netherlands became more aware of the importance of collecting data with greater care, and interest in smaller fragments grew. Excavation techniques had to be refined accordingly, so that material could be collected by sieving.⁶ This not only made it easier to assess the remains of mammals, it also revealed completely new information about fishing and hunting for birds and small mammals, as well as ecological information based on the remains of small mammals, amphibians and reptiles. In prehistoric research, in particular,

⁴ Zeiler 2004.

⁵ Diepeveen-Jansen & Kaarsemaker 2004.

⁶ Clason & Prummel 1977.

sieving has now become a permanent element of the collection method. There is a lot more to be gained from this technique in other areas of research, particularly on the Roman period. Hopefully, the combination of the National Research Agenda and the new format of the Programme of Requirements will have a positive effect. New directions in archaeozoology, such as the study of invertebrates and the application of techniques from molecular biology to the study of animal populations, have unfortunately failed to get off the ground, or have done so only with great difficulty.

Some figures

In terms of full-time equivalents, there are 11.5 paid archaeozoologists in the Netherlands: three at universities, 4.3 in the private sector, 2.2 in the public sector and two paid PhD students. Almost eight of these FTE are permanent positions. The 17 people who actually occupy these 11.5 FTE share an excellent working relationship. I cannot say whether 11.5 FTE is a lot, or not, in relative terms. If you compare it with the UK on the basis of land area (5.4 times bigger in the UK) or population size (3.7 times bigger), the Netherlands should have 62 or 43 FTE.

The number of reports and publications has risen from around three a year in the 1960s to some 50 to 60 over the past ten years.⁷ This sounds good, but the current system offers few opportunities for synthesising work, which means we do not have a good overview, and this has distorted our view of the *status quaestionis*. Although the National Research Agenda will help, this situation has meant that those drawing up Programmes of Requirements find it difficult to formulate the right questions. Another problem is the shortage of permanent teaching capacity at universities and the narrow teaching and research base in the field of major material groups such as birds, fish and invertebrates. Despite all this, however, we remain optimistic.

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⁷ Lauwerier & de Vries 2004: 170.

BAD BUCHAU CONFERENCE REPORT

Review of *Economic and Environmental Changes during the 4th and 3rd Millennia BC* - Association for Environmental Archaeology (AEA), 25th Anniversary Symposium in Bad Buchau, Southern Germany, 2nd-5th September 2004

I had long looked forward to this meeting, the 25th anniversary conference of the AEA. It was initially planned some four years ago when Sabine Karg (The National Museum of Denmark) discussed the idea with her colleagues Ralf Baumeister (Federseemuseum, Bad Buchau) and Helmut Schlichtherle (Landesdenkmalamt Baden-Württemberg), and first suggested holding an AEA conference in the Federsee region of southern Germany. It was not only an anniversary for the AEA because the year 2004 also marks the 25th anniversary of excavations and research in the Federsee initiated by Helmut Schlichtherle, although the history of research in the area goes back some 130 years. The conference was always intended to be something special with a more than usually strong emphasis on fieldtrips as well as the regular formal paper and poster presentations. It is curious that sometimes long-looked forward to events can disappoint, but there were few, if any, disappointments here.

In Europe, the Federsee basin may be well-known archaeologically, but the area is perhaps one of the less-frequently visited corners of Germany, at least by long-distance visitors such as our conference group. That said, the small town of Bad Buchau (population c. 4,000) is, as the name suggests, a successful spa town and the lectures and poster sessions were held in a modern, well-equipped 'cure centre' just off the town's spacious marketplace. Bad Buchau's archaeological museum, the Federseemuseum, is also an important attraction with families travelling some distance to experience the authenticity of the reconstructions and demonstrations. The main museum building itself is a remarkable modern architectural statement, a wooden-clad rectangle standing on concrete posts in water, behind which there is an area of reconstructed houses and displays of everyday objects of Neolithic and Bronze Age life. It was to the Federseemuseum that we were first welcomed at registration by Ralf Baumeister, the Director and conference co-organiser, and his team of museum workers, and to the museum that we returned for the AGM, the splendid conference dinner and, on the final day, a 'Neolithic' lunch prepared and served in replica vessels over an open fire.

The first two days were spent largely in the lecture theatre. On the first day and first session of the second, there was a relatively wide geographical focus with papers on research in Scandinavia (Hjelle et al.; Johannsen; and Robinson et al.), Schleswig Holstein (Reiß and Kelm), France (Vanni re and Martineau; Dufrais e), Britain (Davis; Coles), Austria (Krenn-Leeb), and Croatia (Smith et al.). For most of the second day, however, the areas under consideration were closer to hand, highlighting, in particular, the long history of research around the Federsee (Maier; Schmidt; Steppan; Le Bailly and Bouchet; Bleicher; Herbig; Lechterbeck) and the larger Swiss lakes to the south (Wolf; Jacomet; Schibler; Maise). The good preservation, much of it waterlogged, the variety and sheer quantity of research undertaken, some of it encompassing entire careers of work, resulted in a number of comprehensive review papers very much reflecting David Robinson's opening remark that, in the 25 years of the AEA, there has been a shift from site reports to holistic, integrated views.

A number of common threads emerged from the papers and posters: an often rapid, comprehensive establishment of agriculture, the continued and varied use of wild resources, the significance of transportation methods and traction, and the importance of environmental factors for the spread and maintenance of agrarian lifeways. Thus, for example, we learned how lake levels influenced not only the discovery of the Swiss lake villages, but also their apparent extent and viability in the past (Maise). Intriguingly, Mistletoe (*Viscum*) emerged as a commonly recovered resource over a wide geographic range, although its use and meaning is not entirely clear. Detecting the use of cattle used in traction based on palaeopathological alterations of metapodials was another topic debated (Johannsen; Steppan). Over the course of the two days, the number of cultural groupings mentioned became, for the uninitiated, somewhat disorienting, but did serve to emphasise a considerable amount of variability too. As well as more experienced colleagues, there were a significant number of papers and posters headed by younger researchers, including a paper on parasites that emphasised the uncomfortable disadvantages of living by water (Le Bailly and Bouchet) and a poster (Schmid et al.) that questioned Neolithic Alpine transhumant patterns through pollen in coprolites

recovered from the Iceman site. Although most projects presented were of long duration, Smith and colleagues presented preliminary observations on a new Croatian project with incredible potential, but where there is modest baseline data and time-restricted funding.

There were walking trips to nearby sights in the Federsee on both of the two lecture-theatre based days. The first took us to the Federsee Lake itself through wooden walkways among the extensive reed beds. Here, Jost Einstein from the NABU-Naturschutzzentrum Federsee explained how lake, reed and bog are have been much diminished over the past 200 years; the result of attempts to drain the lake and peat-cutting. Ironically, in 1875, it was the drainage and peat mining that first brought to light the first archaeological discoveries. On the afternoon of the second day, Helmut Schlichtherle guided the participants around one of the current waterlogged sites being excavated – Torwiesen in Bad Buchau – a site containing impressive house platforms and wooden trackways and implements and pottery from the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages.

The last two days were devoted to fieldtrips, the first day of which was guided by Josef Merkt and Helmut Schlichtherle and was the most wide-ranging. It was a whistle-stop tour of the region's highlights, which certainly whetted the appetite for a return visit to the area. We travelled through the Quaternary glacial landscapes of the Federsee basin, admired brash, colourful decoration inside the Baroque church of Steinhausen, lunched at the Heuneberg and enjoyed a guided tour of the new excavations, visited the Palaeolithic cave site at Hohle Fels where some of the oldest figural art objects in the world (c. 32,000 years old) have been found, went on to see the artefacts themselves in the museum in the picturesque town of Blaubeuren (waving at the medieval monastery as we went by), before finally ending up in Ulm and, for the fitter among the group, a quick run up the steps of the cathedral tower. All this before 6 pm!



The second day moved at a more relaxed pace and started with a presentation in the nature centre by Jost Einstein on the efforts to maintain and monitor the areas' sedge meadows, purchase and consolidate land plots for the nature reserve, and provide information and education for locals and visitors alike. We then went around the basin visiting the meadows and, with Helmut Schlichtherle's guidance again, the locations of some of the over 20 sites excavated in the Federsee. We also had the opportunity to see some recently discovered *in situ* log boats, found accidentally during construction work this summer. The final hours were spent in the Federseemuseum, enjoying that Neolithic lunch mentioned before, discussing visitor profiles to the museum with Ralf Baumeister, as well as including a final chance to visit the displays and activities there. For those that lingered, there was also, towards dusk, the opportunity shoot a replica Neolithic bow and throw an *atlatl* dart with some of the museum's staff.

Lunch is served at the Federseemuseum

If Bad Buchau made an impact on us, it was also clear that AEA made an impact on the local community. We were invited to a musical reception in the Golden Hall of the local Schloss, complete with a 25th anniversary cake, and had a full feature in the local paper. The town's mayor not only welcomed the group, but also led the musical entertainment on the saxophone. In the evenings, we had a tendency to migrate to the town's marketplace to sit outside, talk, laugh, eat, and sample the local beers. In sum, the conference was a great success, thoughtfully and carefully brought together, the organisers even managing to arrange perfect weather. I think it is fair to say that everyone at the conference agreed that Bad Buchau was one of their highlights of 2004 and a marvellous way to mark the 25th anniversary of the organisation as well as celebrate the archaeology of the Federsee. An edited volume by Baumeister, Karg, Schlichtherle, and Robinson is promised in due course.

Carol Palmer

** More photos from the conference are due to appear on the AEA's website soon!**

PHD STUDENTSHIPS

The School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queens University Belfast encourages applications from suitably qualified candidates for the following two funded PhD topics funded through the newly established Centre for Climate, the Environment and Chronology (14 CHRONO):

(1) Palaeodietary analysis of prehistoric populations from the Minusink Basin, South Siberia.

Supervisors: Dr Eileen Murphy (eileen.murphy@qub.ac.uk) and Dr Rick Schulting (r.schulting@qub.ac.uk) in collaboration with Prof. Yuri Chistov and Dr. Valery Khartanovich (The Kunstammer, St. Petersburg, Russia)

Candidate qualifications: The student will have gained a 1st class honours or 2:1 undergraduate degree or equivalent in archaeology or a related discipline and/or a relevant MSc degree. They will be required to be fluent in the Russian language. It will be necessary to spend substantial periods of time undertaking skeletal analysis in Russia and the applicant must be willing to do this. It is highly desirable that they will have some prior experience of human osteology and be able to demonstrate an understanding of Russian prehistory. They should also have an aptitude for undertaking laboratory analysis since they will be required to do so for the stable isotope component of the project. It is envisaged that the three-year project will commence in March 2005, although there is potential for a start date later in 2005.

(2) Climate and environmental change in New Zealand at the end of the last ice age: testing hypotheses of inter-hemispheric climate change using fossil Coleoptera.

Supervisors: Dr Nicki Whitehouse (n.whitehouse@qub.ac.uk), Dr Jamie Shulmeister (University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand) and Dr Richard Leschen (Landcare Research, Auckland, New Zealand).

Candidate qualifications: This project will suit a student with expertise in the broad area of entomology, palaeoecology or palaeoclimate. Preference will be given to candidates with experience of fossil insect identification (Coleoptera) to dissertation level. Experience of handling numerical data will be an advantage. Applicants should have or expect to have good honours degree in Geography, Palaeoecology, Archaeology or related subject and/or a relevant MSc degree. The successful candidate will be expected to spend up to several months a year in New Zealand for the first two years of the project and so should be prepared to travel away from home for extended periods of time. The student will be expected to attend and present their results at international meetings and to major international peer review journals. Ideally, this studentship should initiate as soon as practically possible, due to planned fieldwork in February 2005 to coincide with suitable weather conditions and availability of supervisors/collaborators. However, we also welcome applications from suitably qualified candidates who are not able to start immediately, but who have the necessary expertise for the project.

Further information on the projects may be found at: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/arcpal/projects.htm>
Further details on the School can be found at: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/arcpal>,

How to apply: Applicants should submit a completed Admission Form to the University. Additionally, for these specific projects, prospective students should send a Curriculum Vitae and covering letter stating which project they wish to be considered for to: Dr N.J. Whitehouse, Palaeoecology Centre, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast BT7 1NN. Applicants should state clearly their availability regarding

commencement of the project they have applied for. All applications should reach the University by the **8th December 2004**. Late applications are not accepted. Applications are not accepted electronically.

Contacts: Applicants who require further information of the projects are encouraged to visit: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/arcpal/projects.htm> and make direct contact with potential supervisors. Further information on the School may be obtained from our web site at: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/arcpal>. For other information and Admissions Forms, please contact: Mrs Gillian Johnson, Palaeoecology Centre, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast BT7 1NN. Tel 028 90335141; email: g.johnson@qub.ac.uk. Forms may also be downloaded at: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/ado/postgrad/applying.html>.

PUBLICATIONS

We are grateful to Norbert Benecke for the following information:

New Books

Beiträge zur Archäozoologie und Prähistorischen Anthropologie, Volume IV (2003) edited by Norbert Benecke. Verlagsbüro Wais & Partner, Stuttgart.

The volume contains 31 papers presented at the 4th conference of the Association for Archaeozoology and Prehistoric Anthropology in Potsdam in October 2002. Concerning the single titles of this volume, please look at the homepage of the association: <http://www.gapa-kn.de>. The volume may be purchased directly from the association. For ordering this book and the preceding volumes I-III, please contact Dr Joachim Wahl, Landesdenkmalamt Baden-Württemberg, Stromeyersdorfstraße 3, D-78467 Konstanz (E-mail: info@gapa-kn.de).

Many thanks to James Greig for the following information:

James would like to thank Ian Baxter for references. Please send details of new environmental archaeology publications to jimi.gee@virgin.net

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