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# Editorial

Archaeology and Leiden University have been associated since 1818 when the Dutch King Willem I took the initiative to have Caspar Reuvens installed as the first professor in archaeology. The discipline prospered and it became possible to study the archaeology of the Classic Mediterranean World, Egypt, Mesopotamia, and, later on, the Carribean, Central America and parts of the Far East. For years these studies were part of a study in History, Art or an appropriate language, extinct or not. Therefore, archaeology was taught in the Faculty of Humanities, except for the archaeology of the Near East which belonged to Theology.

Things became complicated when the Board of Leiden University decided to add the study of Prehistory. As there were no languages for affiliation and as the discipline of Prehistory extensively used methods borrowed from Science, Prehistory acquired a status of its own, namely

the Interfaculty of Prehistory, founded in 1962. By and by the other archaeologies joined Prehistory and in 1997 a true Faculty of Archaeology came into being. Only the archaeologies of Egypt and Mesopotamia did not leave Humanities as their study was very much intertwined with the study of the associated languages and scripts.

In 2012 we celebrate the foundation of the initial independent core of the Faculty of Archaeology, now 50 years ago. Fifty years is not very old in archaeological terms, but normally a 50th anniversary has a special meaning. The Interfaculty of Prehistory had started its own journal, the *Analecta Praehistorica Leidensia* and on this occasion the Board of the Faculty of Archaeology has asked its editors to open its pages to all disciplines. It was a pleasure for us to invite the permanent staff of the Faculty to contribute. The invitation

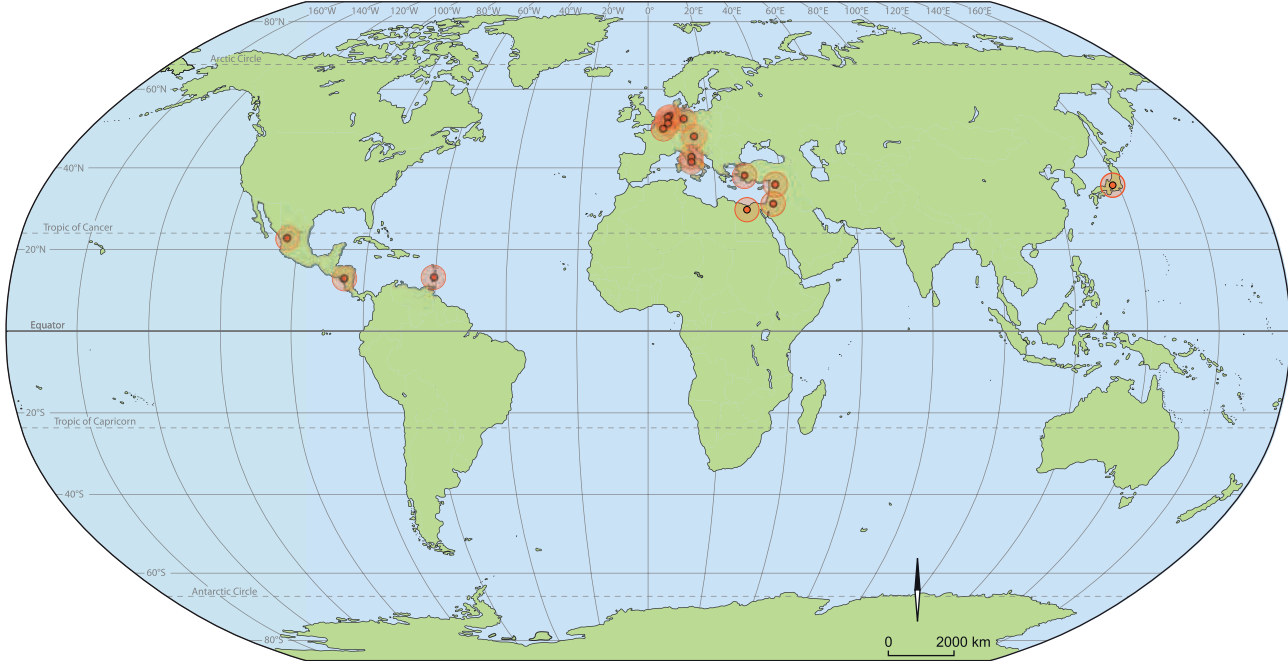


Figure 1 The location of the research areas mentioned in this volume.

was accepted with enthusiasm and most members found time to write a paper. The volume presented here is the result. The subjects offered are very diverse and provide the reader with a written 'Tableau de la troupe', as it was intended to be.

Archaeology in the 21st century is a fast evolving discipline with many different faces. There is Archaeology as Anthropology, Archaeology as History or as Science, or the distinction in the different regions like Mediterranean Archaeology, the Archaeology of the Far East or of the Caribbean. Also the place of Archaeology in the modern world is heavily debated. Some see Archaeology as part of the broader field of Heritage Management, the part that studies the human past by way of its material culture. Others have a different view and see Heritage Management as part of Archaeology because we must not only study the past but also manage the relics. The result is that some archaeologists think that Archaeology is about the past and other think it is about the present or even the future. In our Faculty all these different flavours of Archaeology are present.

This is reflected in the book. The first contributions are about the present. They deal with the problem of preserving archaeology in situ, the evaluation of twenty years of the Malta convention and the current variety of approaches in archaeology. However the rest of the book is about the past. We organized this volume in such a way that you go back in time, and as good archaeologists we start from the top and dig our way into the past. We start in the 17th century AD in the Caribbean and end with research on a 300 000 years old site in Germany. Geographically speaking the book presents research from all over the world (fig. 1).

We like to continue this diversity in *Analecta Praehistorica Leidensia* in the future. Up to this volume the series only published monographs and edited volumes on Prehistory and Archaeological Science. From now on we would like to turn *Analecta* into a platform for all archaeologists in our Faculty and we hope to publish each year an inspiring volume on research from the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University.

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