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Bologna (former
student)**

**PHAROS: The
International
Consortium of
Photo Archives**

**Digital Art History
Projects Showcase**

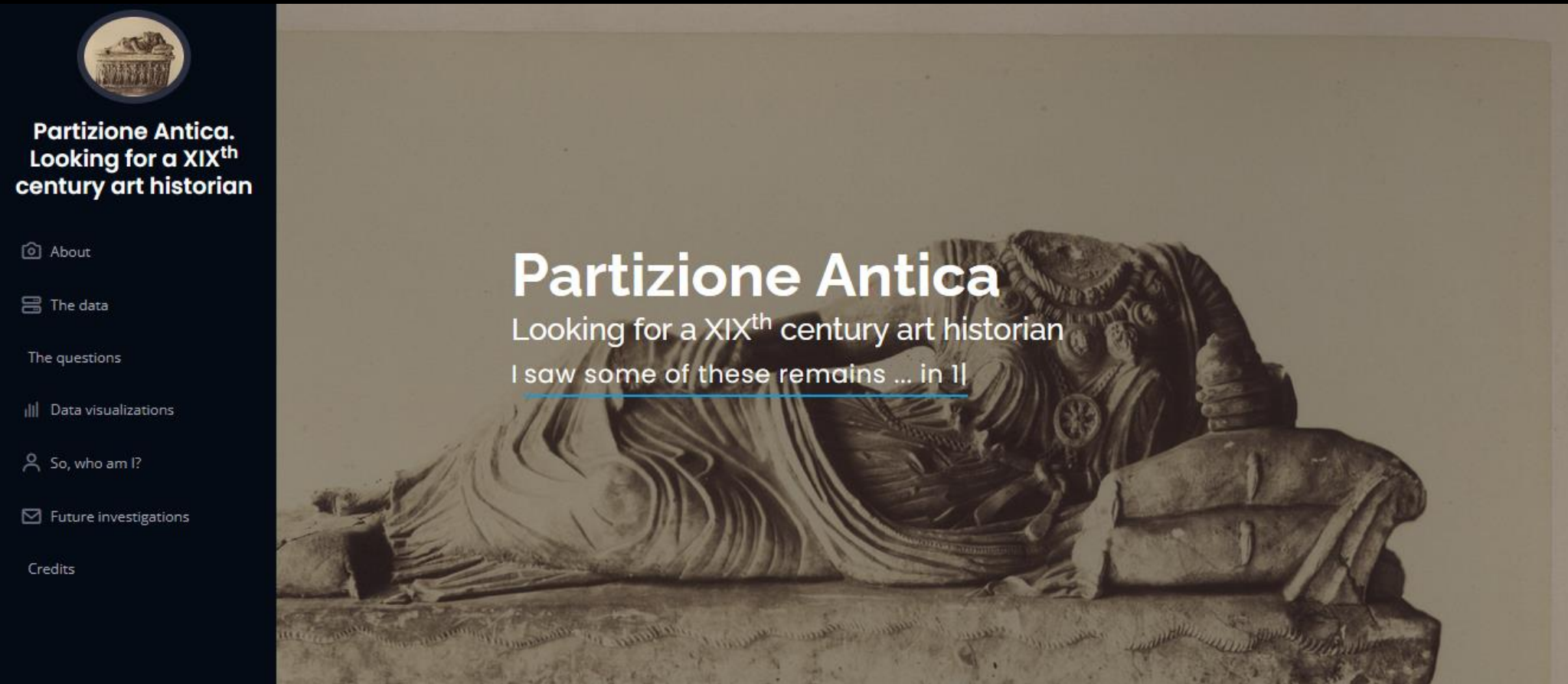
November 8, 2023



Partizione Antica

Looking for a XIXth century art historian

Website project



Disclaimer:

All the images are shown for **illustrative and didactical purposes only.**

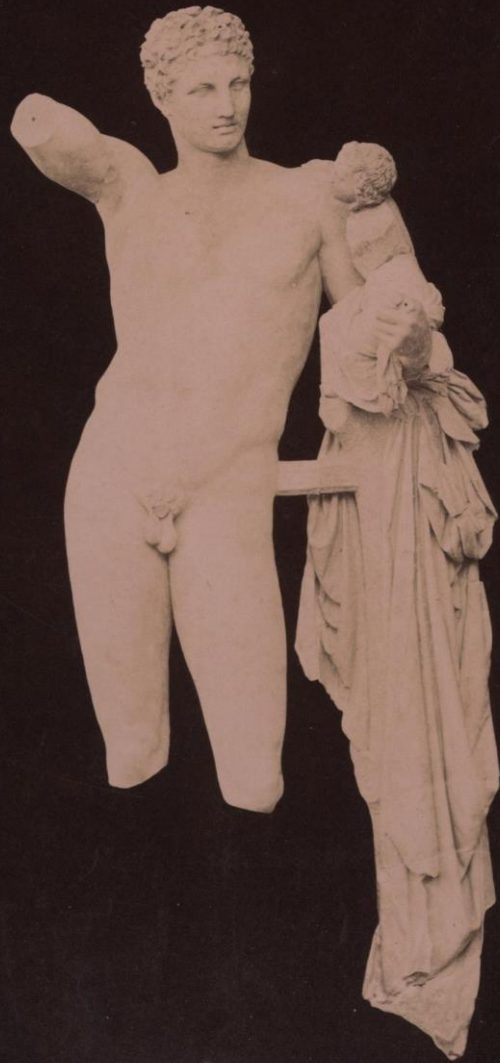
Images: **CC-BY-NC** credits to Biblioteca delle Arti. Sezione di Arti visive "I. B. Supino". Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna

OA and F entries: **CC-BY-NC** credits to Fondazione "Federico Zeri"

Website: https://enri-ca.github.io/EPDS_EZ

Github repository: https://github.com/enri-ca/EPDS_EZ

Jupyter Notebook https://github.com/enri-ca/EPDS_EZ/blob/main/EPDS_EZ.ipynb



About

- The **Partizione Antica** is a series counting about 3000 photographs of the **Fondo Supino art photo archive** belonging to the **Biblioteca delle Arti** (Università di Bologna)
- The photographs often carry on the verso side, **handwritten annotations** in English from the same hand
- The photos have been described according to **scheda F** and **OA models**: the metadata and the digitalization of the photos are accessible from the **Zeri Foundation catalogue**
- Annotations are partially transcribed in OA entries
- The series has been quite well **studied and treated** in the past
- **But the original collector identity remains unknown**



She has been clothed, as the original was nude. There are some who believe this statue to be the original of Praxiteles, but this is more than doubtful. Pope Julius wanted to put her by the side of the Apollo Belvedere.

The South Kensington Museum people were allowed to have a cast of her made without her tripettico at after promising not to reproduce her in this indelicate condition. The head does not belong to the statue. See Heibig, 316 (574).

The repetition of this statue at Munich has a noxious head which Michaelis says is the finest of all Christian heads except that found at Olympia - also noxious.

There is an admirable bronze replica of the Venus in the long gallery of the Louvre - downstairs - cast before 1540. It is without drapery or adjuncts.

The Cnidia, says Pausanias, was the finest statue of the world.

The question

Who is the art historian creating the “Partizione Antica”?



The Data

Structured metadata:

- 3.232 F entries
- 2.634 OA entries

XML format from Zeri catalogue

scheda_F_177166.xml
scheda_F_177715.xml
scheda_F_177733.xml
scheda_F_177737.xml
scheda_F_177745.xml
scheda_F_177748.xml
scheda_F_177749.xml
scheda_F_177750.xml
scheda_F_177751.xml
scheda_F_177767.xml
scheda_F_177782.xml
scheda_F_177784.xml

Unstructured data (free texts):

- 1.838 free texts

transcribed annotations in OSS field of OA entries

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<RISULTATI>

<SCHEDA intestazione="Moscioni, Romualdo , Alba Fucense - Mura ciclopiche"
sercdf="177166" sercdoa="106452">
  <PARAGRAFO etichetta="CLASSIFICATION">
    <INVN etichetta="Inventory number">sup 748</INVN><LDCM
etichetta="Collection">Fototeca I.B. Supino</LDCM><UBFS
etichetta="Archival series">Partizione Antica</UBFS><UBFN
etichetta="Container number">1</UBFN><UBFT etichetta="
Container heading">Italia</UBFT><UBFF etichetta="Folder
number">1</UBFF><UBFU etichetta="Folder heading">Abruzzo
</UBFU><UBFC etichetta="Shelfmark">PA_Abruzzo 002
</UBFC></PARAGRAFO>
  <PARAGRAFO etichetta="SUBJECT">
    <RIPETIZIONE>
      <OGTDOA etichetta="Object">cinta muraria</OGTDOA>
    </RIPETIZIONE>
  </PARAGRAFO>
  <PARAGRAFO etichetta="SOURCE OF TITLE">
    <RIPETIZIONE>
      <SGLS etichetta="Source of title">dell'autore, stampato
nell'immagine</SGLS>
      <SGLT etichetta="Proper title">Alba Fucense - Mura ciclopiche
</SGLT>
    </RIPETIZIONE>
  </PARAGRAFO>
  <PARAGRAFO etichetta="NOTES">
    <OSS etichetta="Notes">Il sarcofago proviene dalla Collezione
Casuccini di Chiusi, acquistata dal Museo archeologico di
Palermo nel 1865-1866.
&#10;Foto sup 1351, verso del supporto secondario: nota anonima manoscritta:
&#034;This grand headless Etruscan lady came with the other gear from the
Casuccini collection of Chiusi where I saw her in 1866. She is of white marble.
The figures below, painted and with painted inscriptions, are of alabaster&#034;.
&#10;Foto sup 1352, verso del supporto secondario: nota anonima manoscritta:
&#034;All these sarch. and turns are of alabaster and come from Chiusi. The town
of Palermo bought the Casuccini collection in 1866. The relief of the big sarc.
represents the farewell of a married pair. He is Lavth Aphuna, she Aphunei who
reclines covered with jewelry on the lid of the sarc. Awreiged female demon leads
her off to the shades below [...] See Dennis Vol II, page 316&#034;.
</OSS></PARAGRAFO>
```

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</OSS></PARAGRAFO>

Data preparation

ISSUES/DESIDERATA:

- Data **extraction to be required** (closed db) VS dynamic queries
- Different Focus **working on photographs** as archival objects instead of according to a works of art point of view
 - Annotation transcribed in OA entries instead of in their related F entry
 - Need to rebuild connections between annotations and actual photo/support

STEPS

1. creation of unique xml files for all the F and OA entries extracted
2. extraction of relevant information for the project from nested xml structure
3. extraction of unstructured annotations from OA data
4. creation of a new database merging data from the two previous steps

Data elaboration

ISSUES/DESIDERATA:

- Time saver having reference to AF identifiers (es. VIAF) in addition to just local language strings

Authority PHOTOGRAPHERS			
CODE	MEANING (Italian)	MEANING	SAMPLE
AUFH	Sigla per citazione	Id. number	10000045
AUFQ	Qualifica	Role	
AUFN/ AUFB	Autore della foto (pers./ collettivo)	Name	Alinari, Fratelli
AUFC	Cognome	Surname	
AUFO	Nome	First name	
AUFP	Pseudonimo	Pseudonym	
AUFJ	Nazionalità	Nationality	Italiana
AUFZ	Sesso	Gender	
AUFV	Varianti	Variants of name	
AUFG	Luogo e/o periodo di attività	Active	Firenze (1852-)
AUFW	Luoghi conservazione raccolte	Main repository	
AUFL	Luogo di nascita	Place of birth	
AUFD	Data di nascita	Date of birth	
AUFX	Luogo di morte	Place of death	
AUFT	Data di morte	Date of death	

STEP

1. Photographer: enrichment of workplace, activity timespan, VIAF number via Wikidata SPARQL queries

Wikidata Query Service

Esempi

Aiuto

Altri strumenti

```
1 SELECT DISTINCT ?ph ?genderLabel ?countryLabel ?birthyear ?deathyear
2 WHERE
3   { VALUES ?ph {""+third_ph_string_URI+""}
4     ?ph rdfs:label ?phLabel;
5     wdt:P937 ?country; #P937_worklocation
6     #wdt:P27 ?citiz;
7     wdt:P569 ?birth;
8     wdt:P570 ?death.
9   OPTIONAL {FILTER(LANG(?fLabel) = "en").
10             ?ph wdt:P21 ?gender;
11             #wdt:P937 ?worklocation; #P937_worklocation
12           }
13   BIND(year(?birth) AS ?birthyear)
14   BIND(year(?death) AS ?deathyear)
15
16   #BIND(COALESCE(?worklocation, ?citiz, "NaN") AS ?country).
17   #BIND(IF(BOUND(?worklocation),?worklocation,?citiz) AS ?country).
18 SERVICE wikibase:label {bd:serviceParam wikibase:language "en".}
19 }
```

Data elaboration

STEP

2. Places: enhancing geolocation via [geopy Python client](#)

ISSUES/DESIDERATA:

- Add geodata or Geonames ID - instead of just name strings - to source data to avoid multilingual misunderstanding and disambiguation of homonymous places



Data elaboration

ISSUES/DESIDERATA:

- Annotations sample, sometimes incompleted ([...]), transcribed with a work of art focus
- Best HTR to complete the corpus
- Minor misspelling
- Multilingual corpus

STEP

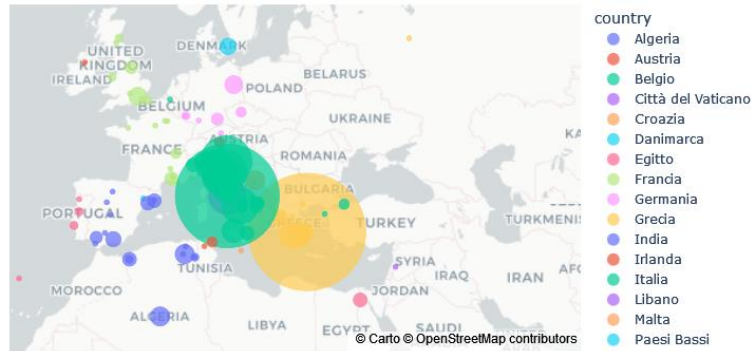
3. **unstructured annotations: seeking for further elements running NLP and NER Python libraries**

```
!pip install spacy
!python -m spacy download en_core_web_sm
!python -m spacy download xx_ent_wiki_sm
import spacy
from spacy.matcher import Matcher
from spacy.attrs import POS
```

Results from structured data already known

Interest in **Mediterranean area**

Photos for immovable works of art depicted in anonymous photos



47,5% photos from relevant **art history photographers** (Alinari 20%, Moscioni, Brogi, Sommer 5% each, Laurent, Incorpora, Giraudon 2,5% each)

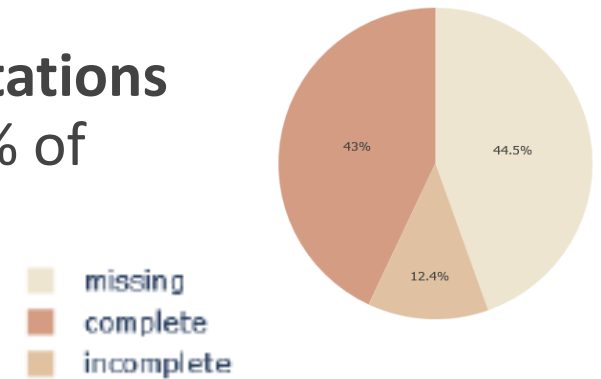
... and new insights

Interest for **funerary sculpture and sarcophagus**.

Little extra-European photos' set (18 **Indian** subject)

Annotations on photographs (transcribed in OA entries)

Transcribed **annotations** for more than 50% of photographs (1.838)



49% of **anonymous** photos

3,5% of photos from a big variety of other not anonymous photographers (100/111 **names** with less than 20 photos each)

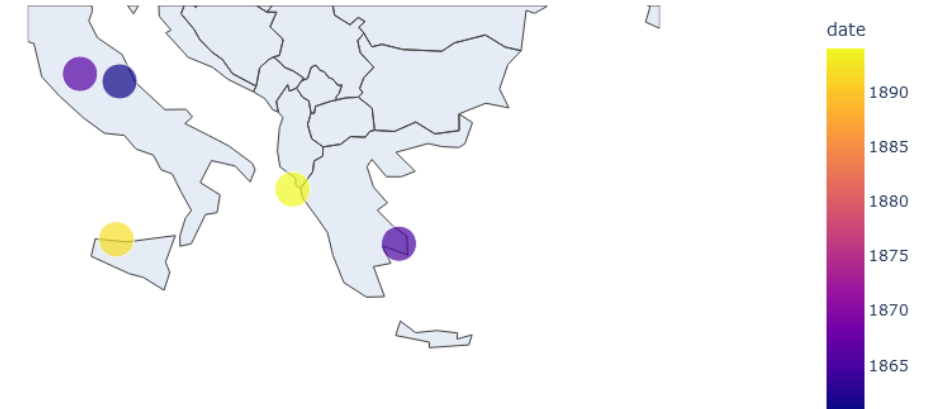
Results from unstructured texts

```
matcher.add("PA_creator",  
[[{"LEMMA": "I"}, {"POS":  
'VERB'}]])
```

= 22 occurrences

I told the Countess
Marcello (nee Grimani) that
I respected her immensely
on account of this statue
of Agrippa. This was in
Corfù in March 1894.
(sup 1811)

Places visited in defined dates according to annotations



- 6 place-time references to personal experiences
- 6 ownership declarations (5/6 about medals)
- 10 opinions

I have a medal of him
with the inscription: /
"Antonius de Royzellis
monarcha sapientie"
(sup 659)

Berlin Museum.

Theodorina Cibo, a daughter of Innocent VIII; I have a medal of her.

The sculptor of this bust was Cristoforo Romano who made Gian Galeazzo's mausoleum in the Certosa di Pavia.



Anonimo <1855-1920>. 1855. [Busto Di Teodorina Cibo Di Gian Cristoforo Romano : Staatliche Museen, Skulpturensammlung : Berlino. sup 2800 – PA Germania 006

Further investigations

What it would be useful to have

Wish list

Photos, photographers and historical archival focus

- Annotations related to F entries
- AF ID for authorities
- Possibility to query other photo archives by **negative number** (or **visual search**)
- References and links to named entities in annotations, es.: Countess Marcello (nee Grimani) = 'Maria Grimani Giustinian'
<http://dati.san.beniculturali.it/SAN/complarc> GGASl san.cat.complArch.52480

Etienne Neurdein, *Alger : 271 : Intérieur Du Musée : Vue Panoramiques* (Neurdein, Etienne, 1845). sup 3149 – PA Algeria 012



Al momento del riordino ho concordato con il proprietario, prima che l'archivio fosse ceduto allo stato, di interrompere le serie alla morte di Maria Grimani Marcello, perchè la gentildonna era l'ultima Grimani. I documenti seguenti, che arrivano ai giorni nostri, e non sono stati nè ceduti allo stato, nè compresi in questo indice, appartengono ormai alla famiglia Marcello.

Ugualmente è stata tralasciata una piccola serie di documenti a carattere più personale, della seconda metà dell'800.

Come consuetudine, per richiedere i documenti è sufficiente citare il primo numero a sinistra, che è il numero della busta.

Anonimo <1855-1920>. 1890. [Sfinge
Arcaica in Marmo Pentelico Proveniente Da
Spata, Sfinge Arcaica in Marmo Pario
Trovata Nel Pireo, Testa Arcaica in Marmo
Pentelico e Disco Di Marmo Pario Trovato
Sul Pireo : Museo Archeologico Nazionale :
Atene. sup 2832 – PA Grecia III 051



Keep on looking for...

National Museum Athens.

20. Archaic Sphinx from Spata in Attica of Pentelic marble.
76. Archaic Sphinx found at the Peiraeus in 1880. Parian marble.
52. Archaic head of beautiful art. Pentelic marble.
93. Disk of Parian marble found at the Peiraeus in 1889. 11 inches in diam.
The painting on it is now almost effaced but once represented a bearded
man with an inscription saying: to the memory of Amios, a wise and
good doctor.

Thank you

and to:
Alma Mater
Studiorum Università
di Bologna
Biblioteca delle Arti
Federico Zeri Foundation
Archivio Storico
AlmaDL