

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF THE POLISH ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES IN KRAKÓW DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The article presents the fate of the Archaeological Museum of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU) during the Second World War. Already in the first months of the occupation the Germans suspended the institution. The Archaeological Museum was officially renamed Landesmuseum für Vorgeschichte. From that time until the liberation of Kraków in January 1945, it was subordinated to the regional educational authorities, that is the Main Department of Knowledge and Science (Abteilung Wissenschaft und Unterricht). Although supervised by German authorities, it remained a Polish academic institution. Its pre-war director Tadeusz Reyman was sent to a POW camp, but the collection remained under the care of the Polish staff. Thanks to lucky coincidences and the employees' commitment, the Museum's collections were preserved almost in their entirety. During the war, the Museum also housed the collections of several other Kraków institutions.

In spite of the difficult war conditions, the institution kept functioning as a museum and scholarly work was carried out in secret. Excavations also continued, in such places as Turbia in the Stalowa Wola district and Szaflary in the Nowy Targ district. The Archaeological Museum became involved in the activities of the Underground University, which organised lectures, tutorials and exams for students. Participation in the secret teaching was punishable by deportation to a concentration camp, but the classes were nevertheless held in rooms next door to Germans working in the same building.

In January 1945, the Germans left Kraków. In February, the pre-war director Tadeusz Reyman returned from captivity and institutional work started under his supervision. Already in November 1945 the Museum was opened for visitors.