

Notes of the EXARC meeting in Unteruhldingen, November 22 – 23, 2002

as remembered by Roeland Paardekooper.

See for the addresses of the EXARC members, the address list on the website

Present:

Apals, Janis (Lv); Johansson, Tomas (S); Paardekooper, Roeland (NL); Pajusi, Arwo (S); Piotrowski, Wojciech (PL); Schmidt, Martin (D); Schöbel, Gunter (D); Strassmeir, Andreas (D); Vilka, Anda (Lv); Walter, Peter (D); Wunderli, Marlise (CH)

Non-member: Josef Kawerk (F)

Not Present (with notification): Banghard, Karl (D); Boer, Miriam de (NL); Boonstra, Anneke (NL); Hein, Wulf (D); Peise, Fabian (D); Poroszlai, Ildikó (H); Tichy, Radomir (CZ); Wellin, Lars (S)

Agenda:

1. Opening
2. Presentation of the EXARC Brochure
3. EXAR – EXARC
4. Education
5. EXARC's future
6. EXARC – technical matters
7. Closing
8. Next meetings

### 1. Opening

After the lecture program, which was as well visited by the South German colleagues Ralf Baumeister (Bad Buchau) and Erwin Keefer (Stuttgart), we continue with the first part of our session.

Since last meeting we welcome different new members:

Wojciech Piotrowski (Biskupin, PL)

Miriam de Boer (Archeon, NL)

Radomir Tichy (Vsestary, CZ)

Roeland Paardekooper (VAEE, NL) has accepted a job in the museum in Eindhoven (HOME). At this meeting he will represent them as well.

### 2. Presentation of the EXARC Brochure

*Gunter* presents to the members a brochure. This was published as cooperation between EXARC and the Pfahlbaumuseum, 1,000 copies. It holds a presentation of 20 different archaeological open air centres over Europe, combined with a long list of addresses per country of different other archaeological open air museums. It is sponsored with a large amount by the Pfahlbaumuseum and the staff has as well 'donated' time to get the brochure ready. Further, different members of EXARC have offered help. The brochure costs € 2,50 each, which is far below the actual price.

The presentations are not only of EXARC members but also of a few others. The booklet is meant as a sign of life, as a possible instrument to help EXARC further. Maybe it will as well serve as a base of part of a website renovation.

### 3. EXAR – EXARC

*On the EXAR club, please read as well the notes of last meeting in Riga.*

*Tomas:* it is astonishing to see what has happened: two clubs with almost the same name.

*Martin:* Professor Fansa would have started a club sooner or later anyway. Now, we have influence as well, because 60% of the administration of the EXAR club (also known as the 'Fansa Club') is member of EXARC as well, the latter being just an informal body until now.

EXARC is more professional, more the 'senior' club while EXAR more acts in the public field of EXARC. Most people agree, there is no problem in which club does what, but in the similarity in names. It is however very well possible that within the next few years one club will 'eat' the other. We have to see the reasons for each of them to stay alive.

*Martin:* EXAR has up to now about 40 members. This club is about experimental archaeology in a broad – often unscientific – sense, and about education. They are strong in organising (or helping organise) the yearly conference or 'Tagung' and publishing the yearbook or 'Bilanz'. How

internationally they will really get is a serious question. We, in contrast, are more European, more established on English language.

Should EXARC sharpen its approach?

*Gunter*: we have our approach and goals, and so does professor Fansa. EXARC would be closed, a kind of senior staff club. Experimental archaeology is only a small part of all our themes, while in EXAR this is the larger part. Simply said: we have other goals.

We might be concerned about the future of museums, we might be the motor – you cannot cut the engine out of the car.

EXAR is not concerned about open air centres; they still have to see about their goals.

*Marlise, Martin and Roeland* should monitor the developments.

*Wojchiech*: EXAR will develop as well and the problem with the names will persist. Sooner or later, there should be a solution.

Until then, we have to communicate clearly what the differences are and what the benefits are to be member of EXARC.

#### 4. Education

*Tomas* is coming back to the subject of education of professionals the way it is done in Bäckedal, Sweden ( <http://www.backedal.fhsk.se> ). This should not be so difficult, but we need some funds. Maybe this could be part of our Interreg application and it is connecting us. The idea would be to raise it to an academic level and to have our EXARC office there as well.

*Andreas*: you need a lot of people.

*Tomas*: Making ourselves a European education body can be more successful – integration and other keywords apply. We should build up about 10 to 12 different pin points over the European map, than we should create circles around these focal points.

*Wojchiech*: It will be about self education of staff as well.

Education remains a central point for us

#### 5. EXARC's future

On the items, EXARC wishes to progress, a lot has been mentioned before in different meetings. A short list will be added to these notes and can be found on the website.

*Tomas* mentions 'Destination Viking', an Interreg program on marketing Viking places, he accompanied. This project received € 2,000,000 already. 16 organisations in 8 countries participated (with for example Arais and other archaeological open air centres). Of the total of 84 applications, only 17 were correctly set up and taken into consideration. Interreg is to make countries cooperate; Brussels pays half of the total budget.

Besides this EU project where EXARC members are participating, there is for example as well 'Archaeo Live' with different EXARC members and possible members.

*Marlise* makes clear that this kind of cooperation between EXARC members is not supporting EXARC itself and we should do something into that direction. It is important in these matters that EXARC is a juristic body. Then we should argue openly how the EU can be fruitful for EXARC.

Starting an Interreg application would be a good way to get EXARC further. The basic outline is just a 2 pages long text (maximum 2,500 signs). The long range goal should be about creating jobs: now everybody is just too busy to get things done; EXARC is still volunteer work and exactly we want to work towards professionalism. If we apply, we have to count; there will be about 15% overhead or *Verwaltung* (EXARC).

Who can be the leader, an administrative – governmental – body? Different possibilities are mentioned. The deadline seems to be March 31<sup>st</sup>, but – as *Tomas* puts it – everything keeps changing within Interreg.

Should we have only one nucleus or should we combine a northern and a southern European one?

Bridging the gap between the two spheres would be important.

What will be the project we are working with?

- Education, ourselves and the public
- a touring exhibition
- exchanging people, maybe together with the exhibition
- transfer of know how

What are we good at, should we incorporate new ideas or old things? Remember that Interreg is about regional development.

*Tomas* and *Roeland* will work together on setting up a framework. The participation in the project is not restricted to open air centres. Should we introduce as well traditional crafts, still surviving in remote areas of Europe? It will be taken in consideration.

For information, you can check the website: [http://www.interreg3c.net/sixcms/home\\_en/](http://www.interreg3c.net/sixcms/home_en/)

Every partner will make its own plan, and there will remain only little directive work. We should download the application and see how it works. For students at university, we form the 2<sup>nd</sup> step of formation.

*Marlise*: this is not just about open air centres.

That is correct.

*Gunter*: the question is who leads and who follows? How much do the institutes bring in and what do they get? The questions to be answered are:

- who
- which way
- what amount

*Tomas*: you should count that 15% of the total budget is administration. In the case of Destination Viking, some partners invested more like € 100,000 while others are poor but we still wanted them to join. We should not spend too much time on the application.

*Gunter*: what about the differences in Europe between north and south? What about the fact that some countries are more favourable to getting funding than others? We have to inform us.

Raising quality is good for us all.

## **6. EXARC – technical matters**

To register EXARC as a foundation in Sweden, *Tomas* and *Roeland* are given authorisation to arrange this. Our legitimisation is the institutes. *Lars* withdraws as cashier, *Gunter* is chosen as his follow up.

*Tomas* remains chairman, while *Roeland* stays secretary.

Each institute can have maximum two representatives.

*Biskupin* says it should be no problem for institutes in Eastern Europe to pay the € 50,00 instead of the minimum of € 15,00 we handle right now. We understand there is a difference between individuals and institutes, but individuals cannot become member of EXARC anyway.

After the meeting, it was proposed to keep the contribution fee to the end of 2003 on € 50,00 for all new members, but that those for whom this might be a problem can ask the administration for help.

Together we are strong, but a member alone is not.

The website does not look good, but does have some good contents. There were no funds for upgrading the website; in fact not even all amounts for keeping the domain name and web space in our hands are paid for.

*Peter*: what about symbols: should we connect to UNESCO? *Peter* gets permission to check this out.

*Marlise*: a badge or sign on the front door of our members would also be important. Who will get into this?

And how about taking the symbol of EXARC up into institutes' letters?

*Martin*: it would be good if members should give more information on what they themselves are doing. This could be diary like and added to the "news mail". Share your events or specialists.

*Gunter*: it is better to get in contact with all museum directors of EXARC, not with assistants.

## **7. Closing**

*Tomas* thanks the Pfahlbaumuseum through *Gunter Schöbel* and *Peter Walter* for the organisation of this meeting and the conference around it. It took a large effort to get the interesting program together like we experienced it.

## **8. Next meetings**

Our next meeting will be in Lejre, Denmark, halfway in March. This session will be more a meeting in the "Oerlinghausen" sense of it. As we might be very far in having our Interreg application prepared, we will need exactly then the possibility to finish it well – a lot of small things will have to be secured. We seriously ask all members to be represented by *the seniors* so decisions can be taken more directly.

In combination with the following Tagung – Conference on Experimental Archaeology which will take place in Vienna on October 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, we will probably convene again, but this time in Százhalombatta, Hungary, where *Ildikó Poroszlai* has invited us to.

So keep in mind:

**March, 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003: Lejre, Denmark**  
**Mid October, 2003: Százhalombatta, Hungary**

## Annex to the notes of the EXARC meeting in Unteruhldingen, November 2002

### Different points to be discussed and formed an opinion about

Based on the EXARC meetings in 2001

- Concept
- Quality
- Science & Experimental Archaeology
- Education
- Publications
- Open Air Museums vs. Showcase Museums
- Miscellaneous

#### Concept

**changing the 30 year old concept:** new challenges, our goals and means to reach those. we need new concepts, being innovative, being ahead of the spirit of the times. Getting a more social component, like Danish museums. What about the future?

#### Quality

In our field, all over Europe there are different good initiatives, than a gap, than useless initiatives. **The latter seem to lack** profound quality, serving as a tourist highlight or an adventure playground only. We would need a **quality label** on every aspect of our work. The quality of our shops is heavily connected to our own program Quality: **Accreditation:** we are focused on the **top 10%**. Create a guild: **exclude** organizations as well.

Quality and the **honesty** of presenting. We are modern people, acting for other modern people. Be true, do not lie. On the other hand this doesn't mean you can just do or build anything. Our aim is not to fake the past: we have a **method to present the past**.

**keywords to quality:** contact, exchange of knowledge, education, lobbying, library, publishing. Management should be in it as well.

#### Science & Experimental Archaeology

We have to have a **scientific backup, based on research**. This excludes a whole lot of open air museums. The scientific world appears in ours as **consultants**. You can have an important professor to advise you, but that doesn't have to **guarantee quality**. You need to involve (craft and other) specialists. **Nowadays there is no time for research**. Get knowledge of the current state, put it together. **Right now there is no cooperation, nobody knows about each other**.

Most projects are scientifically seen **badly founded**; there is hardly any experimental archaeology, no quality development. There is talk about the 'prehistoric hobby club', every one of these projects looks like the other, there is no concept behind. If it is called a museum, than it needs **scientific facts**.

The life sized models you see everywhere are **hardly ever well documented**. There is a **great difficulty in performing good experiments**. Getting an **academic course for our business**. We are just **one field of archaeology**. 'Ancient technology' is interdisciplinary: it is linked to many subjects: science, teaching, craft, anthropology, archaeology, art and history of technology. There is a gap between science archaeologists and other archaeologists.

The academic world does **its own** experimental archaeology, they have other questions than ours. The linkage with those experimental archaeologists is important. The key is **education at the universities**. Nowadays, museums and universities are in different camps. It should not be that way.

The whole way of **interpretation of archaeological data is our basic question**. We are the **mediator between science and the public**.

#### Education

**What has experimental archaeology to do with education?**

**We crave context – not just objects - and while teaching, we tell the story.**

There might come new museums **without an educational concept, without any education**. If you teach schoolchildren, they will come back with their parents. Education is more than just playing with children. Is the museum the right place to educate people? Why are we doing what we are doing? What is the sense of educational work? Is there genuine interest and why is there more interest for us than for traditional museums? How to educate qualified personnel?

## **Publications**

**exchange of knowledge, books.** There is a lack of **good publications** for the public. Popular books are often copies and bad translations of old books, with a huge amount of mistakes. Publications of archaeological open air museums should address different levels

## **Open Air Museums vs. Showcase museums**

Why is there so little money for our institutions in comparison with for example traditional museums and science? What about the classical museum skills: collecting, keeping and exhibiting? Or are we just the mediator or educator?

## **Miscellaneous**

- more knowledge on methods of advertising
- Open air museums will be independent financially
- Getting more visitors
- keeping good employees during the wintertime: How do we employ staff all year round?
- Breaking through the isolation in our business, being set aside from science and traditional museums. Get your own network – in your region and internationally
- Every open air museum has to fit in its region, being that regions cultural focus
- self confidence – finding our place in society
- Lobby to create political support
- there is more to just being an archaeological (open air) museum than just archaeology
- Exchanging information should be easy, short messages
- Generating money for EXARC
- New members should add something
- education, recreation and research are the general points of an open air museum

Our chance would be to **remain a small group** for the first years and **work all this out. Set high standards and move them upwards.** Our way is to develop.