

Franck Goddio

After graduating from the *École Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Économique* in Paris with a degree in mathematics and statistics, French underwater archaeologist Franck Goddio held key positions as a financial adviser to the United Nations and a number of national organisations for over fifteen years. In the early 1980s he decided to focus entirely on his passion for archaeology, and in 1985 he founded the *Institut Européen d'Archéologie Sous Marine* (IEASM) in Paris. Drawing on his long experience of detecting and recovering ancient shipwrecks, in 1992 Franck Goddio broadened his scope to include the search for the remains of sunken cities. He has developed and is constantly refining a unique approach to underwater archaeology, making him one of the world's leading marine archaeologists.

Over the course of the last twenty years, Franck Goddio has found more than fourteen sunken ships of historic importance, many of which had lain on the ocean floor for hundreds of years. Among his discoveries are Chinese junks dating from the 11th to the 15th century, the Spanish galleon *San Diego*, and Napoleon Bonaparte's flagship, *L'Orient*, sunk in the Battle of the Nile in 1798. Egypt is also the site of Franck Goddio's most important discoveries to date, namely parts of the ancient submerged royal quarter of Alexandria in 1996 and the lost cities of Heracleion and Canopus in the Bay of Aboukir in 2000.

Franck Goddio adheres the strict principles set out by the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage. He works in close co-operation with national and local authorities, archaeological experts and internationally renowned research institutes. In 2003 the Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology was founded in co-operation with Oxford University.

The Hilti Foundation has funded Franck Goddio's research projects for the last ten years. The underwater archaeologist is author of numerous books, scientific articles and publications on his research projects and excavations. Various exhibitions have presented the finds and made them accessible to a wide audience. In addition, the *Discovery Channel*, *Point du Jour* and *Spiegel TV* produced a series of TV documentaries that have been broadcast throughout the world.