

AREA IV FLYER

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fold 1

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 fourth phase of activities with the support of the European Commission (Programme Culture 2000), the network continues to develop its main objectives:

- To promote 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**.

The AREA network includes now twelve partner institutions from across Europe (see overleaf). Coordination is at the *Maison de l'archéologie et de l'ethnologie* of the CNRS, in Nanterre, France. For more information and contacts:

coordination@area-archives.org

www.area-archives.org

[Logo Culture 2000] [Logo AREA] [Logo CNRS] [Logo I-D-F]

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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.

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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 numerous 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.

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AREA Activities

The AREA network and its partners continue working in two complementary directions: **archival documentation** on relevant fonds and deposits, and dedicated **thematic research** on various aspects of the history of archaeology.

To further strengthen its international and 'transversal' research, AREA focuses on four distinct themes:

* *Antiquarian Traditions* – Spanning from the Renaissance onwards, these traditions were characterised by philological and numismatic methods, and a joint concern for the local and the universal. Their practices and productions—printed books, plates and illustrations, study journeys, collections etc.—could well be studied in a concerted European perspective.

* *Archaeology Abroad* – Archaeological research in Europe has very often been conducted between and across political, linguistic and cultural entities, be it in the form of 'invisible colleges' or following scientific and political upheavals. Whether due to constraint or opportunity, the circulation of scholars, ideas, or objects (publications, collections, etc.) has crucial scientific, cultural and ideological impacts on all archaeological milieus.

* *Archaeology under Dictatorship* – Several of the dictatorial regimes which emerged during the first half and the middle of the 20th century in Southern and Mediterranean Europe (Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece) undertook an extensive co-option and instrumentalisation of the archaeological past. Different totalitarian rhetorics and procedures (including Nazi and Soviet inspired) call for a comparative appraisal, in terms of the specific past(s) appealed to, the mobilisation of the scientific community, the mechanics of display, the tools of propaganda, and so on.

* *Memory of Sites* – This research axis involves a focus on the documentary record surrounding a number of particularly rich or significant sites, leading to a comparative study of the processes by which they have been discovered, studied, preserved and presented so as to become, each in their way, 'high-sites' or lieux de mémoire– sites of national or international importance, at cultural, political or identity levels.

Research on these themes is organised in working groups or clusters, where some AREA partners have specific coordinating responsibilities but where all can participate, notably to ensure a cohesive comparative perspective at a European level.

Some results of these four themes serve as the basis of a **travelling exhibition** on the history of archaeology, circulating between several locations across Europe. Adapted to the specific history and holdings of the hosting institutions, the exhibition conveys a coherent collective message regarding the interest and value of the archaeological past, designed to reach both the interested public and cultural and academic professionals.

Developments in **Information and communication technology** include a broadened database of archival fonds, bibliographies, biographies, virtual exhibitions, etc., on the history of archaeology.

A new series '**Histories of Archaeology**' is launched by Berghahn Books (Oxford / New York) to publish a range of scholarly works relating to the history of archaeology, including edited volumes, monographic studies, translations, readers and anthologies.

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AREA partners

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

The Department of the Sciences of Antiquity, 'La Sapienza' University of **Rome** (IT) undertakes within the AREA project several research activities linked to public and private archaeological archives in Rome and elsewhere in Italy. It also coordinates studies in collaboration with other institutions such the Archaeological Superintendency of Rome. Our aim is to examine the conceptual features of the relationship of the archaeological past and the present that might enliven contemporary discussion of museology and cultural heritage sites, especially those featuring ancient remains. Archival fonds are at the centre of our evaluation of the history of archaeology. Under consideration are the values of the continuity between past and present, the representation of continuous stratification, places and presentations that may emphasize an uninterrupted relationship of the past to the present. Among the principal initiatives are the study of the Mamertine Prisons of the ancient Roman state investigated as a site from the Republican era to the present; the reconstruction of the development of life in the Roman Forum from the late antique to the middle ages; the restoration of the ancient Roman monuments in Libya during Italian colonization and the study of the birth of modern archaeology after Winckelmann through to Ennio Quirino Visconti.

Poznan Archaeological Museum, **Poznan** (PL), is one of the major and oldest archaeological museums in Poland (established 1857). Today its activities cover Mid-western part of the country (province of Greater Poland or Wielkopolska and neighbouring regions), and for the past 40 years it has also been active in NE Africa (Egypt and Sudan). It holds rich archaeological collections from those areas, together with their related archival material. It also includes a Department of Archaeological Heritage Service which runs Sites & Monuments Record for the area of Middle Western Poland. Since 1986 the Museum has played a pioneer role in introducing computer technologies to Polish archaeology (i.e.: Polish SMR, archaeological museum collections, GIS for archaeological topography). In the AREA VI project, the Museum will build on its experience with European projects (ArchTerra, ARENA and AREA III) to cooperate in the field of archaeological archives, particularly as for aiding research on the history of archaeology. Besides contributing to the AREA research themes, we intend to build the digital library of archival documents from our archive, and also to continue to promote standards developed by this project among Polish archaeological institutions and professionals.

The Department of Archaeology and Ancient History at **Göteborg** University (SE) has for some years focused—among other themes—on the History of Archaeology, both as an academic discipline and a Practice: about half a dozen doctoral theses have been produced on this subject. The Göteborg participation in the AREA project has led to explore several issues through archives of national institutions, libraries and museums. The overall aim is to connect intellectual and methodological advances with the development of practises and strategies in the field itself, including the very instruments used; for excavation, illustration etc. The Göteborg contribution to AREA IV represents a continuation of earlier research but also promotes an interest in social aspects of how antiquarians and archaeologists communicated within the learned society. Of particular interest is the impact of the first conferences, which created an international scene with its protocols, presentation of news, handling of interpretative controversies and of course general European politics. This contribution should

lead to a more realistic and reflexive history of archaeology, showing that information networks and personal contacts have long been an integral part of the discipline.

The National Archive of Monuments of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture in **Athens** (GR) continues its participation in the AREA project through various research and documentation activities. Drawing on the rich material of the Historic Archive of the Hellenic Archaeological Service, a number of themes will be explored, focusing on the history of Mediterranean Archaeology and the construction of European Identities. Research will concentrate primarily on two areas: 'Archaeologists Abroad' and 'Dictatorships and Archaeology' - themes which offer different perspectives on the interaction between archaeology and the processes of identity formation at a national and international level. This research will develop in collaboration with other AREA partners, providing a comparative framework for the study of the complex development of the discipline of archaeology. In terms of documentation, the National Archive of Monuments will continue to enrich the on-line catalogue of archaeological archives held in Greece, ultimately seeking to identify and describe all archival fonds relating to archaeology in Greece.

The Department of Archaeology at the University of **Durham** (GB) has the largest concentration of archaeologists in Britain who are actively researching and publishing on the history of their discipline. Fresh and far-ranging historical perspectives have been nurtured in our Department: from the history of Palaeolithic research to the medieval period; from local traditions to international developments. Durham academics have focused very strongly on the broad social and political influences on the historical trajectory of archaeological research, the ways in which archaeological research has influenced society, and issues of gender and identity. These research projects include: work on the shaping of core narratives and methodologies in Roman and Medieval archaeology; the impact of nineteenth-century European nationalism on the shaping of archaeology; French and Italian colonial archaeology at North African sites; the impact of British archaeologists in the archaeology of Spain; the nineteenth-century chronological foundation of European archaeology and the Three Age System; Canon William Greenwell and the social intellectual context of British archaeological research in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. As part of our participation in AREA, a study will be undertaken on British archaeology during the 1920s and 1930s in connection to socialism and fascism.

The Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte und Archäologie des Mittelalters of **Freiburg** University (DE) has promoted long-term research into the interaction of German archaeology and national identity. It has notably explored in detail the political instrumentation of archaeological research against France and Poland before 1945, as well as the role of rising nationalism in the history of archaeology since the 18th century. As part of its AREA project on 'Silesia Subterranea Effossa', the institute now turns to the time of the Scientific Revolution, to investigate archaeological practices and their interaction with religious and regional identities in the early modern period. Of particular interest is the search for prehistoric urn graves that flourished since the 16th century in the Silesian principalities (today located in Poland). What incentive did scholars have for prospecting, excavating, collecting and publishing archaeological finds? Who were these scholars and what were the holdings of their collections? Little-known manuscript, printed and iconographical sources shall be traced in archives and libraries. AREA has now entered into close collaboration with the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel, the central German research library specializing in early modern science and humanities. The HAB has simultaneously launched the digitization project 'Archaeological Finds in the Early Modern Period', funded by the German Research

Association DFG, and this bibliographical project will enable web-based source-readings in the history of archaeology before 1800.

The detached department 'Prague Castle' of the Archaeological Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences in **Prague** (CZ) was established in 1925. It continues excavations initiated by builders and architects of Prague Castle since the Middle of the 19th century, as well as more recent excavations in connection with the reconstruction of Prague Castle to the Residence of the President of the new Republic of Czechoslovakia. Today nine archaeologists are employed in this department. They are mainly concerned with rescue excavations in the area of Prague Castle and its closest neighbourhood and the complex evaluation of the findings from older excavations. They also participate in various projects (e.g. the oldest Church architecture on Prague Castle, Medieval and Post-Medieval cemeteries, Processing of Glass from the Renaissance etc.), and present their work to the visiting public through exhibitions (e.g. Prague Castle Story) and conferences. In the framework of the AREA research themes, the department uses its own extensive documentary and iconographic archives to shed light on the past appreciation and investigations of the Castle.

The 'Vasile Parvan' Institute of Archaeology in **Bucharest** (RO) is the main institution specialised in archaeological research in Romania, and a member of the Romanian Academy. As the oldest research institution in Romania (dating back from 1834), the IAB possessing a rich archaeological, numismatic and epigraphic patrimony, together with an extremely rich archive bearing on the general and institutional history of archaeology in the country. This archive contains administrative documents, personal documents of various personalities of Romanian archaeology, reports concerning archaeological findings and research, heritage management, and correspondence with other institutions and personalities from within the country and abroad. Our main research direction within the AREA project concerns the topic of "Archaeology abroad", investigating such aspects as: training of Romanian archaeologists in the western European countries, excavations and studies carried out by foreign archaeologists, participation to international archaeological congresses and exhibitions, Romanian archaeological patrimony in foreign museums, personal connections of local archaeologists etc. These research directions have all important relevance and implications which reach beyond the country's borders, and that they can be best followed through intensive archival research in Romania and across Europe.

The chair of pre- and protohistory at the University of **Leipzig** (DE) was founded during the Third Reich (1934), closed as a consequence of the GDR university reform (1968) and lastly reimplemented after the German unification in 1993. As if mirroring these political implications, the chair has focussed both on the European Iron Age and on the history of archaeology. As a partner in the European programme on 'The first Celtic cities', the chair is also concerned with the history of their exploration. Within the AREA project, the institute intends to investigate the topic of 'Power and Politics in the history of German archaeological collections in the 19th and 20th century (1819-1945)'. The premise is that collections—given their important role in the dialogue between professional archaeologists and the wider public—are especially susceptible to be instrumentalized for political purposes. Comparable collections from five former or present regions of Germany will be investigated: Schleswig-Holstein, the Rhineland, Baden-Württemberg, Silesia and Brandenburg with Berlin. The aim of the study is not to write 'biographies' of single collections but to outline the main developmental stages of the different types of archaeological collections in Germany as a basis for further investigations in a broader European framework.

The Centro Andaluz de Arqueología Ibérica in **Jaén** (ES) has begun for this new AREA phase to focus on the ways the archaeological heritage has been used by the political power for the implementation of legitimization programs. We have chosen a crucial time frame for the history of Spain: the first years of Franco's Dictatorship, from the end of the Civil War until the 50s. The study of archaeological management, archaeological methodology, the main scientific groups and institutions in charge, as well as the strategies used to display and exhibit the archaeological heritage, will all make it possible to better understand the seizure of the archaeological past by Franco's regime. Vital for the project is the study of contemporary documents and archives generated by archaeological activities, such as those kept in the Archivo General de la Administración or in the Archivo Gómez-Moreno. Our work will reach out beyond the Spanish frame of reference to try and establish common patterns and ways of action with other European dictatorships; this will be done through the AREA research group 'Archaeology and Dictatorships', a collaborative work which should yield a better comparative understanding of the political use of Archaeology.

The Monographic Museum of **Conimbriga** near Coimbra (PT) was inaugurated in 1962 to continue the archaeological excavations, the protection, conservation, study and public promotion of the ruins, the finds and the environment of ancient Conimbriga. These ruins had been identified as the oppidum of Conimbriga (mentioned by Pliny the Elder and in the Itinerary of Antonine) since the Renaissance, and soundings were made since the end of the 19th century. A vast and extensive project of consolidation and reconstruction of the discovered structures took place in the 1940s and 50s, during Salazar's Estado Novo regime, and in line with the dominant ideological requirements of national promotion and anchoring into the past. As part of our participation in the AREA project, we will build on the history of excavation, interpretation and public presentation of the site, as notably revealed through our extensive archives, in order to contribute to a broader study of the relations between archaeology, dictatorship and political appropriation in the 20th century.

The new European project leader of the AREA network, and the coordinator of the French AREA research and documentation activities, is the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), and more specifically the **Maison de l'archéologie et de l'ethnologie** – René Ginouvès in Nanterre (FR). The Maison de l'archéologie hosts the largest concentration of CNRS and universities research teams in the country, dealing notably with prehistory and classical archaeology, environmental sciences and history of art. Their deposited archives provide important information into the recent scientific and institutional history of French archaeology, including insights into the recent emergence of preventive archaeology, the reception of foreign scholars in France, and the activities of French archaeological missions abroad. This theme is followed up through other institutional archives such as the Société Asiatique in the 1930s or the papers of the ministry of public instruction throughout the 19th century. In addition to these projects, the French partner also oversees the completion of several lines of research and documentation launched in previous AREA phases.