

## BOOK REVIEWS

ANNE RABATE

### THE PROBLEM OF UNPUBLISHED EXCAVATIONS

EDITORS: S. HADJISAVVAS AND V. KARAGEORGHIS,

THE PROBLEM OF  
UNPUBLISHED  
EXCAVATIONS,  
PROCEEDINGS OF A  
CONFERENCE  
ORGANIZED BY THE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ANTIQUITIES AND THE  
ANASTASIOS G.  
LEVENTIS FOUNDATION,  
NICOSIA, 25TH-26TH  
NOVEMBER 1999,  
NICOSIA.

The Cyprus Department of Antiquities and the Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation organized an international conference in Nicosia in November 1999 to examine the problem of unpublished excavations as a result of the considerable increase of archeological excavations during the last fifty years. Representatives from various mediterranean countries from Italy to the Levant, as well as members of organizations involved with archeological excavations such as UNESCO or CAARI were participants. The Proceedings of this conference have been published by S. Hadjisavvas and V. Karageorghis. Four sessions of presentations followed by discussions analyzed the subject in depth and tried to find solutions. The first presentations stressed the gravity of this problem focusing on the idea that without publication "excavation is destruction" and "it's publish or perish and we do not want to perish". All aspects of this problem have been examined: financial, administrative, political and psychological and a distinction has been made between planned excavations and rescue excavations, the former usually following stricter regulations than the latter. This implying that in most cases, those involved in this problem are not only the archeologists, but also the administrators, those who provide the funds and the legislators. Some participants stressed that if a better coordination and the financial aspect are essential, some modernization might efficiently improve the situation: how can new technologies and computerization save time? To what extent should archeological material continue to be published as it is today? Should less data but more synthese be published? Although the conditions are different in each country, a resolution was passed by all those officially participating in the conference urging all government and non government authorities to take all possible measures to improve and accelerate excavation and survey publications by:

- making no permits available to those who have not submitted final reports on their previous excavations.
- issuing permits for excavations only to experienced archeologists whose team include architects and other appropriate experts and who are supported by a learned institution which will ensure prompt and adequate publications.
- determining a strict timetable for the preparation of preliminary and final reports.
- asking copies of documentation and preliminary notice of the results of excavations at the end of each season.

Their last demand was to ask all governments to allocate sufficient funds and to offer all other facilities to their respective Antiquities Services in order that archeologists may be able to study and publish their results in a final form.

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## MEDITERRANÉE, REVUE GEOGRAPHIQUE DES PAYS MEDITERRANÉENS

Dans le tome 94 (1. 2. 2000) intitulé "*Ports antiques et paléoenvironnements littoraux*", C. Morhange a réuni une quinzaine d'articles accompagnés de références bibliographiques importantes et de comptes rendus d'ouvrages publiés récemment, en rapport avec ce même thème.

Comme le souligne M. Provensal au début de cet ouvrage, ce volume, fruit de plusieurs années de recherches géomorphologiques, est issu de la collaboration de chercheurs dans des domaines aussi différents que complémentaires, qu'ils soient archéologues, biologistes marins, paléo-botanistes ou autres: la diversité des méthodes scientifiques utilisées font l'originalité et la richesse de cet ouvrage. Pour chaque port ou littoral étudié, une approche globale de l'histoire des environnements prend en compte la dynamique côtière, le budget sédimentaire et l'aménagement des sites à l'origine de la mobilité des rivages et de l'éventuel colmatage des bassins portuaires.

Bien que chaque site présente son originalité et ses propres particularités, on peut toutefois observer deux types de sites d'environnements portuaires très différents:

- Les littoraux bas et ouverts soumis à de puissants apports détritiques fluviaux tels Narbonne ou Fos, en France, Cumes en Italie ou Alexandrie en Egypte.

- Les littoraux rocheux, découpés en calanques ou en anses abritées plus stables et facilement aménageables comme au Liban à Byblos dès l'âge du Bronze, à Sidon dès 3500-3000 av. J.C, ou en France, à Olbia, les Laurons ou le simple mouillage de Porquerolles et surtout Marseille qui a fait l'objet de nombreuses études de grande qualité.

Entre autres on peut signaler, à propos de Marseille, deux études concernant le Vieux Port, l'une portant sur la modélisation numérique de la circulation des eaux vers 600 av. J.C. ainsi qu'une autre sur l'estimation de l'âge apparent local de l'eau de mer.



Une excursion des Elèves des Carmes de Bécharré aux Cèdres du Liban Tripoli (Syrie)

Pupils of the Carmes School on an excursion to the Cedars. Postcard, 1912, (Private Collection Gaby Daher).