

## COLLOQUIUM

### DELOS 1873-2023 - 150 YEARS OF RESEARCH ON THE ISLAND OF APOLLO

**Dates:** 21-23 March 2024

**Venues:** Campus des Quais (21 March) - Musée des Moulages de l'Université Lumière-Lyon 2 (22 and 23 March).

#### Background and aims of the conference

In 2023, we will be celebrating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the excavations at Delos, begun in 1873 by the École française d'Athènes, whose director, Émile Burnouf, sent Albert Lebègue to undertake the first excavations. Up until the First World War, under the impetus of Théophile Homolle and then Maurice Holleaux, the excavations developed on a considerable scale, revealing the spaces of the sanctuary of the Delian Apollo, the organisation of public spaces, the layout of the foothills of the Cynthe, large dwellings and their décor, port infrastructures and a rich corpus of epigraphic material. Accompanied by a systematic undertaking of surveys, drawings and photographs, research in Delos was disseminated through images, plaster prints, numerous articles and a monographic series: the Archaeological Exploration of Delos. One hundred and fifty years on, the commemoration of the start of the excavations is not intended to be a static assessment of the achievements of our illustrious predecessors, nor a catalogue of current projects. The aim of this conference is rather to analyse, over time, the sociology of the French and Greeks who worked on Delos, the evolution of the archaeological methods and tools used in Delian research, and the gradual transformation of the issues and questions raised by the historical sciences in the Mediterranean. Although Delos was for a long time the exception rather than the rule, it has now found its place alongside other major ancient sites that have only recently been rediscovered. At a time when new techniques are being developed that allow us to change scale and perspective, a retrospective analysis of the issues and approaches to archaeology in Delos can guide future research and form part of a "history of Delian archaeology" that Philippe Bruneau was already calling for in 1978.

#### Call for papers

The conference will focus on three main themes. The first will deal with Delian sociology and its social history; the second will analyse the evolution of theoretical models, methods and tools used in research up to the present day; the third will look at the history of Delos after its abandonment, from its frequentation to its spoliation, from its reception to the use of its image and name in the visual arts and literature.

#### Area 1

##### **SACRÉS DÉLIENS!**

The history of Delian archaeology is first and foremost a human story: the story of the island's first explorers, the story of the networks that were gradually built up at both personal and

institutional levels, culminating in the creation of a scientific community of 'Delians', the story of the successive directors of the EfA who worked energetically to develop research on an arid rock, isolated in the middle of the Cyclades and where any mission is always a little more difficult than elsewhere. Some of them quickly stood out for their strength of character, the importance of their contribution to Delia's research or their commitment to methodology. But these 'great figures' are not all equally well known; they also sometimes mask more discreet personalities that can be perceived through the archives.

In particular, we could study the sociology of certain Delians - archaeologists, architects, draughtsmen and engineers - their origins and career paths, the special networks that some of them created, and the place of women, not only in Delian research itself, but also in the creation and promotion of knowledge through drawing and photography. Another avenue worth exploring is the links forged between the French and Greeks around archaeological exploration. Another avenue worth exploring is the links forged between the French and Greeks around archaeological exploration. For example, we will be looking at the role played from the outset by the Greek Archaeological Service and its representative Panayotis Stamatakis, right up to the present day, and the importance of the Mykoniates in recruiting workers, providing supplies, transport and accommodation. And because archaeological research is always a question of funding, we will also be paying particular attention to the development of patronage, from the Duke of Loubat to the international foundations that are very present today.

## Area 2

### **DEVELOPING AND DISSEMINATING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DELOS: METHODS, TOOLS, ISSUES.**

From the time of the travellers to the present day, knowledge about Delos has been developed and disseminated using a wide variety of tools and media. From sketches to photogrammetry, from photography to modelling, from plaster prints to digital imagery, from paper records to databases, this section of the symposium aims to study and evaluate the ways in which Delian documentation has been produced and disseminated. As a corollary to this theme, we will also be looking at the theoretical and methodological investment made by certain Delians in the past, which underpins the choice of tools and techniques today. Developments in observation and analysis tools, as well as the development of collaboration with the natural sciences, mean that we need to define new scientific challenges, on the scale of a building, a district or the island as a whole, from discovery to restitution and restoration. It is also from this methodological perspective, which is likely to be of interest to all chrono-geographical areas of archaeology, that papers will be invited on current research.

## Area 3

### **FROM ANCIENT TO CONTEMPORARY DELOS: STUDIES AND RECEPTION**

Although the island has not seen any permanent occupation since the protobyzantine period, it was not without human activity in the medieval, modern and contemporary periods. The archives that have been preserved, the ruins of sheepfolds and farms and recent studies of quarries show that the area was exploited right up until the 20th century. In this third area, the aim is to shed light on certain aspects of life in Delos after the abandonment of its urban centre, by looking at the history and development of the excavation house, the transformation of daily

life in Delos, constantly renewed by technical progress and the commitment of its staff, the way in which ancient ruins have fed into modern construction, and the ways in which Delian records, memory and traditions specific to the site have been passed down from generation to generation. Another theme will be the memory of Delos in literature and the visual arts. From Nicolas Boileau to Marcel Proust, from Claude Lorrain to Barbara Hepworth, from detective novels to advertising, Delos has endured in the collective memory, as a reference or inspiration, sometimes simply as an exotic name with a Greek sound. It also lives on in the countless drawings made of its ruins by travellers, famous artists and the Delians themselves. Analysing these literary and visual images, their resonances and connotations, will help to strengthen the link between the ancient site and the contemporary island, by opening up a dialogue with other specialisms in the human sciences.

#### ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

Papers should preferably be presented in French or English. They will be published in a supplement to the *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique*.

**Manuscripts are due by 30 September 2024.**

Proposals for papers should be sent before **30 September 2023** to the following address: [colloquedelos2024@gmail.com](mailto:colloquedelos2024@gmail.com). They should be accompanied by the names and contact details of the authors, the title and an abstract of 2,500 to 3,000 characters, including a few bibliographical references and a few lines in English. Papers should be 25 minutes long.

The conference is scheduled to last three days. It will include a visit to the Musée des Moulages exhibition *Embarquement pour Délos: 150 de fouilles dans l'île d'Apollon* on the morning of Thursday 21 March 2024, and a visit to the *Les formes de la ruine* exhibition at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon on the afternoon of Saturday 23 March 2024.