

## Archaeological research on the site known as Hannibal Wall



Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>

ERNST GÖHNER STIFTUNG

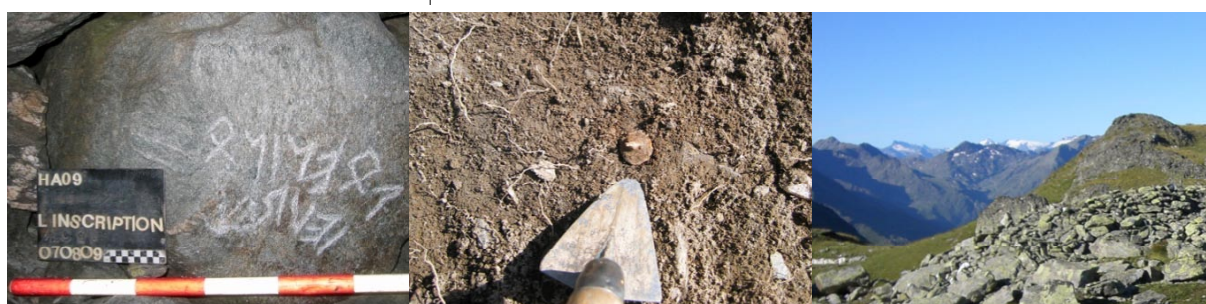


Fondation **UBS** pour la  
culture

Study and preservation of an  
outstanding alpine site

Research financing file

*The highest studied bastion of the European Iron Age was found at over 2600 m in the upper reaches of the valley leading to the Grand-Saint-Bernard, the most important antiquity mountain pass in Switzerland. Its study unveils some hitherto unknown events in the history of mankind in the Alps.*



## Summary

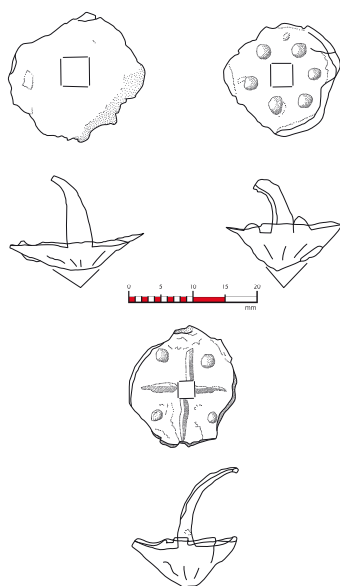
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Additional documentation can be downloaded from our website or be sent on request

## The site known as Hannibal Wall

*The Valais with the approximate boundaries of the native Iron Age populations. The arrow marks the site's spot.*

*Drawing A. Henzen and R. Andenmatten, TERA Sàrl.*



Liddes VS, site known as Hannibal Wall. Three of seventy roman military sandal nails.  
Drawing P.-E. Mottiez, RAMHA.



The site known as Hannibal Wall was built at an altitude of about 2650 m on a ridge on the eastern side of the Entremont valley, a little over 10 km north of the Grand-Saint-Bernard pass.

This dry stone defensive wall is almost 270 m long, by up to 2 m in height and 3.50 m in width, and encloses a compound of around 3500 m<sup>2</sup>.

Of the remnants of the about 40 small buildings found within and without this perimeter, 10 could be dated through radiocarbon and findings between the end of the Iron Age and the beginning of the Roman era (in the two last thirds of the first century BC).

## Contact

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*From ground research to touristic integration: a 6-year planned project.*

*Liddes VS, site known as Hannibal Wall. A rare finding of a Roman sickle, with a fragment still of its blackthorn wood shaft.  
Photo RAMHA 2015.*



## RAMHA

Archaeological research at the site known as Hannibal Wall (**R**echerches **A**rchéologiques sur le **M**ur (dit) d'**H**annibal)

The association RAMHA was founded in October 2011 in Liddes (VS) in order to finance the archaeological research at the site known as Hannibal Wall and to highlight it in a sustainable mountain tourism site.

An international interdisciplinary research group works on the project under the scientific caution of the Valais State Archaeology.

The municipality of Liddes, the Valais State and multiple private organizations and individuals (more than 50 so far) support the association.

Through a partnership with RAMHA can you not only show your care for the mountainside cultural history, but also participate to its study and preservation.

## The project: step by step

After some preliminary researches leading to a Master of Archaeology project in 2011, preparation works and two six-week planned excavation campaigns were led on the site in 2014 and 2015.

These high altitude (between 2650m and 3050m) interventions were also a unique outdoor educational opportunity for about ten Master students, coming from various universities in Switzerland.

The area of the site known as Hannibal Wall was declared an archaeological reservation after a third and last campaign in 2016. More than ten other hitherto unknown high altitude settlements or bastions were recently discovered though, and allow an integration of our research in a wider, regional to international context.

A symposium, an exhibition, a monography and a popularized booklet will conclude the project. In 2019 the site known as Hannibal Wall will be integrated in the local sustainable tourism offer.



*Thanks to partnerships between private and academical institutions, a unique educational opportunity to work in the field, supervised by experts, can be offered to Master students.*



*Liddes VS, Mur (dit) d'Hannibal.  
Digging site of the 6.50m by 2.50m  
building L005, with a fireplace in ist  
centre (darker, greyer zone).  
Photo RAMHA 2015.*



## Budget

Financial planning for the whole project

### Previous steps (2006 – 2012)

Microtopography, preliminary excavations, analyses

#### Goals achieved

Master's project, scientific paper 70'000.00 CHF

### Step A (2013)

Containers installation, helicopter transport

#### Goals achieved

On-site digging base 15'000.00 CHF

### Step B (2014)

First planned excavations campaign, analyses

#### Basic goals achieved

Excavation report, scientific paper 147'271.00 CHF

### Step C (2015)

2nd planned excavations campaign, analyses

#### Basic goals achieved

Field report, scientific paper 147'271.00 CHF

### Step D (2016)

3rd planned excavations campaign, analyses

#### Partially achieved goals

Field report, scientific paper 147'271.00 CHF

### Step E (2017-2019)

Writing, editing and printing of 500 copies

#### Goal

« Cahier d'archéologie romande »  
(around 275 p.)

132'750.00 CHF

### Step F (2017-2019)

Highlighting of the site

#### Goals

Interpretive space and educational tour 173'925.00 CHF

### Total costs

763'488.00 CHF

*Liddes VS, site known as Hannibal Wall. Armor scale of eastern tradition, probably imported in the Alps during the Roman era.  
Photo ConservArt Sàrl 2014*



## Our commitment

RAMHA commits itself to the study and preservation of an exceptional site, which offers an important potential for research and in situ highlighting (the bastion is one of the best preserved in the Alps).

The site could become a starting point for scientific researches and tourism development linked with the dense archeological and historical heritage of the Grand-Saint-Bernard region (various archeological sites of different ages, villages and towns listed as sites of national significance, connection between Martigny and Aoste, etc.)

You can furthermore show your support for:

- media coverage and awareness of the significance of the high mountain cultural heritage in order to ensure its preservation
- presentation of a study on and highlight of this heritage to promote further projects
- new research problematics and synergies in the Alps following transnational partnerships and between professional and academical circles.

*Liddes VS, (said) Hannibal Wall. Aerial view of the site, in the middle the digging base, to its left the wall itself.  
Photo Y. Bourqui, RAMHA.*

