

## 2 NO MAN IS AN ISLAND, EVEN WHEN INTERNED ON ONE: GERHARD BERSU'S WARTIME NETWORKS AND THE PRACTICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

**Abstract author(s):** Mytum, Harold (University of Liverpool)

**Abstract format:** Oral

Whilst interned on the Isle of Man for the duration of World War 2, Gerhard Bersu managed to maintain significant networks through correspondence. He even gave an in absentia lecture to the Society of Antiquaries of London, delivered by Gordon Childe, which elicited further correspondence. Bersu also developed networks on the Isle of Man that enabled him to carry out extensive and long-term excavations beyond the confines of his camp. An investigation of the local and wider web of connections, revealed through letters preserved in archives, builds a picture of Bersu's strategies to be archaeologically active despite his constraints of internment. Towards the end of the war, his concerns focus on his own future, but also that of archaeology in Germany and the fate of his colleagues there, both those who had embraced the Nazi regime and those who had not. Gerhard Bersu was also interned with his wife, Maria, for most of the war, and she also contributed to the network of communication and was clearly a key player in maintaining social and professional friendships through difficult times. Despite his apparent limited agency as an internee, it was Bersu's use of his social capital articulated through networks that allowed him to achieve so much archaeologically when most of his contemporaries were engaged in wartime responsibilities.

## 3 VISIGOTHIC AND CHRISTIAN HERITAGE IN SPAIN: PERSONAL AND POLITICAL NETWORKS AND THE FOUNDATION OF THE DAI-DEPARTMENT IN MADRID 1943-1953

**Abstract author(s):** Sasse-Kunst, Barbara (Universität Freiburg)

**Abstract format:** Oral

The idea of a Gothic origin was always strong in Spanish history as was the Germanic origin for Germans. Before and during the fascist governments in Germany and Spain, archaeologists such as the German Hans Zeiss (1895-1944) and Spaniards educated in Germany such as Julio Martínez Santa-Olalla (1905-1972) intended to identify Visigothic cemeteries and settlement areas within Central Spain. This provided Spanish history with a better foundation for Castilian continuity and political centralism, with archaeology providing an ethnic interpretation. Shortly before the foundation of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI) in Madrid, during a visit of Heinrich Himmler to Spain in October 1940, Martínez Santa-Olalla, Comisario General de Excavaciones since 1939, tried to involve the Ahnenerbe in his Visigothic investigations with a visit of the excavation of the important Visigothic cemetery of Castiltierra. Himmler didn't come, nor later on in 1941 or 1942. In September 1941, a former student of Zeiss, Joachim Werner (1909-1994), was sent to Spain to initiate German cooperation in the excavation, now directed by Martínez Santa-Olalla, as a preparation for the Institut's foundation on that theoretical base. In the end the Castiltierra project failed; Werner returned without success, and the DAI was founded in 1943 with a Christian archaeologist as his first director, Helmut Schlunk (1906-1982). After the troubles of World War II, the DAI was reinstated in 1954 with the same director. This paper examines the personal and political networks in Germany and Spain which lay behind these developments. As a consequence, the study of Christian and Islamic architecture continues to dominate the Institute's investigation of the medieval period.

## 4 FROM GERMANY TO POLAND OR ALWAYS IN BETWEEN – SILESIAN ARCHAEOLOGY BEFORE/AFTER 1945. REPLACED NETWORKS, REVERSED ANTAGONISMS, PERSISTING DISCOURSES

**Abstract author(s):** Reichenbach, Karin (University of Leipzig)

**Abstract format:** Oral

The peculiar situation of Silesia, as a former German-Prussian province turned into part of the revived Polish state after 1945 provides the setting of this paper. It will focus on the processes of political and administrative transformation affecting institutional structures, academic networks and research discourses of Prehistoric Archaeology.

While giving an overview of 20th century Silesian Archaeology from its early decades defined by professionalisation to the effects of post-war centralisation, the paper compares the framework for archaeological research before and after 1945. It will outline how the population exchange and the integration of the region into post-war Poland with its replacement and re-establishment of governance, networks and institutions lead to a fundamental change of the research infrastructures. It will further discuss the interrelation of this material dimension with the changing discourses of memory and identity politics conditioned by the border situation, the shift from German to Polish national affiliation as well as the reversion of the political system. Taking examples from archaeological discussions of the time the impact of the structural transition along with the respective national attitudes and discourse traditions will become obvious in the formulation of research aims and the interpretation models applied to material culture. More often than not did German and Polish scholars tend to claim the Silesian archaeological heritage this way as "German(ic)" or resp. "Slavic/(proto-) Polish" and thus as their national belonging.

## 5 THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM. DENAZIFICATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL NETWORKING IN GERMANY AFTER 1945

**Abstract author(s):** Grunwald, Susanne (Independent researcher)

**Abstract format:** Oral

Based on my research on the reorganization of German Archaeology after World War II I want to talk about the Denazification of German archaeologists in three perspectives: First I describe denazification as a special topic of history of (German) archaeology and will sketch the development of talking and asking about it in German archaeological community. Secondly, I want to show differences of denazification in both parts of Germany and its effects on the scientific community. This will not only show differences between West and East but also between the western occupation zones and its effects on the development on regional networks. Finally, I want to ask about international networking with these German archaeologists after 1945 and will discuss the dictum of intellectual neutrality, postulated at the beginning of 1930s inside of the CISPP, under the conditions of post-war period and Cold War. A renewal of this dictum helped to ignore the "Elephant in the room" after 1945, but also to ignore responsibility of archaeologists as scientists in any era.

## 6 RACIAL SCIENCE AND MARRISM: CONTROVERSIAL IDEAS IN YUGOSLAVIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

**Abstract author(s):** Milosavljevic, Monika (University of Belgrade)

**Abstract format:** Oral

Yugoslavian archaeology is not separable as a distinctive term, rather as a network of scholars among national groupings of the former Yugoslavia. Matching the political circumstances in which it developed, it emerged in two stages: the first was between WWI and WWII (1918-1941), when the organization and interconnection among archaeologists across the first Yugoslavia was tenuous at best; the second occurred within Socialist Yugoslavia (1945-1991), where a number of institutions and scholars were involved in the modernization process of archaeology.

Immediately following World War II, in conjunction with other historical sciences, archaeology was understood to be an aid to the process of the emancipation of the Yugoslav peoples. At this time, the ideology of brotherhood and unity was crucial and sought legitimization through past narrativization. One of the important fields therein was early medieval archaeology in association with medieval history, which sought to portray Southern Slavic or Yugoslavians as a homogeneous group.

This homogenization was based on the theories of Nikolay Yakovlevich Marr, which were present in the former Yugoslavia. His theories supported the implicit racial science on the Dinaric race, discourse of which was widely popular prior to WWII and which archaeology came to incorporate into the narrativization of the past. The key role such theories played in the construction of Yugoslav ethnogenesis was based on the interpretation of material culture and archaeology.

The aim of this paper, therefore, is to discuss controversial concepts in Yugoslavian archaeology, based on knowledge transfers among scholars in European networks that lead to outdated ethnic theories to be applied in Yugoslavian archaeology.

## 7 THE IRON GATES RESCUE EXCAVATIONS PROJECT AND THE SHAPING OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN SOCIALIST YUGOSLAVIA

**Abstract author(s):** Jeremic, Gordana - Vitezovic, Selena (Institute of Archaeology Belgrade)

**Abstract format:** Oral

The construction of the water dam and hydro power plants in the 1960's – 1980's on the Danube in the Iron Gates region, which is at the same time the border between present-day Serbia and Romania (at the time, Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia and Socialist Republic of Romania), was the reason for large scale rescue excavations projects, known as Iron Gates project I and II. These excavation projects were the largest rescue excavation projects ever carried out in the region and at the same time the most important event in the development of archaeology in socialist Yugoslavia.

The excavations included large number of already known important sites from the Roman and Medieval times, such as system of defensive forts from Traian Dacian wars, but also led to the discoveries of a series of very important prehistoric sites, including the discovery of the first traces of the Mesolithic in the region.

In this paper we will explore the course of these excavations and the consequences and impact they had on the archaeology in Yugoslavia. New discoveries changed then-current theoretical models and interpretations. Furthermore, the methodology of excavations changed considerably, in particular, these projects initiated the establishing the minimum requirements for documentation of excavations and the creation of standardised methodological practices. Also, they had considerable impact on development of institutions, in particular The Institute of Archaeology, as well as impact on personal carriers. Last but not least, foundations for regional and international cooperation were laid. Cooperation was established with archaeologists from western countries, in particular with experts in subdisciplines that were not practiced in Yugoslavia – anthropology, zooarchaeology, etc., but also with archaeologists in the region, including the collaboration with Romanian archaeologists that were excavating on the other Danube bank, which was particularly politically sensitive at the time.

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