

THE BEAZLEY ARCHIVE

The Beazley Archive consists in photographs of vases and other classical antiquities; finished drawings by Beazley from Attic red-figure and black-figure vase-paintings; and Beazley's working notes. The Archive was purchased by the University of Oxford from Beazley in 1966, but left in his hands for as long as he wished to retain it. It was taken over by the University in 1970, the year of Beazley's death. It is in the care of the Lincoln Professor of Classical Archaeology and Art, and a post of Personal Assistant to the Professor in the Archive has been established by the University. Space is allotted to the Archive in the new and enlarged accommodation planned for the Ashmolean Library, but it has not been possible to find room for it in the present cramped Library quarters, and it is temporarily housed in two rooms (intended for other purposes) in the Cast Gallery. Much work was needed on sorting, mounting and arranging the material. This is still going on, but part is now ready for consultation, and visiting scholars and students are welcomed.

The material now available consists of the photographs of Attic black-figure and red-figure vases, arranged according to the lists in *ABV* and *ARV*² (supplemented in *Paralipomena*). Unattributed vases are arranged by shape. The collection was slowly built up from heterogeneous sources; it is far from complete and of very unequal quality, but is nevertheless of enormous range and value. We are gradually adding to it, and hope ultimately to make it a virtually complete collection of photographs of Attic black-figure and red-figure. The University allots a small sum for the purpose, and generous donations have been received from the Marc Fitch Fund; but the Archive must also continue to depend, as did Beazley himself, on the generosity of Museums and collectors in sending photographs. It is also hoped as a secondary aim, to build up other sections. A number of scholars have already made most valuable donations of photographic material and others are promised.

Availability It is not practicable to give free access to the Archive. Those who use it are asked to prepare lists of the pieces of which they wish to see photographs, and if these are in the Archive they will be made available. With the present restricted

accommodation and small staff problems may arise, and visitors are asked to communicate beforehand. It will certainly be available during University terms (mid October to mid December; mid January to mid March; late April to late June) and by arrangement at most other times, but high summer (August and early September) may sometimes be difficult. Communications should be addressed to the Beazley Archive, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

The photographs come from many sources (in most cases unrecorded), and the question of copyright arises. For this as well as for practical reasons there can normally be no question of providing photographic copies of photographs in the Archive. In exceptional cases, as when the Archive has the only traceable photograph of a lost or destroyed vase, a photograph may be provided for publication if the copyright position can be determined to the satisfaction of the University. A xerox copy of any photograph can always be provided for working use. For reasons of conservation Beazley's original finished drawings will not normally be made available, but photographic copies of them have been or will be placed in the appropriate places among the photographs, and photographs of these for publication will be available.

Beazley's notes, arranged by collections, are the working material on which his books are based. They are of great interest as indications of his method, but contain little actual information that is not more easily available elsewhere. They are also very perishable, being mainly in pencil, now often very faint, and are full of highly idiosyncratic abbreviations. It is clearly not possible to allow visitors to consult them themselves. Enquires about particular points in the notes on a specific vase can be checked by one of the staff.

It is hoped to make the Archive widely available as a valuable tool to scholars working in the great tradition established by Beazley. Any suggestions that might help towards this will be given grateful consideration.

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