

THE VALLETTA CONVENTION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES. *CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES 30 YEARS ON.*

(SOME PERSPECTIVES FROM THE EAA –
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS)



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I - The EAA and its broad-ranging expertise

II - A digital booster for the Valletta convention

III - Principles into practice – some opportunities and challenges ahead





European Association
of Archaeologists

I - The EAA and its broad-ranging expertise

The **EAA** (www.e-a-a.org) is the Association for all professional archaeologists of Europe and beyond, with some 15.000 members from 60 countries working on prehistory, classical, medieval and later archaeology

The **EAA AIMS** to promote the development of archaeological research and the exchange of archaeological information;

- to promote the management and interpretation of the European archaeological heritage;
- to promote proper ethical and scientific standards for archaeological work;
- to promote interest in archaeological remains as evidence of the human past and contributing to our knowledge of human culture *and* to discourage a focus upon any commercial value that may attach to such material;
- to promote the interests of professional archaeologists in Europe;
- to promote cooperation with other organisations with similar aims;
- to work for the elimination of any form of illegal detection and collection and the damage it causes to the archaeological heritage.





Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (revised) (Valletta, 1992)

Definition of the archaeological heritage (Article 1)

1 The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.

Identification of the heritage and measures for protection (Article 2, 3, 4)

- the maintenance of an inventory of its archaeological heritage and the designation of protected monuments and areas;
- the mandatory reporting to the competent authorities by a finder of the chance discovery of elements of the archaeological heritage and making them available for examination
- to apply procedures for the authorisation and supervision of excavation and other archaeological activities
- to ensure that archaeological excavations and prospecting are undertaken in a scientific manner

Integrated conservation of the archaeological heritage (Article 5)

- to ensure that archaeologists, town and regional planners systematically consult one another
- to ensure that environmental impact assessments and the resulting decisions involve full consideration of archaeological sites and their settings

Collection and dissemination of scientific information (Article 7, 8)

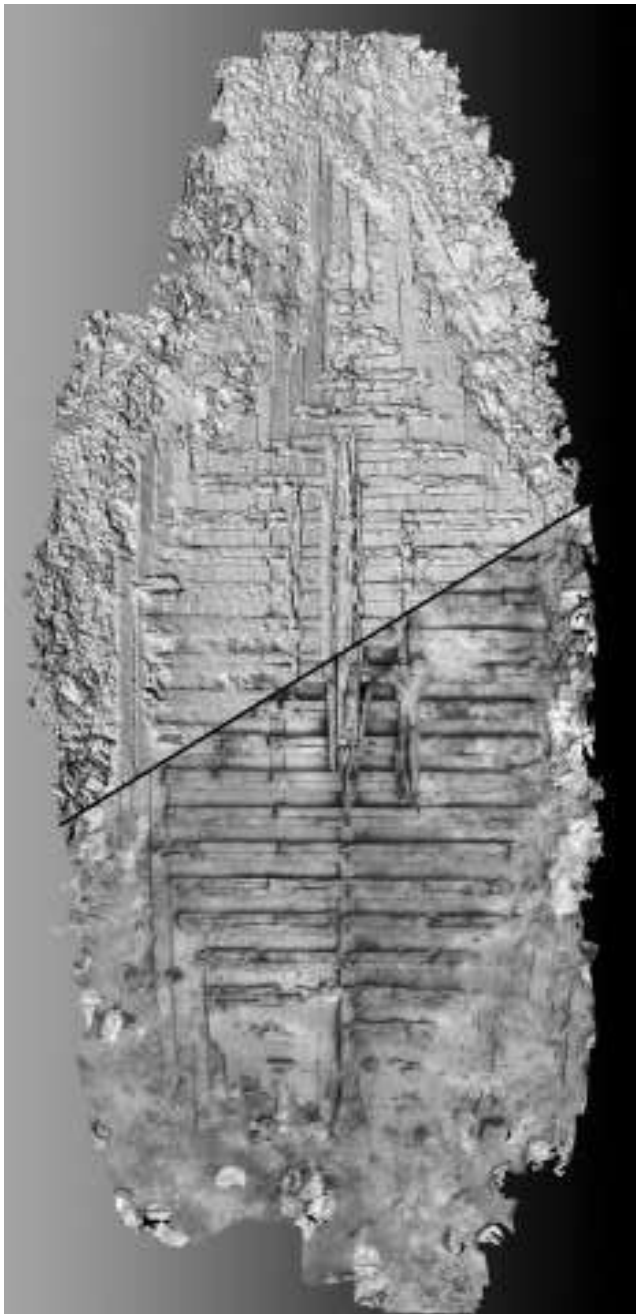
- i. to make or bring up to date surveys, inventories and maps of archaeological sites in the areas within its jurisdiction;
- ii. to take all practical measures to ensure the drafting, following archaeological operations, of a publishable scientific summary record before the necessary comprehensive publication of specialised studies.
- i. to facilitate the national and international exchange of elements of the archaeological heritage for professional scientific purposes while taking appropriate steps to ensure that such circulation in no way prejudices the cultural and scientific value of those elements;
- ii. to promote the pooling of information on archaeological research and excavations in progress and to contribute to the organisation of international research programmes.

Mutual technical and scientific assistance (Article 12)

The Parties undertake:

- i. to afford mutual technical and scientific assistance through the pooling of experience and exchanges of experts in matters concerning the archaeological heritage;
- ii. to encourage, under the relevant national legislation or international agreements binding them, exchanges of specialists in the preservation of the archaeological heritage, including those responsible for further training.





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Suggestions

- Carte de Cassini
- Carte forestière v1 (1987-2004)
- Carte du relief
- Bâtiments
- Limites administratives

Catalogue de données

Politiques publiques
INSPIRE

+ de données

Nouveautés

- Cartons 2015
- SPOT 6 - 2014
- Quartiers prioritaires de la politique de la ville (01/01/2015)
- Communes selon les zones de sismicité
- Communes dotées d'un DICRIM
- Communes dotées d'un Plan Communal de Sauvegarde

Agriculture

- lots de culture (RPG 2007)
- lots de culture (RPG 2008)

Ma sélection de données

- Formations Végétales entre 1550 et 2010
- Hydrographie
- Registre parcellaire graphique (RPG) 2012
- Photographies aériennes
- Carte du relief
- Carte Forestière v1 (1987-2004)
- Carte de Cassini (XVIII siècle)




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III – PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE – SOME OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

30 years of Valetta archaeology- an important growth, more 'archaeology' than ever, increased public outreach, an ambivalent for-profit sector, and still the need to hold together the "research driven" and the "developer-funded" dimensions of archaeology.

Among the main areas identified for a "digital technology booster" are

1) archaeological maps, and 2) access to data.

1) **Archaeological maps** (cartography, GIS, location of sites, archaeological zones)

(a) As heritage management tools (for inventory, reporting, supervision) and also

(b) As scientific research tools (sites in their landscapes, human-environment interactions, migrations).

Issues = Are these two mapping aims (heritage, research) always convergent? +

Indications for planners and builders? + Beware information to looters...

2) Access to archaeological data (surveys and sites records, post-excavation and artefact studies, 'natively' digital recording) –

- (a) The problem of the "grey literature" ... *has it been solved?* Much more data generated by "contract archaeology" can be made available by digital means ...
- (b) Normalized formats of data entry, sharing and re-use are good for heritage administration (and 'cost effective') ... *but* are they necessarily fitting for research objectives?
- (c) Availability of data (FAIR/O principles) can facilitate, but not initiate, scientific research. How to ensure that the vast amounts of "contract archaeology" data of the last 30 years are well used – not just to authorise clearing the grounds ('fig-leaf' model), but also for scientific understanding and social benefits?

Issues = Data without analysis and interpretation is of little use + Open access and FAIR principles (vs) questions of individual copyright and authorship on publications + Data in 'Open access': how to encourage public outreach and participation, while maintaining scientific authority and credibility (notably vs. developers).

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