African Archaeology Without Frontiers


Published by Wits University Press
Acknowledgements

The 2014 PanAfrican Archaeological Association (PAA) Congress was held at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg in tandem with the 22nd biennial meeting of the Society for Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA).

The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) of South Africa provided the lion’s share of funds to make the event possible. Geoff Blundell and Bruce Rubidge made invaluable contributions to the funding proposal. The then vice chancellor of Wits Professor Loyiso Nongxa was a staunch supporter of PAA2014 and facilitated infrastructural and logistical support from the university. Deputy vice chancellors professors Yunus Ballim, Belinda Bozzoli, Patrick Fitzgerald, Derek Keats and Rob Moore provided generous assistance in one way or another. The dean of the Faculty of Science Professor Andrew Crouch and the faculty’s financial director Mr Manfred Malomo also gave unstinting support. Ms Andrea Leenen of the Palaeontological Scientific Trust (PAST), as well as the Wenner-Gren Foundation provided funds to sponsor international students to attend the congress. The French Institute in South Africa (IFAS) kindly translated all documents to help make this a truly bilingual congress.

The core of the congress was a five-day international conference that took place in mid-July 2014. A day of workshops for invited archaeology students from several countries preceded the main conference, and three days of excursions to visit important heritage sites in South Africa took place immediately after the main event. A mid-conference excursion took delegates to the world-famous Cradle of Humankind.

About 450 delegates from Africa, Europe and North America registered to participate in PAA/SAfA 2014. These included academics and senior postgraduate students plus staff of museums and government agencies involved in heritage and archaeological matters. The day-to-day logistics were admirably handled by Ms Fiona Storie and her team from Scatterlings Inc. Wits postgraduate students Byron Aub, Matthew Caruana, Kate Croll, Sarah Elliot, Phillip Law de Lauriston, Matt Lotter, Rosa Moll, Obankeng Rampete, Shani Reddy, Chiara Singh, Ilan Smeyatsky, Lauren Solomon and David Witelson looked after delegates, provided audio-visual support in the lecture rooms and generally helped to make the conference roll smoothly. The local organising committee was composed of Amanda Esterhuysen, Catherine Namono, Steven Sack, Karim Sadr (chair), Alex Schoeman, Ben Smith (president of PAA), Dominic
Acknowledgements

Stratford and Francis Thackeray. Paula Marais at the Origins Centre kindly managed the Lotto budget. A final word of thanks is merited by Jill Weintroub, this volume's copy editor, who put in much effort and hours of hard work.

Apart from the keynote papers, a total of 16 manuscripts were submitted shortly after the conference for publication in the proceedings. All papers were reviewed by two independent referees and nine were approved for publication. Some papers that were submitted but not published in the proceedings will be placed online at the website of the PanAfrican Association (http://www.panafprehistory.org/en/).

The editors wish to thank the NLC who generously contributed funds towards this publication. The NLC relies on funds from the proceeds of the National Lottery. The Lotteries Act guides the way in which NLC funding may be allocated. The intention of NLC funding is to make a difference to the lives of all South Africans, especially those more vulnerable and to improve the sustainability of the beneficiary organisations. Available funds are distributed to registered and qualifying non-profit organisations in the fields of charities; arts, culture and national heritage; and sport and recreation. By placing its emphasis on areas of greatest need and potential, the NLC contributes to South Africa’s development.