

Proclamation of the winner of
4th Joseph-Déchelette European Archaeology Prize
within the framework of the European Archaeology Days
June 18, 2022



The 4th Joseph-Déchelette European Archaeology Prize was awarded on 18 June 2022 in the library of the Joseph Déchelette Museum (Roanne, F), to Thibaud POIGT, doctor of the Toulouse – Jean Jaurès and Bordeaux – Montaigne Universities. (photo by Guillaume Reich)

From left to right: Vincent GUICHARD, Director General of Bibracte and secretary of the prize; Gilles DÉCHELETTE, President of the Joseph Déchelette Association; Thibaud POIGT, winner of the 4th Joseph Déchelette European Archaeology Prize; Anne-Marie ADAM, Professor Emeritus at the University of Strasbourg, President of the Bibracte Scientific Council, President of the prize jury; Martin SCHÖNFELDER, researcher at the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum (Mainz), member of the jury; Jean-Jacques BANCHET, deputy mayor of Roanne in charge of culture, events and international affairs; Karim GERNIGON, regional curator of archaeology for Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes; Bruno YTHIER, director of the Joseph Déchelette Museum



Photo by Eneko Hiriart

The winner of the 4th Joseph-Déchelette European Archaeology Prize is Thibaud POIGT, doctor from the University of Toulouse – Jean Jaurès.

- The winner was chosen for the quality of her doctoral thesis in archaeology, devoted to "Weighing instruments in Western Europe during the Metal Ages (14th-3rd century BC). Design, uses and users". He was awarded a gratification of €10,000.
- The title of the prize refers to Joseph Déchelette, a scientist born in Roanne (Loire, F) in 1862, who died prematurely on the front line of the Great War in 1914. **Joseph Déchelette was one of the founders of European archaeology.**
- **The aim of the prize is to highlight the work of a young archaeologist**, by supporting him or her at a critical moment in the career of any researcher, the one following the defence of his or her doctoral thesis. Following a call for applications from November 2021 to February 2022, an international scientific jury met on 6 May to decide on the winner from 22 European candidates.
- **The jury's judgement** was as follows:

“Thibaud POIGT defended in 2019 at the universities of Toulouse – Jean Jaurès and Bordeaux – Montaigne a PhD thesis entitled: “Weighing instruments in Western Europe during the Metal Ages (14th-3rd century BC). Design, uses and users.” This thesis is original as much for its subject as for the analysis protocol used. **It offers a renewed vision of the exchanges and economy of protohistoric societies**, by developing a subtle archaeological and anthropological approach to apprehend the long history of the modalities of value measurement in societies without writing and institutionalised monetary systems.

The jury also particularly appreciated the ambition proposed by the laureate for the new research he intends to develop as an extension of his doctorate, as well as the perfect match between his application and the values associated with the Joseph-Déchelette Prize: European dimension of reflection, practical sense, intellectual rigour. The jury also noted that the prize winner is very involved in the life of the scientific community, through publications and numerous presentations at conferences.”



Thibaud POIGT at the presentation of the Joseph Déchelette European Archaeology Prize, 18 June 2022 (photo by Guillaume Reich)

Born in the village of Hastings in the Landes area (SW France), Thibaud POIGT has been interested in the material remains of ancient times since childhood. After a scientific education, he joined the History of Art and Archaeology degree at Bordeaux-Montaigne University in 2007. He then trained in research and fieldwork, notably with Alexis Gorgues on the site of Malvieu (Saint-Pons-de-Thomières, Hérault). It was with him that he began a Master's thesis devoted to the markers of production and exchange practices deposited in a funerary context during the Iron Age. The thesis already had a European dimension, as he was working on French and Spanish territories. This academic work led him to study the scale weights deposited in tombs from the Iberian period on the Valencian coast. He then noticed the heterogeneity of the data on the subject on a European scale: the subject of his thesis was then found! He wrote a first research project in 2013, then enrolled in an unfunded thesis at the University of Toulouse – Jean Jaurès in 2014, under the co-direction of Pierre-Yves Milcent and Alexis Gorgues. In 2015, he was awarded a one-month scholarship from the Casa de Velázquez (Madrid), which allowed him to travel around Spain to study weighing instruments kept in various museums and collections. The following year, he joined the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes Hispaniques et Ibériques* (EHEHI) of the Casa de Velázquez as a member for two years. He finally defended his thesis in September 2019, and published it in spring 2022 in the digital collection Dan@ of Ausonius Editions.

The Joseph-Déchelette European Archaeology Prize

- **A prize of 10,000 euros**

The prize is endowed with **€10,000**, distributed as follows: the Joseph-Déchelette association for €4,000, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication for €4,000 and the Römisch-germanisches Zentralmuseum (RGZM, Mainz) for €2,000.

In addition, **there are also a number of in-kind rewards** in the form of research stays in European institutions - the Musée d'Archéologie nationale (F), RGZM, Laténium (CH), Bibracte (F), not forgetting the library of the exceptionally rich Joseph-Déchelette Museum of Archaeology and Fine Arts.

- **The prize ceremony**

The prize is traditionally presented to the winner by the President of the Joseph-Déchelette Association during the European Archaeology Days in the library of the Joseph-Déchelette Museum of Archaeology and Fine Arts. The museum, located in the heart of Roanne, was the scholar's residence before his widow bequeathed the building and the library to the City.

- **The purpose of the prize**

The Joseph-Déchelette European Archaeology Prize has the ambition to fill a gap: such prizes are indeed very rare in this scientific discipline. Its award criteria include the values that distinguished Joseph Déchelette: open-mindedness, European dimension of reflection, intellectual rigour, practical sense. It is intended to be widely open to the international archaeological community. It concerns young researchers who have defended their doctoral thesis for less than two years, on a subject concerning European Protohistory (ages of metals). In order not to establish any restriction on the language in which the thesis is written, candidates are asked to provide a summary in French or English, as well as work prospects for the year following the award of the prize.

- **Partnerships**

For this fourth edition (the next one is planned for 2024) the Joseph-Déchelette association has benefited from partnerships with various French and European institutions:

- the French Ministry of Culture / General Directorate of Heritage
- the town of Roanne / Joseph-Déchelette museum of archaeology and fine arts (F)
- the Musée d'Archéologie nationale, St-Germain-en-Laye (F)
- the Römisch-germanisches Zentralmuseum (RGZM), Mainz (D)
- the Laténium, park and museum of archaeology, institution of the Republic and Canton of Neuchâtel (in association with the Maison Borel foundation) (CH)
- the French Association for the Promotion of Bronze Age Research (APRAB)
- the French Association for the Study of the Iron Age (AFEAF)
- the Prehistoric Society, London
- the European Association of Archaeologists, Prague (CZ)

as well as Bibracte EPCC / European Archaeological Centre (F), which provided the secretariat for the prize.

- **The jury**

The jury, chaired by **Anne-Marie Adam, Professor Emeritus of the University of Strasbourg and President of the Scientific Council of Bibracte**, included the following personalities:

- **Philippe Barral**, Professor at the University of Franche-Comté, President of the French Association for the Study of the Iron Age (AFEAF), representing the latter.
- **Gilles Déchelette**, President of the association Joseph Déchelette, representing the latter
- **François Fichet de Clairfontaine**, Inspector General of Architecture and Heritage, representing the French Ministry of Culture
- **Sophia Adams**, curator at the British Museum for the European Iron Age and the Roman Conquest Period, representing the Prehistoric Society.
- **José Gomez de Soto**, Emeritus Research Director at the CNRS, representing the French Prehistoric Society
- **Marc-Antoine Kaeser**, Professor at the University of Neuchâtel, Director of the Laténium, representing the latter
- **Claude Mordant**, Professor Emeritus at the Université de Bourgogne - Dijon, President of the French Association for the Promotion of Research on the Bronze Age (APRAB), representing the latter
- **Sandra Péré-Noguès**, lecturer at the Université Jean-Jaurès - Toulouse, qualified personality
- **Daniel Roger**, Assistant to the Director, in charge of scientific policy, representing the Musée d'Archéologie nationale
- **Martin Schönfelder**, researcher at the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum (RGZM), representing **Alexandra W. Busch**, General Director of the RGZM.
- **Vincent Guichard**, Managing Director and Scientific Director of Bibracte, Secretary of the Jury (without voting rights)

- **The previous prize winners**

- **2020: Marilou Nordez**

Marilou's PhD thesis defended in 2017 at the University of Toulouse Jean-Jaurès on *L'âge du Bronze moyen atlantique au prisme de la parure : Recherches sur les ornements corporels de France et des régions voisines (XVe-XIVe s. av. notre ère)* was the subject of a monographic publication. She currently holds a post-doctoral research position within the Celtic Gold research programme co-funded by the French and German national research agencies, which allows her to open her field of expertise to the Iron Age.

- **2018: Sasja Van der Vaart-Verschoof**

Sasja's doctoral research at the Universiteit Leiden (The Netherlands) focused on the burials of the Early Iron Age elite of the Netherlands. She is now a freelance consultant, combining archaeological research with editorial activities.

- **2016: Eneko Hiriart**

Eneko's doctoral research, defended at the University of Bordeaux-Montaigne, focused on economic and monetary practices between the Ebro and Charente rivers between the 5th and 1st centuries BC. He has now joined the ranks of the CNRS. He works in the Bordeaux Archéosciences laboratory.

Some markers

- **Who was Joseph Déchelette (Roanne 1862 - Vingré 1914)?**

Born in Roanne (F) in 1862, Joseph Déchelette carried out his research and archaeological work at the same time as his career as a captain of industry in the textile sector. After archaeological work in his native province, he undertook research on Gallo-Roman ceramics and then on the fortified sites of the late Iron Age from the excavations of the oppidum of Bibracte in Burgundy, which earned him recognition from researchers throughout Europe.

His Manuel d'archéologie préhistorique, celtique et gallo-romaine (4 volumes) remained unfinished and definitively confirmed his European influence as a specialist in prehistoric archaeology. Enlisted at his request in a fighting unit when he was 52 years old, he fell on the front line on 4 October 1914. His European recognition was expressed in the many personal and official messages of condolence that followed his death.

His professional activity in the cotton industry rubbed off significantly on his scholarly research, contributing to the originality of his outlook in an academic world usually focused on its studies. Moreover, his exceptional capacity for synthesis enabled him to invent protohistoric archaeology in the true sense of the word. This was in response to his conviction, original in the academic world, "that culture always follows in the footsteps of the economy and is maintained only at the price of exchanges: consequently, Joseph Déchelette was attached to the nature of relations between men rather than to their identity" (Serge Lewuillon).

=> Note the following books:

- **Joseph Déchelette, un précurseur de l'archéologie européenne**, under the direction of Sandra Péré-Noguès, Actes Sud (2014)
- **La construction d'une archéologie européenne (1865-1914), colloque en hommage à Joseph Déchelette (Roanne, 2014)**, under the direction of Sandra Péré-Noguès, Mergoïl (2019)

- **The association Joseph-Déchelette**

The Association Joseph-Déchelette was founded in 2010 at the initiative of his great-grand-nephew Édouard Déchelette(+), in order to maintain the memory of this great scholar and promote the discipline he loved. Its first actions were to prepare the commemoration of the Centenary of the death of Joseph Déchelette, in the form of an international colloquium to be held in 2014 in Roanne and a collective work: Joseph Déchelette, a precursor of European Archaeology. The institution of the Joseph Déchelette European Archaeology Prize is the logical continuation of these founding actions of the association.

Contact

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