

CALL FOR PAPERS

EXCAVATING ARCHAEOLOGY: THE POWER OF PROCESS

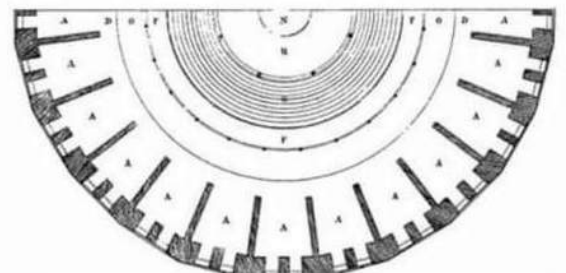
When working on an excavation, we move down the stratigraphic profile of a site, stripping away layers as we define new contexts. In moving down through the soil, we build up an understanding of the site, adjusting our approach accordingly. But the work of archaeology does not end when objects are lifted from the ground. Processes such as conservation, restoration, and subsequent de-restoration add physical layers to the surface of objects as we attempt to organise and interpret them. We also build up by adding metaphorical layers of meaning. Finds become enmeshed with other objects through the generation of archival records, practices of storage and display, and through the making of reproductions.

With the recent archival turn in archaeology, the excavation of these accumulated layers of meaning has become part of the archaeologist's work. This opens up the idea of the field site, demonstrating an urgent need to examine these processes of meaning making across a variety of settings. We invite commentators to discuss the fundamental methodological questions of *where* and *how* we construct archaeological knowledge and the power that these processes hold over our understanding and interpretation. Papers could consider, but are not limited to:

- The production of knowledge in the archaeological record and excavations in the archive
- The use of reproduction-making in learning about the past
- Restoration and de-restoration as shaping perceptions of ancient objects and societies
- Conservation as interpretation
- Ethnography as a tool for excavating archaeological knowledge.



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