

Acknowledgements

Marianne CHRISTENSEN and Nejma GOUTAS

The organizers of the 15th International Meeting of the Worked Bone Research Group

First of all, we would like to thank all the participants in the 15th meeting of the WBRG (Worked Bone Research Group: ICAZ working group), organized as a session of the French Prehistoric Society and held in Paris at the National Institute of Art History from 13 to 17 May 2024. Both speakers and audience members contributed to the friendly atmosphere and the high quality of the scientific discussions during this enriching week. We also would like to thank all colleagues who kindly agreed to chair the sessions, facilitate the discussions, and enrich the debates throughout the sessions (table 1).

This international scientific event would not have been possible without the trust of several institutions or organisations, whose financial and/or logistical contributions were essential to its success: Société Préhistorique Française (SPF; French Prehistoric Society), Worked Bone Research Group (WBRG), International Council for Archaeozoology (ICAZ), Labex Dynamite, DIM PAMIR, INSHS, CNRS UMR 8068 Technologie et

Ethnologies des Mondes Préhistoriques (TEMPS), Universities of Barcelona, Valencia and Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, CNRS UAR 3225 MSH Mondes, GDR BioarchéoDat, EUR ArChal, “Archeologies” doctoral school of Paris 1 University, and Institut National de Recherches Archéologiques Préventives (INRAP). The University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne provided access to the Jacqueline Lichtenstein auditorium and the Wasari room at the National Institute of Art History (INHA), where we benefited from the invaluable support of the technical staff throughout the event.

An distinctive feature of this 15th meeting was the programme of exclusive guided tours focusing on the technical use of bone, which we were able to organise thanks to the collaboration of several museums: Musée d’Archéologie Nationale de Saint-Germain-en-Laye (National Archaeology Museum), Musée du Louvre (Department of Byzantine and Eastern Christian Arts), Musée de Cluny – Musée National du Moyen Âge (National Museum of the Middle Ages – Cluny), and the Archaeological Crypt of the Île de la Cité. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the colleagues who generously devoted their time to organising and, in some case, guiding some of these visits: Isabelle Bardiès, Françoise Chatillon, Marie Delassus, Maximilien Duran, Florence Specque, Jean-François Goret, Sylvie Robin, and Catherine Schwab. Several other museums agreed to open their doors to conference participants, allowing them to discover their temporary and permanent exhibitions: Musée de l’Homme (MNHN; Museum of Mankind), Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature (Museum of Hunting and Nature), and the Carnavalet Museum. These opportunities provided a unique cultural and scientific experience, made all the richer by the generosity of everyone involved.

We would also like to extend our warmest thanks to the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature and its entire team for welcoming us in the evening to host our friendship

Sessions	Chairpersons
1 and 2	Hans Christian KÜCHELMANN and Petar ZIDAROV
3	Marta BLASCO MARTIN and Esteban ÁLVAREZ FERNANDEZ
	Alice CHOYKE and Laurent DAVIN
4	Justyna BARON and José-Miguel TEJERO
5	Claire LUCAS and Sonia O’CONNOR
6	Jean-Marc PETILLON and Selena VITEZOVIC
7	Gabriela BRAVO*, Natacha CAURETTE*, Konstantinos CHONDROS*
8	Marianne CHRISTENSEN and Nejma GOUTAS

Table 1 – Chairpersons at the 15th International Meeting of the WBRG (*organisers of the session).

reception—their hospitality added a special touch to the event!

Several colleagues agreed to join the Scientific and Organising Committee, assisting us in the preparation and running of this meeting. We are deeply grateful for their dedication: Marta Blasco Martín (Department of Prehistory, Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Valencia), Jean-François Goret (Department of the History of Architecture and Archaeology – Archaeological Centre of the City of Paris), Alexandra Legrand (CNRS, UAR 3225), Caroline Peschaux (postdoctoral researcher, UMR 8068 TEMPS), Isabelle Rodet-Belarbi (INRAP and UMR 7264 CEPAM), and Jose-Miguel Tejero (Ramon y Cajal Programme Senior Researcher, Departament d'Historia i Arqueologia, University of Barcelona).

The smooth running of this meeting also owed much to the logistics team, made up of dynamic, efficient and highly motivated students—Mathilde Boux and Timothée Casanova (Master's students, University Paris 1-Panthéon-Sorbonne), Matteo Segui (Master's student, University Bordeaux Montaigne)—and several PhD students—Gabriela Bravo, Natacha Caurette, Konstantinos Chondros (University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)—, and Henrique Sarmento Pedro (doctor from University of Poitiers). Their enthusiasm, professionalism, and constant support were essential to ensuring a warm welcome for participants and to the smooth organisation of breaks and social activities throughout the whole week that lasted the meeting.

From the preparation phase through the entire conference, Alice Choyke—founder and central figure of the

WBRG—provided invaluable support, combining kindness, efficiency, and expertise. Her insightful guidance and unmatched experience greatly enriched this international meeting. She also contributed by proofreading several articles for the proceedings, helping to ensure linguistic quality. Her involvement was essential to the success of the event.

We also wish to express our sincere gratitude to Alice Choyke and Hans Christian Küchermann for opening the conference with a presentation tracing the history and challenges of the WBRG. Our warmest thanks also go to our guest speaker, Sonia O'Connor, a distinguished zooarchaeologist. Her insightful presentation and extensive expertise greatly enriched our discussions and set a high standard for scientific exchanges throughout the event. Finally, we would like to thank Christiane Leroy-Prost, a pioneer in the study of bone industries in France, for honouring us with her presence at this meeting.

We would also like to thank all the proofreaders who devoted their time and expertise to ensuring that each article underwent rigorous double-checking. Special thanks go to Claire Letourneux, scientific editor, whose remarkable editorial work made it possible to produce this voluminous publication in such a short time. Thank you, Claire, for your commitment, your professionalism, and your collaboration marked by friendship and trust!

Finally, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the SPF for its trust and for the honour of allowing us to labelling this event a 'SPF Session'—a recognition that has reinforced the scientific significance of this meeting.

