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Otto Dobrindt – in the footsteps of the artefacts' custodian

Many archaeological museums and archives have in their collections still unexamined materials. This is also the case of the Archaeological Museum in Poznań (MAP), which houses, among others, records associated with the activity of German teacher Otto Dobrindt from Wielka Wieś/Großdorf near Kargowa.

From the late 1920s, when the area of Kargowa town was part of German state, Otto Dobrindt served as a district custodian of artefacts by the Brandenburg State Office for Prehistory in Potsdam. He was also involved in the work of the State Office for Geology. In the years 1928-1944 he made an inventory of numerous artefacts dating mostly to the Stone Age and also to younger periods, recorded in the borderland between the present day Wielkopolskie (Greater Poland) and Lubuskie (Lubusz) provinces. He himself was fascinated with the Mesolithic Period. Until 1939 the area of his activity included the districts of Babimost, Sulechów, and, partly, Świebodzin and Międzyrzecz; after the outbreak of the Second World War he began to collect archaeological finds from areas located further east, i.e. the areas of Wolsztyn, Grodzisk, Nowy Tomyśl, Wschowa, etc. He based his activity on surface surveys. In addition, Dobrindt was involved in rescue archaeology; occasionally he carried out excavations and gathered information about collections and single finds owned by people living in the region. He also carried out inquiries in museums housing artefacts of his interest – e.g. Märkisches Museum in Berlin, Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte in Berlin, Archaeological Museum in Kraków, small regional museums in Kargowa, Sulechów, Międzyrzecz and Babimost. He published the results of his research in regional newspapers, e.g. in „Märkischen Blättern“, „Oderzeitung“, „Unruhstädter Zeitung“, „Züllichau-Schwiebuser Kreiszeitung“, as well as in magazines „Nachrichtenblatt für Deutsche Vorzeit“ and „Mannus“.

Archival documentation left by O. Dobrindt is held in the Archives of the Archaeological Museum in Poznań. Some of the materials are kept in original folders of the Brandenburg State Office for Prehistory. Unfortunately, the artefacts had been lost at the end of the Second World War. Possibly they were taken over by SS; or they were transferred to Zielona Góra to be displayed at the archaeological exhibition in 1950. The survived documentation, despite being incomplete, is in most cases the only source of information about artefacts which were lost

without trace. After the war, the Dobrindt's materials were referred to only in publications by M. Kobusiewicz (1969a, 1969b) on the Paleolithic and Mesolithic Periods.

The presented catalogue of artefacts contains information acquired from the Archives of the Archaeological Museum in Poznań – archival folders of villages and personal documents of O. Dobrindt. Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine the location of numerous archaeological sites due to the lack of a map (which is now held in Potsdam) and imprecise descriptions. The catalogue contains two categories of sources: archival material from the research carried out by Dobrindt (named “A” category) and archival material whose association with Dobrindt's research is not certain (“A?” category); the latter category is minor. The catalogue entries are arranged in alphabetical order according to the names of villages with current names of their districts and communes. The numbering of villages is the same as on the map of the location of artefacts.

The „Luboń desert” or a trap for archaeologists

Summary

The paper discusses the problem of identifying archaeological sites in the area known in the literature of the subject under the name of Luboń-Lasek (also: Lasek, Lasek-Luboń or Luboń). The area, situated directly south off Poznań, between the old river basin of the Warta and the present river valley, in the first half of the 20th century was still covered with later destroyed dunes – hence it was named “a desert”. The history of archaeological discoveries in “the Luboń desert” dates back to 1908, when the first archaeological sites had been identified. Over following years the area was repeatedly investigated both by professionals and amateurs. They registered successive sites and the collected materials were in their major part given to museum collections. Today the artifacts from Luboń-Lasek are housed in the Poznań Archaeological Museum, together with graphic and descriptive documentation. The numerous studies, however, resulted in a confusion concerning the location as well as naming and numbering of archaeological sites. Basing on the preserved fragments of archaeological documentation and the available cartographic materials, the authors verified the list of Luboń sites in order to tidy up the baffling issue of their location. Their work resulted in the list of 27 sites that can be located in “the desert”. In each case they tried to recreate the history of research and assign the artefact material proper to the site.

New Roman period finds in the vicinity of Poznań

Summary

In 2008 the Poznań Archaeological Museum received a deposit of a private collection of several dozen of archaeological objects, which included 19 fibulae, 1 coin, a bronze ring, and a possible bridle cheekpiece from the Period of Roman Influences. According to the information received the objects had been found scattered on the surface of fields or, less frequently, in the upper humus level. They were discovered in the following places: Stobnica gmina Oborniki, Pamiątkowo gmina Szamotuły, Karłowice, Pruszewiec and Wierzenica gmina Swarzędz, and Dzierznica gmina Dominowo.

The findings in question were spread out on 14 archaeological sites, five of which had been already known to the earlier conservationist register (Stobnica, site 13, Pamiątkowo, site 69, Wierzenica, site 2, Pruszewiec, site 8 and Dzierznica, site 2). The remaining seven sites were newly discovered (Stobnica, site 14, Wierzenica, site 37, Karłowice, site 17, Karłowice, site 18, Karłowice, site 19, Pruszewiec, site 17 and Dzierznica, site 41). Basing on the location information obtained, in the years 2008-2009 all sites underwent another archaeological field prospecting, accompanied by collection of surface archaeological material. Thus, some of the sites were corroborated by pottery sources (Fig. 16). This paper, however, concentrates mainly on metal objects, and fibulae in particular. Most of the analysed objects of this type found in the vicinity of Poznań are to be linked with the Wielbark culture anyway, though some of them – of somewhat late dating – could be also considered within the Przeworsk context.

Fibula A IV, 68 from Wierzenica is dated to the advanced and late phase B₁. It belongs to the variant with a short s-shaped bow, a raised foot, a faceted head and two smaller openings in the catch plate, rarely found in Poland. Fibulae of this type are well represented at the sites in Moravia and western Slovakia and they still can be found at the beginning of phase B₂. The A.68 fibulae are a common form in the eastern part of the central European Barbaricum, their frequency in the Przeworsk culture area is considerably higher than in territories covered by the Wielbark culture, where they appear only rarely and mainly in the lower Vistula region.

A relatively large number of the newly found fibulae dates to phase B₂ and phases B₂/C₁. They include fibulae with two covers over the spring of the O.Almgren eastern series or their fragments. The oldest form is the fibula from Stobnica which represents, all things considered, an A.38 type dated to phase B_{2a} and, chiefly, B_{2b}. However, the fibula reveals mixed features and belongs to the transitory period between A.38 and A.41 types. Furthermore, it is a specimen of a fairly numerous group of fibulae that can be recorded mainly in the Wielbark culture territories – including the area round the town of Greifswald and the islands of Rugia (Rügen) and Uznam. These “A II, Kowalewko variant” fibulae appear in the assemblages of advanced and late B₂ phase.

Another cover spring fibula from Stobnica has been preserved only in fragments. Most probably it is of the A.41 type, similarly to the fragmentary specimen from Pamiątkowo. The findings ought to be dated to phases B₂/C₁-C_{1a}.

Next fibula from Pamiątkowo presents a series of Prussian eye fibulae and can be typologically placed close to type A.60 dated to phase B₂. Differently from this type and most of eye fibulae it is distinguished by its crossbow construction. The concentration of the crossbow eye fibulae finds in the lower Vistula area might justify the thesis of a “Wielbark” origin of the idea of running the chord under the bow in the eye fibulae.

The Wierznica fibula, with a narrow originally faceted bow and a small ridge at the head, basically represents the A.120 V group acc. to Almgren. The chronology of such fibulae has not been decisively sorted out. They are most numerous in the early B₂ phase, though specimens from assemblages dated to phases B₂/C₁ are also known. Other fibulae of series 8 group V acc. to Almgren from Pamiątkowo, Dzierznica and Karłowice represent type A.127 or possibly A.128. Such types appear at the end of phase B₂ and are typical forms of phase B₂/C₁. Fibulae A.95/96, which are represented in the material by two specimens from Pruszewiec, are also dated to phase B₂/C₁. While one specimen is a simple form with no much decoration, the other shows remains of a silver foil on a small ridge at the head - a trace of a rich decoration characteristic of the “Wielbark Baroque”.

Tendrils brooches are quite numerous in the material discussed. The unipartite fibula has a four-coil spring with an upper chord and a broadened foot and relates to type A.159. Such fibulae are clearly concentrated in the lands covered by Przeworsk culture, but only in its western and south-western regions. Usually they are dated to phase C_{1a}, though similar forms can be found in the late Roman period. Next five tendrils brooches should be classified as type A.162. One of them, a specimen from Karłowice with ribs on the bow, is certainly a form characteristic of the Wielbark culture which ought to be dated to phase C₁. The remaining A.162 fibulae belong to the set of forms from the younger and late Roman period. At the present stage of research the Wielbark relationship of all these fibulae seems highly likely.

Things are different in the case of the last two fibulae discussed in the present paper, whose dating is too late for them to come from Wielbark sites. The first, an iron crossbow fibula from Dzierznica, has a massive bow and a solid closed catch plate. Its decoration suggests that it should be classified as a Raupenfibel. Such fibulae appear on the extensive territories of the Barbaricum, primarily on the lower Elbe and the lower Vistula and Sambia. So far only one Raupenfibel has been found in Wielkopolska, most probably due to the region's affiliation with the Przeworsk culture which did not know that type of fibulae at the time they were used elsewhere. The Dzierznica specimen seems to be a copy or an adaptation of a foreign form; this is indicated by the "Przeworsk" metal (iron) and, as compared with the Raupenfibeln from other cultural areas, untypical execution of the bow decoration. Raupenfibeln appear already in phase C2 but most of them come up in the final phase of the late Roman period and in phase D; in the territories of the western Balt cultural circle these fibulae were still in use in phase E. Only the fragmentarily preserved fibula from Pamiątkowo had a tape-shaped bow which had probably an oval contour. The upper part is bent, forming a wide ear (with no side steps) which covers a fragment of the iron axis. Those are the typical features of crossbow fibulae of Ramersdorf type whose origins, in view of the shaping of the bow, are to be sought in Scandinavia. The fibulae of this type are dated to the close of the 4th to the turn of the 5th/ 6th century. Together with other fibulae of that type the Pamiątkowo specimen belongs to a small concentration of finds in the broadly understood Vistula river basin.

Most of the analysed find can be linked with the Wielbark settlement in Wielkopolska from phase B₂ to phase C_{1b}/C₂. It cannot be excluded, however, that the highly profiled fibula A.68 represents the final stages of the Przeworsk culture in the vicinity of Poznań. The unit came up again during the younger Roman period in phase C₂ and continued until the close of antiquity. The Ramersdorf type and the Raupenfibel can be associated with this particular stage of settlement in Wielkopolska.

The terra sigillata from the cemetery at Deszczno on the Warta river Summary

Over the years 2007 and 2008 rescue archaeological research was carried out in the settlement and cemetery at Deszczno, site 14. They preceded the construction of an express motorway, the S3. The investigations were conducted by the Science and Conservation Centre, the National Heritage Preservation Office in Poznań and financed with the funds of the investor, the General Management of Domestic Roads and Motorways.

Over the surface of ca 82 ares 458 objects, of various functions and from several cultural and chronological horizons were discovered: Lusatian culture, the Period of Roman Influences, the early Middle Ages and the modern age. Among 458 objects there were 34 burials, including 16 pit graves and 18 cinerary urn graves. At the present stage of analysis the period it was used is bracketed between phase B2 of the older Roman period and the developed phase C1 of the younger Roman period.

The subject of the article is the cinerary pit grave numbered object 458, the fill-in of which yielded 46 terra sigillata fragments, about 107 fragments of three hand-moulded vessels (a small vase, a bowl and a small beaker) and a hexagonal cube measuring ca 2.5-2.2 cm, with small canals going through it. The 11 grammes of burnt human bones allow a very tentative description of an individual over 15 years of age and prior to the senilis age. The cube mentioned was connected with weaving and indicates a female burial.

An incomplete (reconstructible in about 70%) half-Drag. 37 bowl was produced in the workshop of Reginus I (150-170/180) from Rheinzabern on the Rhine. It carries two preserved stamps REGINF (Reginus fecit) and AVITVSF (Aventus fecit). The material from the assemblage carrying early Roman stylistic features, with the Reginus I bowl taken into account, dates the burial to the close of phase B2 and the beginning of phase B2/C1.

The work on the materials from Deszczno is underway.

Prehistoric and early mediaeval settlement in Niepruszewo (site 49), gmina Buk, powiat of Poznań

Summary

The excavations carried out by the present author on behalf of the Poznań Archaeological Museum in 2007 in Niepruszewo (site 49) yielded a multicultural prehistoric and early mediaeval settlement.

The oldest cultural horizon at the site is represented by an assemblage of 4 fragments of Neolithic pottery and 62 flint artifacts, remains of a FBC – eastern group settlement (Jażdżewski 1936; Wierzbicki 1995:fig. 1). The discovered pottery material seems to stylistically correspond to the classical Wiórek phase, possibly its early stage (phase IIIA acc. to A. Koško).

The second cultural horizon are sources from the Lusatian culture period, represented by: 73 features, 783 pottery fragments, and a stone grinder, a clay spoon and a spinning whorl, and also a few pieces of animal bones. They are probably remains of a permanent settlement, maybe of a seasonal character, probably connected with various pastoral activities, and overbuilt with only two objects of a shack type and standard objects such as pits and, less frequently, hearths.

In terms of production standards and pottery vessels forms, the dating elements in the assemblage include: sherds of vessels reminiscent of vases and amphorae decorated with motifs characteristic of Hallstatt stylistics, and also fragments of plates and bowls, the latter in their straight-rim variant or the variant with a slightly S-shaped rim, richly decorated, and fragments of pots with plastic strips and notched edges. These features allow to refer the majority of the pottery assemblage to the production standards representative of the older and younger Hallstatt period (HaCD), ie between the years 8000 and 400 B.C.

In the cultural aspect, the sources are characteristic of the western Wielkopolska group of the Lusatian culture (Kaczmarek 2002) and possibly represent its Poznań-Szamotuły concentration (Kaczmarek 2005).

Finally, the last chronological horizon at the site is represented by an early mediaeval settlement with 8 features, 345 vessel pottery fragments, 18 lumps of daub and odd animal bones; in one of the objects (no 58) an iron spur was found.

The last object, the most fascinating artefact from that period, is a one-piece product that can be classified as the III:2, variant B technotype of the early mediaeval spurs (after the typology of J. Żak and L. Maćkowiak-Kotkowska, 1988). One of the arms of the spur was broken off, while the other has been preserved whole and is 45 mm in length. It has a rather long prick made of a small bar (most probably riveted), 35 mm long. The bow is half-circular and short, with the inside span of 65 mm, made of a bar rectangular – half-circular in cross-section (tape-shaped), and originally with hook-like fastenings. Both the prick and arms of the bow are decorated, the former with encircling three grooves, the latter with a herringbone motif of oblique shallow grooves. The dating of the artefact – and the whole settlement as well – was traditionally based on the analysis of the co-existent vessel pottery and carbon dating.

Early mediaeval pottery from the site in question is characterised by the use of little formative upper turning on the potter's wheel and - with one exception – by the total absence of decoration. According to Z. Hilczerówna, the pottery refers to the early mediaeval stylistics of the B group family (1967:78-86). This kind of pottery assemblages are characteristic for all Wielkopolska, and for its southern and central areas in particular. Today their dating covers a wide chronological span, ie the 7th – 9th centuries and even the 1st half of the 10th century. Since the collection contains one fragment with the upper part of the belly decorated with an element of double horizontal grooves and only a few fragments of forms which draw on the Pomorska vessels of the Sukov/Feldberg type (acc. to W. Łosiński and R. Rogosz 1983; 1986), the chronology of the pottery assemblage can be reduced to the period between the 2nd half of the 8th century and the 1st half of the 9th century included.

The chronology just mentioned, has also been confirmed by the discovery of the iron spur in object no 58 presented above. The spur is certainly a luxurious object, possibly an "import" from the Frankish territories or, more probably, from the Danube area. It had a close analogy to the bronze specimen from the fortified settlement in Drawsko Pomorskie in western Pomerania, dated by I. Gabriel (1984) to the second half of the 8th century, and an iron spur from Fröslunda in Öland (Sweden), dated to mid- 6th century. Both the Drawsko and Niepruszewo spurs might have been produced by craftsmen from the Frankish circle. The chronology and origins of the Drawsko artefact are backed by some Polish scholars (cf. Dulnicz 2001:238-239). J. Żak and L. Maćkowiak-Kotkowska (1988), on the other hand, believe it is a product from the 2nd half of the 6th century.

With the additional support of carbon dating of a fragment of an animal bone (analysis made in the Poznań Carbon Dating Laboratory under T. Goslar, Ph.D.; cf. annex 3), gained from the neighbouring object no 59 next to which the spur had been found, the chronology of both the artefact and the settlement can be made more precise. Namely, the dating revealed a calibrated chronological period basically confined to the 8th century, with the first or second half of the century indicated.

Thus, taking into consideration the chronological clues mentioned above, the excavated section of the early mediaeval settlement in Niepruszewo should be dated to the 8th century, with the dating to the second half of the century highly probable.

The archaeological and historical sources recorded at the site reveal that the principal centre of the early mediaeval settlement, investigated on a substantial area, was a somewhat unspecified tribal stronghold. This is indirectly confirmed by animal bones found at the site - typical postconsumption remains. They belonged exclusively to domestic mammals (pig and cattle) which, with game species absent, may be indicative of a relatively low social status of the inhabitants of the settlement that probably performed an ancillary function.

Maksymilian Frąckowiak

An early mediaeval silver hoard from Zalesie, powiat Słupca, Wielkopolskie voivodship Summary

The Zalesie hoard had been found in 1922 but the place where it had been deposited remained unknown until August 2006, when attempts at its location were undertaken. The enterprise was part of a grant from the Ministry of Sciences and Higher Education realised by the Archaeological Museum, Poznań, focused on the archaeological context of early mediaeval hoards from the territory of Wielkopolska. The basis for defining the area of research was the information contained in a communication by R. Jakimowicz in 'Wiadomości Numizmatyczne' from 1925 and accompanied by a field survey among the inhabitants of the town. The excavations allowed to capture 460 fragments of silver objects whose dispersion, character and chronology permits to define them as a homogenous assemblage. It contains fragments of coins as well as jewellery and half-products. Arab dirhams predominate among coins, complemented with European emissions representing the following minting centres: Bavaria, Saxony, Franconia, Lower Lorraine and Denmark. A finding of particular value was a half-bracteate minted in Hedeby; other specimens outside Zalesie had been found in Polish territories only in two other hoards. The jewellery consisted mainly of fragments of ear rings, kaptorgas and necklace clasps, while half products included pieces of metal plates and wire.

The work completes and attempts a verification of the data contained in the two-volume monograph of the hoard. Arab dirhams were not analysed except for information concerning their total number and weight.

The Zalesie deposit is so far the most comprehensive and most fully researched early mediaeval hoard in the Polish territories. By the same token it is the most representative assemblage of its type. For this reason the identification of the place where it had been deposited is an element of immense significance that broadens the knowledge of the subject and the phenomenon as such. It allowed to recreate the cultural and settlement context within which the hoard functioned. The investigations also allowed to find fragments of the container in which the hoard was placed, and to add new artefact material to its contents. Despite considerable fragmentation and modest number of specimens it permitted to draw highly valuable conclusions. The absolute certainty that the newly gained material came indisputably from the Zalesie hoard made it possible to compare it with earlier described material and, by the same token, confirm their common origin.

Bogumiła Twardosz

Modern-age glass beakers from Poznań

Summary

The paper discusses modern-age glass beakers discovered during archaeological investigation conducted at 4 sites in the area of the left-bank Poznań in the years 1992-1993, 1996 and 2002-2004. The glass material was found at the sites located in the Old Town: no. 69, the Old Market Square, nos 73/74, the Old Market Square, no. 17, Wielka Street, and at no. 21, Szyperska Street. In all, the sites yielded 1635 glass products, including 58 stemmed glasses in various state of preservation. Among them their lower parts, ie stems, predominate, their bowls partially preserved or lacking. The collected material is divided into twelve categories according to the shape of stems and bowls and their decoration. The following features are provided in the descriptions of particular types: shape, size and morphology of the glass of the analysed object, ie the degree of transparency, homogeneity, colour, faults of the glass, production technology and the state of preservation of the glass. For each type the chronology of a given stemmed glass is discussed, including a comparison with iconographic material available in the literature of the subject from other archaeological sites in Poland and abroad and museum collections. At the end of the paper the function of the vessels found in Poznań is discussed, drawing on property inventories from 1528-1635 in Poznań's municipal registers, and municipal and county registers dating to 1700-1793. With their modest decoration the glasses would be used as vessels of everyday use and only some of them could function as occasional ceremonial vessels used during various festivities.

The idea of public archaeology – archaeological education and popularization of archaeology

Summary

This article presents, in a very brief way, the idea of public archaeology to Polish archaeologists. In the first part it contains short history of public archaeology, its origins in United States and Great Britain. Also, there is information about two different models of public archaeology, called American and British models. Archaeological education and popularization of archaeology are considered as main basis of public archaeology, and British model.

Next part focuses on various examples of educational and popularization initiatives mainly from Great Britain. There is also an example of archaeological festival in Sławsko, Poland. It shows difficulties in organizing it (made by local government and social situation) which can be overcome by education and popularization. Very helpful is trying to treat non-archaeologists as partners in interpretation. Still no initiative will succeed without support of local politics.

Festival in Sławsko is contrasted to festival in Łąd, Poland. With great support of local government, this event became very successful. This part of article presents some danger (shown on various examples), which is connected with commercial success of educational initiatives. They may lose its substantial form to easy gained material profit. In such a situation, one of the most important things, is contact with media. Archaeologist should also remember about building proper public relations.

Summarizing, public archaeology should be considered as an important part of archaeology in Poland. Public archaeology can answer some essential questions which modern world asks archaeology. In conclusion, the purpose of archaeology should be the same as basis of public archaeology: education and popularization, based on partnership with non-archaeologists.

Michał Brzostowicz

Historical events – education or entertainment? Some reflections on the experience of the Slavonic and Cistercian Culture Festivals in Łąd on the Warta river

Summary

The field events on historical and archaeological themes that have been organised in Poland for several years enjoy considerable popularity in the society. The popularity, however, does not always go hand in hand with a favourable response by scholars. In an attempt to understand the scepticism of some representatives of archaeologists and historians, the author of the paper – actively engaged in the organisation of the Slavonic and Cistercian Culture Festival in Łąd (powiat Słupca, Wielkopolskie voyvodship) which exists since 2005 – poses a few relevant questions. What are those events and what is their aim? Do they popularise the past or are they solely a local tourist attraction? Do they teach something or do they only bring profit (commercial or political) to their organisers, patrons and sponsors? What are they for the general public - yet another form of tawdry entertainment or an occasion to learn something interesting? And for the participants of such events – a social meeting, a way of spending leisure time, a means of making money or a place where they can share their knowledge and experience something new?

Following a description of the Łąd festivals, the author emphasises several problems connected with the issues of organising historical and archaeological events, constructing their programmes, participation of people recreating old fighting and crafts, seeking high attendance, organisation of the commercial space and their reception by the public. These and other problems the organisers have to tackle reflect on their varied quality and – now and then – a tendency to forfeit education for entertainment. In effect, one can observe a disturbing departure from the main aim, namely, popularisation of the knowledge of the past – while a survey carried out among the participants of the Slavonic and Cistercian Culture Festival in 2008 shows that the public is equally interested in entertainment as in learning something exciting together with gaining knowledge or enriching it. This fact has led the author to see a chance in an effective pursuit of educational activities, creation of a favourable atmosphere for history and archaeology, and propagating the idea of preservation of monuments and the national heritage. While appreciative of the scepticism on the part of some scholars and museologists about historical events that often go astray, he stresses the need of their greater involvement in educational activities. The positive response of the society indicates that the employment of a festival formula for such events was a right solution. Now it must be ensured that they meet their target.

AREA IV and European Landscapes: Participation of Poznań Archaeological Museum in Poznań in European Project (2004-2008)

Summary

Between 2004 and 2008, Poznan Archaeological Museum participated in two international projects, sponsored by the European Communities within the frames of CULTURE 2000 programmes. This paper summarizes their tasks and results.

1/ AREA-ARchives of European Archaeology, phase IV (2004-2008) is a research network dedicated to the history of archaeology, with particular emphasis on the archives of the discipline, their promotion and preservation. Its fourth phase has the following main objectives: (1) to encourage research on the history of archaeology, (2) to study, catalogue and help preserve the main archives bearing on the memory, achievements and heritage of the discipline, (3) to investigate the interrelations between the development of archaeology and the formation of cultural and political identities. Several axes were launched as part of Action B- Research. These include: the study of 'Antiquarian traditions' in the centuries prior to the establishment of scientific archaeology; the study of 'Archaeology abroad' as a body of knowledge, practices and practitioners that circulate across the continent and beyond; a focus on 'Archaeology under dictatorship', dealing with the instrumentalisation of archaeology in extreme historical circumstances; and the assessment of the 'Memory of sites' as foci of identity and national importance. 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. For details – see: www.archives.org.

2/ European Landscapes: past, present and future (2004-2008). The project involved 7 co-organisers from 5 countries, along with 11 co-partners in 7 other countries. Its focus was set on aerial archaeology, heritage conservation and public awareness, with particular emphasis on the broader landscape and on the spread of 'aerial' and other remote-sensing techniques. For details – see: www.e-landscapes.com.

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