

What is archaeology?
It's going on digs!
Is that all?
It's understanding societies from the past!
Is that really all?

THE SPIRIT OF ARKÉOTOPIA

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It is time to accept the fact that archaeology is more than just excavations and a distant past, but also offers possible applications in everyday life and society, and has done for over two centuries.

Even though for many people, and even for some archaeologists, its meaning often ends there, it is far from being the case in our society in which:

- it allows everyone to position themselves in time and space to enable them to answer the central question for self-construction: who am I?
- it feeds history lessons for children at all school levels,
- it supplies content for tours by guides who would not be able to work without it,
- it facilitates diplomatic relations with foreign countries thanks to archaeological missions funded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
- and it is involved in many other subjects in multiple fields.

So our children's education, our own basis of self-construction and several jobs depend on the results of archaeology.

Archaeology is a tool which enables us to know our past in order to better understand our present and to find solutions for the future.

ArkéoTopia wants to put a stop to the idea that archaeology is useless!

Taking part in the Spirit of ArkéoTopia,

- is recognising that fundamental archaeological research has practical applications in our day-to-day lives,
- is acting towards a fairer, more perceptive, more balanced, better world in which everyone has rights, obligations, a place, and a chance.

ARKÉOTOPIA'S MAIN LINE OF ACTION

■ Facilitate students' and young researchers' professional insertion

thanks to our actions linked to career orientation and the first job that we offer as a scientific activity leader. What is more, by contributing to professional insertion we introduce them to their future role in society, leading to an awareness of obligations towards it and guiding involvement within it.

■ Raise awareness of scientific culture and techniques amongst the youngest

which will allow them to learn to think by themselves and so to be better equipped to choose a path for their studies, to vote in good conscience, to accept others as partners and to respect them.

■ Construct an intergenerational link through which the past is neither constantly repeated nor endured

but used as a lever allowing solutions to be found for the future, as an educational tool allowing the very youngest to find an interest to discuss with the oldest.

■ Influence the creation of new technologies

founded on the experiences of former civilisations, which will allow life in developing (1) countries to be improved by rediscovering the processes and techniques of the past, in order to improve everyday life of people in developing countries.

■ Found an ethical system for research within Human Sciences

enabling a better relationship between scientists and normal people. For example, our Arkéthique project has the objective of raising awareness about the obligations and rights of scientists towards ordinary people. This way, scientists have a better input into social debates, ensuring a better recognition of their work whilst making them aware that they have to be accountable to ordinary people.

■ Resolve social difficulties resulting from resentment dating back hundreds, if not thousands, of years

which historical distance can help to move beyond. It is thanks to archaeologists that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict could perhaps be resolved in favour of peace. Palestinian and Israeli scientists wanting to collaborate did get together clandestinely to stop the past from being a reason for disagreement, but a reason to unite. We contribute to spreading this example as well as others which show the importance of knowledge of the past and the scientific process to bring people together.

■ Assure recognition of volunteer archaeologists' work

which is often scorned by professional archaeologists. The case of Jean-Pierre Houdin who worked on the pyramid of Khufu and who is a member of our Committee of Honour is a typical example of this. Helping volunteer archaeologists be recognised allows an increase of research and consequently the possibility of really creating a society in which everyone has their own competences to add, whether they be manual or intellectual.

■ Recognising the importance of psychology in a society in which only the material counts.

Archaeological research produces knowledge which impacts on the construction of our identity. To deny it means regression compared to Antique Greek thought. If our societies are regressing, it is not a fatality. We would also like to contribute to changing that.

¹. The floodwater evacuation system known as a drainage system has existed in the 3rd century B.C. before being forgotten and only rediscovered in the 20th century.

**ArkéoTopia, is the emergence of a new structure
which gives a voice to everyone**

**— adults, children, ordinary people, scientists, politicians, students —
to help the development of a better, more informed society
in order to contribute to tomorrow's world.**

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