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# archeology in Italy: Lecture 1

- make 25 copies of site handout
- 10:15 in Rome Monday morning
- presenting the past = **the met**

## **sites**

- excavation
- site itself
- museum display - what happens to artefacts
  - what has been chosen to display and what are they trying to say

## **structure**

- research question
- landscape analysis - survey process
- site identification
  - whole place is not excavated - choose parts
- excavation - principles and analytical techniques
- analysis - soil, pollen, zoo-archaeology, component analysis
  - changes in soil around object etc. - evidence of changes in past
  - e.g. flood, fire etc. that may have happened
- artefacts and special finds - cleaning, conservation, comparisons
  - recording and how things are recorded
- curation of collections
- storage and exhibition
- not just about looking at them, its about figuring out what they mean

## **research question**

- need a research question - why you're out looking
- e.g. ostia antica
  - what was the purpose of this town economically
    - look at buildings, how big they are, how lavish they are - different areas of wealth based on buildings
    - look for granaries - evidence for trade - if they have larger granaries for the size of the town you could say it could be used for trade
    - look at text - what have people said about this town
  - how are they using the river - landscape context
    - using new techniques which may not have been available when originally excavated
  - why so well preserved

## **landscape analysis - surveys**

- remote survey - machinery
- land survey - in person
- aerial photographs
- existing settlements
  - look for existing settlements - if people live there today its likely they also lived there in the past
  - e.g. linea C, Rome
    - while building the subway they found a range of things - e.g. house, artefacts etc.
- natural features
  - e.g. ostia and tiber - river is a major reason for the city existence
  - areas chosen for visibility, defence strategy, etc.
  - topography
  - how it has changed - tectonics, rivers etc.

- once found site you may undertake surface survey
  - systemic survey - walk in parallel lines
    - overlay grid and select squares to investigate
  - surface survey ceramics
  - anthropogenic soils
  - if focusing on settlements - inorganic and organic residue
  - pottery scatters, soil itself - soil is different where people once lived compared to natural landscape
    - also can look for fruit trees - not natural feature of landscape
- decisions about what to do with the findings - display re-bury conserve etc.

#### *subsurface investigation*

- geophysical prospection
- geophysical instruments identify contrast between buried features and their surroundings
- e.g. electrical resistivity, ground penetrating radar
- can help refine results of field walking or remotely identified sites
- in conjunction with topographic survey

#### **excavation**

- place grid across site - wheeler kenyon method - excavation of each square leaves a wall in between baulk - have horizontal and vertical view of what is happening
  - can also use grids and transacts - shallow or deep sites
- stratification
  - succession of layers
  - law of superposition
  - in undeformed stratigraphic sequences, the oldest strata will be at the bottom of the sequence
  - archaeology is more dynamic and variable than geology
    - pits
    - drains
    - graves
    - these are all dug below possibly into existing strata
- context and loci
  - place of something
  - changes in soil - colour texture or inclusion, moisture etc.
    - change can indicate different context
  - take out shallow layers of dirt at a time
- harris matrix
  - determine relationship between different contexts when complex
  - based on law of superposition
  - extent and edges of things
    - how far does it extend and how does it touch
    - cut/eroded/overlaying
  - law of horizontality
    - gravity makes layers go horizontal
  - law of continuity
    - everything has edges
    - horizontally and vertically
    - if vertical - then part was removed

#### **artefacts**

- record location of object
- might need to remove for excavation to continue
- controlled excavation
  - precise coordinates and context of object
  - allows us to interpret with things around it
  - and use harris matrix
  - accurate recording - digital methods - gps, cameras, 3D modelling, etc.
- objects in museums don't have this context

### *provenance and provenience*

- provenience: find spot
- provenance: artefact history

### *finds and retrieval*

- record precise location to provide context
- careful remove artefact
  - by hand
  - sifting using water
- pass to conservators
- cleaning
- conservation
- curating and comparisons

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## lecture 2: tourism, antiquarianism and birth of archaeology in Italy

- members of European elite knew they were part of broader cultures with lots of differences between them
- development of universities, printing press etc.
- build on top of or make use of/incorporate ancient buildings and structures
- growing recognition of these buildings - catholic church makes them into “churches” to save them

### **travelling - the grand tour**

- travel from england to northern europe
- from england -> arrive in Paris then Italian peninsula
- Florence - important in this time
- it was expected to engage with ruins - it is expected also that you know greek and latin
- you are expected to think about art and architecture
- italy was poor at this point, so the visitors took a lot of the artefacts
- outward flow of objects = society of Dilettanti
  - have to have been to Italy
  - revival of greek and roman art and architecture
- italy at this point is patchwork of different rulers

### **winckelmann**

- kickstart italian archaeology
- from brandenburg - northeast Germany
- read greek and latin and studied classical themes
- more interested in art of the ancient world
- first one to study in organised academic way
  - scholarly footing not an aesthetic one
- develops chronologies of forms
  - e.g. classical Rome compared to early Rome
  - this was created before this
  - lead to dating
- king of poland - recognised scholar in him and sent him to Italy to study
- never leaves italy
- he was murdered by another client of hotel he was staying in
- 1733 - king of poland dies
  - europe divides as to who was to become king
  - Augustus III
  - stanislaus
- 1759 - king of spain
  - controls two sicilies - naples and Sicily
  - decides to build summer palace south of Naples
  - resina
  - when digging down to build palace - started finding lots of stuff