



News memo
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Editorial

Those old showcases!

"Don't touch!" In every country, that's what museum attendants repeat all day long in all languages. For them, the showcase protects items from dust, time... and temptations.

Is that the way the visitor sees it? "To put under glass": the expression is quite clear: caution, precious and fragile objects, out of your reach, do not touch! In short: it's NOT for you.

But human beings are made in such a way that they do not perceive emotions only with their eyes! They need to touch. No wonder if they are attracted by what seems within reach, paintings (how distant they seem behind a pane of glass!), large sculptures... Too bad for our poor sense of touch, so sensitive to beauty and still frustrated! What can we do?

Museums act: they equip showcases with new anti-reflective glasses that change everything, because the object looks really within reach (have you seen those of Athen's National Museum?). Many offer practical "workshops" activities. There you can really touch.

To go further: some archaeologists enlist volunteer help on their digs. A nice school for learning patience "on the spot".

There are other ways to hold the past in the palm of the hand: you may give as a gift (or buy for yourself) one of those antiques that seem so inaccessible: an ancient coin, a small Greek pottery or a Roman glass juglet: indeed, it IS possible!

You can also approach ancient civilizations through their techniques (spinning, mosaics, etc.).. Publishers had the wonderful idea to market kits containing everything that is required for rediscovering ancient gestures, writing or spinning as ancient people did...

Since Xmas is coming soon, take advantage of it: take history in your hand. An emotion that no video game can give you!

René Kauffmann

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Xmas 2011: Archaeology as a gift idea

Archaeology still fascinates. The mysteries of Egypt, the Trojan war, gladiators, Pompeii ... such unforgettable images.

Looking for gift ideas? How about a nice historical visit as a family ? Check the museums in your neighbourhood, and see the educational entertainments they offer. Think also of books, which are often very attractive nowadays - how many generations have been charmed by great classics such as *Quo Vadis*, *The Last Days of Pompeii* or *Detectives in Togas*...

For those who are already mad about history, a training session as a volunteer in archaeological digs is not impossible. And though our website is and remains without any commercial purpose, we can not resist showing you these images from the web...



**Best season's wishes
and a Happy
Archaeological New Year !**



From 5 to 40 euros: coins (usually bronze), a nice selection of introductory kits, a Hellenistic unguentarium...



From 40 to 80 euros: beautiful and comprehensive kits, ancient coins, an Egyptian amulet or scarab...



From 80 to 130 euros: a small Greek pottery, a nice scarab, a Roman glass unguentarium...



New in November

We have fully restructured and supplemented our section [Archaeo-Passion](#), which now contains 3 parts, each one displaying useful advices for those who want to approach archaeology:

- [Own an artifact](#)
- [The Collector's corner](#)
- [Useful links](#)

You'll find other pages in the **french language section** :

- Be an [amateur archaeologist](#)
- [Act like Romans!](#)
- [High schooler's corner](#)
- ...and a [summary of laws](#) regarding archaeology.

Is anyone ready to adapt this in English?



Did you notice?

After a several months work, we completed our [Interactive map](#) of French archaeological sites and museums displaying archaeological collections. With the help and advice of many museum curators and teachers, we worked it all over, and also added some foreign sites and museums which are close to the french borders.



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