

EAA 2022 BUDAPEST

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Hungarian Archaeology has regularly reported on the annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) that was scheduled to be held in Budapest. We first wrote about our plans for 2020 (ANDERS ET AL. 2020), which had to be postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic and was eventually hosted online (ANDERS 2020). We are now proud to have successfully organised the 28th Annual Meeting of the EAA between August 31 and September 3 on the campus of Eötvös Loránd University and in the Hungarian National Museum. One novelty of the event was that for the first time in its history, the Annual Meeting was held as a hybrid conference.

Keywords: international archaeological conference, European Association of Archaeologists, Budapest, Eötvös Loránd University, Hungarian National Museum



Fig. 1. The logo of EAA 2022: [RE]TEGRATION (design by András A. Király)

PRESERVATION THROUGH INNOVATION

The European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) offered the Hungarian organisers – the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) and the Hungarian National Museum (HNM) – a unique opportunity by again choosing Hungary as the venue of its annual meeting following the two online conferences in Budapest and in Kiel.

We wanted to highlight that the choice of our city was not a wholly new location and that we did not start organising the event from scratch, and therefore we retained the colours of our earlier logo – turquoise symbolising freedom and environmental sustainability and yellow as an epitome of sunshine and optimism. These colours appeared on the [EAA homepage](#) and in our publications, as well as on posters, T-shirts and tote bags. We also retained the basic idea inspiring our previous logo, but now used one of the decorative motifs on a pitcher of the Seuso Treasure, the magnificent assemblage of Roman Period silverware housed in the Hungarian National Museum – which we stylised and reinterpreted to some extent. The dynamic lines starting from or converging on a central point can be seen as a symbol of the freedom, dynamism and openness of scientific thought and research (and we again gratefully acknowledge András A. Király's creativity in designing the logo). However, we had to choose a new motto and we finally settled on [RE]TEGRATION. We are living in extremely difficult times, facing challenges brought about by external circumstances – political upheavals, war, epidemics and climate change – that have an immense impact on both our personal and professional lives. Yet, despite, or exactly because of these difficulties, there is an ever greater need for maintaining connections, for personal meetings and for re-creating the intellectual arenas where ideas can be exchanged and debated. Research and excavation work did not grind to a standstill, although we were forced to pause and rethink how we can adapt to the changed circumstances and find new ways of continuing our work. The annual meeting in Budapest provided an excellent forum for stocktaking and for a search for new paths.

The organisers remained the same: Alexandra Anders and Dávid Bartus of ELTE, and Szilvia Fábián and Eszter Kreiter of HNM. We were joined by Andrea Vándor of Altagra Ltd., a company specialising in conference organisation. László Borhy (ELTE) remained the head of the Advisory Committee, whose members

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Fig. 2. The Opening Ceremony in Castle Bazaar
(photo: Gy. Gábos © EAA)

sity, Belfast), Elisabeth Niklasson (Aberdeen University), Hrvoje Potrebica (University of Zagreb), Jakub Sawicki (Archaeological Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague) and Claudia Theune (University of Vienna).

We also retained the venues for the annual meeting and thus the presentations were held in the buildings of the ELTE campus and the reception hall of the Hungarian National Museum. The Opening Ceremony was held in the imposing hall of the Castle Bazaar (Fig. 2). The participants of the annual meeting were greeted by János Csák, Minister of Culture and Innovation, which was, in a sense, also an evocation of the VIIIth Congress of Prehistoric Archaeology and Anthropology held in 1876 in Budapest, which can be seen as one of the Hungarian precursors to the conference – that assembly of the period's best minds was opened by Ágoston Trefort, then Minister of Education and Religious Affairs (PROHÁSZKA 2013). The Hungarian National Museum also hosted the Welcome Reception in the cool shade of its garden, where participants enjoyed a memorable summer evening with folk music and folk dancing (Fig. 3). The venues of the other social events were slightly changed: the Annual Party was held in Symbol Budapest, where participants danced the night away, while the Annual Dinner was held on the Európa Boat amidst the lights of Budapest.

Despite the changes in the general economic and health circumstances, we strove to reduce the conference's ecological footprint as much as possible. The participants each received a water bottle they could fill from the fountains in the Trefort Garden, which turned out to be highly popular. We managed to wholly eliminate the use of bottled water by offering water in pitchers and providing glasses during sessions. The tote bag was made not of cotton but of recycled plastic, while the name cards were printed on recycled paper and were not slipped into a plastic holder. Orderable lunch menus were delivered in environment-friendly packaging. We took care that the lights are switched off after leaving the conference rooms and that all equipment is disconnected. We ensured that selective waste collection bins be available. We encouraged participants to “go green” when moving around the city and to use public transport and the public bicycle sharing system. For the past few years, the EAA has only made print copies of the [Programme and Abstract Book](#) if specially ordered and this year was no exception. Most participants chose to download the 864-page book from the EAA homepage. Obviously, these are small

were Tivadar Vida (ELTE), László L. Simon, Gábor Virágos (HNM) and Katalin Wollák (Hungarian Society for Archaeology and Art History). There were slight changes in the Scientific Committee, six members of which were delegated by the local organisers and six by the EAA: the Hungarian members were Alexandra Anders (head, ELTE), Szilvia Bíró (Savaria Museum), Erzsébet Jerem (Archaeolingua, Archaeological Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences), Ákos Pető (Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences), Zsófia Rácz (ELTE) and Csilla Zatykó (Archaeological Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences), while the EAA was represented by Johannes Müller (Kiel University), Eileen Murphy (Queen's Univer-



Fig. 3. Reception in the garden of the Hungarian National Museum; music provided by Rézhúros Band, folk dance presentation by Bartók Dance Company
(photo: Gy. Gábos © EAA)

steps, but they are nevertheless important for raising awareness and for demonstrating our commitment to organising a sustainable conference.

NOVELTIES

This was the first wholly hybrid annual meeting in the history of the EAA: the sessions held in 35 spaces were continuously accessible online and the registered participants could join each section, whether holding a presentation or merely as a member of the audience, and they could also participate in the discussions. It was an admirable act of boldness on the part of EAA to take the leap forward and go ahead with an innovative hybrid event; we are also immensely grateful to the IT specialists of ELTE since disregarding the few initial technical difficulties, the system worked almost perfectly. We are grateful to the software developers of *All in the Loop* (AITL) and to the lecturers as well as to all who contributed to the success of this endeavour. The app could be downloaded to smartphones and its perhaps most useful function was that it enabled the creation of a personalised programme with the help of the interface enabling navigation between the conference spaces. Registered participants could also use the app to watch the presentations of the different sections from October 2022.

EAA is funded by the annual contributions made by various organisations and institutions. In addition to the Hungarian National Museum, the Archaeological Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was also one of the major funders.

EAA had earlier offered brief descriptions of its proposed main themes. We suggested that [the main themes](#) be simply listed, making the proposals of the Scientific Committee for the conference sections more concise and explicit. Our suggestion was accepted and the themes proposed for the next annual meeting to be held in Belfast were published in this format.

THE CONFERENCE IN NUMBERS

Six themes. The following themes were proposed by the Scientific Committee and the EAA Board: 1. Archaeologists and Archaeology Here and Now; 2. [Re]integration; 3. The Carpathian Basin: Integration, Mobility and Diversity; 4. Polis, Empire, League and Beyond – Living in Interconnected Societies; 5. Climate Change and Socio-environmental Perspectives; and 6. A Decade after the ‘Third Science Revolution in Archaeology’.



Fig. 4. Participants of the conference in one of the lecture rooms (photo: Gy. Gábos © EAA)



Fig. 5. Participants of the conference in the Trefort Garden (photo: Gy. Gábos © EAA)

The Medieval Europe Congress (MERC), traditionally organised within the framework of the EAA annual meeting, was incorporated into the second main theme. Its keynote speakers were two Hungarian researchers, József Laszlovszky and Tibor Rácz, and a Bulgarian guest lecturer, Petar Parvanov from ELTE.

Table 1. EAA 2022 Budapest: Sections organised by the Hungarian chief organisers

Section	Main organiser	Section name
#16	Ákos Pető (MATE)	The Dawn, Apogee and Modern Demise of Kurgans in Southeast and East-central Europe
#149	Zsuzsanna Siklósi (ELTE IA)	Interactions, Innovation and Communication in the Late Neolithic and Copper Age
#174	Magdolna Vicze (HNM)	Rhythms of Life. Exploring the Imprints of Temporalities and Annual Cycles on Prehistoric Settled Life
#197	Antony Borel (ELTE IA)	Standardization in Qualitative and Quantitative Use-wear Analysis of Prehistoric Stone Tools: Discussing Issues and Solutions
#250	Gergely Szenthe (HNM)	From Local to Microregional and Beyond: Spatial Structures in and around the Early Medieval Carpathian Basin
#271	Tibor Marton (ELKH RCH AI)	The Social Role of Pottery and Potters in Neolithic and Copper Age Societies of the Balkans and Central Europe
#283	Zsolt Mester (ELTE IA)	(Re)integration of the Carpathian Basin into the European Middle Palaeolithic: Cultural Contacts, Interregional Mobilities, Variability in Subsistence and Settlement Strategies
#306	Zoltán Czajlik (ELTE IA)	Early Iron Age Landscape Transformations in the Carpathian Basin and Adjacent Areas
#316	Rácz Tibor (Ferenczy Museum Centre)	Small Objects Reflecting Great Changes
#339	Orsolya László-Mateovics (HNM)	More than Just Bones” – Understanding Past Human Adaption and Behaviour through the Study of Human Remains
# 371	Tivadar Vida (ELTE IA)	Population History and Community Formation in Early Medieval East-Central Europe: Integrating Genetic, Isotopic, Archaeological and Historical Perspectives
#396	Zsanett Abonyi (BHM)	Reenactment and Living Museum – Make History Accessible
#400	Katalin Wollák (AHA AH / Archaeolingua Foundation)	Step by Step. The Rough Road towards Community Archaeology
#421	András Füzesi (HNM)	Space Syntax: The Material Imprints of Spatial Integration Processes
#426	Viktória Kiss (ELKH RCH AI)	From Isotope Ratios to Narratives: Exploring the Ways that Biogeochemical Studies are Impacting Eurasian Archaeology

2200 participants. There were 2200 registered participant of EAA 2022 Budapest, of whom 1800 attended the annual meeting personally and 400 participated by attending online the roughly 3000 presentations organised into 200 sections. Most participants arrived from the UK (307), Spain (266), Germany (249), the USA (184), Italy (143) and Poland (104). (source: EAA ABMB Reports 2022, data for July 8) (*Figs 4–5*).

196 participants from Hungary. (Never before had so many Hungarians attended an EAA annual meeting.) The Hungarian participants attended the conference as lecturers, co-lecturers, section organisers or section co-organisers. *Table 1* shows the 15 sections whose main organisers were Hungarians, illustrating the many diverse themes and perspectives covered by the presentations on archaeology and archaeological heritage management. The [Association of Hungarian Archaeology and Art History](#) funded the participa-



Fig. 6. Group of EAA volunteers on the last day of the conference (photo: Gy. Gábos © EAA)



Fig. 7. Enikő Magyari holds her keynote lecture in the hall of the Hungarian National Museum (photo: Gy. Gábos © EAA)

tion of 51 colleagues, mainly from the ELTE Institute of Archaeological Sciences, the Hungarian National Museum and the [Archaeological Institute of the Research Centre for the Humanities of the Eötvös Loránd Research Network](#).

70 volunteers. The work of many volunteers is indispensable for ensuring the success and smooth run of the annual meetings, and this was no different in Budapest. The ranks of the volunteers included 24 Hungarian university students, who assisted with the registration; their expertise and professionalism was one of the keys to holding the annual meeting in a hybrid form. They were also there to help during the coffee breaks and the receptions (Fig. 6).

29 exhibitors. One of the programmes of the EAA annual meetings is the FAIR, which was held in the Gólyavár, where participants and visitors could browse the stands of several publishing houses such as Archaeolingua, archaeological journals, companies offering various analytical services such as Isotoptech Zrt. of Debrecen, and various institutions, the Hungarian National Museum among them, for the duration of the conference.

SUCCESSES

The statutes of the EAA stipulate that an honorary membership can be awarded to institutions and individuals who have provided significant support to the association. In 2022, this certificate was awarded to Erzsébet Jerem, member of the EAA community since 1994, the association's foundation, who has contributed to its activity in many different ways. A special source of pride and joy was that the certificate was presented by Eszter Bánffy, President of the EAA during the opening ceremony. Regrettably, Erzsébet Jerem was unable to personally attend the ceremony and she will receive the award during the 2023 Annual Meeting in Belfast.

For the past few years, the EAA programme has included several [keynote lectures](#) on the conference's main themes held by specialists of a particular field of archaeology. In 2022, Enikő Magyari of ELTE was one of the specialists invited to hold a lecture ("The Flourishing and Decline of Neolithic Civilizations in East-Central and Southeast Europe: A Review on Concurrent Paleoclimate and Paleoenvironmental Changes"; Fig. 7).

PUBLICITY

In addition to the scientific programme and the social events organised for the EAA community, we also deemed it important to publicise this international event of outstanding importance held in Budapest to a broader audience, to the general public and particularly to the devotees of the organising institutions.

The Hungarian National Museum organised an outdoor poster exhibition, "Land of Archaeological Wonders – National Image 1876" on the museum's railing on Múzeum körút that evoked the memory of

the VIIIth Congress of Prehistoric Archaeology and Anthropology, held 146 years ago, that was a similarly significant international event (P. BARNÁK 2022). The 1876 congress was well received in the press, with regular reports on the presentations and the various social events organised as part of the congress appearing in *Vasárnapi Újság*, the period's popular weekly (ANDERS 1999; PROHÁSZKA 2013). Today, it is far more difficult to raise awareness of and interest in a particular event amidst the daily barrage of information. We nevertheless made every effort to reach out by continuously updating the social media platforms of ELTE and the HNM (e.g., <https://www.elte.hu/content/magasra-tette-a-lecet-a-budapesti-regesz-konferencia.t.26516>); the opening ceremony was reported on by the Hungarian News Agency and lengthy interviews with László Bartosiewicz, Adina Boroneant, Timothy Darvil and Enikő Magyarai appeared on the 24.hu news homepage, alongside radio interviews and articles in the printed press (ANDERS 2022a; 2022b).

Three months have elapsed since the annual meeting and in retrospect we may proudly claim that EAA 2022 was a success – the fruitful collaboration between ELTE and HNM resulted in participants receiving a taste of genuine Hungarian hospitality and they will hopefully spread the good news. We have succeeded in the breaking one particular curse by organising the event – previously, Hungarian archaeology tried in vain to organise a major archaeological conference – and we have shown that we are capable of hosting a major event of this type. Obviously, a brief report is unsuitable for covering all aspects of the annual meeting and for reporting on the many achievements of EAA 2022 in detail, but it hopefully illuminates one important point, namely that Hungarian archaeology is as fully integrated into mainstream international/European archaeological research as it was in 1876.

The 29th Annual Meeting in 2023 will be held in [Belfast](#), while the 30th Jubilee Meeting will be hosted by Rome in 2024. We wish all future organisers a similarly rewarding conference experience.

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