

Heritage Reinvents Europe

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Edited by Dirk Callebaut, Jan Mařík and Jana Maříková-Kubková

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Heritage Reinvents Europe

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Cover image:

The Provincial Heritage Centre in the archaeological park of Ename (Belgium), where the local past and the future Europe meet.

Photo: Tom Nevejan, Digital Cordon Bleu bvba

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Foreword and acknowledgement

This publication is an excellent example of how the *Europae Archaeologiae Consilium* by selecting the theme of the 12th EAC Heritage Management Symposium – “Heritage Reinvents Europe. A critical approach to values in archaeology, the built environment and cultural landscape” – made significant progress in the implementation of its revised strategy. In our vision we formulated, that the management of archaeology is an integrated part of successful heritage management throughout Europe, therefore adequate protection should be given to the archaeological heritage not only as an instrument for historical and scientific study, but also as a source of European collective memory and a wide range of social values.

When preparing this symposium we first planned to discuss the topic of archaeology and education, but during the arrangement of the program the focus of interest expanded significantly and, as a consequence, we began to consider whether archaeological, architectural and landscape heritage really has sufficient instrumental leverage to promote the integration process of Europe. Finally different sessions were formed which followed our concept in which we wanted to examine: (i) the function, meaning and significance of certain turning-point events in European history in relation to major events in World history, (ii) the role of local heritage, its capacity to transfer knowledge towards larger geo-cultural contexts, (iii) the relationship between European and national visions (how can we use time-space dimensions for a common understanding of shared values in research, management, presentation and education), (iv) the integration of desired and undesired heritage (the relics, places and spaces of the past European man-made disasters), and (v) the issue of heritage presentation in terms of who the real owner is: the policy-makers, professionals, site-owners/managers or the general public.

The host town of Ename served as eminent space for such a conference. This settlement belonged to the territory of the Roman Empire, which we can consider as the first attempt at a European integration. In the early Medieval period Ename was part of *Francia Media*, and in the 20th century it played an important role in Europe’s political and military history. Recently the European Commission awarded the archaeological park of Ename with the ‘European Heritage Label’. This award was established to designate sites which have played a key role in the history of the European Union, but also to find sites on the basis of their European symbolic value (rather than for their beauty or architectural value), with the aim to stress their educational dimension, especially for young people.

From the perspective of the European Union, the role of cultural heritage has changed radically in the last decades. Although researchers dealing with the history of the Union highly dispute the authenticity of this statement: “If I had to do it again, I would begin with culture”, which is attributed to Jean Monnet, one of the founding fathers of the EU, it is a matter of fact that since the Maastricht Treaty, cultural heritage has become a real cohesive force for European countries in the integration process, based on the perception that elements of cultural heritage and the results of scientific research can help local communities to better understand their own environment. Ján Figel, the former European commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth expressed a similar opinion: “cultural heritage is widely recognised across Europe as a vehicle of cultural identity,...the preservation, appreciation and promotion of our cultural heritage is one of the best ways we have to promote a sense of belonging to Europe”.

Heritage objectives were included amongst the EU regional and research programs and the Culture 2007–13 programs promote projects which contribute to the enhancement of our shared cultural heritage and Europe’s cultural diversity through cross-border co-operation between cultural operators and institutions. The recent Joint programming initiative “Cultural Heritage and Global Change: a new challenge for Europe” has also been developed to ensure a better coordination between the member states regarding calls for cultural heritage research. The European Heritage Label aims at a better understanding and appreciation, especially among young people, of their shared yet diverse heritage. Through this idea the EU wants to strengthen a sense of belonging to the Union and to reinforce an intercultural dialogue as well as to promote greater access to cultural heritage.

The EAC symposium at Ename offered the opportunity to the professionals of fifteen countries to present the scientific and practical aspects of heritage of their own countries and the European/transnational dimension of the theme. From the twenty-eight presentations we can find in this volume, representing various approaches towards the topic including sensitive fields: the function and role of national identity in an integration process, the harmonisation and contradictions of national/European history, and the issue of heritagization. Several authors emphasized the growing importance of the better communication with the local and wider environment and the professional’s duty to tell the story of the past to the present population and the future generations. In the last session the speakers referred to the challenge caused by the digital shift, which implies that more attention should be paid to the interest and expectations of the different social strata. There was an impressive example during the Danish EU presidency in 2012 of managing this new challenge, when the Heritage Agency of Denmark first set up a website, where 1001 cultural heritage sights are featured representing Danish history and culture in such a way that the locations are made alive through the stories of contemporary people. The website is open for everyone to add their comments (including debates) photos, videos and other items. Inspired by this pattern the European Stories site was created, where visitors can find more than forty stories of how Danish cultural heritage has been influenced by European culture – and vice versa.

Finally I would like to express our gratitude to the Provincial Government of East Flanders, the Provincial Heritage Centre in Ename and especially to Dirk Callebaut the main organiser of the conference and the spirit of this volume. The venue of the conference in Ename provided an inspiring space for the meeting. We are also grateful to prof. dr. Bruno De Wever and his colleague prof. dr. Gita Deneckere (both working at the Institute for Public History – University of Ghent) whose ideas provided great help in accomplishing the concept of the symposium. Mr Daniel Thérond (Council of Europe, Strasbourg) gave valuable advices to disentangle this diverse theme. In the frame of the EU project “Cradles of European Culture” the Francia Media project supported the publication of the proceedings as well as the Flemish Heritage Agency. Without the supporting co-operation of Martin Kuna, the careful and precise editorial work of Jan Mařík and Jana Maříková-Kubková and the tight labour of our publishing house the Archaeolingua, the volume could not have been published on time. We offer our warm congratulations to all the contributors of the papers and to Derek Hall who checked the English of the European authors.

We believe this volume highlights the changing roles of archaeological heritage management, and convincingly presents the idea that heritage is our common value. Professionals and heritage managers have to transfer the value of heritage beyond their own circles to the wider public of the European countries.

Katalin Wollák
President of Europae Archaeologiae Consilium

Budapest, 20th February 2013

Opening address

A European heritage for Europeans

How can we bring Europe's heritage closer to Europe's citizens? And if we succeed in doing so, will a French, Latvian, Greek, Finnish, Slovenian, Hungarian and East Flemish citizen really feel more European? The 12th colloquium of the Europae Archaeologiae Consilium will try and answer these crucial questions.

This international concern fits in perfectly with the location for the colloquium: the Provincial Heritage Centre in Ename. This new complex intends to be a dynamic centre that brings heritage closer to both young and old. It will let people experience what heritage is all about, how it is dealt with and how you can give it a place in your own life. The point is: a better understanding of heritage through a better heritage experience. That is why, as deputy for culture of the province of East Flanders, I particularly appreciate the fact that the colloquium takes place here. There is also a second reason that personally appeals to me. In the Provincial Heritage Centre, skilful hands have created a big colourful carpet representing early medieval Europe. It introduces people to the fascinating EU project "Cradles of European Culture", which was recently selected within the Culture 2007–2013 programme and which I, as deputy of the provincial government of East Flanders, fully support. The history of the Carolingian Middle Realm is the central theme of the project. The carpet shows Europe as it was at the time of the Treaty of Verdun in 843. The imposing realm of Charlemagne was then divided into three parts: West Francia – Francia Occidentalis, (the future France), East Francia – Francia Orientalis, (the future Germany), and between them Middle Francia, Francia Media, which is coloured red. This was the transit zone that linked the Mediterranean to the North Sea and caused the region's culture, communication, technology and economy to flourish highly in the early Middle Ages.

This intense life will be shown to the public at ten heritage sites in nine European countries, linked up by the Francia Media heritage route. This route will not only focus on the early Middle Ages, but will also connect with the present and prove that Francia Media is still important culturally-strategically today. Indeed, the 'old' territory is still characterized by urbanisation, a high population density, a great cultural diversity and an intense business life. I am proud to know that the Provincial Heritage Centre can pull its weight to highlight the idea of Europe by supporting this fascinating project.

The archaeologists, architectural historians, environmental experts and other specialists who will be speaking at the colloquium do not solely consider their own field of research. They have broadened their horizons and have a critical eye for the wider European context in which 'their heritage' is situated. They dare to ask the question if it is all that evident that heritage brings us, Europeans, closer together. Are these Great European Stories really so unique? What can we learn from local heritage? How do we combine European visions with national visions and vice versa? What do we do with the 'unwelcome' war heritage and how do we truly tell the European story to the broad public? They are all essential questions that require correct answers, if we indeed want to make sure that heritage brings Europe closer to us.

I am convinced that the Provincial Heritage Centre Ename, just as it has done now for the 12th EAC colloquium, will further help to provide a forum for inspiring discussions about future developments in the European heritage sector.

Jozef Dauwe

Deputy for Culture of the Province of East Flanders
Chairman of the Provincial Heritage Center Ename

