

ARCHIVES AND APPLICATIONS: HISTORIC AERIAL IMAGERY AS A RESOURCE FOR EUROPE'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

Session Organisers:

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This session presents the huge potential locked up in archives of historic aerial imagery for the exploration and management of European cultural heritage. Rural and urban cultural landscapes have undergone massive changes during the second half of the 20th century. Thus imagery dating from World War I to the present, but with huge collections from the 1940s, provides an unrivalled means of documenting and understanding change. The imagery informs effective management of the cultural heritage and also records historic landscapes that have disappeared.

The session has two components. Firstly, there are reviews of the major archives with an emphasis on accessibility and finding aids. For illustrative purposes there will be an emphasis on the material available for Southern Europe to reflect the location of the EAA conference (including a case-study for Malta). Secondly, a series of case studies will illustrate the applications of this imagery from across a wide range of heritage issues, from prehistoric cultivation and settlement patterns, to the impact of recent vegetation change on the management of cultural heritage. Studies will also explore military archaeology, approaches to the Holocaust and World War II, as well as highlighting the value of this imagery in urban contexts.

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Paper abstracts (200 words) are being received by the session organisers.

