

area - ARchives of European Archaeology - is a research network dedicated to the history of archaeology, with particular emphasis on the archives of the discipline, their promotion and preservation.

Now entering its third phase of activities with the support of the European Commission (Programme Culture 2000), the network has the following main objectives:

- To encourage research on the history of archaeology.
- To study, catalogue and help preserve the main archives bearing on the memory, achievements and heritage of the discipline.
- To investigate the interrelations between the development of archaeology and the formation of cultural and political identities.

For more details on ongoing and planned AREA activities, contacts with partners and links, and to consult the AREA databases, see our internet website at: www.area-archives.org



THE HISTORY OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The history of European archaeology is a complex field of research in which national traditions and language barriers have often inhibited a fuller understanding of the disciplinary past, and notably of those aspects involving cross-boundary research programmes and international orientations. Appreciating the impact of antiquarian travellers, the romantic movement, the colonial enterprise or the Second World War on the practice of archaeology requires researchers to display a truly pan-European perspective. Indeed, the study of the past has been repeatedly invoked to legitimise

political entities, but also to challenge them: alongside extreme forms of nationalist abuses, archaeology has often contributed to a sense of political and cultural identity on regional, national and transnational levels. By organising research projects, regular meetings, workshops, publications and its internet site, AREA seeks to enhance understanding of this multifarious field, to address its theoretical and methodological premises, and to highlight its broader contribution to both historical analysis and contemporary practice.

ARCHIVES

All too often, the history of archaeology is being studied and written exclusively on the basis of published materials, which by their nature convey only selected aspects of the wider archaeological enterprise. The archives of the discipline, however, contain an enormously rich potential for research into the less visible but nonetheless revelatory dimensions of the field. Correspondence, minutes, internal reports, drawings, excavation notebooks, and photographs are not only indispensable resources for historians of science, they often constitute the only remaining documentation regarding numer-

ous archaeological remains and research projects uncovered or undertaken in the past. Scattered as they are across university libraries, museum depots, government archives, and private collections, these sources are often difficult to access and assess for their worth. Besides compiling an online catalogue with the most important or representative of these archival fonds, and besides encouraging archive-holding repositories and institutions to valorise their fonds, AREA also actively engages in the exploitation of these archives through dedicated research projects.

INTERNET AND DATABASES

The achievements and planned activities of the AREA project are presented in its website (www.area-archives.org) – in the 3 months following its re-launch, the website received more than 10,000 visits. The website includes text pages on partners and projects, virtual exhibitions, and various links to relevant sites concerned with archaeology, archives, heritage preservation etc.

In addition, the AREA databases are freely accessible on the website.

1. The main database concerns archival fonds relevant to the history of archaeology. With now over 3000 entries in some 300 repositories across Europe, this expanding database reflects the institutional resources and interests of its contributing partners. This database is structured according to the ISAD (G) norms of archival description of the International Council of Archives, and it includes information on the repository, the creator of the fond, its contents and structure, condition of access etc. It can be queried by a basic search, free text search, place names, names of individuals, or by the list of fonds sorted by country or repository.

2. A second database is being elaborated on another primary source for the history of archaeology: early antiquarian books. This will combine bibliographic details on rare pre-19th century books with their attached iconography in digitised format; the whole searchable by names, dates, locations and other fields.

Ongoing research by area partners

For its participation to the AREA project, **The Ashmolean Museum at the University of Oxford** (GB) is publishing important early documents concerning the Neolithic funerary and ceremonial monuments of Brittany, compiled by British visitors during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The remarkably accurate but still unpublished plans executed by these antiquarians provide a unique record of the state of these early structures at a time when the landscape was more open, and before the extensive changes consequent upon agricultural improvement and rural development. The Ashmolean project integrates all the existing British documentation in a single catalogue, together with a commentary on its historical and archaeological significance in the context of recent research and in the light of accurate, modern plans.



As part of its research and conservation activities at the World Heritage Site of Butrint in Albania, the London-based **Butrint Foundation** (GB) has been locating and studying the archival documentation accumulated during the history of archaeological exploration of this site. In addition to the important archives of the Italian Archaeological Mission (1928-1943), are studied the archives of Austro-Hungarian research in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (in Vienna and Graz),

the records of the French archaeological mission (in Paris) and the Soviet intervention in the 1950s (in Moscow). This range of archival evidence serves to examine the impact of the foreign missions on the development of archaeology in Albania, and also to assess the role of archaeology in the formation of Albania as a nation state.



The Archive of Monuments at the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, Athens (GR), continues in the framework of the AREA project to explore the general themes of the history of Mediterranean Archaeology and the construction of European Identities. Drawing notably on the Historic Archive of the Archaeological Service, research will concentrate initially on the production of casts and copies of Greek Antiquities at the turn of the 20th century. In terms of documentation, the Archive of Monuments continues to enrich the on-line catalogue of archaeological archives held in Greece, and ultimately seeks to identify and describe all archival fonds relating to archaeology in Greece.



In line with its previous AREA activities, the **Centro Andaluz de Arqueología Ibérica, Jaén** (ES) continues to draw on archival resources to explore the links between Iberian archaeology and nationalism in Spain. Relevant archives

across the country will be further identified, inventoried, studied and interpreted in terms of their interest for the archaeological past, and their context in the present. As a first step, particular attention is to be dedicated to the post-civil war period, between 1940 and 1950. An interpretation linking the Iberians to the Celts was first proposed during the Nazi years, and subsequently the Iberians were re-adopted as a native culture with their own identity, linked to the origins of Spain. This period is also interesting for the development of peripheral nationalisms, and the Spanish nationalism linked to Gomez Morenos's Hispanic theory.



The Patronato de la Alhambra y Generalife, Granada (ES), holds very rich archives of historical documentation and plans on this monument, dating from the 16th century. Since the 19th century the Alhambra has been an essential reference point on Islamic architecture and ornaments. In the framework of the AREA project, the Alhambra contributes to the database through the description of its archival holdings of documents and iconography. These resources enable the elaboration of thematic monographic studies on the reception of the Alhambra

as an Oriental phenomenon and an integrated cultural element in Spanish history, and more generally on the image of the Alhambra in the collective Western imagination.



The Department of Archaeology at University College, Cork (IR) undertakes within the AREA project a specific study of the Collections of archaeological and ethnographical material in the care of the Archaeology Department. Catalogued and digitised, these collections will be considered in the context of the general history of collections. One question to be addressed is the extent to which these collections may be viewed as representing the roles that could be played by universities in the process of colonisation and in formulating an ethnographic-based view of the outside world. The fact that the University College was itself located in a colonised country makes the this aspect of the collection even more interesting. In addition, the Department of Archaeology will launch a general survey of the archival fonds relating to the history of archaeology in Ireland.



Drawing on its own documentary fonds as well as archival holdings throughout the country, the **Poznan Archaeological Museum, Poznan** (PL) carries out dedicated research on two central episodes in the history of Polish archaeology. The first concerns official Prussian versus amateur Polish activities in Greater Poland of the 19th century, with the aim to retrace the collaborations and competitions between these two groups, and assess their diverging interpretations, theoretical and ideological backgrounds, and wider impact in contemporary society. The other episode concerns the misuse of archaeology in the period of rising nationalism (1920-1945), when archaeological services and activities were in the hands of Polish practitioners, most of whom had however been trained in the German school: Did they follow its nationalistic concerns? How did they react to the Pan-German interpretation of regional prehistory?



The Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte und Archäologie des Mittelalters, at the Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg (DE) has a longstanding research interest in the relations between archaeology, national identity and political instrumentation. In the framework of AREA, the Institute conducts a comparative study of the reconstruction of settlement areas and social structures of the ancient Germans in relation to Slavs on the one hand, and to Celts and Gallo-Romans on the other. Both areas of research were deeply politicised in the period following World War I, and were subjected to ideological influences and political misuses notably in justifying territorial claims in France and Poland. A considerable number of archaeological projects were set up between 1918 and 1945, and the enormous amount of records and archival holdings produced by these scientific and institutional activities are today little known and scattered among numerous European archives. The Institute compiles a database of this archival material, and begins to exploit its

research potential for understanding the politicisation of German archaeology.



The Department of History at the Catholic University of Leuven (BE) is implicated in AREA at two levels of activities. In terms of documentation, the Leuven project will undertake, in collaboration with archival training program in Flanders, the inventory of archival fonds related to the history of archaeology in Belgium. This inventory, fully integrated in the AREA database, will serve as a basis for dedicated topical research on the interrelationship between archaeology and Belgian identity politics—be this the archaeology of Belgium itself (such as 19th century Palaeolithic archaeology or Gallo-Roman archaeology during the Interbellum), or the activities of Belgian archaeologists abroad (such as in Egypt, Congo, or the Vatican).



The Department of Archaeology, University of Göteborg (SE) further explores in the framework of the AREA project the Growth of Archaeology and the Cementing of Nordic Identity. Ancient history has long been used to demonstrate the great antiquity and supremacy of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and state antiquarians were enlisted to survey and observe impressive monuments and objects. With the 19th century shift from kingdom to nation, history became a basic reference for the middle classes, leading to the creation of public and cultural institutions such as museums. The excavations and surveys performed generated a particularly rich and detailed documentation, now well-maintained in Scandinavian Institutions. These archives are the subject of a considerable documentary and drive by the Department, which aims to identify clear examples of source documents in the different types of archives and to inspire colleagues and a wider audience to go on exploring along the lines pursued.

Besides serving as European project-leader, the **Institut national d'histoire de l'art, Paris** (FR) also co-ordinates the activities of the several French institutions actively implicated in the AREA project. The **département des Monnaies, Médailles et Antiques of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France**, known as the "Cabinet des Médailles", was born out of the private collections assembled by the kings of France since the middle ages, and its archival holdings bear on the activities of numerous savants and antiquaries. The rich archives assembled by the Institut de France and its academies from the 18th century onwards contain, in addition to the private papers of individual scholars, also important material on the development of archaeology in France and abroad. The **Musée des antiquités nationales at Saint-Germain-en-Laye**, established in the 1860s, holds archives which reflect its important role in the development of prehistoric archaeology. By cataloguing their archival fonds, these institutions (and others, such as the **sous-direction de l'archéologie at the Ministère de la culture et de la communication**, and the **CNRS**) contribute to the AREA database. In addition, the **département de la Réserve et des Livres rares of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France** contributes to the creation of a bibliography / iconography database on French antiquarian books.



Forthoming developments

Ways are being explored to integrate into the AREA database the contributions of various museums, libraries and archaeological institutions across Europe, who seek to valorise and make available their holdings bearing on the history of archaeology. Relevant contributions in the form of virtual exhibitions, allying images and text, are also encouraged, as well as initiatives on new or related research projects, bursaries and scholarly exchanges.

In addition, an association for the history of archaeology is in the making. The **European Society for the Archives and History of Archaeology (ESAHA)** is a not-for-profit international association of scientific and cultural character, established according to the Belgian law of 1919. Open to individual membership and institutional subscriptions, the association aims to pursue and expand AREA activities. In due course, it will maintain the databases and website, and oversee the organisation of regular meetings on the history and politics of archaeology. The association will also produce a newsletter with notices on relevant conferences, call for papers, requests for information, bibliographies etc., and also seek to encourage dedicated publications on the history of archaeology.

area structure

Recognised from its inception as a European Heritage Laboratory, the AREA Network has benefited from substantial support from the Directorate General Culture and Education of the EC. Responsibility for overall AREA activities rests with the scientific board, which includes representatives from the participating institutions as well as its co-ordinators Alain Schnapp, Sander van der Leeuw and Giovanni Scichilone. On the AREA database and its future developments contact **Alexandra Alexandri**, at alexandri@ath.forthnet.gr. The overall scientific co-ordination of AREA is in the hands of **Nathan Schlanger**, at area@inha.fr.

The administrative secretariat is based in the newly created **Institut national d'histoire de l'art (INHA)**, 2 rue Vivienne, 75002, Paris, France. Tel. + 33 (0)1 47 03 85 31 (or 86 04), Fax +33 (0)1 47 03 86 36.

For more details and contacts, see the relevant pages in the **area website** (www.area-archives.org)