

The temporary exhibition galleries, the former church decorated in Byzantine style in 1881, now converted into an Assembly-room, the education workshops, the Restoration and Quaternary Fauna Laboratories, the stores and other sections of the Museum apart from a shop and a cafeteria occupy the first floor. A specialized library forms the heart of the building.

The exhibition galleries contain examples of testimonies that cover the life and labours of the first human societies from remote prehistoric times, Iberian culture and Roman epoch in the region of Valencia. The exhibition rooms dedicated to Palaeolithic, Palaeolithic Art, Neolithic and Metal Age occupy the first floor of the Museum. The materials exhibited on the second floor correspond to Iberian culture and Roman world.



The Library of the SIP contains nearly 48.000 volumes, with 1200 titles of journals covering the history of humanity from the earliest vestiges of men's presence until the Roman epoch with a special emphasis on Valencian area. The following services are available at the Library: the Reading room, bibliographic information, reprography and inter-library loan.



### THE PREHISTORY MUSEUM OF VALENCIA

Corona Street, 36  
46003 Valencia

Information Desk: 96 388 35 65  
Pre-booking of group visits: 96 388 35 79

### VISITING HOURS:

Tuesday-Sunday: 10:00-20:00  
Closed on Mondays

### LIBRARY OPENING HOURS:

Monday-Friday: 8:30-18:30  
Telephone: 96 388 36 00

BUSES: Lines 5, 28, 80, 81, 95



# THE PREHISTORY MUSEUM OF VALENCIA

## THE SIP AND ITS PREHISTORY MUSEUM

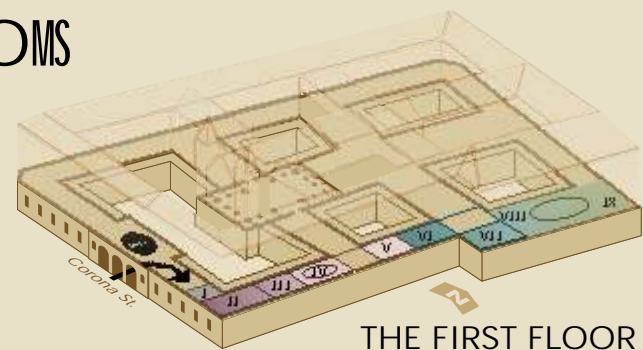
The Prehistory Research Service of the Valencia Provincial Council (the SIP) and its Prehistory Museum were created in 1927 as a scientific institution dedicated to historical and archaeological research, conservation and dissemination of Valencia's rich archaeological heritage. From its beginnings, the SIP has been carrying out fieldwork and excavations at such archaeological sites as la Bastida de les Alcusses (Moixent), la Cova Negra (Xàtiva), la Cova del Parpalló (Gandia) and el Tossal de Sant Miquel (Llíria). The scientific value of the materials found at these sites increased the museum's holdings significantly allowing the Prehistory Museum to retain its claim to be one of the most important in Spain. Valencia's archaeological studies are internationally known through publication of *Archives of Levantine Prehistory*, the monographs called *Serie Trabajos Varios* and the catalogues of exhibitions.



In 1982 the Prehistory Museum moved to the former *Casa de Beneficència* (Charity House). This three-storey building, constructed in 1841, consists of the ground floor, the first and the second floors organized around five courtyards.



# THE ROOMS



THE FIRST FLOOR

## The beginnings of Valencian Archaeology (Room I)

During the Renaissance, there was great interest in classical world. This led to the creation of the first Antiquities Departments with great emphasis on coins and inscriptions. The most important regional reference for our archaeological studies was the creation of the Valencia Archaeology Society and the manuscript written by Juan Vilanova y Píera, a popularizer of Prehistory studies in Spain.

## The first inhabitants (Room II)

After the process of man's development in Africa, humans came to Europe about one million years ago. The first known testimonies of man's presence in the Valencian region were found in la Cova del Bolomor (Tavernes de la Valldigna), dating from 400.000 years before the present. The process of evolution of Homo Neanderthal corresponds to the period between 150.000 and 35.000 years ago. The Neanderthal remains have been discovered in la Cova del Bolomor and la Cova Negra (Xàtiva). Other archaeological sites that provide us with testimonies of industries and faunal world typical of that period are la Cova de la Petxina (Bellús) and el Salt (Alcoi).

## The Master hunters (Room III)

The Upper Paleolithic was the age when our own subspecies, Homo Sapiens Sapiens arrived in Europe. The process began some 35.000 years ago and was characterized by the refinement of hunting techniques as well as the technological advances in bone and lithic tools. As a result different cultures emerged documented in la Cova del Parpalló (Gandía), Cova de les Malladetes (Barx), Cova de les Cendres (Moraira-Teulada), la Cueva del Vocán del Faro (Cullera) and la Ratlla del Bubo (Creventill).

## Paleolithic Art (Room IV)

The Upper Paleolithic saw the appearance of art: delicate, stylised animal designs painted on cave walls or engraved on bone and flat pieces of stone as well as decoration of bone tools or different types of personal adornments. La Cova del Papalló (Gandía) has provided a magnificent collection of more than 5000 engraved and painted limestone plaques presenting the evolution of techniques and themes typical of the societies of the Upper Palaeolithic between 25.000 and 10.000 years before the present.



Decorated limestone plaque from la Cova del Parpalló (Gandía). 18.000 years BP

Vase with impressed decoration from la Lloma de Betxí (Paterna). 1.800 BC



Jug with cardinal decoration from the Cova de l'Or (Beniarrés), 5.500 BC

## The last hunters: (Room V)

The age starting 10.000 years before Christ corresponds to Holocene. By the time of the period known as Epipalaeolithic the last remaining hunting societies developed. Their lithic tools were characterized by microlithic nature and geometric forms used for making arrows, the material examples of which have been found in la Cova de la Cocina (Dos Aguas) and la Covacha de Llatas (Andilla), between 7.000 and 5.000 years before Christ.

## The first farmers (Room VI)

By the time of the 10<sup>th</sup> millennia before Christ the first sedentary populations had emerged in the Near East, bringing with them the development of agricultural and livestock-raising economies. In the Valencian region farming was initiated approximately 5.500 years before Christ forming part of the extension of a new way of life along Mediterranean areas. The Neolithic was also characterized by the arrival of pottery and new tools made using polished stone, the remains of which have been found in la Cova de l'Or (Beniarrés) and la Cova de la Sarsa (Bocairent).

## Post-Palaeolithic Art (Room VII)

The paintings executed on the walls of rock shelters of el Pla de Petracos (Castell de Castells), la Sarga (Alcoi), el Barranc de la Valltorta (Tirig, Albocàsser and Coves de Vinromà), el Barranc de la Gasulla (Ares de Maestrat) and las Cuevas de la Araña (Bicorp) are the examples of artistic manifestations of the societies emerged in the fourth millennia before Christ and, above all, of the first Neolithic groups. In accordance with the forms and principal motifs they can be classified in three cycles denominated: Macroschematic art, Levantine Art and Schematic Art. The decorative motifs of some Neolithic ceramic wares of la Cova de l'Or (Beniarrés) and la Cova de la Sarsa (Bocairent) present striking similarity with these mural paintings.

## The arrival of the first metals (Room VIII)

From the III millennia BC onwards farming communities started to settle near croplands. Copper daggers, punches, javelin arrowheads and axes in addition to implements in silex, stone and polished stone can be observed at such settlements as la Ereta del Pedregal (Navarrés) and la Rambla Castellarda (Llíria). The increasing complexity of social groupings was manifested in funeral rites using natural caves as necropolises where offerings containing daily life objects and different classes of idols were placed as, for example, in la Cova de la Pastora. The practice of trepanation of skulls was also evidenced in this same cave. The bell beaker pottery appeared towards the middle of the II millennia before Christ.

## The Bronze Age (Room IX)

In the II millennia BC the Valencian lands were extensively populated with the predominance of small mountain-top settlements. The Valencian Bronze culture was characterized by generalized use of metal utensils, initially copper and later bronze ones. Materials found at such settlements as el Mas de Menente and la Mola Alta de Serelles (Alcoi), the pioneer excavations carried out in the first decades of the XX century, as well as materials gathered from more recent excavation campaigns undertaken at la Lloma de Betxí (Paterna) or la Muntanya Assolada (Alzira) correspond to this culture.



Vase with impressed decoration from la Lloma de Betxí (Paterna). 1.800 BC

Jug with cardinal decoration from the Cova de l'Or (Beniarrés), 5.500 BC

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