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Annual meeting of the association "Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology" (CAA 2002): THE DIGITAL HERITAGE OF ARCHAEOLOGY. Heraklion, Crete, Greece, 2th- 6th April 2002

This year's thirtieth consecutive annual meeting of the association "Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology" took place in Heraklion, a picturesque historical port and economic center of Crete. Crete is known as a cradle of Mediterranean civilization with its Minoan culture and is also a popular tourist spot. The "FORTH Institute of Computer Science" and the "FORTH Institute of Mediterranean Studies" organized this year's conference. Dictated by tradition, the meeting continued for five days, with over 200 participants from all over the world. The Slovenian participants included the author of this paper and a colleague from SASA (Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts).

In this report I will present the program of the CAA 2002 conference and try to explain the current issues of modern technologies in archaeology, digitally supported archaeological methods and the influence of information technology in archaeology and in the archaeological cultural heritage.

The first day of the conference was devoted to registration and four workshops: (1) Scientific Credibility and Authentication in Cultural Virtual Reality, (2) the CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model as a Tool for Integrating Cultural Information, (3) Selecting Material for Digitization and Evaluating the Digital Products and (4) Managing Stratigraphy, the Integration of Stratigraphic Database and Graphical Information from Excavation. The opening ceremony took place the next morning. The president of the CAA association, Nick Ryan, the conference organizers and politicians all greeted the guests. This was followed by a lecture given by Jean-Claude Gardina and titled "*Archaeological Discourse, Conceptual Modeling and Digitalization*". The author presented the realistic problem of disseminating scientific ideas. The fact is that the increasing numbers of scientists produce an increasing number of articles that, due to the time limits of individual colleagues, remain a cause of their own. He proposed guidelines for development of a method of writing, which would facilitate swifter absorption of the essence of individual articles. This was followed by the usual three-day conference program that, apart from the aforementioned workshops involved three topical groups: (1) Secondary Knowledge Generation / Computer Supported Reasoning, (2) Spatial Information Acquisition and Evaluation and (3) Management of the Digital Heritage. The sections took place simultaneously, for which reason we had to plan our attendance to the lectures. Attending these presentations in

separate auditoriums was thus conditioned by an adjusted rhythm of commuting among authors. During the breaks we had the opportunity to study the 21 posters, which we could also directly discuss with their authors.

Noteworthy from among the workshops was that of Maria Economou (University of Manchester, UK), who very precisely analyzed and explained all the phases of the process of preparing and producing the digital archives for various needs. The questions concerning selection of the material, financing, the clients or users demands, evaluation of the results, are only a few of those which we must consider in order to create a successful and usable product. Naturally, the main indicator of success is ultimately the user from whom we need feedback information. The fourth workshop lead by Dominic Powlesland (The Landscape research center, UK) was also very interesting. It presented an innovative software tool for interactive management and selection of document archives. The skeleton of the system is a stratigraphic matrix with added spatial and time components to which all the other data acquired during excavation is attached. Parallel with the tabular view of the matrix and other data the graphic part also draws out the desired objects. With his detailed presentation of a wholly innovative product, the author gave a relaxed and witty presentation of the question of archaeological methodology, spiced with a good measure of British humor. By far the best lecture of the conference.

The themes presented in the first section were fairly diverse. They could be divided into the following groups – with the greatest emphasis on various applications of virtual reality. Peter Jablonka (Universität Tübingen, Germany) presented an impressive work of a reconstructed Troy through all the time horizons, supported by plans, photographs of the findings and the possibilities of manipulating in real time. In addition to this presentation, Mr. Jablonka also gave a lecture titled "*How Virtual Dreams Can Become Archaeological Reality*". He expounded the stages and experience of the progress of this extensive work done by archaeologists supported by computer specialists. The new program language X3D, which is supposed to substitute VRML in 3D modeling for networks was presented by Francesca Cantone (Naples University 'Federico II') and Franco Niccolucci (Florence University). The tools were elucidated on the case of Porsenna's mausoleum known from Pliny's descriptions. The language is supposed to provide easier connections between the network, 3D models and the databases. We were given a presentation of upgraded archaeological geographic information systems (GIS) in 3D virtual models in the case of the surroundings and urbane Bologna, and a research of various Greek cities with the help of 3D GIS tools. We also saw the use of virtual reality as a teaching tool and a medium for preserving destroyed complexes. The authors Florin Stanescu (University of Sibiu, Romania) and Marius Ci-

uta (University "1 Decembrie 1918", Romania) presented a work method and recent results in the project of reconstructing the ancient town *Colonia Augusta Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa*. In addition to the virtual reality were also papers regarding the application of GIS tools. A most interesting example was the project of Eleni Mantzourani (University of Athens) and colleagues. Their analysis is based on fuzzy logic, by which they predict new archaeological locations on an island of the western Cyclades. Further, we saw some practical solutions to archaeological documentation (Juan Barcelo, Universitat Autònoma Barcelona). Damien Green (Brunel University) presented an innovative tool for 3D reconstruction of structures during archaeological excavations. The author is originally a computer scientist and was somewhat critical of classic archaeological documentation. And finally, I must mention the papers concerning analysis of artifact collections. The emphasis was mainly on classifying ceramic material.

The second section was also quite broadly set. The common denominator was acquiring and manipulating spatial data by satellite identification, aerial photography, cartography, terrestrial measurement, geophysical measurement and excavation. The data was then more or less successfully integrated in GIS and analyzed. Remote identification is still used for reconstructing landscapes connected to actual archaeological contexts (e.g. K. Lambers et al, Institut fuer Geodäsie und Photogrammetrie, Switzerland or M. Forte et al, Istituto Universitario Orientale). Some projects of visualizing geophysical measurements in GIS were presented (e.g. A. Sarris et al, Institute for Mediterranean Studies, Crete). Dana Jensen of Stanford University presented a good study of transhumance in northern Chile with the help of an accomplished algorithm, geoglyphs and GIS. It proved that we might achieve exceptional results with relatively simple tools, but a correct approach. The Polish method of surveying the route of the future motorway was presented by Agnieszka Dolatowska (Adam Mickiewicz University) together with Andrzej Prinke (Poznan Archaeological Museum). The pilot project of the future 2500 km motorway was based on aerial photography from helicopters. The potential locations are first recorded and the "foundations" are set for later excavation.

The last of the conference sections was the most topically homogenous. It was devoted to presenting and discussing the solutions and questions of establishing, preserving, manipulating and subsequently using the digital heritage. Some of the contributions explained methods of presenting various archaeological data and information on the global network (e.g. K. Fernie, University of York et al). The task demands profound knowledge of archaeological objects and knowledge of the properties and capacities of modern information technology. An imperative through all the various pres-

entations was the need for systemization and standardization. Philip Carslile (National Monuments Records Centre, UK) pointed out the issue of naming periods. It is a known fact that the geographic position often determines the time span. Thus the Roman period is differently understood in Italy as opposed to in Britain.

This year's conference again showed that the trend in computer and quantitative methods in archaeology is to make the best possible use of information technologies for solving archaeological problems on various levels. GIS have been fairly adopted by archaeologists and their use has become a prerogative for studying spatial relations in regions as well as at individual sites. This year there were fewer papers on the topic of documenting archaeological excavations. The emphasis, as indicated in the conference's title, was more on archiving and the visualization of archaeological heritage.

And finally I would like to mention that in addition to the formal part of the conference we had a rich social program. Such meetings are also necessary for establishing new connections in a relaxed atmosphere.

The last day we had a session of CAA members at which we approved the candidature of Florence for organizing the upcoming conference in 2004. The organizers of the next meeting, which is scheduled to take place in Vienna between 8. – 12. April 2003, presented the progress of their preparations (further information can be obtained at <http://www.archaeologie-wien.at/caa2003/caa2003.htm>).

Claudio Povolo

Announcement of the international scientific conference: *THE VICTIM IN THE SCENE OF THE CRIMINAL TRIAL*. From victimless crimes to the appearance of the victim in the social and political debate. Koper, October, 2003

In October 2003 the international scientific conference *"THE VICTIM IN THE SCENE OF THE CRIMINAL TRIAL: From victimless crimes to the appearance of the victim in the social and political debate"* will take place in Koper (The Republic of Slovenia). At the conference, organized by the Scientific and Research Center of the Republic of Slovenia, Koper, the Faculty of Humanities Koper, the Historical Society of Primorska, Koper and the Department of History of the University of Venice, scientists with different disciplinary backgrounds dealing with the main conference topic will participate. However, the professionals, from Slovenia, Italy, Croatia, United States, Spain, Austria etc participating at the international meeting, will put a special emphasize on the history as well as on the current and actual events