



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

From Jerusalem to Susa, exploring the remains of a famous archaeologists career: the case of Jean Perrot's archives.

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Abstract

The practice of archaeology can be a paradox: while it permits the knowledge and preservation of heritage through its study, the excavation itself is a destructive process. Archaeological documentation or excavation archives could therefore be the only “remains” of sediment layers or architectural features removed during excavations. When archaeological sites are destroyed or unreachable, whether as a result of natural phenomena and/or human activity (intentional or otherwise), these archives constitute then unique sources of information. In France, archives are considered to be cultural heritage, and their legal status is defined in the Livre II of the Code du Patrimoine. Through the case of the Jean Perrot (1920-2012) archives, this paper will discuss the challenges concerning the preservation of excavation archives, as well as the reuse of data from old excavations in the framework of new research programs. From his first excavations in Palestine and then Israel in the immediate post-WWII period to his directorate of the Délégation archéologique française en Iran (1967-1979), the study of this extensive archive allows to develop new researches and to explore this famous French archaeologist’s career as well as the history of research in the Middle East.

Keywords

excavations archives, Iran, Palestine/Israel, preservation issues, heritage legislation

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