ARC Network for Early European Research, third bulletin: 7/01/2005

1. ARC NEER Convenor.

As you all know, Dr Pam Sharpe has been on maternity leave since September 04. As the mother of two small children Pam wants to work on a fractional basis, and, on resumption of her employment, she has been told by the ARC that her QE II research Fellowship work must take precedence over the NEER work. In response to this, UWA has proposed that Associate Professor Andrew Lynch become Network Convenor for 2005, and the ARC has agreed to this temporary substitution.

2. Planning Day 12 November

This was an immensely stimulating and successful event. All the essential documentation for setting up the Network was debated and documents amended, and the first seven committee members appointed. Once I have imposed my will upon my computer and gained access to the website - currently I can't get through - I'll post the notes taken during the deliberations, and the amended documents.

3. Issues discussed.

a. forms of governance,
b. membership criteria,
c. programme of symposia and conferences,
d. the creation and use of the Digital Early European Portal: DEEP,
e. the establishment of the postgraduate e-consult and advanced seminar schemes.

4. NEER Governance

Since the Planning Day on 12 November, a Management Committee has been formed comprising:

Convenor: Andrew Lynch University of Western Australia (UWA)
The inaugural meeting of the Management Committee will take place at the ANZAMEMS conference in Auckland, where the last two positions of Partner representative and second co-opted member will be filled by the vote of the committee.

This committee acts in an advisory capacity to the Network Convenor whose job it is to run the network. It will meet four times a year, once face-to-face, ideally at a large conference either of NEER itself, or NEER-related, and three times using some form of distance conferencing, such as the Access Grid, available free to academic researchers in UWA.

There will be a small Board, yet to be constituted, comprising members at PVC/DVC level, to whom the Convenor and the Management Committee will be accountable.

5. **What the network plans to achieve**

The application submitted last March was a mature plan ready for
implementation. Here, in point form, kindly prepared by Philippa Maddern, is what we said we would do:

**NETWORK FOR EARLY EUROPEAN RESEARCH: WHAT WE PROPOSE TO DO**

**i. Promote and sustain research around 4 key themes:**

- cultural memory
- social fabric (family, gender & social structures; war, peace and conflict, poverty, labour, migration, persecution, etc.)
- science, medicine and environment
- Early European/Australasian connections.

**ii. In relation to these four themes we proposed the following:**

**A. General:**

A.1 Develop the Digital Early Europe Portal (DEEP); initial form to become freely available on the Web at the end of the Network's first year of operation. DEEP would include:

- A directory of Australian researchers in the field
- an online forum, where like-minded researchers can share interests/inspirations/findings.
- information about grants and publications
- a possible 'e-prints' service to make refereed articles and papers freely available on Web.
- A digitized catalogue of early European artworks, artefacts and manuscripts in Australian libraries, galleries, museums and archives (including 3-D digital representations of some objects). Related project: 'will provide a series of digital images of European 'cultural landscapes'.

A.2 Develop and enhance the journal *Parergon*, especially to take advantage of digital technologies and increase its international reach.

A.3 Provide consortial access to a suite of digital databases from
Brepols (3) and ProQuest (EEBO). NB: UWA will make a cash contribution here.

B. For each key research theme:

- Hold a symposium every second year, with papers circulated beforehand on the web; each symposium to have an international keynote speaker, paid for from NEER funds.
- Hold an international conference every second year, bringing together all research nodes. We proposed joint hosting of conferences and symposia where possible, e.g. with ANZAMEMS, or the World Shakespeare Conference (2006). There will be two international speakers at every conference, paid for from NEER funds.

C. For Postgraduates and ECRs:

- establish an e-consult program between postgraduates/ECRs and more senior academics.
- establish a program of internships and secondments in partner institutions (e.g. museums, galleries, government departments) and in the digital area.
- offer two residential seminars per year in advanced skills and methodologies, given by experts of international standing. Fund attendance at residential seminars.
- earmark money for bursaries to enable postgraduates to attend and present papers at NEER symposia/conferences.

Because there is a shortfall in ARC funding ($1.6m as opposed to the $1.9m sought), certain adjustments will have to be made, but the above activities form the core of NEER’s activities. We are also currently actively seeking additional funding, and would welcome any suggestions from the main body of Network Participants as to potential funding partners.

6. ANZAMEMS Auckland 2-5 February 2005: 'Old Worlds, New Worlds'

The organisers of the Auckland ANZAMEMS conference have kindly made room in the schedule for a full day devoted to NEER, with presentations, discussions seminars and papers organised by the committee and the UWA team. This will take place on Friday 4 February, and we hope it will go a long way towards clarifying NEERIs rationale and objectives for all
who are interested, whether they are currently on the network register or not.

This site has been prepared with the assistance of funding from the Australian Research Council.

Site last updated: January 2005