



# Partizione Antica

Looking for a XIXth century art historian

Enrica Zani – matr. 1004696  
EPDS - DHDK master degree – a.a.2021-22





# Background

---

- The «Partizione Antica» is a special part of the whole **Fototeca Supino** archive, counting about 3000 photographs (over a total of 8000)
- The photographic fund is **specialized in History of Art**
- The photographs often have **handwritten annotations** on the verso from the same hand
- The fund has already been **studied and treated** in the past
- The fund is accessible from the Zeri Foundation catalogue
- **But the original collector identity remains unknown**

# Goals

- Using the “looking for ...” story to offer to Zeri catalogue’s users:
  - an **overall understanding** of the fund beyond hierarchical metadata or texts
  - **Improve informative value** from existing data by means of **data analysis and visualization**
  - Launch **new tracks** to investigate the fund



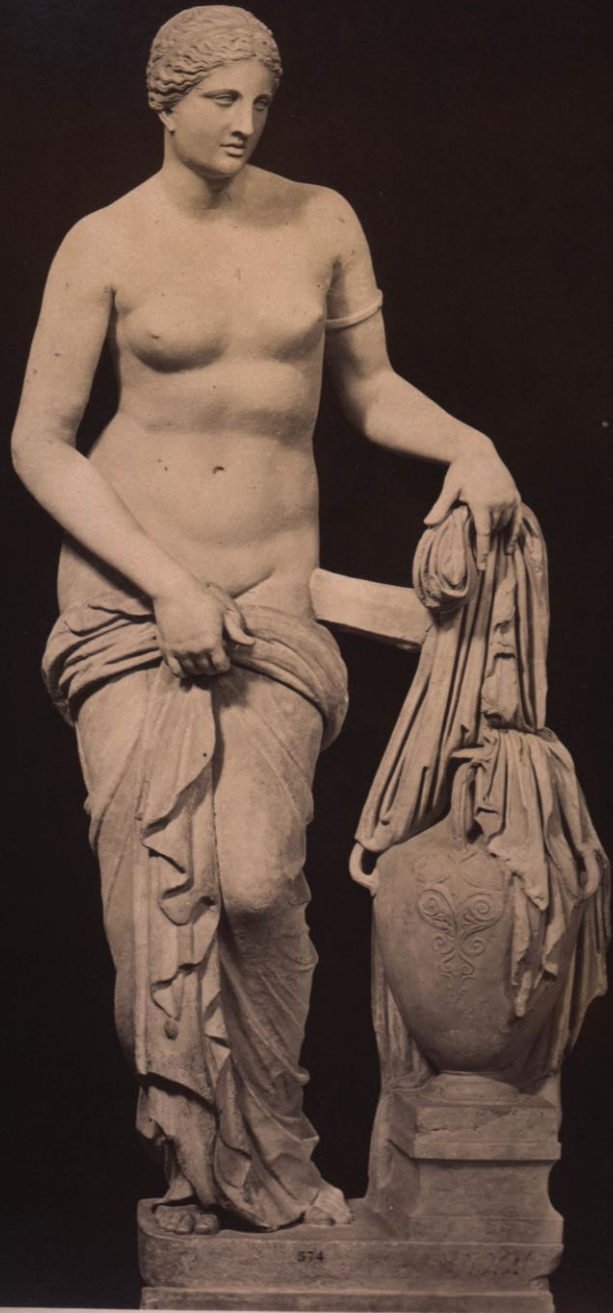
## TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITY

[show less](#)

### Archival treatment

Nel 1990 le 3.260 fotografie della serie denominata Partizione Antica sono state trasferite presso l'Archivio Storico dell'Università di Bologna, sottoposte a riordino su base topografica, digitalizzate e catalogate con il software Sebina Multimedia. Nel 2006 sono state ricongiunte al resto del Fondo presso il Dipartimento delle Arti. Dal 2018 al 2020 la restante parte del Fondo Supino (5.000 fototipi) è stata al centro di un progetto di studio e riordino, il cui esito è confluito in 'Esplora i fondi'. In particolare è stata individuata la serie denominata Archivio Arturo Pettorelli: grazie a una tesi di laurea discussa nell'a.a. 2018/2019 presso l'Università di Bologna, la serie è stata inventariata (con il prefisso PET) e le fotografie precatalogate in formato excel con campi desunti dalla scheda OA e F-ICCD. Tra il 2019 e il 2020 l'intera serie Partizione Antica è stata catalogata dalla Fondazione Federico Zeri.

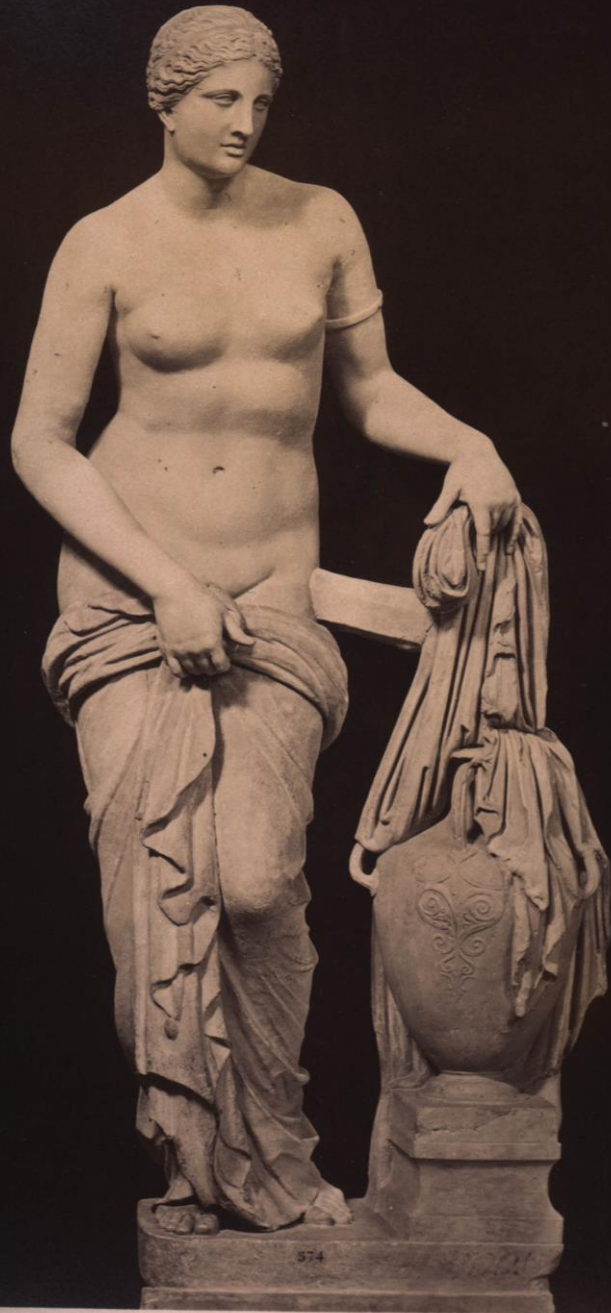
▼ FOTO	3259
PEOPLE/ORGANIZATIONS ▼	
SUBJECT ▲	
Motivi decorativi	98
Motivi decorativi vegetali	92
Madonna con Bambino	81
Santi	69



## Research question

---

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



# Research question(s)

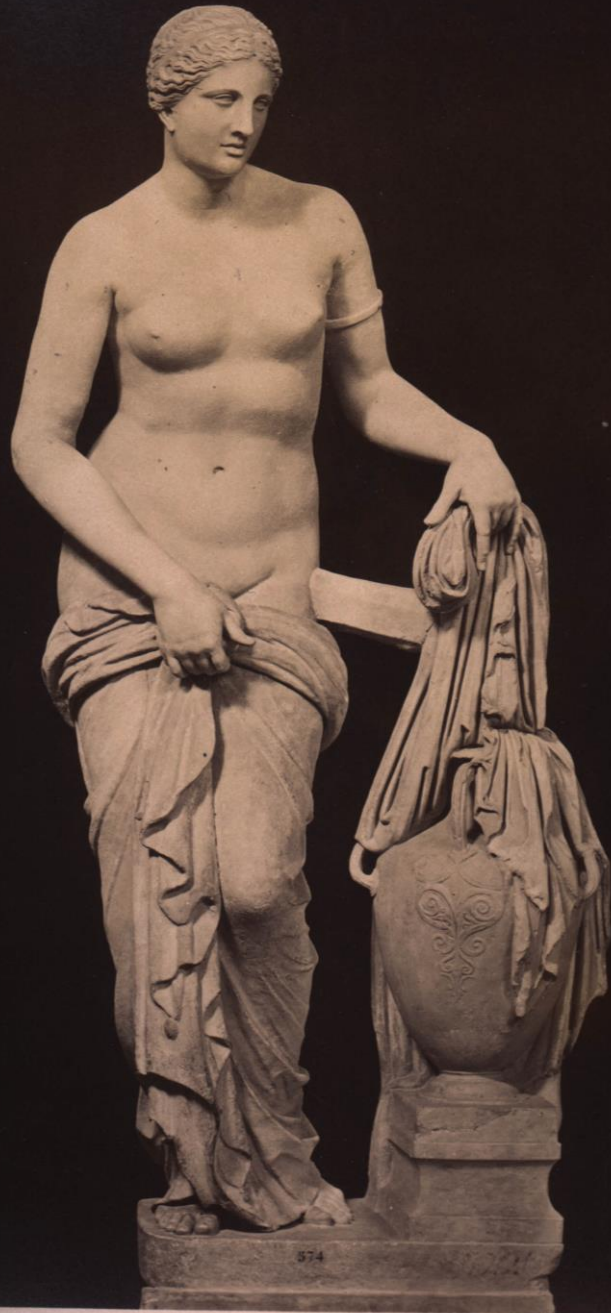
## WORKs OF ART (interests and movements)

- **What** are the most represented **work of art types** in the fund?
- **Where** these works of art are located?

## PHOTOGRAPHERs (contacts and movements)

- **Who** are the most used photographers?
- **Where** have the anonymous photos been shot?





# Research question(s)

## ANNOTATIONS (other infos)

- **How many** photos have been annotated?
  - Does the annotation distribution **vary** according to depicted work of art century?
  - Can **further personal or professional details** be detected?
- 
- Is her/his **presence** attested **somewhere and dated**?



# Data preparation and data analysis

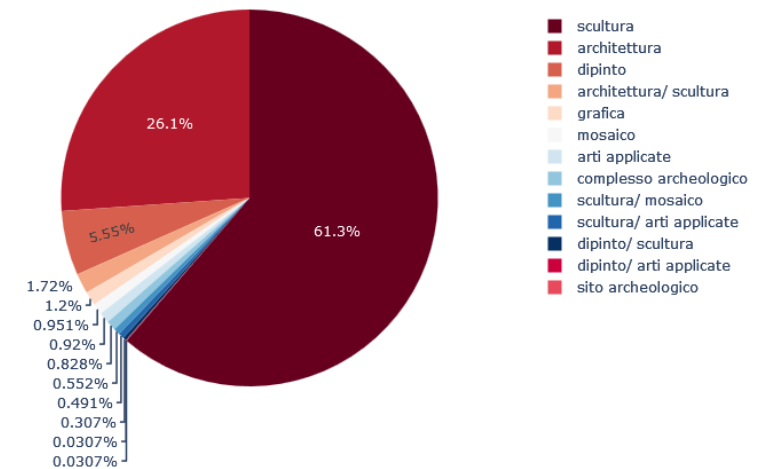
- **Structured metadata** come from an **extraction of F and OA xml records** of the Zeri catalogue
- **Unstructured data (transcribed annotations)** have been extracted from a specific field of OA structured metadata
- Further data about photographers' activity dates and location have been explored via **Wikidata**
- Data on geolocation have been added via **geopy**
- Unstructured annotations have been analysed with **spacy**

**In some cases, manual intervention has been necessary**

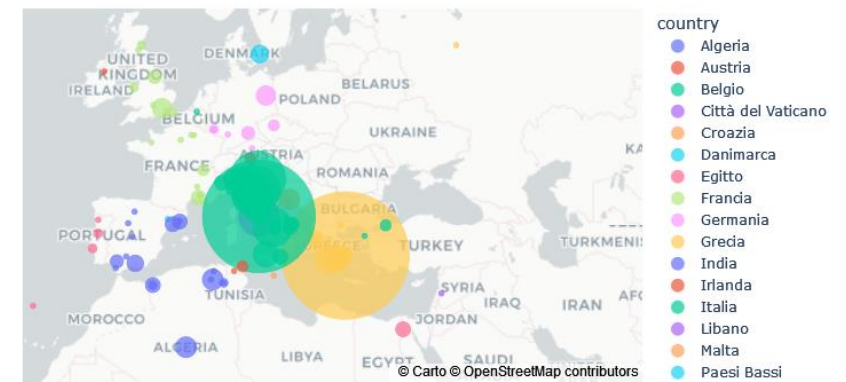
# Data visualisations selected and reasons

- Percentages on the total of photographs are shown in **pie charts** to grasp an **overall idea**
- Quantities related to **geographic features** are offered with **map visualizations** showing:
  - city (position)
  - country (color)
  - count (size)

Which type of works of art are mainly present in the fund? Photographs per depicted work



Photos for immovable works of art depicted in anonymous photos

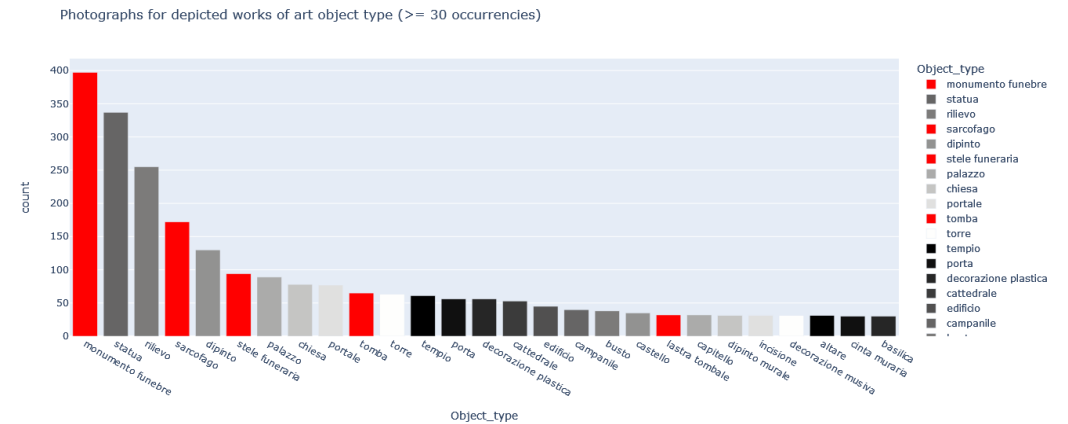




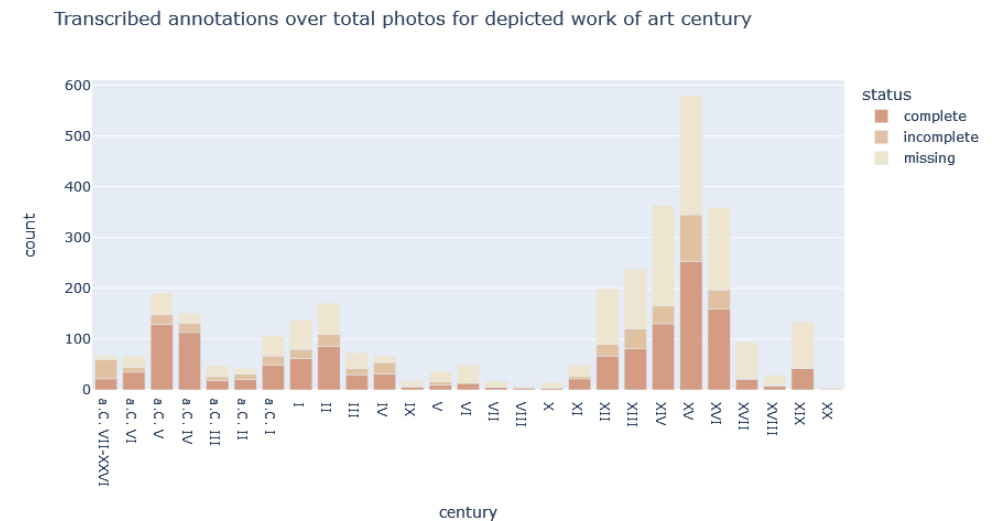
# Data visualisations selected and reasons

Distributions of categorical values are shown as bar charts

- if a/some category/ies need to be outlined, it/they received **different colour**



- if **more than a variable** is involved, the one than can be grouped is shown stacked
- If **ordinality** make sense (e.g. grade of completion) **colour scale** is used



# Data visualisations selected and reasons

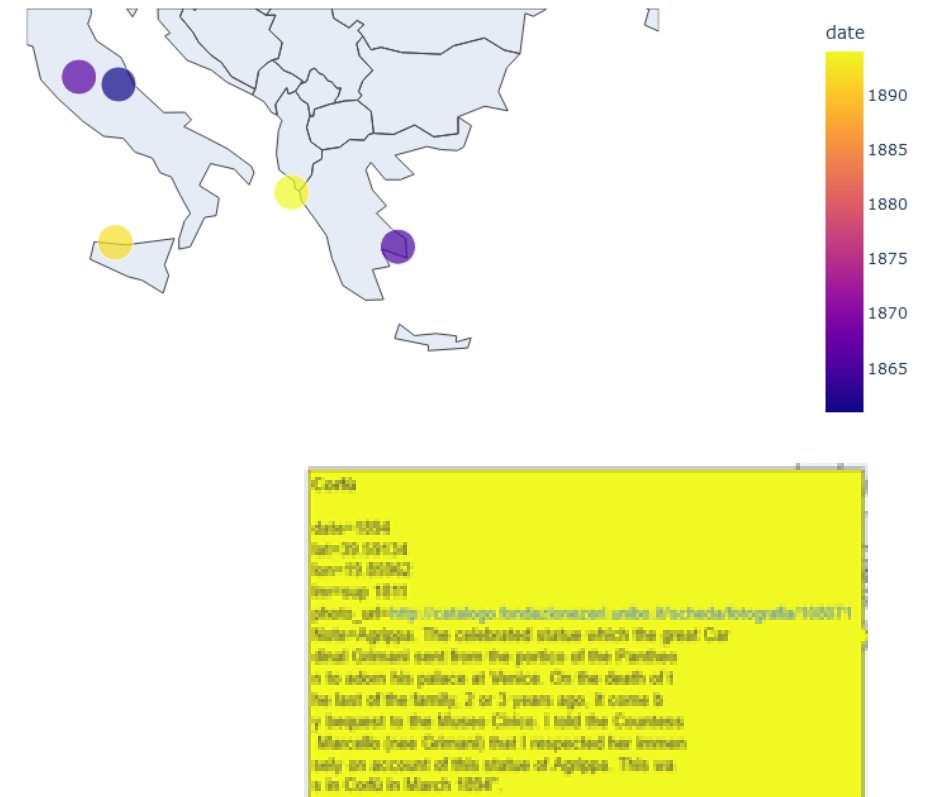
More complex data

such as the combination of:

- **place-time pairs** occurrences
- **annotations' texts**
- **link to photograph records**

are shown in a **map** together with **colour valorisation of time** and adding **information in the mouseover**

Places visited in defined dates according to annotations





# Data communication strategies

Target: Zeri catalogue users

- specialized or curious in art
- need for **quick overview** to check if going on with investigation on the fund
- really **linear sequential narration** completed with **images**

The research question are mainly faced by steps:

1. an **introductory frequency** visualization
2. a **deeper analysis** on a subcategory
3. a **translation in map** visualization if geodata are involved in the previous point

The summary results of the investigation are offered trough a **carousel of statements-charts pairs**, from the “voice” of the unknown art historian

A **call for action** for future investigation conclude the path

## Partizione Antica. Looking for a XIX<sup>th</sup> century art historian

About

The data

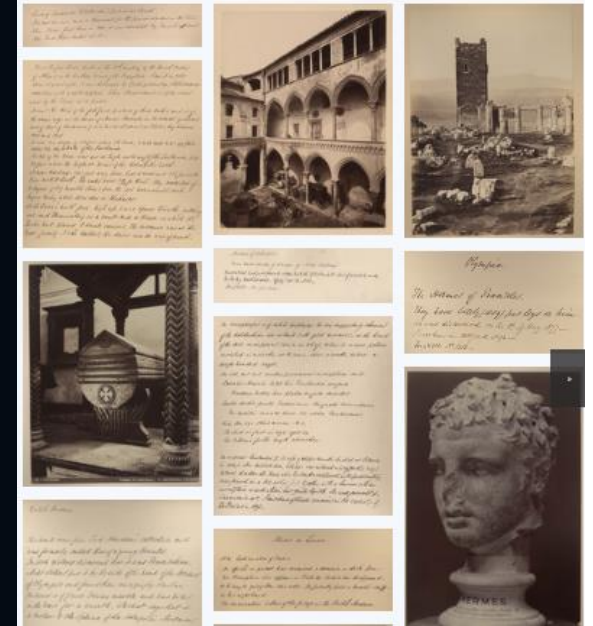
The questions

Data visualizations

So, who am I?

Future investigations

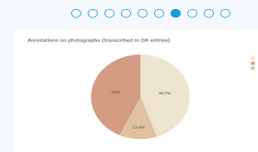
Credits



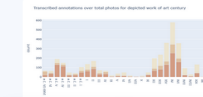
### So, who am I?



“ The anonymous photographs I collected have been taken, as the whole collection, in Italy, Greece and Mediterranean area.



More than **half of the photos (55%)**, reports my **handwritten annotations on the back side**.



I have annotated more than **400 photos** depicting **IV and V centuries BC works of art**.

# Summary of results

## Results confirming already known information

The “unknown collector” was interested in **Mediterranean area**

Places of shooting of **anonymous photos** do not show significant differences from the general collection

The number of annotations is higher on photos depicting IV-V BC. works of art, confirming her/his interest in ancient art.  
NER related to dates confirm their activity in the second half of XIXth century

## Unexpected results that can be used for further investigations

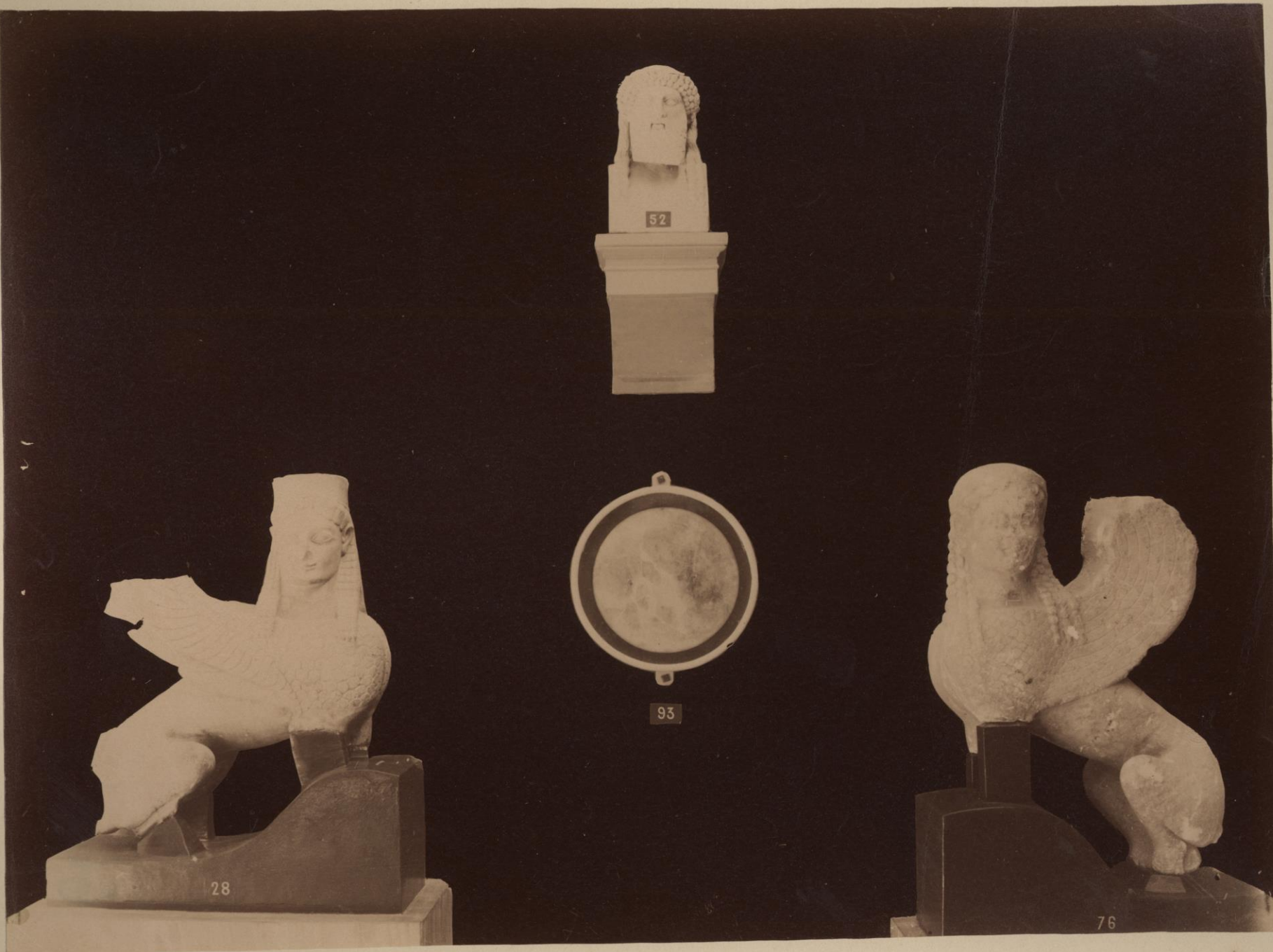
The “unknown collector” was interested in **funerary sculpture** and **sarcophagus**.

He/she has also an extra-European interest about **India** (18 photographs)

She/he was provided of photos from several **minor named photographers** (less than 20 photos each)

It has been possible to detect **6 place-time pairs attesting their presence** movements.





# Thank you!

Let's explore

- Zani, E. (2023). Partizione Antica. Looking for a XIXth century art historian. [https://github.com/enri-ca/EPDS\\_EZ](https://github.com/enri-ca/EPDS_EZ)
- [https://enri-ca.github.io/EPDS\\_EZ](https://enri-ca.github.io/EPDS_EZ)