

Book Review: Eve Gran-Aymerich, Dictionnaire biographique d'archéologie 1798-1945.

Préface de Jean Leclant, Paris 2001, CNRS Editions, 741 p.

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Electronic version

URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/bcrfj/1762>

ISSN: 2075-5287

Publisher

Centre de recherche français de Jérusalem

Printed version

Date of publication: 15 October 2001

Number of pages: 131

Electronic reference

Dominique Bourel, « Book Review: Eve Gran-Aymerich, Dictionnaire biographique d'archéologie 1798-1945. », *Bulletin du Centre de recherche français à Jérusalem* [Online], 9 | 2001, Online since 25 February 2008, connection on 04 May 2019. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/bcrfj/1762>

Book Review

Eve GRAN-AYMERICH, *Dictionnaire biographique d'archéologie 1798-1945*. Préface de Jean Leclant, Paris 2001, CNRS Editions, 741 p.

Following the *Naissance de l'archéologie moderne 1798-1945* (also published by the CNRS), in 1998, Eve Gran Aymerich now provides us with a remarkable work, at the crossroads of archeology and historiography. More than six hundred bio-bibliographical entries, in alphabetical order present the key protagonists in this field with its wide range of disciplines. There are numismatics, archeologists, pre-historians, travelers, geologists, epigraphists, explorers, painters, draftsmen and architects. They grappled with the past, Jerusalem, Athens, Rome, Ugarit, thought to be Nineveh, and so many other magic names that prompt one to work... and dream. French but also American, German, Italian and British, religious or agnostic, generous or frugal, recognized or scorned, they are described with elegance and erudition. Sons of the Enlightenment, heirs of progressive thought, the proud heralds of *Wissenschaft* and the modern managers of new technologies, these scientists have amassed an incredible amount of knowledge. A few women also played a key role in the growth of knowledge, even at times risking their lives, since one of them died in a flood in Petra ! These pages are an impartial testimony to all these lives devoted to discovery and truth. An indispensable tool.

Dominique Bourel