

Round Table Proposal

European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) 12th Annual Meeting
Krakow, Poland
19th to 24th September 2006

Organizer: Kenneth Aitchison, Gerhard Ermischer

Theme:

Managing the Archaeological Record and the Cultural Heritage

Title Round Table:

Transnational Archaeology

Abstract:

The expansion of the European Union and the ease of travel across the continent has led to increasing numbers of archaeologists and archaeological organisations working in 'foreign' countries. While this is not a new phenomenon – northern European universities have been dispatching excavation teams to Mediterranean countries for decades – it is now happening for commercial reasons.

There are many good examples of cross-national collaboration and successful projects – but equally there is a level of suspicion and protectionism held in some quarters, with fears about quality being frequently raised.

Participants at this round-table will explore the issues raised by archaeologists working across borders and will discuss if and how professional associations (whether in the archaeologists' original or 'host' countries) can help to maintain quality in that work.

While the EAA is not a pan-European professional association, it also has to role in contributing to this process by acting as an instigator of shared standards and comparable rules or guiding principles, and the Committee on Professional Associations in Archaeology's work to draft practice guidelines for field work will contribute to this goal.

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