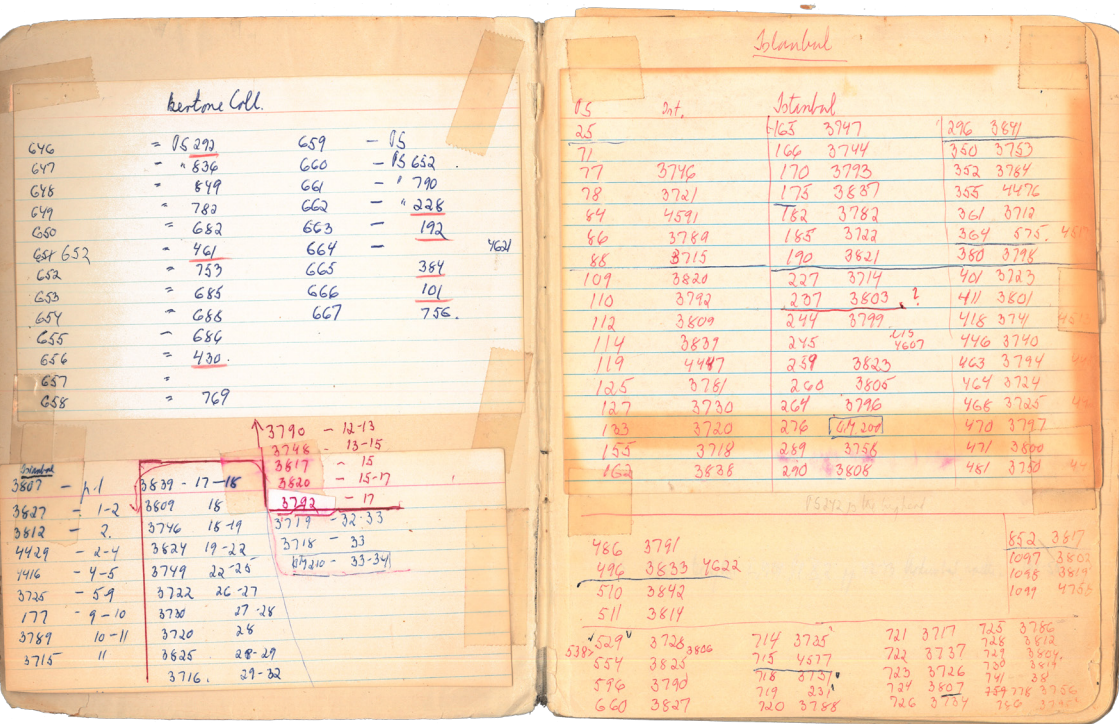


Turning the Page: Archaeological Archives and Entangled Cultural Knowledge

23-24 November 2023



Organisers

Olympia Bobou (Aarhus University)

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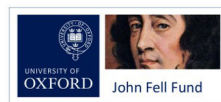
Maria Stamatopoulou (University of Oxford)

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Lincoln College
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CARLSBERG FOUNDATION

Outline

In recent years, scholars have re-evaluated the role and significance of archaeological and historical archives and archiving practices. In the nineteenth and most of the twentieth century, archives have been, for most parts, considered as objective, non-biased containers of knowledge. This notion was challenged first by historians, who re-examined the ways and the selection of the material that was collected for archiving (see esp. Dirks 2002; Stoler 2009). Their studies revealed that, far from neutral, archiving practices were informed by conscious and unconscious biases and choices, resulting in historical documents that could reveal as much by the omissions as by what had been chosen to be documented and preserved in the archive. This theoretical approach of archives as sites of contention and curated historical documents has also been applied to archives that were formed during excavations or other archaeological fieldwork (Baird and McFadyen 2014).

One of the most pressing issues in modern archaeological scholarship are the issues of power structures embedded in the ways archives were accumulated and structured, which often led to the disempowerment of local societies, nations, or groups of people, usually in colonial contexts. In this relation, archaeological archives have proven a rich source of information for examining how late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century excavations were used by colonising powers, and revealing the Eurocentric or imperialistic biases of ostensibly neutral archaeologists. Each country, however, had its own historical trajectory; excavations sponsored by colonial powers were conducted at the same time as excavations supported by national governments and organizations in some countries, while in others, foreign-led teams had a monopoly on studying the archaeology of the region. Furthermore, archaeologists themselves and their sponsoring foundations could own the archival material in late nineteenth and early twentieth century, rather than the governments of the countries in which they were excavating. Thus, archival material could travel between countries or be divided between institutions, depending on the excavators' wishes and affiliations. The archival material can also shed light on the formation of collections in the late nineteenth and early twentieth

century; this cannot be separated from the various laws regarding antiquities that were formulated and passed in this period.

This two-day conference has two main aims: first, to highlight the importance of archival material as a source of study and unleashing 'lost' knowledge. The re-examination of excavation records can result in new publications and reconstructions and, in general, give new insights into the primary sites of investigation. It can also reveal unknown aspects and histories of the excavation processes. Secondly, the aim is to illustrate some of the particular problems of working with archives and the solutions taken, for example, when dealing with archives dispersed between different countries and institutions in order to push for new suggestions for best practices within archival studies and the publication of archives.



Scene at Palmyra (© Palmyra Portrait Project and Rubina Raja, courtesy of the Yale Babylonian Collection, Yale University).

Programme: Thursday 23 November7:45–8:15 **Coffee (3rd floor)**8:15–8:45 **Introduction**
Olympia Bobou (Aarhus University), Rubina Raja (Aarhus University), and Maria Stamatopoulou (University of Oxford)**SESSION 1: From Excavation to Display: The Role of Archives in Tracing Object Biographies (Chair: Rubina Raja)**8:45–9:30 **The Annotated Archive: Marginalia and Meaning in Following Pots**
Morag M. Kersel (DePaul University)9:30–10:15 **Re-Writing the Archaeology of Thessaly through the Archives of Apostolos S. Arvanitopoulos, its First Director of Antiquities**
Maria Stamatopoulou (University of Oxford)10:15–10:45 **Coffee Break (3rd floor)****SESSION 2: Excavation Archives and Power Structures (Chair: Olympia Bobou)**10:45–11:30 **Gentlemen's Agreements: Applying Contemporary Archaeological Ethics in an Archival Setting**
Jon M. Frey (Michigan State University)11:30–12:15 **Navigating Complex Hierarchies: Revisiting Herzfeld's Letters and Diaries from the Samarra Excavation 1911–1913**
Miriam Kühn (Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Museum für Islamische Kunst)12:15–13:15 **Lunch (3rd floor)****SESSION 3: Early 20th-Century Archives from Fieldwork in the Near East (Chair: Chris Hallett)**13:15–14:00 **Archival Palimpsests: Researching the Development of the Ingholt Archive**
Olympia Bobou and Rubina Raja (Aarhus University)14:00–14:45 **In the Field and through the Archives: Exploring the First American-British Campaign in the Decapolis City Gerasa in 1928**
Rubina Raja (Aarhus University)14:45–15:15 **Coffee (3rd floor)**15:15 **Visit to the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek**18:00 **Conference Dinner (Restaurant Pluto)**

Programme: Friday 24 November7:30–8:00 **Coffee (3rd floor)****SESSION 1: Archaeology and Politics I (Chair: Maria Stamatopoulou)**

8:00–8:45 **The Archaeological Department of the Greek Governance of Smyrna (1919–1922): Archaeology in the War Zone through Archival Testimonies**
Kostas Paschalidis and Chrysanthi Tsouli
(National Archaeological Museum of Athens)

8:45–9:30 **Stories from the Historical Archives of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports**
Athina Chatzidimitriou and Maria-Xeni Gareizou (Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sport)

9:30–10:00 **Coffee Break (3rd floor)****SESSION 2: Archaeology and Politics II (Chair: Chris Hallett)**

10:00–10:45 **Visions of Epirus between Greece and Rome: Demetrios Evangelidis and Luigi Ugolini**
Oliver Gilkes (independent scholar) and Milena Melfi
(University of Oxford)

10:45–11:30 **Antiquities, Diplomacy and the Construction of Soft Power in Greek-US Political Relationships in the Beginning of the Cold War Era: a Perspective from Archival Research in Greece and the USA**
Nassos Papalexandrou (University of Texas at Austin)

11:30–12:30 **Lunch (3rd floor)****SESSION 3: Reconstruction through Archives (Chair: Rubina Raja)**

12:30–13:15 **Where in the World are the Papademos Antiquities? A Search for the Stock of an Athenian Art Dealer of the Late 19th/Early 20th Century**
Christina Avronidaki and Giorgos Kavvadias
(National Archaeological Museum of Athens)

13:15–14:00 **The Papers of Lord William Taylour as Basis for Archival Archaeology at Pylos**
Jack L. Davis (University of Cincinnati), Michael Loy
(University of Cambridge), and Sharon R. Stocker
(University of Cincinnati)

14:00–14:30 **Coffee Break (3rd floor)****SESSION 4: Stories from the Archives (Chair: Maria Stamatopoulou)**

14:30–15:15 **The Gilliéron Archive(s), at the École française d'Athènes and beyond: Untold Stories, Silences and Gaps of Knowledge**
Christina Mitsopoulou (University of Thessaly)

15:15–16:00 **Alexandrian Archaeology (1850–1950): A 'Local Archaeology'?**
Marie-Dominique Nenna (Centre national de la recherche scientifique)

16:00–16:15 **End Discussion**

Abstracts



Photo from Hama excavations (© Palmyra Portrait Project and Rubina Raja, courtesy of the Yale Babylonian Collection, Yale University).

The Annotated Archive: Marginalia and Meaning in Following Pots

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Archives are places of power. Archival resources provide the foundation for telling stories, despite their individual, institutional, societal biases, power imbalances, and knowledge gaps. Entrusted with the evaluation of collections based on research potential and the accuracy of historical record, archivists wield power on what should be in collections. As curated spaces, archives and archivists are rarely neutral, which can result in exclusions, gatekeeping, and prejudices. Archives are filled with annotations: embellishments, marginalia, postscripts, side notes, and underlined passages. These extra-textual additions can influence the researcher, but they can also provide a greater understanding of scholarly developments, reader responses, hidden agendas, all of which help us to reconstruct the past. Annotations deepen our comprehension by providing unique insights into the author, intended reader, or recipient. For over twenty years I have been following pots from the Early Bronze Age (3600–2000 BC) sites along the Dead Sea Plain in Jordan. Using archival resources and ethnographic interviews I trace how these artefacts move in an attempt to reconstruct the pathways to their current location. During these two decades I amassed my own archival record of pots, filled with annotations influenced by my own life experiences, current events, and research agendas. In examining the annotations to archival documents in the past and in the present (including my archival records), I interrogate questions of erasure, evidence, gatekeeping, objectivity, and knowledge loss.

Re-Writing the Archaeology of Thessaly through the Archives of Apostolos S. Arvanitopoulos, its First Director of Antiquities

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Thessaly, the breadbasket of Greece, occupies a strategic location in the heart of mainland Greece, on major routes of communication, with exceptionally fertile agricultural land and rich pastures. Famous for their cavalry, Thessalians played a key role in central Greece, at Delphi in particular. Unlike the scholarly emphasis on its rich Neolithic or Late Bronze-Age cultures, the first millennium BC in Thessaly is massively understudied. This is partly due to the negative presentation of the region in ancient authors (mostly Athenian), that has contaminated modern scholarship, which insists on picturing Thessaly as isolated and peripheral to a supposed normative centre.

The second major factor affecting our understanding of ancient Thessaly is the nature of its archaeological exploration in the early twentieth century, especially by its first director of antiquities, Apostolos S. Arvanitopoulos (active between 1905–1926). Best known for his seminal 1928 monograph on Demetrias, his discoveries led to the opening of two major museums, and the publication of hundreds of inscriptions. Still, most of his excavations are unpublished and known only through preliminary reports.

Arvanitopoulos' personal archive was missing until the late 1990s and his finds were mostly un-inventoried and divided between Athens and Volos, where they were often labelled as of 'unknown provenance'. The study of the very rich archives of Arvanitopoulos dispersed among three major institutions, and the in-situ work in various museums has led to the recontextualization of thousands of finds that allow a fresh approach to Thessalian archaeology. Particular attention will be given to archival material pertaining to Demetrias, Phthiotic Thebes and Pherai, and the tomb groups in western Thessaly as these radically change our perception of the region and its material culture from the eighth century BC to the late Hellenistic period.

Gentlemen's Agreements: Applying Contemporary Archaeological Ethics in an Archival Setting

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Since 2008, the Michigan State University Excavations at Isthmia has been engaged in an effort to digitise and share openly the contents of its archive of archaeological information. In addition to complications of costs, labour, and digital infrastructure, which are common to all archival projects, this effort has also encountered difficulties with sharing the evidence that has been generated according to decades-old traditions of archaeological fieldwork. Where today many academic institutions and professional organizations have established policies that protect individuals and their scholarship, these codes of ethics can only highlight moments in the past when such practices were not observed. Moreover, they do not suggest a means of remedy or redress. Thus, for archival archaeologists, simple questions of intellectual property, publication rights, and the transfer of copyright between institutional sponsors do not have easy answers. This paper discusses three examples of the challenges to observing contemporary academic ethics in an archival setting: the use of memoranda of understanding in (re)establishing publication rights, the search for former project staff to establish intellectual property rights, and the publication of unattributed archival materials in digital format. Hopefully, these experiences will raise awareness of places where such older traditions remain in practice and in so doing, show that archival archaeology can play a role in shaping future fieldwork as it looks critically at our methodological past.

Navigating Complex Hierarchies: Revisiting Herzfeld's Letters and Diaries from the Samarra Excavation 1911–1913

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The excavation of the Abbasid capital Samarra in present-day Iraq between 1911 and 1913 is a testament to the outstanding achievements of Ernst Herzfeld, the excavation director on site, and Friedrich Sarre, the director of the Islamic Department of the State Museums in Berlin, who held the excavation license and enabled the excavation in a variety of ways. It was the first systematic investigation of an Islamic site; its results and findings significantly shaped the museum and the field of Islamic archaeology and art history.

Herzfeld's letters and diaries reveal the challenges he faced during the first campaign in 1911, which included significant local resistance in a politically tumultuous period following the Young Turk Revolution and the replacement of the Ottoman sultan Abdulhamid II. Herzfeld skillfully used and navigated the complex hierarchies of different stake holders in the region like local authorities, Ottoman excavation commissioners, and the German consul in Baghdad to achieve his goal of a successful excavation.

This paper explores the impact of political and social circumstances on the work conducted in Samarra, and examines Herzfeld's portrayal of these events in his letters and diaries. The findings highlight the importance of examining power structures in and around archaeological excavations and the need to re-evaluate the role of archives as sources of objective knowledge. The paper ultimately contributes to our understanding of the complex dynamics of excavations in colonial contexts and highlights the importance of historical contextualization for interpreting excavation records.

Archival Palimpsests: Researching the Development of the Ingholt Archive

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Harald Ingholt's earliest involvement with Palmyrene art can be traced back to the early 1920s. By 1922, when he had begun planning a comprehensive corpus of Palmyrene sculpture, he had already started creating what became his archive. By 1983, when the archive was moved to the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen, it comprised more than 2000 sheets with photographs and notes. There, it was re-organised by Gunhild Ploug. Since 2012 the Palmyra Portrait Project team has worked on various aspects of the archive — also its original physical order — and have been able to reconstruct Ingholt's primary organization of the sheets (Bobou and others 2023). This disentangling of later re-organizations revealed that Ingholt worked on the archive for his entire academic career. However, there are still open questions regarding the chronological sequence of its creation and upkeep. This presentation addresses these. Clearly, Ingholt added objects as he came across them, either by personal autopsy or through their publications, but there has never been an attempt to study this 'making of the archive' as a process in its own right (Bobou and others 2023, 11–13). By following the sequence of notes and publication dates of Ingholt's references, it may for example be possible to shed light on the development of the archive from the period of the fifty years that spanned Ingholt's academic career.

Bobou, O., A. C. Miranda, R. Raja, and J.-B. Yon. 2023. The Ingholt Archive: The Palmyrene Material, Transcribed with Commentary and Bibliography (Turnhout: Brepols).

In the Field and through the Archives: Exploring the First American-British Campaign in the Decapolis City Gerasa in 1928

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In 1928 the first large-scale excavations at Gerasa were undertaken by a joint American-British team. The excavations continued for several years and uncovered large parts of one of the sites, which until today is a site that is considered a model example of a Roman city in the Near East. The monumental ruins of Gerasa have fascinated researchers and travellers alike, even before the excavations began, but research into the site's history exploded – for obvious reasons – with the excavations. It is the city's Roman and Christian heritage that stood at the centre of the early twentieth-century excavations. This paper explores some of the documentation from this first campaign in the Spring and Summer of 1928 and asks how the past has been mainly reconstructed through the famous 1938 edited publication by C. H. Kraeling and how aspects of the history of Gerasa might be explored in a more nuanced way when the archival material held at the Yale University Art Gallery is taken into account. This is the focus of the new joint project undertaken in collaboration between Aarhus University and Yale University Art Gallery.

The Archaeological Department of the Greek Governance of Smyrna (1919–1922): Archaeology in the War Zone through Archival Testimonies

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The Greek occupation and administration of the Smyrna Zone began with the landing of the Greek army in the city's harbour in May 1919, after the Allies' approval and ended with its disorderly retreat and complete destruction of the Asia Minor Greeks in September 1922. Within these three years, the Greek State established and funded the High Commission, a local government scheme, formulated as a League of Nations' mandate.

Greek archaeologists settled in Asia Minor along with political and military forces. Thus, the Archaeological Department of Smyrna of the local Directorate of Education was established in 1919. In the following years, it achieved the safekeeping, preservation, rescue, research, management of excavated remains, collection of endangered antiquities, re-arrangement and enrichment of the Evangelical School Museum, and the establishment of a few collections. The High Commission decided to carry out excavations in three unearthened archaeological sites in the summer of 1921 and 1922; the ancient Greek cities of Klazomenai and Nysa on the Maeander and the basilica of Hagios Ioannis Theologos in Ephesus.

This work presents unknown administrative records, unpublished photographs, and valuable evidence for the excavations conducted by the Greek archaeological mission, especially the one in Klazomenai, whose traces have been completely lost since then. Archival material is also valuable for tracing the original find-spot of movable antiquities dispatched to collections and for revealing the role of military personnel in spotting antiquities in the occupied regions. It also demonstrates the decent and methodical work of the Greek archaeologists who managed to keep their distance from the national excitement of their times.

Refugees, Antiquities and Politics: Stories from the Historical Archives of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports

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The Asia Minor campaign started as part of the colonial enterprise of the Great Powers in the failing Ottoman Empire. It ended in 1922 with the Greek military defeat in the depths of Anatolia and the abrupt abandonment of the national project related to the 'Grand Idea'. The tide of refugees that succeeded them led 1.2 million people to Greece, of which almost 22 per cent settled in Attica. Many sought shelter among the monuments and archaeological sites in Athens' historical centre.

The Historical Archives of Antiquities and Restorations of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports provide evidence of the mechanisms the State Archaeological Service developed to address the challenges arising from this transformative event. Considerations were not limited to the protection of cultural heritage but extended to the social and political sphere: documents witness the urgency to deal with the needs of people deprived of the basics and accelerate their rehabilitation and social integration.

They also speak of the parallel process of the Agora Excavations agreed between the American School of Classical Studies and Prime Minister Venizelos but encouraged by all subsequent governments. Ultimately this led to the expulsion of the refugees from their temporary housing, the alienation of the local inhabitants and the creation of a vast archaeological zone comprising the Athenian Acropolis, the surrounding hills and the Ancient Agora. It also marks the symbolic gesture of an emerging power destined to have a capital role in Greek politics during the second half of the century.

Visions of Epirus between Greece and Rome: Demetrios Evangelidis and Luigi Ugolini

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Famously described as 'a land which all admire but many dread to view' (Byron, *Childe Harold*, canto II) Albania presents a particular series of issues to the archaeologist using archival material. A country created almost by chance out of the chaos of the Balkan Wars of 1912–1913 and then the maelstrom of the First and Second World Wars, it has had various identities proposed and imposed upon it. Prior to 1945 all archaeology was effectively undertaken by foreign missions with a nascent interest from foreign-trained local Albanian scholars. The archives of these missions illustrate the collision between competing geopolitical philosophies and methodological approaches, particularly relevant in the contested region of modern Albania corresponding with the territory of ancient Epirus. This paper will attempt to reconstruct several and differently aimed appropriations/interpretations of ancient Epirus by focusing on the documents produced by the archaeological missions sponsored by the governments of Athens and Rome in the early part of the 20th century: the letters written by Demetrios Evangelidis, sent by the Greek state to survey the archaeological remains of southern Albania between the Balkan wars (from 25 June to 7 August 1913); and the more extensive records produced by Luigi Ugolini's archaeological mission between 1926 and 1936, under the auspices of the Italian fascist government.

Antiquities, Diplomacy and the Construction of Soft Power in Greek-US Political Relationships in the Beginning of the Cold War Era: A Perspective from Archival Research in Greece and the USA

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Already before WWII, the Greek government or its delegates presented antiquities as diplomatic gifts encoding explicit or implicit messages from givers to receivers and vice versa. Though the practice has a long and variegated life well into the second half of the twentieth century, it did climax in the late 1940s and 1950s. However, it has received no scholarly attention whatsoever for two main reasons: in most cases, the artefacts exchanged are without provenience and therefore may be deemed as useless by more context-informed approaches to archaeological inquiry. Moreover, the artefacts/gifts quickly recede to anonymity after they play their significant role during careful staged ceremonies of presentation and exchange. My book-length project draws from archaeological and diplomatic theories of entanglement (e.g. Hodder, Dittmar) in order to illuminate the multidimensional dynamics of gift-exchange in time, space, and the diplomatic continuum. This presentation comments on the nature of archival resources in Greece and the United States while problematising the qualitative and quantitative nature of the existing archival records of Greece and the United States. The comparison between these records illuminates an interesting phenomenon that has largely to do with the power-differential between the global superpower of the USA and the 'crypto-colonial' state of Greece in a liminal location of the wider geostrategic location of the world arena. One could expect that, as a source country, Greece would have a firmly simple but clear archival record of this formal exportation of antiquities. This record, however, is very scarce, and this has to do, at least in part, with the intentional elimination of the archival habit in the troubled political life of Greece, especially after WWII. On the other hand, archives in the US are rich in information, mainly because the archival habit has to do with construction, maintenance, and imposition of power, both internally and externally.

Where in the World Are the Papademos Antiquities? A Search for the Stock of an Athenian Art Dealer of the Late 19th/Early 20th Century

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Between 1899 and 1902, a significant number of antiquities enriched the collections of the National Archaeological Museum, as a result of the new Law 2646 of 24 July 1899 'On antiquities'. According to article 32 of this revolutionary law, all those possessing movable antiquities were obliged to declare them to the General Ephor of Antiquities within six months, while article 22 stated that in order for any antiquity found in Greek territory to be exported, it had to be first determined by the Archaeological Committee as 'useless' for the State Museums. The law resulted in the official declaration of many important collections of artefacts belonging to art dealers, who were, moreover, very eager to have their objects divided into 'useful' and 'useless', so that they could continue their lucrative activities; the 'useful' ones ended up in the National Museum, while those that were 'useless' were dispersed around the world.

One of these dealers was Antonios Papademos, an unknown figure to us, were it not for his 103 'useful' artefacts yielded to the Museum in 1900. Contrary to many other declarations during this period, the one compiled for the 727 Papademos antiquities is exemplary, and along with it comes a package of archival information documenting, among others, the whole procedure which led to the acquisition of his objects by the Museum and some of his subsequent export requests; it was thus particularly tempting for us to embark on a quest for the identification of his 'useless' objects, which have ended up in Europe, the United States, and even the Caribbean.

The Papers of Lord William Taylour as Basis for Archival Archaeology at Pylos

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This paper considers factors that permitted the authors to use a single excavation archive for rebuilding a Mycenaean tholos tomb in 3D GIS. Almost-accidental preservation and quality of documentation were the prime determinants: our paper considers archival archaeology from a perspective rather different from that of colonial archaeology.

We consider one case study from the Bronze-Age Palace of Nestor at Pylos. Although officially under the aegis of the American School, Pylos is fully funded and sponsored by the University of Cincinnati, receiving no support from the United States government. Nor is there exclusively American participation in the project. Excavations by Carl W. Blegen between 1939 and 1969 included Greeks, British, and American students and archaeologists, one of whom was William Taylour, an English lord.

We argue that Taylour's background in finance influenced his recording style, thus making his work unusually well suited for archival archaeology reconstruction. The records available to us are remarkably full, although their completeness has been determined largely by accident. Previously dispersed between Cincinnati, Athens, and Cambridge, it has been possible to reassemble the whole. Any previous barrier to archaeological reconstruction did not result from national control or colonial power dynamics.

Archaeology in Greece, since independence, has consisted of multiple poles, no single one controlled directly by a foreign power: 1) foreign schools of archaeology; 2) the Archaeological Society of Athens; and 3), least well-funded of all, the state archaeological apparatus. Some foreign schools are funded by their respective national ministries of culture; others are entirely private. By historical precedent and Greek law, archaeological research by all foreign schools is, however, defined as national. All of these institutions are committed to making archives accessible to researchers.

The Gilliéron Archive(s), at the École française d'Athènes and beyond: Untold Stories, Silences and Gaps of Knowledge

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The Gilliéron archive, entrusted to the EFA since 2015/2018, has been accumulated in the family premises during more than a century: Émile père died in 1924; his life and work 'became history' since then. Taken over by his son, the workshop's production continued till 1939. Édouard Émile also kept the documents of his father's childhood and career. It was finally his son Alfred who invested attention and conscious effort into the preservation of the materiality of their legacy (his own included), and sought contact with the research community. The fourth descendant achieved this effort and entrusted the archive to the institution that had first welcomed his ancestor in Athens, in 1876.

The archiving happened with personal empirical criteria. The family's selection processes were in some cases spontaneous, in others deliberate, following accidents or conscious personal and sentimental criteria of choice. The bulk of the material was not processed and deposited without selection, structuring, intervention, or other initiatives of alteration. The documents allow gradual elaboration of the biographies of the Gilliéron artists, and their professional archaeological environment.

We will discuss a sample of stories that demonstrate the production process of knowledge drawn from the archive. The EFA archive is a private assemblage undertaken by artists. There are more 'Gilliéron archives' out there. Most of their collaborating institutions possess their part of documentation, related to the projects led with the artists: amidst them are untold legacies and silences in the historical record. The family archive may provide an occasion for an association of these collections, establish lost links, and rediscuss silences or long-forgotten stories.

Alexandrian Archaeology (1850–1950): A 'Local Archaeology'?

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The history of Alexandrian archaeology and of its archives is closely linked to the history of the city itself and of the institutions created by a cosmopolitan society that aimed to exalt ancient Alexandria, which was reincarnated in its eyes in contemporary Alexandria. Before the creation of the Municipality of Alexandria in 1890, and that of the Graeco-Roman Museum and the Archaeological Society of Alexandria in the following years, archaeology was most often in the hands of amateurs and collectors of diverse origins. At a time when cultural diplomacy was developing in the Eastern Mediterranean, Alexandria remained outside the scope of the great powers and state archaeological expeditions.

The GRM, founded in 1892 had a specific status in Egypt, since it was financed by the Municipality and controlled by the Egyptian Antiquities Service. The first curator, Giuseppe Botti, was responsible for creating the exhibition rooms and cataloguing the collections, but also for enriching the collections through excavations and the generosity of private Alexandrian collectors. Under his direction, as under that of his successors, archaeology was essentially a rescue archaeology, which was reported to the Municipality on an annual basis, usually in detail.

With few exceptions, the scientific archives of the directors are now kept in Italy and in Great Britain. The administrative archives of the GRM as well as the photographic archives are kept in Egypt. Rediscovered some fifteen years ago during the renovation of the Museum, they offer a different but equally interesting approach.



Qasr Abjad excavation photos (Image © Rubina Raja / Palmyra Portrait Project, Ingholt Archive at the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek).

Venue



Organisers



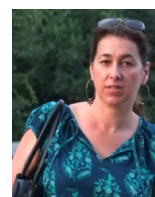
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Conference webpage

<https://projects.au.dk/archivearcheology/events/2023/turning-the-page>

Qasr el Abjad
2. from the East



4.



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- Book of abstracts** Turning the Page: Archaeological Archives and Entangled Cultural Knowledge
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