Dear ICAZ Members and Friends,

I am delighted to introduce the first ICAZ Newsletter under the newly reorganized International Council for Archaeozoology. As it has from its inception over 20 years ago, ICAZ remains committed to four founding goals:

- To develop and stimulate archaeozoological research,
- To strengthen cooperation among archaeozoologists,
- To foster cooperation with archaeologists and scientists working in related fields, and
- To promote high ethical and scientific standards for archaeozoological work.

Some of the ways in which we plan to accomplish these goals may be familiar to you. We continue to sponsor major international conferences every four years, and encourage the publication of the proceedings of these conferences. The next ICAZ International Conference will be held in 2002 at a location to be decided this June.

Every two years the International Council, now a representative body elected by the membership, holds smaller more focused symposiums and workshops about archaeozoology and conducts business meetings aimed at helping steer the course of the organization. The next International Council meeting will be held this June in Madrid (see announcement on page 6).

We continue to sponsor and promote ICAZ Working Groups that focus on specific areas of archaeozoological study and interest. These groups generally meet every two years and sponsor websites and publication series of their own.

We also distribute this newsletter, now twice a year, to keep members up-to date with developments in our field.

In addition we have just posted the new ICAZ Website (www.nmnh.si.edu/icaz)! Check out the announcement of the website in this issue of the Newsletter. Better yet log on and check out the website!

The future is ripe with new challenges and opportunities for ICAZ, as well as for the discipline as a whole. Recognition of archaeozoology

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Help ICAZ create a new look for the organization, enter the Logo Contest! See page 5 for details, or check out the logo contest entry rules on our new web site: www.nmnh.si.edu/icaz.

Central to the success of ICAZ in promoting communication within the archaeozoological community is building a strong membership that represents the tremendous diversity of our profession. Researchers around the world are actively pursuing the study of human interaction with animals in universities, museums, foundations, private firms, and in their homes. People come to our discipline from a wide variety of backgrounds - zoology, anthropology, paleontology, archaeology, veterinary medicine and more.

Our membership must reflect this diversity in nation, perspective, expertise, and research context. This is why the newly launched ICAZ membership drive is so important to the future of ICAZ.

Our current membership roles boast 286 members from 39 countries. This is a good start, but we would like to expand our membership to make sure we reach all the different segments of

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This introductory newsletter provides information on the new structure of the organization, the ICAZ membership drive, and other features of the new ICAZ. On the back it has a calendar of upcoming events of interest to the archaeozoological community. An ICAZ membership application serves as the center page of this issue. This special introductory issue is being distributed to a large, (ca. 2000) person list of current and potential ICAZ members.

In the future the ICAZ Newsletter will be distributed twice a year (spring and fall) to ICAZ members only. The Newsletter will contain lists of recent archaeozoology publications, reviews, a guide to journals that regularly publish archaeozoological research, letters to the editor, job postings, and more. Please send any announcements of new publications, events, positions offered, suggestions, letters and other information to ICAZ Secretary Arturo Morales-Muñiz (see address on page 6).

The ICAZ Executive Committee is delighted to announce the birth of the new ICAZ Website (www.mnh.si.edu/icaz). Right now the website has lots of information about ICAZ, its aims, its structure, its history, its membership, links to other sites, as well as more general information about archaeozoology for the non-specialist. There is even a place on the site that tells you how to enter our new logo contest! Once the membership drive is completed we will initiate a section of the website exclusively for ICAZ members. This For Members section will include features like a membership directory that includes addresses and research interests of ICAZ members, job postings, a bulletin board/chat room, and more.

As many of you may know the origin of ICAZ can be traced back to 1971, where, at a conference on animal domestication held in Budapest, a group of archaeozoologists came together and decided to form an organization dedicated to promoting communication among the growing community of researchers interested in the history of human interaction with animals. The first official statutes of the organization were adopted in 1976. At that time ICAZ consisted of an International Council, whose members were nominated and elected by standing council members, and a non-dues paying corresponding membership, open to anyone interested in receiving the yearly ICAZ newsletter and attending ICAZ International Conferences held every four years.

Over the next two decades, archaeozoology as a discipline experienced explosive growth in the number of its practitioners and the breadth of their science. During this time ICAZ has come to serve as an umbrella organization for the diverse approaches and interests of practicing archaeozoologists world-wide. At the 1990 ICAZ meeting in Washington DC a movement began to respond to the growing stature and impact of our field by transforming ICAZ into a true professional organization. New ICAZ statutes were drafted with this goal in mind and they were officially adopted in 1997. A copy of the new ICAZ constitution can be found on the ICAZ Website (www.mnh.si.edu/icaz).

Changes in the structure of ICAZ mandated in the new constitution are the following:

A dues-paying general membership was created. This body is eligible to receive specific membership benefits, to elect the ICAZ International Council and the Vice-President and President of the ICAZ Executive Committee, and to meet at a general business meeting at the ICAZ International Conference to discuss the future course of the organization.

The International Council was reconstituted as a body elected by the general membership (of no more than 35 members) to serve as a representative steering committee charged with ensuring that the aims of ICAZ are met.

Sincerely Yours,

Melinda Zeder
President
International Council for Archaeozoology
The yearly dues for ICAZ membership is SUS15. In order to keep down administrative costs we are collecting dues in multiple year segments set by the quadri-annual ICAZ International Meeting schedule. So if you are joining in 2000 you will be joining ICAZ for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 and you will owe us US$45. If you join next year in 2001 you will be joining for two years and you need to send US$30. If you join in 2002, your fees with cover only this conference year and will be US$15. The four year cycle begins again in 2003-2006.

Some of you have already paid for a year’s membership in ICAZ. If this is the case, these dues will cover your year 2000 fees and you will owe us an additional US$30 to keep your membership viable up to 2002. Those who have already paid for this first year of membership will receive an insert in this packet of materials notifying you of your membership status. If you have any questions about your membership status please contact Melinda Zeder at the address given in this newsletter (address listed on page 6, under Logo Contest).

At the moment we can only take checks and money orders in US dollars or British pound sterling. We plan to accept dues in Euros as soon as this currency is available for everyday commerce. At this point in ICAZ’s early days as a dues paying membership, we are unable to support the costs of credit card fees.

We are also not in a position to pay currency conversion charges. In order to save on the cost of conversion, you may want to pool your fees with colleagues in your country. Just let us know who is included in the pooled dues payment by filling out a membership application form for each member included in the payment.

Finally, we are also encouraging members to help colleagues who can’t afford to join ICAZ by sponsoring an ICAZ member. This might include students, colleagues without regular stipends, or colleagues from developing countries. Sponsoring another member might also be a way of covering currency conversion costs (i.e., the colleague reimburses you in local currency for your payment of ICAZ dues in dollars or pounds). You’ll find the sponsorship form on the back of the membership application.

As we grow and as the Euro becomes a common currency, we will be working to make payment of ICAZ dues as easy as possible. For now we apologize if limiting payment to these two currencies presents any difficulties. We hope that you will persevere and join this growing organization.

The current ICAZ logo of auroch horns was designed by Caroline Grigson in 1979. The logo has served the organization well, but ICAZ now needs a new logo to go along with its new form and expanded mission. As our old logo did so ably, the new ICAZ logo will come to be a clear visual symbol of our organization. The logo will be used throughout our website, in the ICAZ Newsletter, on all announcements of ICAZ activities, and in all ICAZ stationary.

We know we have a multi-talented membership, people with bright ideas and artistic gifts. And so we turn to you to suggest a new ICAZ logo. Let your imagination go and send us your ideas!

The contest is open to all current members of ICAZ. Entries, black and white or color, can be sent by mail (see page 6 for address) or in electronic form (tiff formats preferred). A specially designated ICAZ Logo Committee will review all entries, evaluating them for visual appeal, content, and suitability to the different formats where the logo will be used. Entries should be submitted by July 1, 2000. The new logo will be selected by September 1, 2000 and the winning logo posted on the ICAZ Website at that time. The contest winner will receive a free four year membership in ICAZ (2003-2006).
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A one-day interdisciplinary meeting, “Global Hunters & Gatherers: after Revisionism?” will be held at the MacDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge, UK. For more information, contact: M. Arroyo-Kalin, email: maa27@cam.ac.uk, P. Miracle, email: pt21@cam.ac.uk, or write to The Organisers, Global Hunters & Gatherers: after Revisionism?, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3DZ, England, Web: http://www-mcdonald.arch.cam.ac.uk/Conferences/GHAG/home.htm.

UPCOMING MEETINGS IN 2000

The 4th Meeting of the Bird Working Group, an ICAZ Working Group, is planned for Krakow, Poland. Sponsored by the Polish Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, the conference will be concerned with all aspects of bird remains in archaeology. Papers and posters are invited. Interested participants are asked to contact the organizers to be put on the mailing list. The exact date of the meeting will be fixed later. For more information, contact: Zbigniew M. Bochenski, Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Polish Academy of Sciences, Sławkowska 17, 31-016, Krakow Poland, email: bochenski@iesel.pan.krakow.pl, Web: http://wwwiesel.pan.krakow.pl.

To announce an upcoming meeting or event in the ICAZ newsletter, send submission to Arturo Morales-Muñiz via email (arturo.morales@uam.es), fax (34-91-3978344), or snail-mail: Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Laboratorio de Arqueo-zoología, Depto. Biología, E-28049, Madrid, SPAIN.

LOGO CONTEST entries can be sent by snail-mail to Melinda Zeder, Department of Anthropology, MRC 112, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 20560, USA, or by email to zeder.melinda@mnmh.si.edu.

Continued from page 2: Recent Changes at the highest level of international standards. The International Council is also responsible for the election of the Executive Committee posts of Secretary, Treasurer, and up to four board member.

A formal Executive Committee was constituted to oversee the operation of the organization. The Executive Committee consists of up to 10 members including a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, the Past-Conference Organizer, the Present Conference Organizer, and up to four board members.

Elections for Secretary and Treasurer were held at the last International Conference in Victoria Canada in 1998. The election process for the President and Vice-President was completed in the summer of 1999 and the new Executive Committee had their first meeting in New York last fall.

A fuller discussion of the history of ICAZ and the current membership structure can be found on our website.

With all these changes, ICAZ remains committed to its original goals of promoting communication within the profession, to bringing its many practitioners together to share ideas, swap tricks of the trade, argue over approaches and interpretations to the analysis of the rich data set of animal bone remains from archaeological sites. We think that this new organization will help us accomplish these goals better than ever before. And, we urge you to join us in this effort.

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