

On October 18th, 2016

To the Permanent Secretary
of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works of the Republic of Cyprus

Dear Sir,

We, the acting and former heads of the archaeological expeditions working in the District of Pafos are deeply shocked by the current and repeated attacks against the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus.

We have all collaborated with the archaeologists and technicians of the Department of Antiquities based at the Pafos District Archaeological Museum, Kouklia Local Archaeological Museum, Polis tis Chrysochou Local Archaeological Museum, for many years. Some of us have worked with the Department of Antiquities for several decades, since the early 1960's. (Prof. W. A. Daszewski, head of the Polish archaeological mission of the University of Warsaw, has even been endowed with honorary citizenship of Paphos).

We have all benefited and still benefit from the collaboration with the Department of Antiquities in numerous ways: whether this was technical or human support in the form of additional staff when needed by our teams, or assistance with conservation issues of monuments and movable finds and particularly with the storage of the artefacts. The Department of Antiquities staff has always acted and continues to act in a professional manner, exhibiting the utmost responsibility and seriousness in its duties.

We have also developed a rich professional dialogue and collaboration between our international missions and the Department of Antiquities focusing on the protection and improvement of the archaeological sites, as well as on the organisation of international events and exhibitions. We have developed personal, professional and scientific relations between us and the archaeologists of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, which have led to the publication of many scientific books and the organisation of conferences and *colloquia*.

Because of this long term working relationship, based on mutual trust and efficient collaboration, we want to express our ongoing and emphatic support to the members of the staff of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus for the important and vast work they are undertaking concerning the protection and promotion of the cultural heritage of the island.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Hab. Claire BALANDIER, Mission archéologique française à Paphos/French archaeological expedition at Pafos, University of Avignon

Prof. Charalampos BAKIRTZIS, Agios Georgios tis Pegeias expedition, A. G. Leventis Foundation

Dr. Craig BARKER, Australian archaeological expedition at Pafos, University of Sydney

Prof. Georgia Bonny BAZEMORE, Rantidi Forest Excavations Paphos, Cyprus, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA.

Prof. Williams P. CHILDS, Princeton Cyprus Expedition excavations at Polis Chrysochous, Princeton University

Prof. Joan Breton CONNELLY, Yeronisos Island Excavations, New York University

Prof. Wiktor Andrzej DASZEWSKI, Polish archaeological mission of the University of Warsaw at Kato Paphos, honorary citizen of Paphos

Prof. Filippo GIUDICE, Italian Archaeological Mission at Nea Paphos, University of Catania

Emeritus Prof. Richard GREEN, Australian archaeological expedition at Pafos, University of Sydney

Prof. Maria IACOVOU, The Palaepaphos Urban Landscape Project, University of Cyprus

Dr. Andrew McCARTHY, Prastio-Mesorotsos Archaeological Expedition, University of Edinburgh, Director of the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI)

Dr. Henryk MEYZA, Polish archaeological mission of the University of Warsaw at Kato Paphos

Emeritus Prof. Demetrios MICHAELIDES, “House of Orpheus” – Nea Paphos: Excavation programme, University of Cyprus

Prof. Ewdoksia PAPUCI-WŁADYKA, Paphos Agora Project, Jagiellonian University, Krakow

Prof. Nancy SERWINT, Princeton Cyprus Expedition excavations at Polis Chrysochous, Arizona State University

Prof. Allan SIMMONS, *Ais Yiorkis* Excavations, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Dr. Joanna SMITH, Princeton Cyprus Expedition excavations at Polis Chrysochous University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

Dr. Marie-Louise Von WARTBURG, Ancient Paphos Excavations, University of Zurich

Copy to Dr. Marina Solomidou-Ieronymidou, Director of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus