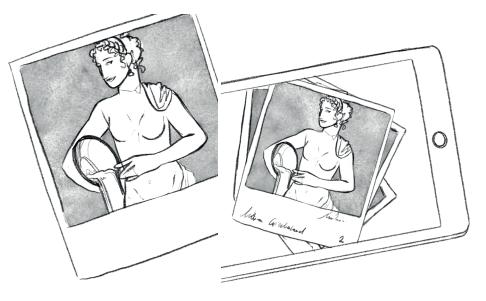


Case 3 The Torso

Investigative journalist Francesca Spadaro receives an email with a Polaroid photo of a fully preserved statue.

It is accompanied by a note stating that it could be the original condition of a torso currently being exhibited in Frankfurt.

She publishes an article in an Italian magazine that causes public interest. This attracts the attention of the supervisory authorities.



Starting clue 1

A Polaroid photo showing a fully preserved and supposedly ancient statue.

Starting clue 2

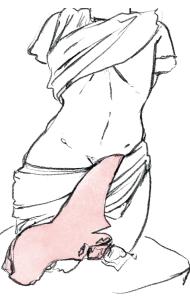
A digital Polaroid photo of a completely preserved statue that resembles the torso.



Starting clue 3

The collection of the Parpadu family is given as the official provenance of the torso in the catalogue of Frankfurt Museum. The family imported the object from Italy in 1941.





University 1

The torso fragment is lightly clothed. The figure is probably shown bathing. The remains of a dolphin's tail fin can be seen.



University 2

An employee of the Institute of Classical Archeology states that it is unusual for the fragment to be made of limestone. Similar statues are usually made of marble.

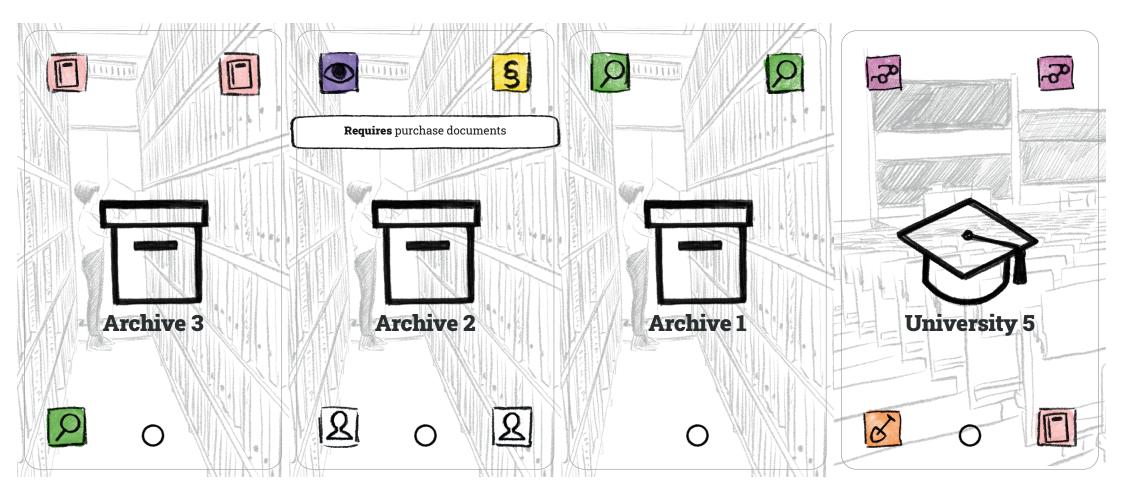
University 3⁷

In a museum in Leipzig there is a head made of limestone that could fit the torso.



University 4

A professor of Classical Archeology conducts a stylistic analysis. He estimates that the object was made around 425–400 BC.





University 5

An excavation of the university in Sicily had to be stopped in the mid-1980s for safety reasons.

Archive 1

The catalogue of Frankfurt Museum does not list any body parts that fit the torso.

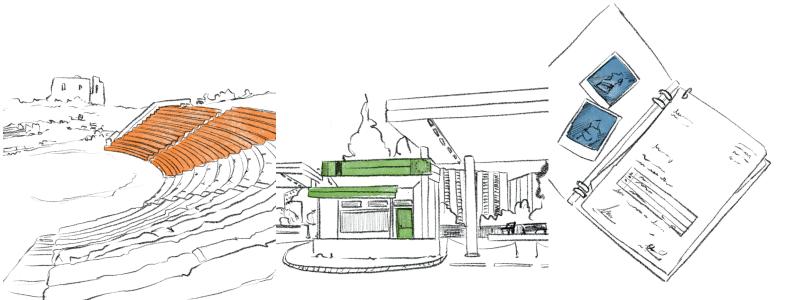
Archive 2

The object was purchased by the renowned London auction house "Fine Antiquities Premium" in 1998. The auction house had acquired the object in Italy in the same year.



A newspaper article from 1991 reports of increased illegal excavations in Sicily.





Archive 4

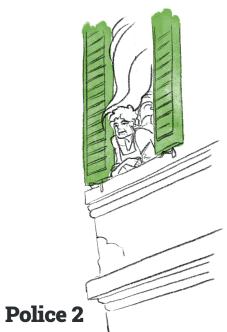
When the object was purchased, a soil analysis was carried out. "Morgantina" was entered as a probable excavation site.

Archive 5

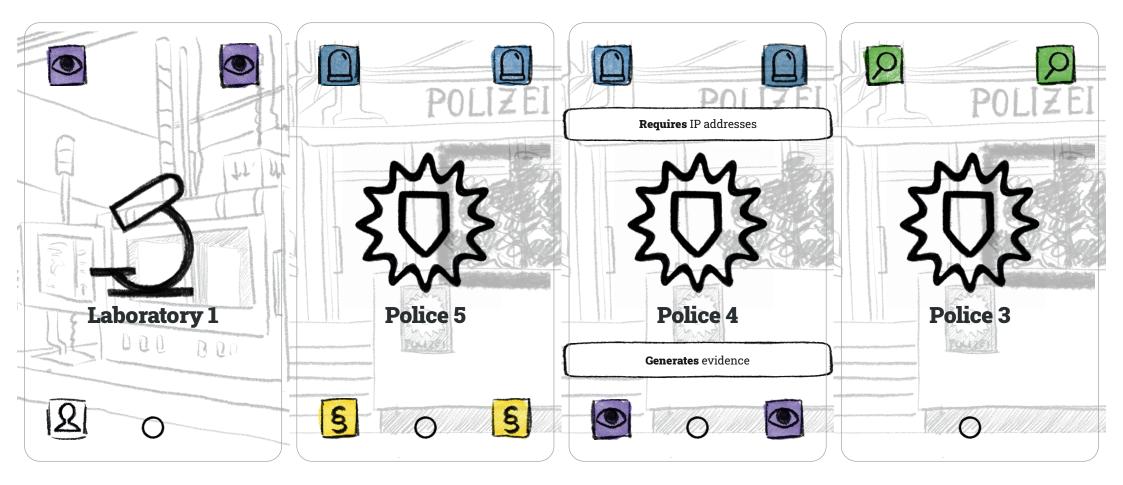
According to the Italian customs authorities, there are no export permits for the torso from the 1930s and 1940s.

Police 1

The museum provides copies of the purchase documents. Below is a Polaroid photo, in which only the fragment can be seen.



No one is left from the Parpadu family. But a former librarian of the family lives in a retirement home near Munich.



Police 3

The librarian does not remember the object belonging to the family collection.



The Carabinieri identify Salvatore Bas-

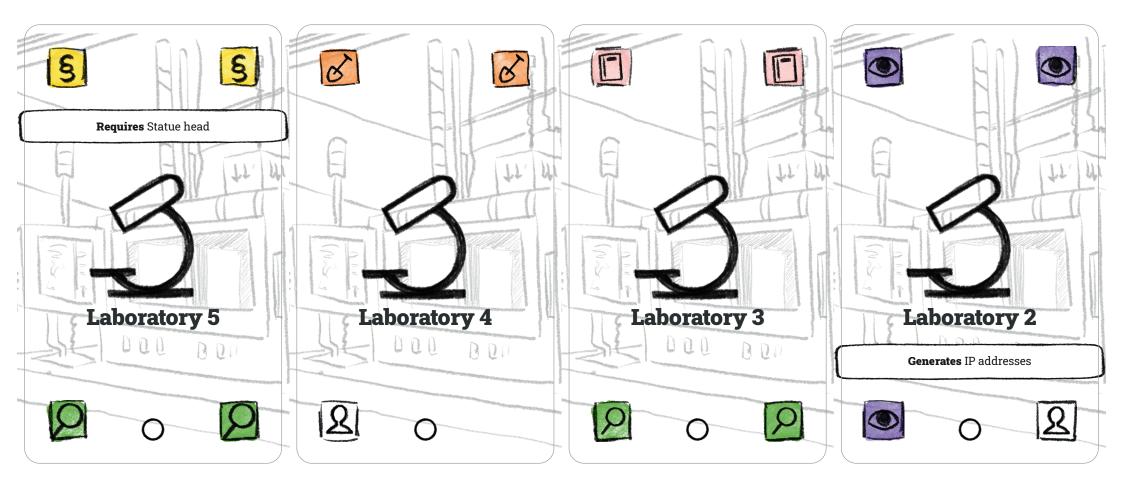
sotti as the sender. The Bassottis are a

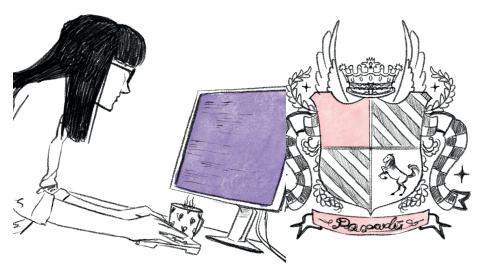
well-known Tombaroli family.

In interview, Salvatore Bassoti states that he has been out of the family business for years and that he sent the photo of the intact object to Francesca Spadaro. He was involved in illegal excavations in Morgantina in 1991.



The Polaroid photo turns out to be original and includes EXIF data. It was recorded at GPS coordinates 37°25′30″N 14°27′58″ E.



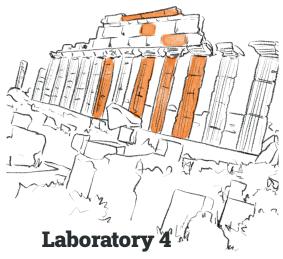


Laboratory 2

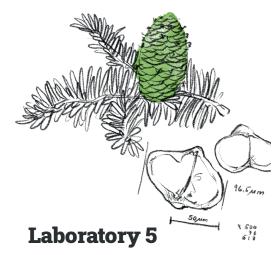
Using the provider of the email address from which the photo was sent to Ms. Spadaro, the IP address of the sender can be determined.

Laboratory 3

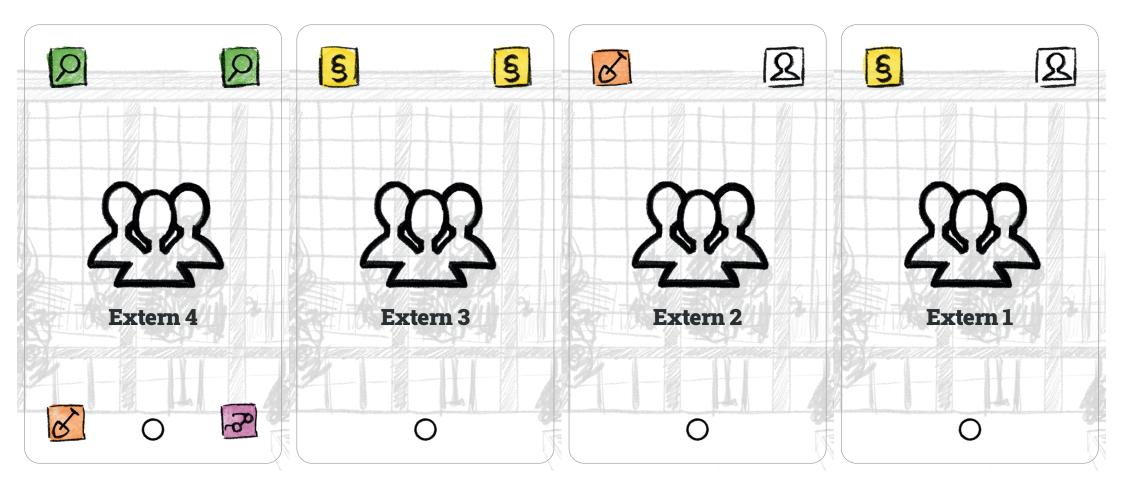
There are irregularities when the invoices are checked. The paper and ink of the documents are from the 1980s. The coat of arms of the Parpadu family shows a horse instead of a unicorn.

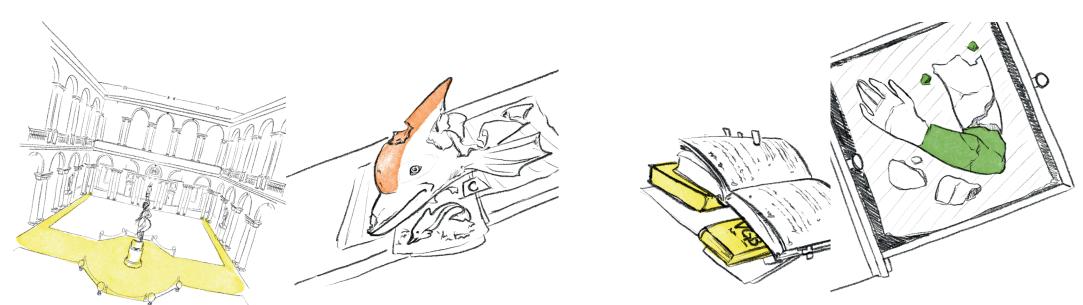


Geologists determine from rock samples of the torso that it is limestone from the area around Selinunte. There are microscopic traces of paint. The figure must have had a painted belt.



In the ears of the statue head, microscopic pollen grains of the plant *Abies nebrodensis* are found.





Extern 1

To export antiquities from Italy, an application for an official export permit must be submitted to the Ministry of Culture.

There has been an embargo since 1820.

Extern 2

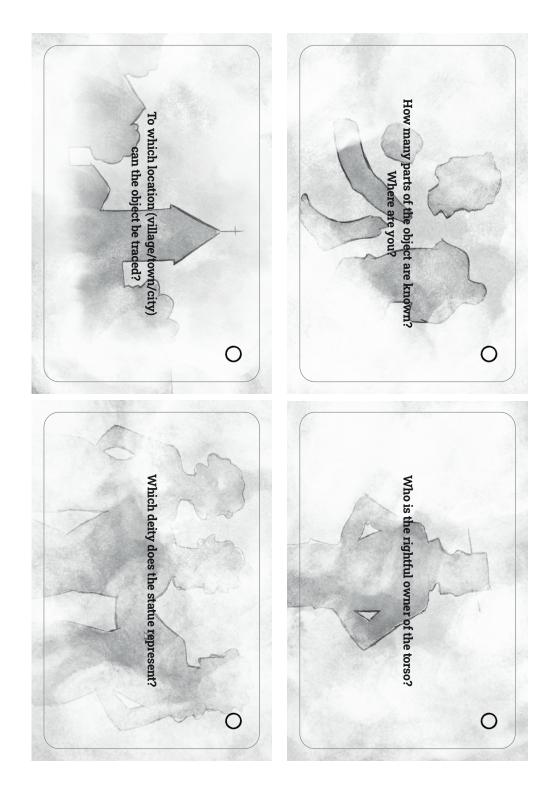
A museum in Munich has a fragment made of limestone with a dolphin's head. The object is estimated to date from the 5th century BC.

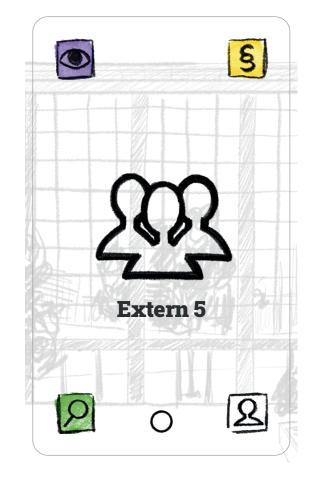
Extern 3

The state prosecutor refers to § 199 of the German Civil Code. He considers it unlikely that the case will be heard under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act.

Extern 4

There is a right arm that could fit the statue in a private collection in Naples. It is made of Carrara marble.





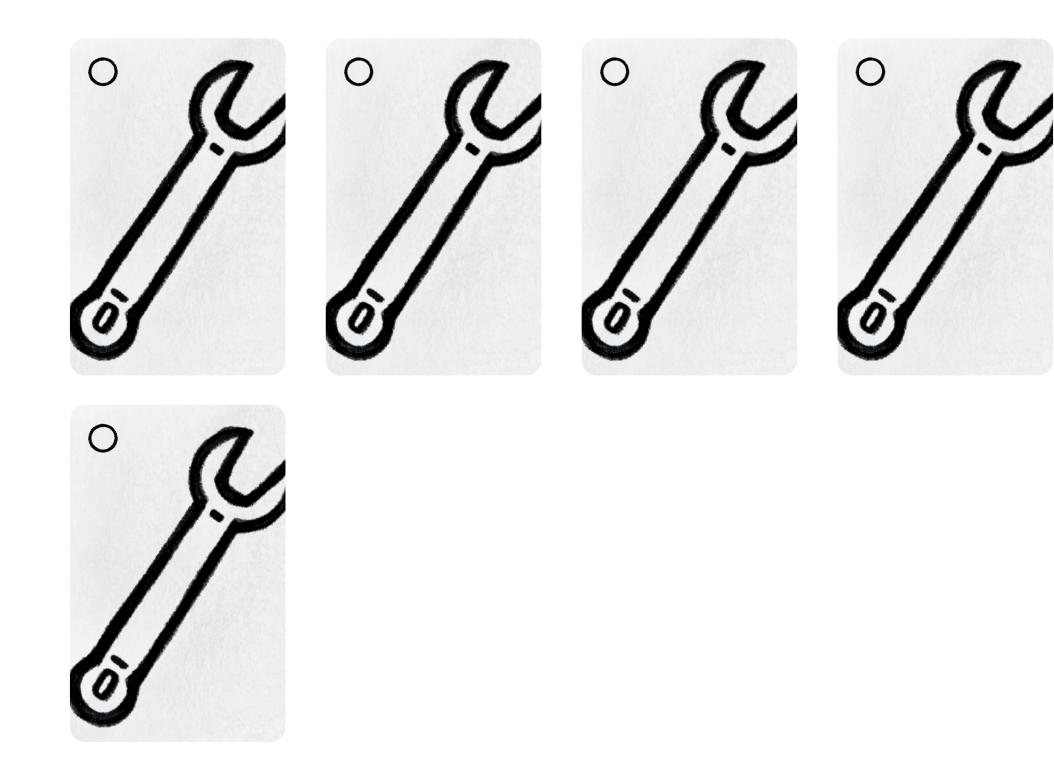


Extern 5

The Carabinieri carry out a raid on the Bassoti family. 13 Polaroid photos are found showing other statues in complete and disassembled state.

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ANNO ANNO



Statue head

The severed head of a statue that matches the torso.



Material assessment

Physical and chemical analysis of the material from which the torso is made.

Purchase documents

Archived documents proving the purchase of the torso.

IP addresses

Based on the date and time of the entry, the IP address of the sender of the email can be found.







Evidence

The evidence and photos collected by the police.

