

# Historical Sciences of Antiquity

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## Egyptian Commission

### *Excavations at Avaris/Tell el-Dab'a*

Both the excavation campaigns at Avaris/Tell el-Dab'a, which are being carried out in collaboration with the Austrian Institute of Archaeology and the University of Vienna, continue to represent the main focus of research of the Egyptian Commission. In the coming years further exploration is planned of the palace district of the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty and in particular the main palace of the Hyksos, discovered in 2000, as well as the town area. Continued geophysical investigation of the entire site is also planned. Another focus of research is to finish working on the ceramic material found in order to provide dating for the various palace phases and to expand the basis for chronological evaluation. In addition, research will be intensified into the large number of Minoan frescoes that have been discovered.

*Special Research Field (SRF) Synchronization of Civilizations of the Eastern Mediterranean in the Second Millennium BC (SCIEM 2000)*  
<http://www.nhm-wien.ac.at/sciem2000/>

March 1999 saw the official launch of the SRF/SCIEM. Its aim is to synchronize under a common framework the chronological systems in the Eastern Mediterranean which at present diverge considerably. This is taking place in close co-operation with numerous national and international institutions using methods and approaches from both the humanities and the natural sciences.

Besides the successful continuation of already existing major projects, an important point in the programme for 2001–2005 will be the initiation of parallel projects for Asia Minor and Syria.

In addition, the conclusions resulting from Egyptian projects will be contrasted and compared with archaeological contexts from Israel/Palestine. The Middle Bronze Age in particular witnessed intensive settlement activity in this area, both along the coastal plain as well as in the Jordan Valley, which led to the social, cultural and economic integration of this area into the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The excavations at Tell el-'Ajjul in Palestine will occupy a key position in this project. Tell el-'Ajjul, situated in the Gaza Strip, is the largest south Palestinian settlement and burial mound from the Bronze Age (2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC) and subsequent periods. An archaeological examination of the town and its international links is of major importance in

order to synchronize the imported material found at Tell el-'Ajjul with relevant finds from Egypt, Cyprus, Crete, Syria and other places in the Levant. This project also provides Austria with the chance of taking a pre-eminent role in collaborating with our Palestinian colleagues.

A further project serving the SRF is concerned with the investigation of the chronology of the early phase of Palestinian Middle Bronze Age culture.

### *Cultural contacts and innovation*

This interdisciplinary and international project foresees cooperation between Austrian researchers and the University of Warsaw and Israeli universities, in particular with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

At the beginning of the New Kingdom (c. 1540–1070 BC) in Egypt innovations in all areas of Ancient Egyptian civilization (language, literature, art, technology, religion) can be observed. Researchers from various different fields will be involved in investigating whether these innovations, which were to be major determining factors in the Egyptian large New Kingdom from Tuthmose III to the era of the Ramesides, were caused by the foreign rule of the Hyksos or whether they became determinant factors for Egyptian culture through Egypt's contacts with the Near East afterwards, at the time of Egypt's major territorial expansion in Syria and Palestine.

Other projects are concerned with the epigraphical recording of the Ptolemaic temple at Philae as well as the interpretation of the Nubian rock paintings recorded during the UNESCO salvage campaign.

## Mycenaean Commission

The Mycenaean Commission carries out research in the field of the prehistory and early history of Greece, the earliest European advanced civilizations of Minoan Crete and Mycenaean Greece including the investigation of Linear B texts and the post-Mycenaean "Dark Ages" of Greece up to the time of Homer. Since these areas are no longer systematically covered by the university syllabus in Vienna, the Commission has increasingly taken on the role of a Viennese centre of research on Mycenaeanology. The main focus of the Commission's research serves the interdisciplinary character of this comparatively new branch of archaeology by pursuing projects that focus on aspects of archaeology, ancient history/paleontology and Indo-European philology.

One of the priorities in the research programme is the interpretation of the archaeological and linguistic sources with respect to technological, political, societal, economic and general historical developments of the early civilizations of Greece and the eastern Mediterranean region. Conforming to more recent tendencies in research into early Greek civilization, the research work of the Commission also concentrates on the history of the influence of the early Greek civilizations and especially the advanced Minoan and Mycenaean civilization on the civilization of Classical Antiquity and beyond that on the development of the entire European civilization (keywords here include the Aegean and the Occident, questions of continuity, European cultural heritage).

#### *The early Aegean era*

Special mention should be made here of the monographic report on finds and research entitled *The Early Aegean Era*. The five volumes in the first series, completed in 1983, concentrated on information about current excavations and their results. The second series, which is in preparation, will additionally offer the specialist academic community a comprehensive and analytical account of the current status of research and new trends, of open questions and unsolved problems relating to the process of development of the individual epochs of Greek prehistory and early history, and modern methodological approaches to the solution of these problems. On the same lines, there will be a comprehensive bibliography of all relevant international publications rather than selected literature on individual topics. During the projected planning period Volumes II, dealing with the Early Bronze Age, and V (post-palatial Mycenaean Period LH III C) will be completed and work will commence on Volumes III (Middle Bronze Age) and IV (the Mycenaean Period up to 1200 BC).

#### *Synchronization of Civilizations of the Eastern Mediterranean in the Second Millennium BC (SCIEM 2000)*

The Commission is involved in the *SRF SCIEM 2000* with the sub-project *The End of Mycenaean Culture*. This will include elucidation of the chronology of the post-palatial phase Late Helladic III C as well as publications on the Austrian excavations of the Mycenaean acropolis of Aigiera (Achaia): Aigiera, vol. IV (prehistorical and handmade pottery of the Mycenaean settlement period, mat impressions on Late Neolithic vessels, small finds, blades of obsidian and flint, animal bones, petrographic ceramic analyses).

#### *The study of state and society in Early Greece*

This project is devoted to the interpretation of early Greek archaeological and written sources from the Mycenaean Palace Era to the Homeric epics, as well as to problems of the position of the advanced

Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations within the development of forms of state and rulership in early Greece and within the context of contemporary civilizations in the Near East, together with the position of the various early Greek systems within a general typology of forms of state and rulership.

Further projected areas of research to be undertaken by the Mycenaean Commission 2001–2005 include *The Dark Ages of Greece, Centre and Periphery: peripheral areas and borderlands of Mycenaean civilization, Mycenae and Homer, Hethites and Achaeans: the Ahhijawa documents, vol. I* as well as a project on the Od series of Linear B texts from Knossos.

#### **Institute for Studies of Ancient Culture**

This recently founded institute, which developed from the research unit for Archaeology, focuses not on acts of primary source derivation through excavation but rather on a broad-based scholarly exploration of problematic issues of cultural history within the field of archaeology. Specifically this involves the evaluation and publication of connected archaeological data and results from excavations from important archaeological projects in Austria and abroad, in which the Academy has been engaged for over one hundred years, in particular in cooperation with the Austrian Institute of Archaeology. Here research on Ephesus and Carnuntum is of primary importance.

#### *Research projects in Ephesus*

The focus of future research lies in interdisciplinary work on all mural paintings, marble cladding and mosaics of the terrace houses together with evaluation from a historico-economic perspective of ceramic finds. This also includes questions relating to natural catastrophes in antiquity and evidence of them deriving from archaeological data together with other historico-economic topics exemplified by the functions of an ancient metropolis as a field of tension created by the societal behaviours of consumption and production. Last but not least is the classification of major types of find from an art-historical perspective, such as Ephesian sculptures, terracottas and other objects deriving from the sophisticated needs of an affluent society, with all the differentiated possibilities of what these objects may reveal about the development of artistic landscapes and their regional styles.

These projects are paralleled by continued investigation into the architectural history of the site, focusing on the area around the Street of the Curetes, which was the main traffic artery and processional street of the inner precincts of Ephesus. The aim of this project is the reconstruction of the various phases of construction along the entire street and of its individual monuments as well as what this implies for the development of the townscape.

Work will commence on a publication on the Parthian Monument in collaboration with the Kunsthistorische Museum in Vienna.

Research on late antique and early Christian Ephesus will concentrate on the so-called "Tomb of St Luke", an imperial rotunda which was later converted into a church, and the evaluation from an art-historical and iconographical perspective of the so-called "Grotto of St Paul" with its recently-discovered mural paintings dating from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> centuries, as well as of numerous incised inscriptions.

The recently initiated *Belevi* and *Ayasuluk* projects have resulted in a marked broadening of research activities in Ephesus.

The research project focusing on the *Belevi* tomb is not concerned solely with the monument itself but also the Hellenistic ruler cult in all its aspects. It is part of a broader line of research into the development of architectural ornamentation and techniques and is expected to lead to a valid solution to long-debated problems.

Work on interpreting the historical topography of *Ayasuluk* aims at the exploration of the development of the region around Ephesus during the Selçuk-Ottoman period in terms of the history of civilization, and in particular of the principedom of the *Aydinoğlu*. On-site topographical recording relating to the age of the architectural structures is already at an advanced stage, while the architectural and archaeological investigations are at present focusing on the *Isa Bey hamam* and will be extended to include *Hamam 3* over the next few years.

Besides the documentation of the present state of the monuments and their scientific classification, work will also focus on studying the historical sources for the topography and the economic and cultural links with the European centres of power in the western Mediterranean, especially with Venice and Genua. The programme also includes the publication of the coin hoard dating from the time of *Isa Bey* which was discovered in 1999, and the compiling of a corpus of the Selçuk-Ottoman tombstones.

#### *Research on the Roman limes in Austria*

In analogy to the situation in Ephesus, efforts here will be directed at working on the old data derived from the excavations at Carnuntum from the Roman fort (1968–77) and from the *Mühläcker* site around the *canabae legionis* (1978–91) and bringing this project to a conclusion.

Work on the fort concentrates in particular on aspects of military history and military architecture. The resumption of work on the *Mühläcker* project is expected to lead in its first stage, which will examine critically the publication of the temple precincts of the oriental deities in Carnuntum, to new insights into Roman religious history. On the basis of preliminary work carried out in 2000 as well as the reorganization of collaboration with the Austrian Institute of Archaeology, initial results should be ready for publication by 2003/04.

The second stage is intended to explore the settlement of the rural area in the hinterland of the Roman provincial town of Carnuntum through analysis of archive material and old finds as well as comprehensive prospection of the area. In the area around the *Mühläcker* this can be linked with research into the construction of the *canabae*.

In addition, new activities are planned for inclusion in the *Instrumentum domesticum Austriae Romanae* programme focusing on minor Roman inscriptions in Austria. This project has to date processed around 15,000 *instrumenta* and could be continued through the setting up of a new archive at the Academy, for which a plan has already been submitted.

The hoard of coins discovered in the summer of 2000 at *Beçin* (Mugla District, Turkey) comprising around 60,000 Ottoman silver coins dating to around 1600 also contains more than 800 Austrian, Spanish and Polish coins. For this reason efforts are being made to ensure that this unique find is conserved, documented and eventually published in collaboration with the excavators and with the cooperation of the Turkish Academy of Sciences, the Numismatic Commission of the Academy and the Coin Cabinet of the Kunsthistorische Museum in Vienna. Work could commence in the autumn of 2001.

### **Numismatic Commission**

#### *Coin finds from Roman Austria*

Coin finds projects represent the main field of work in numismatic research all over Europe. This involves on the one hand the cataloguing of all tangible coin finds of a particular region within a certain period of time and on the other the relevant analysis of this catalogued material in respect of the light it can throw on aspects of history, numismatics, archaeology, economics and social history. Coins are here not only of interest in themselves, but in their function and occurrence in space and time. In addition these projects are also important in that they are devoted to preserving cultural artefacts.

The main focus of the Commission's work currently lies with the Carnuntum Coin Project which is being carried out jointly with the federal province of Lower Austria and aims at cataloguing, documenting and scientifically evaluating over 40,000 find coins from the collection of the Museum Carnuntinum in Bad Deutsch-Altenburg. It is intended to complete the cataloguing of the material by 2002 and its evaluation by 2004. This will also include the coin finds from the *Mühläcker* excavation which are being worked on as part of the *Temple Precincts-Canabae Carnuntum* project run by the Institute for Cultural History of Antiquity of the Academy. Parallel to this is the Styrian Coin Project which is concerned with Roman coins found in Styria and is being carried out jointly with the Museum Joanne-

um in Graz. This project is also aiming at completion during the scheduled period. In addition the cataloguing and evaluation of the find coins from Ovilava/Wels is nearing completion.

All find coin finds will be stored in a newly developed database and will be accessible on CD-ROM as well as on the Internet.

#### *Moneta Imperii Romani (MIR)*

This research project aims to record in their entirety the various types of coins and nominalia issued by the imperial Roman mints, the results of which are published as monographic essays. It will attempt to reconstruct the connections between the issues; i.e., the different types of coin will be placed in their relevant chronological, economic and thematic context. This classification will facilitate not only the inclusion of coins that are difficult to date in themselves; the establishing of connections between the issues will also process the coin material in the best possible way such that further research on other problems can be easily undertaken in related scientific disciplines.

In 2001 work will commence on the minting structure of the Roman emperor Trajan (98-117). Research on Trajan's coin issues, dating from the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century within the MIR series, not only closes a major chronological gap; the conscious placing of stronger emphasis on financial and economic aspects leads to a meaningful continuation of this focal line of research. The central problem here is also that the mass of Trajan-era coins can only be dated very roughly, while the diverging reconstructed temporal sequence of the coins leads inevitably to a different evaluation of the cause and effect of individual measures. The reconstructed issue sequence will serve as a basis for an analysis of the financial and economic policies of Trajan's reign.

#### *Sylloge Nummorum Sasanidorum (SNS)*

The coins of the Sasanids represent a unique source for research into the history of the Sasanid state which ruled over the fates of Iran and Central Asia for over 400 years and was at times a significant opponent of the Roman Empire. Apart from the sparse literary testimony and the archaeological heritage it is the Sasanid coins, of which particularly rich holdings have survived, that represent the main sources for research into Sasanid history and history of art; they are also an important source for our knowledge of the Middle Persian script and language.

As part of an international project of co-operation being carried out by the Commission for Iranian Studies of the Academy and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (C.N.R.S., Monde Iranien) in Paris together with the Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente (I.I.A.O.) in Rome the Sasanid coins from the collections of the Bibliothèque

Nationale de France, the Staatliche Museen in Berlin and the Coin Cabinet of the Kunsthistorische Museum in Vienna will be published, supplemented by historical, numismatic and paleographic commentaries. During the scheduled period Vols. 1 to 4 will be published.

A new project of collaboration is being prepared with the Institute for Studies of Ancient Culture at the Academy, in which the coin finds from excavations at Ephesus as well as the hoard of Ottoman coins discovered at Beçin near Ephesus will be catalogued and analyzed.

In the series of handbooks and lexica published by the Commission, it is projected to complete the *Lexikon der Aufschriften auf griechischen Münzen, Teil 2: Beamtennamen und Ethnika (Lexicon of Inscriptions on Greek Coins, part 2: Officials' Names and Ethnika)* (in collaboration with the Commission for Asia Minor of the AAS) as well as the *Typhenatlas zur Münzprägung der römischen Kaiserzeit (Atlas of Coin Issue Types of the Roman Empire)*.

#### **Commission for Asia Minor**

The Commission's main focus of research remains primarily on the epigraphic but also on the archaeological and historical investigation of Asia Minor in classical antiquity. During the scheduled period several fascicles of the *Titulae Asiae Minoris (TAM)* as well as their accompanying supplementary volumes (*ETAM*) are nearing completion, and further *Veröffentlichungen der Kleinasiatischen Kommission (Publications of the Commission for Asia Minor)* are planned.

One of the Commission's most important fields of research is the region of Lydia, where epigraphical surveys have led to around fifty new historically interesting discoveries. These surveys, which are financed from the Commission's funds and have proved extraordinarily fruitful, will be continued. Fieldwork of this kind is of major scientific importance, not only because of the important material gained from it but also because the numbers of still extant monuments from classical antiquity are in some places decreasing noticeably (through the encroachment of new building projects, for example) and prompt recording is very often the only possibility of salvaging these texts for science. In addition work will concentrate on a corpus of the Lydian city of Sardis, a project initiated by the American excavators of that site, as well as a third fascicle on the region of Lydia (*TAM V/3: South-eastern Lydia*).

The publication on the Pisidian town of Termessus is in preparation and will probably appear in two parts (*Termessus IV: town precincts; Termessus V: environs*). The total number of new finds from Termessus from 1992-1999 amounts to 250, of which 155 derive from the town area. Work will also continue on epigraphical field research in north-eastern Lycia and western Cilicia.

The Commission's programme also includes the continuation of the reprinting of the *Minor Works* of

Adolf Wilhelm (1964–1950). The latter was one of the most important Greek epigraphists and one of the most respected scholars of antiquity of that age in Austria.

During the past two years the compiling of the first volume of a *Lexikon der Aufschriften auf griechischen Münzen (Lexicon of Inscriptions on Greek Coins)* was financed in collaboration with the Commission for Numismatics of the Academy which is projected for publication by the publishing house of the Academy in 2001. The authors of this lexicon have produced an extraordinarily valuable reference work not only for numismatists but also for historians of the ancient world and in particular for epigraphists, in view of the fact that the abbreviations on ancient coins differ considerably from region to region and also from century to century, a state of affairs that presents difficulties even for specialists in this field. The first volume deals with geographical terms, gods and heroes, mythical figures, personalities, titles and epithets, agonistics, formulae relating to public law and minting law, as well as notable words. Work on the second volume covering ethnica and officials' names is intended to be undertaken over the coming years.

Additional works currently in preparation include: a corpus of the late antique-Byzantine inscriptions from Ephesus; the first Phrygia fascicle of the TAM series, which will cover the city of Dorylaion (Eskishehir) and its territory with around 800 inscriptions; from the region of Lycaonia the inscriptions from Ikonion (Konya); the corpus of Lycian inscriptions; a history of Rough Cilicia in Hellenic and Roman times; a repertory of the inscriptions from Mysia and the Troad.

### Commission for Legal History of Ancient States

This Commission was founded in 1974 in order to guarantee the attention traditionally accorded in Austria to forms of ancient law not taught at the universities. The following areas are covered, determined by the professional expertise available at that time and today: a) Ancient Greek law, b) the law of Graeco-Roman Egypt, c) the law of the Oriental Christian Churches, d) Byzantine law.

In the meantime even the core subject of Roman law is being diminished in terms of teaching hours and personnel. This development has been accompanied by a recent change in the self-conception of some specialists in Roman law in that they regard papyrus material b) as attesting Roman law. For subject areas c) and d) this has long been valid. Thus in the medium term Roman law needs to be integrated into the research programme. New impulses are to be expected, but results cannot be concretely predicted at present.

The current situation in the Austrian universities means that their graduates no longer receive a comprehensive education in ancient law. For the past

two years the annual sessions of the Commission have been accompanied by scholarly discussions in the form of informal symposia organized by young academics. This approach is to be reinforced over the next five years.

#### Ancient Greek law

Work will continue on the long-term project entitled *Prozessrechtliche Inschriften der griechischen Poleis (Inscriptions relating to procedural law of the Greek poleis)*. This is the only juridical epigraphical undertaking currently being carried out in the world. In 2001 the volume entitled *Argolis* which is at present in preparation will be completed, to be followed by *Athens*.

Out of the inscriptions from Athens relating to procedural law a database has grown that includes the Attic inscriptions, of which the decrees will be published on the Internet in 2001 and will also be issued in the form of a CD-ROM. Further groups of inscriptions have already been recorded electronically and will be published in the same formats between 2002 and 2003. The database feeds in quotable form into a project run under the auspices of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences on which an international team is collaborating to produce a third edition of the *Inscriptiones Graecae II* corpus.

#### Law in Graeco-Roman Egypt

The project to publish *Griechische Urkunden aus dem ptolomäischen, römischen, byzantinischen und arabischen Ägypten (Greek Records from Ptolomeian, Roman, Byzantine and Arab Egypt)*, financed by funds from the START prize, has been in full swing since the autumn of 1998. The first stage of systematically sorting almost 60,000 unpublished documents from the Vienna papyrus collection has been completed. The first volumes of the corpus will be published by the summer of 2001 and will contain papyri on the following topics: Roman administration, late Byzantine-early Arab texts on economy, late Roman military matters, Byzantine private letters.

Work on the first part of the *Neuedition der Studien zur Paläographie und Papyrskunde III (1904) und VIII (1908) (New Edition of Studies on Paleography and Papyrology III (1904) and VIII (1908))* will also be completed in 2001 and the next fascicles started. Electronic images of all the papyri will be created and these will be accessible on the Internet.

A new specialist for papyrus documents written in Demotic has been appointed who will extend the project's field of activity from Greek to Egyptian texts. Particularly interesting conclusions may be expected from the comparison between forms of Greek and Egyptian law in the Ptolemaic Kingdom.

The main focus of research will be the editing and annotating of selected documents. Topics will include Ptolemaic administration, Byzantine records of rents, leases and purchase, Byzantine loans and

purchases for future delivery and Arab administration and taxation.

Since the funds from the START programme will have been exhausted by 2004 it is planned to continue the *Law of Graeco-Roman Egypt* project at the Commission with one permanent member of staff. The continuation of editing activities and the interpretation of papyrus documents in terms of their contents would seem to be a matter of urgency which equally holds out great promise of success.

#### *23<sup>rd</sup> International Papyrologists' Congress in Vienna*

Together with the Papyrus Collection of the Austrian National Library and the Department of Ancient History at the University of Vienna, the Commission is hosting the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Pa-

pyrologists' Congress, which will be held in Vienna from 22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July 2001. The Commission will also collaborate in publishing the extensive proceedings of the congress. This intensive programme of editing and the organization of the congress will highlight the status of the Commission as one of the leading research institutions in the field of documentary and juridical papyrology.

#### *Law of the Oriental Christian Churches*

Subsequent to the *Syrisch-Römisches Rechtsbuch* (*Syro-Roman Law Book*; first critical edition of the text, translation, commentary) by the late founder of the Commission, Walter Selb, it is intended to publish the catalogue of manuscripts of Syro-Roman canonical texts.