



From Dusk till Shelf: The Aphrodisias Archive at the Institute of Fine Arts, NYU

The documentation archive of Aphrodisias in Turkey is the key product of these excavations started by NYU in 1961. It comprises about 60.000 slides, ca. 20.000 digital pictures, more than 500 notebooks, hundreds of drawings, inventories of finds as well as annual reports of the excavations, and publications. In the past years numerous databases and other digital data were created.

By their nature, excavations are destructive; hence the Aphrodisias archive represents the unique and primary record of this investigation. As past excavations cannot be redone, the archive needs to be preserved and accessible in perpetuity. Archaeological methods, aims, and technologies changed over the decades long excavations. But the core product has always been the primary documentation data of the archive.

In general, archaeological work without archives is not possible. This is true for Aphrodisias as well; however, the challenges of the archive are many, such as storage facilities, accessibility and internal classification systems. These are the keys to make the archaeology of archaeology lasting.

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