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# Pioneers of Archaeological Stratigraphical Techniques: Luigi Bernabò Brea (1910-1999) and Giorgio Buchner (1914-2005)

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## Abstract

In the period between the two World Wars, characterized by a general decay in the archaeological practice of the Italian prehistorians, Luigi Bernabò Brea and Giorgio Buchner developed new and advanced methods of documentation and study of the archaeological stratigraphies.

While Buchner, born in Naples and son of a Deutsch geologist, developed his skills working on islands like Ischia, Vivara and Capri, Bernabò Brea, after a degree in Law, went to the Italian Archaeological School in Athens, where he participated to the excavation at Poliochni, the largest EBA settlement on the Lemnos island. Both scholars served as functionaries in the State Antiquity Service (Buchner at Naples, Bernabò Brea at Taranto) in the same years also if, contrarily to Bernabò Brea, Buchner never became Head of an Antiquity Office; in their scientific evolution a big role was played by Luigi Cardini, an amateur archaeologist with a solid naturalist background, who directed in 1941 - together with Carlo Alberto Blanc - the excavations of the Grotta delle Felci in Capri where the young Buchner participated, and helped Bernabò Brea between 1941 and 1950 in the exploration of the Arene Candide Cave, in Liguria.

In the late Forties Bernabò Brea (who in those years become Superintendent in Sicily) and Buchner collaborated in some excavations in the Aeolian Islands, in the Fifties while Bernabò Brea explored the big protohistoric settlement of Lipari acropolis and other sites of the archipelago writing an important page in the study of Italian Pre- and Protohistory, Buchner carried out the excavations of the necropolis of the Greek colony of Pithekoussai in the San Montano valley, at Ischia, a site which he devoted himself until his death.

The paper tries to analyze the characteristics of the archaeological approach to the stratigraphy of these two pioneers of modern Italian archaeology.

**Keywords:** Stratigraphy, archaeology, prehistory, Bernabò Brea, Buchner

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