

Appropriate narratives
Archaeologists, publics and stories

Edited by

ELISABETH NIKLASSON and THOMAS MEIER



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Front Cover Illustration

Hidden narrative in the vicinity of the Berber village Imouzzer in Morocco
(Photo Elisabeth Niklasson)

Back Cover Illustration

Greek flag-design used during the Revolutionary War,
in a gun-slit of the *Kastro Favierou, Methana, Greece.*
(Photo Linos Papachristou)

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Preface

This miscellany was triggered by a Round Table and collects papers from two sessions held at the EAA Annual meetings at The Hague (2010), Oslo (2011) and Helsinki (2012). We are deeply thankful to our co-organisers at these events, namely Carsten-Paludan-Müller, Petra Tillessen and Mark Pearce, for the great cooperation at these meetings and their kind support of this publication!

While we are used to books finishing and summing up a project, this book is something different: It tries to initiate discussion, to change perspectives and to conjure reflections on archaeology's relation and meaning to the wider public in a post-modern world. We neither carry with us the modern emphasis of educating the laymen, nor a patronizing perspective on the dull public which is constantly misunderstanding the important results of archaeologists. We also do not subscribe to the so called "anything goes" approach, a label which is really more of a straw man created by various opponents of post-modern approaches. Instead we were determined to take the public's appropriations of archaeology seriously – neither praising it to be the "real" archaeology, nor damning it to be false, neither regarding every appropriation to be legitimate, nor overlooking the dangers of some fringe appropriations.

We are aware that not all of our colleagues who have contributed to this volume share our perspective. We regard this to be one of the book's strengths (just as it was in the original sessions), not to unify different strands but to widen the focus and create a truly prismatic, multiperspectival view. Therefore, our special thanks go to the authors for joining us in this endeavour of diversity, for their valuable and thought-provoking papers – and not the least for their kind and considerate cooperation in responding to all of our editorial requests. We are sure that readers will enjoy their work.

Finally, our sincere "thank you" goes to Erzsébet Jerem for accepting this volume for the Series Minor of *Archaeolingua*. Moreover, we would like to gratefully acknowledge the dedication of our student assistant Anna Freya Schneider and her quick and concise editorial work, as well as the enthusiasm of Ágnes Anna Sebestyén, Rita Kovács and the *Archaeolingua*-team, who did final edits and – as usual – carefully supervised the production process.

Elisabeth Niklasson and Thomas Meier

Heidelberg and Stockholm, Midsummer's Day 2013