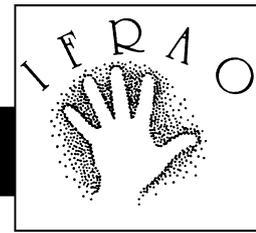


IFRAO Report No. 55



Minutes of the 2015 IFRAO Business Meeting

Cáceres, Spain, 4 September 2015

Organisations represented: American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA), represented by Diane Hamann (U.S.A.); Asociación Cultural 'Colectivo Barbaón' (ACCB), represented by Hipólito Collado Giraldo (Spain); Asociación Cultural Instituto de Estudios Prehistóricos (ACINEP), represented by José Julio García Arranz (Spain); Associação Brasileira de Arte Rupestre (ABAR), represented by Maria Conceição Soares Meneses Lage (Brazil); Associação Portuguesa de Arte e Arqueologia Rupestre (APAAR), represented by Mila Simões de Abreu (Portugal); Association pour le Rayonnement de l'Art Pariétal Européen (ARAPE), represented by Jean Clottes (France); Australian Rock Art Research Association, Inc. (AURA), represented by Robert G. Bednarik (Australia); Cave Art Research Association (CARA), represented by Robert G. Bednarik (Australia); Centro Europeu de Investigação da Pré-História do Alto Ribatejo (CEIPHAR), represented by Luiz Oosterbeek (Portugal); Centro Studi e Museo d'Arte Preistorica (CeSMAP), represented by Dario Seglie (Italy); Grupo de Investigación de Arte Rupestre Indígena (GIPRI), represented by Guillermo Muñoz C. (Colombia); Moscow Centre of Rock Art and Bioindication Research, represented by Arsen Faradjev (Russia); Sociedad de Investigación del Arte Rupestre de Bolivia (SIARB), represented by Matthias Strecker (Bolivia); Société Préhistorique Ariège-Pyrénées (SPAP), represented by Jean Clottes (France). The following member organisations were represented by proxies: Archivo Nacional de Arte Rupestre (ANAR, Venezuela), Asociación de Estudios del Arte Rupestre de Cochabamba (AEARC, Bolivia), Asociación Peruana de Arte Rupestre (APAR, Peru), Association Marocaine d'Art Rupestre (AMAR, Morocco), Mid-America Geographic Foundation, Inc. (MAGF, U.S.A.), Rock Art Society of India (RASI, India), Società Cooperativa Archeologica Le Orme dell'Uomo (Italy). Thus twenty-one member organisations were represented.

The meeting was held at the Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities, University of Extremadura, in Cáceres, Extremadura, Spain, on 4 September 2015, and it commenced at 6:00 p.m. In the absence of the IFRAO President it was chaired by Jean Clottes, a Past President of IFRAO. The minutes were recorded by the Convener of IFRAO.

1. *Apologies and declaration of proxies.* There was one apology from Tang Huisheng (China), and the six proxies were declared.
2. *Confirmation of previous minutes.* The minutes of

the previous IFRAO Business Meeting (Guiyang, China, 18 July 2014) have been published in *Rock Art Research* 32: 126–127. ARAPE moved to accept them, seconded by CeSMAP, and they were accepted unanimously.

3. *Matters arising from these minutes.* No matters arising from the previous meeting were raised or discussed.
4. *Report of the IFRAO President.* No report had been received.
5. *Report by the IFRAO-UNESCO Liaison Officer.* The CeSMAP Representative reported that information about new members of IFRAO has been provided to UNESCO and other details have been given, with particular regard to the problems of preservation.
6. *Report by the IFRAO Convener.*
 - 6a. The Convener reported on the ongoing issues of rock art protection globally. There have been great improvements over the past two decades, but further vigilance and action are required in several countries.
 - 6b. Representatives of IFRAO have negotiated with the cultural heritage branch of UNESCO conditions of better acceptance of rock art properties on the World Heritage List. These interventions have led to greatly improved prospects for the listing of rock art sites. Several have since then been inscribed, are currently being submitted or are being considered for submission with the support of IFRAO.
 - 6c. Current developments in the discipline: the Convener emphasises the phenomenal surge of rock art research and rock art appreciation in several regions, most especially in China, but also in South Korea, Saudi Arabia and some South American countries.
7. CeSMAP proposes to hold a thematic conference in Turin, Italy, in the first week of September 2016, on the possibility that rock art of Neanderthals exists. After discussion it is decided that the conference title would be 'Is there palaeoart before modern humans?', and that it would be held under the aegis of IFRAO, but not as an IFRAO Congress.
8. *Proposals for other future IFRAO conferences.*
 - 8a. A rock art conference is to be held by ABAR on 16 and 17 September 2016 in Brazil.

- 8b. Società Cooperativa Archeologica Le Orme dell' Uomo proposes to hold an IFRAO Congress together with the Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici (which has just applied for affiliation with IFRAO) in 2018 at Capo di Ponte, in the Valcamonica, Italy. The time of the event is to be advised.
9. *Reports of IFRAO Representatives wishing to outline their organisation's work.*
- 9a. Moscow Centre of Rock Art and Bioindication Research has held an exhibition on petroglyphs and conducted other public activities.
- 9b. CeSMAP has also held an exhibition, and conducted fieldwork in a joint mission 2014–2016 in the Loja Region of Ecuador, under the aegis of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ecuador Ministry of the Culture. CeSMAP undertook public education work, especially for children, in the Prehistoric Art Museum of Pinerolo, Italy.
- 9c. SIARB has produced a book on the rock art of the Lake Titicaca region, and another on the rock art of Santa Cruz Departamento. Fieldwork has been conducted as part of a project at Oruro in central Bolivia.
- 9d. APAAR has contributed to the preparations for the Cáceres IFRAO Congress of 2015.
- 9e. ARARA continues its tradition of annual meetings, usually held in May, the next of which will be held at Las Cruces, New Mexico, U.S.A., 27–30 May 2016. ARARA also continued its publishing program.
- 9f. Società Cooperativa Archeologica Le Orme dell' Uomo has conducted research in Oman.
- 9g. AEARC and APAR have held a thematic conference on the ethnography of rock art in Cochabamba, Bolivia.
- 9h. GIPRI is conducting rock art research in collaboration with state authorities in Colombia, and has held an annual meeting.
- 9i. ARAPE has continued its publishing program and it also manages the funding for the Chauvet Cave program and that for the study of Gargas Cave.
- 9j. ACCB and ACINEP have been engaged in the preparations for the 2015 IFRAO Congress in Cáceres.
- 9k. AURA has continued to produce its regular and occasional publications, as well as other books. AURA members have conducted research and fieldwork in all continents except Antarctica in the last two years.
10. *Any further matters raised by delegates.*
- 10a. CEIPHAR proposes that a letter of support be sent concerning the International Year of Global Understanding. The proposal is moved by AURA, seconded by ARAPE and approved by the meeting (see IFRAO resolution 1 below).
- 10b. ACCB reports that, in excavating a small cave in Extremadura (western Spain), rock art is being endangered by palaeontologists. It is requested that the need to prioritise the preservation of the site's rock art be presented to the relevant government authorities. In the discussion the Chair emphasises that any modification of a cave poses a great risk for any rock art present. CEIPHAR proposes that a media interview of J. Clottes be arranged. ACCB will write to the authorities with the support of IFRAO.
- 10c. AEARC and APAR present the *Cochabamba Manifest* (*Rock Art Research* 32: 251–252) for consideration. SIARB is critical of it, requesting that more consultation is required. In the discussion it is suggested that it needs to be more focused on rock art protection. The Chair requests that a shortened version be subjected to a postal ballot of all IFRAO members.
11. *General matters, discussion and resolutions.* No further matters are raised.
12. *Declaration of new IFRAO President.* Hipólito Collado Giraldo, one of the two Chairmen of the 2015 IFRAO Congress, is nominated and elected unanimously as the new IFRAO President.
13. *Adjournment.* The new President thanks the delegates and adjourns the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

IFRAO resolution 1

In order to promote the awareness of how sciences do play a role in addressing people's concerns in the framework of global climatic, environmental and cultural changes, 2016 will be proclaimed as the International Year of Global Understanding (YIGU) by the International Council for Science, the International Social Science Council and the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences. YIGU seeks to promote better understanding of how the local and the global phenomena are deeply related.

YIGU (<http://global-understanding.info/>) builds from the awareness that to think, live and act in the global scale requires global understanding, and that this calls for research, education and communication. Societies and cultures interact with other natural realities, and they also guide our understanding of how humans' actions have a global effect in the planet. In this sense, YIGU builds from UN and UNESCO concerns, on previous International Years focused on specific issues, but engages all disciplines within an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary framework. In this respect, YIGU will focus on the concerns of daily life of people (eating, drinking, working, housing, entertaining, recycling, communicating etc.), within driving categories (surviving, urbanising, belonging, interacting, preserving, recovering) and with a threefold agenda: daily behaviour, millennium goals and specific actions. At its core sits the explanation of the importance of science for understanding, bringing together natural, social and human sciences.

Rock art is a field of studies that engages on a permanent basis scientific contributions from human, social and natural sciences, but also from the artistic and creative sectors. In this sense it is a highly complex and difficult area. But it also generates a strong interest from people and, unlike other past remains that allow for 'simple' (even if wrong) 'common sense' explanations, does impose itself as a driver to think (on its meaning, its function, its anthropological implications, its chronology etc.). Therefore, rock art sites and areas are among the best contexts to convey the message of IYGU. Projects on global understanding based on rock art clusters will beyond doubt contribute in a significant way for the success of the IYGU aims.

IFRAO has devoted a large part of its efforts to the study, protection and preservation of rock art, bringing together different sciences within a convergent framework that is rooted in a series of methodological standards and ethical principles. In doing this, it encompasses human, social and natural sciences, which is fully in line with the scope of IYGU.

In this context, IFRAO recognises the relevance of IYGU and calls upon all its members to interact with IYGU coordination and Reference Action Centres, allowing for rock art to sit at the heart of this major initiative for the promotion of an integrated understanding of scientific research for the benefit of daily life of people.

IFRAO resolution 2

The condensed version of the Cochabamba Manifest has been supported via postal ballot by a near-unanimous vote (only one opposing vote) of IFRAO members.

The Cochabamba Manifest Rock art protection and policies of development in South American countries

The recent economic growth in South American countries has accelerated the destruction of fragile ecosystems, through the construction of mega-dams, roads and industrial mining projects, among others. These developments affect not only natural systems adversely, but also several people's traditional lifestyles and indigenous ways of relating to finite natural resources. A cultural heritage that represents more than twelve thousand years of human occupation and accumulated knowledge includes rock art sites. Yet not a single legislative proposal has been made in South America to increase the legal protection of this heritage in the face of economic growth. A systematic decline has been observed in the protective legislation concerning the cultural and historical heritage, including rock art, in countries such as Brazil, Peru and Bolivia. Signed international treaties such as the Convention 169 of the *International Labour Organization of the United Nations*, demanding previous, freely consented and culturally

adequate process of consultation of the communities that will be affected by projects such as mega-dams are not being implemented.

Rock art sites and sacred indigenous landscapes related to them have recently been destroyed by hydroelectric and mining projects in South America. These include the Sete Quedas Rapids on the Teles Pires River, in Brazilian Amazonia (this site has already been dynamited and subsequently flooded with the construction of the Teles Pires mega-dam); Toro Muerto in Peru; El Mauro in Chile; Ilha das Cobras on the Madeira River, Brazilian Amazon (also submerged by a mega-dam); Santa Luzia and Pedra do Ó on the Volta Grande of the Xingú River, also in Brazilian Amazonia (affected by a combination of the Belo Monte mega-dam and industrial gold mining), to state but a few. Unlike the Côa valley in Portugal and Dampier in Western Australia, where rock art was accorded a decisive role in the protection of the cultural heritage of humanity and of important socio-environmental landscapes, the aforementioned sites have been destroyed, or are threatened with annihilation.

AEARC (Association of Rock Art Investigation of Cochabamba, Bolivia), APAR (Rock Art Association of Peru) and rock art investigators from Brazil and other countries gathered for the First International Congress of Rock Art and Ethnography in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in 2014 decided to express through this manifest their alarm and discontentment regarding this state. The construction of mega-dams, industrial mining projects such as gas, oil and bauxite exploitation, agro-industrial expansion, opening of extensive roads across natural areas (as in the case of Tipnis in Bolivia), and other massive-scale extractive initiatives in Amazonia and elsewhere in South America are all of concern.

Furthermore, in reference to Article 3 of the *IFRAO Code of Ethics*, this document was produced in order to express support for the struggle of indigenous and traditional South American societies, such as the Mundurucu ethnic group from the Tapajos River in Brazilian Amazonia, against the construction of mega-dams and industrial mining projects in their traditional territories and sacred landscapes. The heritage institutions and political representatives of these countries are requested to provide clear and responsible proposals and actions concerning the protection of cultural, historical and archaeological sites. We expressly emphasise rock art sites and the indigenous knowledge attached to them, both cultural expressions and finite cultural-environmental resources. These are severely threatened by what seems to be an uncontrolled, misconstrued and politically biased process of economic growth of South American countries.

Cochabamba, Bolivia, 4 October 2014

AEARC – Asociación de Estudios del Arte Rupestre de Cochabamba, Bolivia

APAR – Asociación Peruana de Arte Rupestre, Peru

ABAR – Associação Brasileira de Arte Rupestre,

Brazil

GIPRI – Grupo de Investigación de Arte Rupestre Indígena, Colombia

ANAR – Archivo Nacional de Arte Rupestre, Venezuela

List of IFRAO Congresses

1. 1988 Darwin, Australia, held by AURA
2. 1992 Cairns, Australia, held by AURA
3. 1994 Flagstaff, U.S.A., held by ARARA
4. 1993 New Delhi, India, held by RASI
5. 1995 Turin, Italy, held by CeSMAP
6. 1996 Windhoek, Namibia, held by SARARA
7. 1997 Cochabamba, Bolivia, held by SIARB
8. 1998 Vila Real, Portugal, held by APAAR
9. 1999 Ripon, Wisconsin, U.S.A., held by ARARA
10. 2000 Alice Springs, Australia, held by AURA
11. 2004 Agra, India, held by RASI
12. 2006 Lisbon, Portugal, held by APAAR
13. 2009 Capivara National Park, Brazil, held by ABAR
14. 2010 Foix, France, held by ARAPE
15. 2012 La Paz, Bolivia, held by SIARB
16. 2013 Albuquerque, New Mexico, U.S.A., held by ARARA
17. 2014 Guyang City, China, held by RARAC
18. 2015 Caceres, Spain, held by CCB and ACINEP
19. 2018 Capo di Ponte, Italy, to be held by CCSP
20. 2019 Australia, to be held by AURA

New members of IFRAO

The **Asociación de Amigos del Parque Cultural de la Valltorta y su Museo**, or in short **Amics Valltorta Gassulla** (Spain), has applied for and been granted affiliation with IFRAO. Valltorta and Gassulla are two gorges in the north of Castellón province, containing 90 sites of Levantine rock art. The AVG was formed in 2009 and currently has about 70 members. Its work includes an extensive education program for children in the region, workshops, guided visits to rock art sites, an education program for the ten villages in the region of the rock art, the production of a book, collaboration with Universitat Jaume I (UJI, Castellón), and a special course for tourism agents on the basics of rock art. The AVG seeks collaboration with other rock art organisations around the world; it has a constitution and an elected executive committee of eight, headed by President Carolina Allepuz. The website of AVG is at www.amicsvalltorta.org. Please contact the AVG via its IFRAO Representative, Carolina Allepuz, Avgda. Puig Roda, 34, 12179 Tírig, Spain; or at amicsvalltorta@gmail.com.

The **China Rock Art Academy** (CRAA) has also recently been admitted to IFRAO. This new organisation has a fully democratic constitution and is based in Hohhot City, Inner Mongolia. Its Council comprises 68 directors and its National Assembly numbers 22 directors. These elect a President, a Secretary-General and nine Vice-Presidents. CRAA's founding membership last year was 138 but is growing rapidly. Its establishment signals the determination of our Chinese colleagues to build up a strong rock art research community in their country, with another (RARAC) already existing there since the 1980s which hosted the IFRAO Congress of 2014. The website of CRAA is <http://zhongguoyanhuawang.com/>. Please establish contact with CRAA through its President and IFRAO Representative, Wang Jianping, The Secretariat of China Rock Art Academy, Hetao Liquor Building, Ke Er Qin North Road, Hohhot City, Inner Mongolia 010010, China; or at zgyhxx111@126.com.

The **North China Rock Art Research Institute** (NCRARI) at the Honder College of Inner Mongolia Normal University has also been admitted to IFRAO. Founded in March 2014, this organisation has a democratically elected executive committee and focuses on the rock art of China. It teaches courses of rock art appreciation and cultural relic appreciation. The research work of this institute is at the forefront of Chinese rock art studies and its research results are published in the Chinese mainstream journals and reported by Chinese and foreign media. NCRARI has a code of conduct concerning the investigation, research and protection of rock art. It is the third IFRAO member from China, a country with a large corpus of rock art and many researchers in the field. NCRARI can be contacted through its IFRAO Representative and Executive Director, Professor Wu Jiakai, 29 Airport Road Huhhot, Inner Mongolia, China; or at wujiakai321@sina.com.

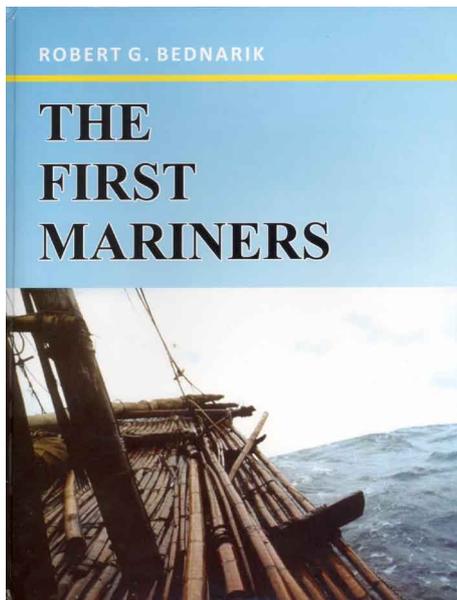
The **Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici** (CCSP) is among the two most recently affiliated members of IFRAO. Founded in 1964, this organisation now has a democratically elected executive committee/scientific committee of five members. It focuses on scientific research, promotion and dissemination of study results through its extensive publishing program, exhibitions, conferences and cultural events. The CCSP has its own substantial headquarters (with a large specialised library, scientific archive and documentation centre) and permanent staff to carry out its institutional objectives, and has been a major contributor to world rock art research for several decades. With its application to join IFRAO, the CCSP has provided in impressive activities report for 2013 and 2014, available from the Convener on request. The CCSP is one of the world's most active and influential rock art organisations. The Centro can be contacted through its IFRAO Representative, Professor Mila Simões de

Abreu. The contact details of the CCSP are 7 Via Marconi, 25044 Capo di Ponte (Bs), Italy; Tel. +39-0364 42091; Fax +39-0364 42572; e-mail info@ccsp.it.

Finally, the **Rock Art Centre of Juci Mountain** (RACJ) has also just been granted IFRAO membership. Founded in October 2008, this organisation has a democratically elected executive committee headed by President Dr Liu Wuyi and focuses on the study of the rock art of Henan Province, central China. The RACJ collaborates closely with the International Centre for Rock Art Dating at Hebei Normal University, and since 2014 has invited international rock art specialists several times to participate in its projects. These have resulted in the discovery of hundreds of petroglyph sites in various parts of Henan Province since 2008. The publishing program of the RACJ has produced

eight books on Henan rock art, and RACJ conducts lecture series on rock art in Xinzheng. The RACJ has also organised rock art conferences in 2009 (Beijing), 2011 and 2015, as well as public lecture programs from 2009 to 2015. Please contact the IFRAO Representative of RACJ, Dr Liu Wuyi, 186 Renmin Road, Xinzheng, Henan, China; Tel. +0086-371-6269 2598; e-mail huangdi5000@126.com.

IFRAO therefore has a total of fifty-six member organisations currently. The great surge of rock art research in China is reflected in the recent increase from one to four members from that country, exceeded only by U.S.A. (seven members) and France and Spain (five members each). Other countries that have more than one IFRAO member are Italy, Russia, Germany, Bolivia and Australia.



The first mariners ROBERT G. BEDNARIK

Research India Press, 2014, 335 pages, 190 mostly colour plates, hardcover, ISSN 978-93-5171-007-3.

This volume summarises the history and findings of the First Mariners Project, which the author commenced in 1996 and which is engaged in exploring the Ice Age origins of seafaring. This is the largest archaeological replication project ever undertaken. It has so far involved many hundreds of people, the construction of eight primitive vessels with stone tools under scientifically controlled conditions, and the sailing of six of them. Four bamboo rafts have succeeded in accomplishing the historically documented crossings they sought to replicate, the other efforts have failed. One of the successful experiments, a 1000-km journey to Australia in 1998, attempted to recreate the first human arrival in Australia, probably around 60000 years ago. Others addressed the much earlier sea crossings documented to have taken place in the islands of Indonesia, the earliest of which occurred up to a million years ago. Two of these experiments have featured

in BBC productions, two others in National Geographic documentaries. This book describes the archaeological background and relevant issues comprehensively and it comprises an extensive pictorial record, of both the experiments and the archaeological basis of this research. It is unique in its approach, because in all such previous maritime adventures it has been tried to prove some point or other, usually that a certain crossing of the sea was possible. This project, by contrast, only deals with proven crossings for which archaeological information about their approximate timing is available. Its purpose therefore is not to prove any colonisation, but to establish what the minimum technological and cognitive conditions would have been to succeed in such maritime achievements of the very distant past. The book contains a detailed discussion of early palaeoart.

The publisher's recommended retail price of this volume is US\$150.00 (c. \$A214.00). AURA has acquired a number of copies at cost price and is making these available to members at \$A40.00 each (81% discount), plus postage for 1.8 kg weight. Please order your copy at

AURA, P.O. Box 216, Caulfield South, VIC 3162, Australia, or auraweb@hotmail.com

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