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Italian Egyptologists through the Ages

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## Special Issue

# **Between History, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. Some results of the ASRT / CNR Bilateral Project 'History of Peace-building: peaceful relations between Est and West (11th - 15th Centuries)'**

Luciano Gallinari - Ali Ahmed El-Sayed  
- Heba Mahmoud Saad (eds.)

## RiMe 3 n.s. (December 2018)

### Special Issue

Between History, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.  
Some results of the ASRT / CNR Project 'History of Peace-building: peaceful  
relations between East and West (11th - 15th Century)'

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## Editorial

Luciano Gallinari

(CNR - Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea)

This Issue of the Journal *RiMe* celebrates its (first) 10 years of existence. In fact, the first volume was published in December 2008. Since then a lot of things have changed in *RiMe*.

Looking at its various volumes in a diachronic manner, we note that, alongside several more typically historical topics, the Journal has hosted several *Special Issues* with a monographic nature concerning other Humanities, such as Literature, or Disciplines at the boundary between Human Sciences and Exact Sciences, such as Architecture, for example.

Not to mention several incursions into the wide and interesting world of Social Networks or, again, Gamification and Public History.

The Journal has always paid great attention to a reliable and accurate dissemination of the results of Research in the civil society and, of course, in the Schools of all types and levels.

All this also in order to raise in the contemporary society the level of the debate on History and other Humanities, in the face of an ever-increasing risk of "presentification", and to make as many readers as

Con il presente numero la rivista *RiMe* festeggia i suoi (primi) 10 anni di esistenza. Infatti il primo volume uscì nel dicembre del 2008. Da allora molte cose sono cambiate in *RiMe*.

Osservando diacronicamente i suoi diversi volumi, si nota che accanto a numerosi temi più tipicamente storici la Rivista ha ospitato diverse *Special Issues* con carattere monografico riguardanti altre Scienze umanistiche quali la Letteratura, o discipline al confine tra Scienze Umane e Scienze esatte quali l'Architettura per esempio.

Per non parlare poi di diverse incursioni effettuate nel vasto e interessante mondo dei *Social Networks* o, ancora, della *Gamification* e della *Public History*.

La Rivista ha prestato sempre una grande attenzione anche a un'attendibile e accurata disseminazione dei risultati delle ricerche nella società civile e, ovviamente, nelle Scuole di ogni ordine e grado.

Tutto ciò anche al fine di innalzare nella società contemporanea il livello del dibattito sulla Storia e le altre Scienze Umane, dinanzi a un

possible can reach every content of *RiMe*, now accessible totally free of charge.

Precisely in accordance with the aims pursued since the the creation of the Journal 10 years ago.

In order to celebrate this first important Journal's anniversary in an even more appropriate way, we decided to adopt the Content Management System (CMS) "OJS". This choice is due to two of our objectives: 1) to adapt *RiMe*'s contents to parameters now very common at international level with regard to scientific Journals, and 2) to further increase the indexing and visibility of the essays hosted in it.

Currently, the last three issues have been uploaded to the new CMS, those marked "n.s.", i.e. "New Series" published in the last year, starting from December 2017.

Progressively all the previous 18 Issues will be uploaded in the new CMS, thus reaching a total of 27 Booklets.

rischio sempre crescente di "presentificazione", e di far raggiungere al maggior numero possibile di lettori ogni contenuto di *RiMe*, ormai accessibile in maniera totalmente gratuita. Proprio in ottemperanza delle finalità perseguite dalla creazione di questa rivista ormai 10 anni fa.

Per festeggiare in maniera ancora più adeguata questa prima importante ricorrenza della rivista, abbiamo deciso di adottare il Content Management System (CMS) "OJS". Tale scelta è dovuta a due nostri obiettivi: 1) adeguare così i contenuti di *RiMe* a parametri ormai molto diffusi a livello internazionale in riviste di carattere scientifico e 2) incrementare ulteriormente l'indicizzazione e la visibilità dei saggi ospitati in essa.

Attualmente sono stati caricati nel nuovo CMS gli ultimi tre numeri, quelli caratterizzati dalla dicitura "n.s.", ossia "nuova serie" pubblicati nell'ultimo anno dal dicembre 2017.

Progressivamente saranno inseriti nel nuovo CMS tutti i precedenti 18 numeri, arrivando così a un totale di 27 fascicoli.

*Ad Maiora*

Cagliari, 31 Dicembre 2018

## Introduction

Luciano Gallinari

(CNR - Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea)

Ali Ahmed El-Sayed

(Damanhour University, Egypt)

Heba Mahmoud Saad

(Alexandria University, Egypt)

This issue of *RiMe*, with which the Journal celebrates its (first) 10 years of existence, is once again, a *Special Issue*. In this case, it is dedicated to the topic of relations between Italy and Egypt and, more generally, between the Western World and the Islamic one in a chronological span that goes from the High Middle Ages to the beginning of the Modern Age, a theme at the heart of the Bilateral Project ASRT (Egypt) / CNR (Italy) "*History of Peace-building: peaceful relations between East and West (11th - 15th Century)*", financed for the years 2016 - 2017, whose scientific managers were, for the Egyptian side, Prof. Ali Ahmed Mohamed El-Sayed, from the University of Damanhour, and Dr. Luciano Gallinari, from the CNR-Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea, for the Italian one.

The same historical and historiographic themes were discussed by Egyptian and Italian researchers in the context of three other workshops, two of which were organized in Rome in February and December 2017 ("Historiographic reflections on the medieval relations between Muslims and Christians"), and the third and last one in Alexandria ("Egypt and Italy: Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Tourism and Peaceful Relations") always in December 2017.

The volume contains some articles by Italian and Egyptian researchers of the above mentioned Bilateral Project that fit in the wake of themes already examined at the International Conference *Peace Building between East and West (XI-XVI c.)*, held in Cairo on 27 October 2016.

Alongside an essay dedicated to the important theme of the profound change recorded in the settlement policies in the Late Ancient and Early Medieval Mediterranean, strongly affected by the rapid and large expansion of Islam, there is another text that examines the stimulating figure of the Priest John in relation to the Crusades, from the dual Christian and Muslim perspective.

The third essay is dedicated to a theme of great importance: the relationship between the Roman Curia and the Mamluk Sultanate at the time of Innocent

VIII (1484-1492). A pope who played an anything but a secondary role also in the setting up of Christopher Columbus' "discovery" enterprise, also aimed at breaking that sort of "encirclement" sensation on the part of the Islamic World that Christianity felt at the end of the Middle Ages.

This volume also includes six other scientific essays, three by Italian researchers and three by Egyptian researchers dedicated to the theme of Cultural Heritage and its management for cultural tourism purposes in Italy and Egypt. I will not talk about them because it will be done by Prof. Heba Mahmoud Saad in her pages of this Introduction, but I will just say that the idea of this booklet and other initiatives that will take place in the next two years of the aforementioned Bilateral Project (2019 - 2020) came to me during a stay in Alexandria, Egypt, in October 2016 after meeting the aforementioned Prof. Saad who very kindly accompanied me on a tour of that beautiful Egyptian city.

On that occasion, we talked for a long time about the rich cultural heritage of our two countries and the idea of increasing scientific collaboration between us was born. This volume is a first, small piece of this collaboration, which confirms how this Journal can be a forum for discussion and debate on the important issue of Dissemination of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage, which is one of the main aims of *RiMe* since its creation.

Finally, the volume contains an interesting archaeological essay dedicated to the medieval *villa* of Santa Gilla (or Santa Igia, in other sources) probably located within the lagoon of the same name a few kilometers from the Roman and Byzantine city of *Karales* located below a part of the centre of the current city of Cagliari. The author of this essay presents an interesting and stimulating proposal for the identification of this *villa*, attested in the sources from 1070 and seat of the judges of Calari, who were from an institutional point of view the most direct heirs of the previous Arconti / Giudici di Sardegna mentioned in the Byzantine and papal sources of the 9th and 10th centuries A.D.

The volume is closed by some Book Reviews of recent publications on Medieval and Modern History.

Luciano Gallinari

\* \* \*

It is an honor to participate in the introduction of the special issue of *RiMe* journal which is dedicated to publish part of the results of the Egyptian-Italian (ASRT/CNR) research project entitled "History of Peace-Building: peaceful relations between East and West (XI<sup>th</sup> – XV<sup>th</sup> Century)"

The project focuses on the significance of the relations between Western Europe and the Islamic East and the efforts which were made towards peace-building from the eleventh to the fifteenth century, although that period was considered as the most serious stage in the conflict between the East and West, Islam and Christianity in the Middle Ages.

During the two-years of cooperation many activities and events were organized between the Egyptian and Italian partners: In October 2016, an international conference was organized by the Egyptian partners and was hosted by the Supreme Council of Culture aiming to compare the results of our research. It was followed by a workshop held in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, in collaboration with the Italian Principal Investigator; Dr. Luciano Gallinari.

In February 2017, Prof. Aly El-Sayed and Dr. Abdallah Al-Naggar, two members of the Egyptian research team, visited Rome and participated in a workshop hosted by Istituto Storico Italiano per l'Età Moderna e Contemporanea. Another workshop was also organized by the Italian team headed by Dr. Luciano Gallinari between 10-15 December. During that workshop which was held in Rome, the Egyptian participation was represented by Prof. Aly Al-Sayed, Dr. Abdallah Al-Naggar and Mr. Ahmed Sheir.

Considering the international interest in heritage and the common heritage shared by Egypt and Italy; a special workshop was devoted for that topic in 17 December, 2017. During the workshop, which was held in Alexandria and organized by Prof. Heba Saad together with Dr. Luciano Gallinari, Egyptian and Italian researchers presented papers, focusing on heritage as an aspect of peace-building and potential for sustainable development.

The results of the Bilateral Project were disseminated by various publications. The first is a multilingual (English-Arabic-Italian-Hungarian) book, entitled *Relations between East and West - Various Studies: Medieval and Contemporary Ages*, which contains all papers compiled by both research teams. This volume contains 11 papers in addition to a preface. The papers were prepared by 6 Egyptian researchers, 4 Italians, and 1 Hungarian. The current issue of *RiMe* is the second publication containing 3 papers on history (2 Italian researchers and 1 Egyptian), 6 papers on heritage (3 Italian researchers and 3 Egyptians) in addition to 1 focus and 3 book reviews.

Within the next few weeks, the third publication will be issued in the form of a book which presents histories of peaceful coexistence between various people, empires, cultures and religions from the Middle Ages to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The authors examined the contact points of different cultures from the Byzantine Empire, through the Trebizond Empire period and into the Seljuk Sultanate. The book also presents insights into the peaceful coexistence between

Egyptian Copts and Muslims in the period from 1882 to 1952. Researchers from Egypt, Italy, Germany, and Hungary participated in this work.

Ali Ahmed El-Sayed

Peaceful relation between East and West is an important topic that attracted the attention of both Egyptian and Italian researchers to work on. Thus; a formal research project was established between CNR and ASRT entitled "History of Peace-building: peaceful relations between East and West (11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Century). The current issue of *RiMe* is dedicated to publish some results of that project.

Leaving aside the first part of the Issue, already presented by Luciano Gallinari, I will focus on the second part of it which is dedicated to heritage since the Egyptian and Italian partners of the project believe that this wide and yet diverse aspect insures the deep relations between Egypt and Italy. The Italian contribution in the creation of the modern Egyptian heritage is unquestionable and the Egyptian heritage presented in Italy is irreplaceable; thus, heritage can provide a common ground for planning for the future. It ensures sustainable development of tourism and can strengthen the future relations between the two countries. Due to that importance of heritage a special seminar was organized in Alexandria in December 2017 to discuss Egyptian-Italian heritage and how it can be another aspect of peace-building between the two countries.

Many papers were presented in the seminar and 6 of them were chosen to be published in the current issue of *RiMe*. Sandra Leonardi's paper is entitled "*The cultural places' valorization through new models of tourism*" and it focuses on the sustainable tourism as one of the principles of economic development. The paper sheds light on new forms of tourism aiming at enhancing, integrating environmental sustainability of the landscape, cultural heritage and environmental resources by identifying their potential value and making them attractive.

Sara Carallo's paper which is about "*Digital Cultural Heritage and Tourism: Valle dell' Amaseo Web Portal*" presented a cultural heritage project executed in Valle dell' Amaseo to encourage the local community participate in the development of the cultural heritage. The project focuses on the census of cultural and environmental heritage and on the creation of tourist travel routes aiming at promoting sustainable mobility and improving accessibility through the proposal of alternative routes.

An innovative approach of using cultural heritage was presented by Luisa Spagnoli - Lucia Grazia Varasano in their paper "*Unused railways for a planning idea- A Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage*". They proposed the idea of the

transformation of two railways of Basilicata Region – the Lagonegro-Spezzano Albanese and the Matera-Montalbano Jonico, – which have a historical, cultural and environmental important value. The paper suggests that the reusing of these abandoned railways can have effects on the territory crossed, on the places, on the historical settlements, activating a special type of “experiential” tourism and other innovative forms of it. Such an experience can also represent an extraordinary Intangible and Tangible Cultural Heritage experience.

Another idea of using the tangible and intangible heritage for the benefit of tourism is proposed by Heba Saad in her paper *“Thematic walking tours in Alexandria as a way to discover its heritage: Case study of Italian heritage in Alexandria”*. The paper sheds light on the role of the Italian community in the creation of both the tangible and intangible heritage of the cosmopolitan city; Alexandria. The paper presented thematic walking tours as a way to discover the vivid Italian heritage of Alexandria; proposing a wide range of themes to present that heritage and the different routes of such tours.

Heba Said and Sherine Hamid in their paper *“Community participation in heritage sites tourism planning: Case study Dahshur mobilization plan”* explained the essential role of community participation in the planning, development and conservation of heritage sites. They applied their study on one of the sites in Egypt; “Dahshur World Heritage Site” to investigate the local community participation. The study proved that the residents had a positive perception of the participation experience which empowered them to influence the decision making process, enhanced their quality of life, created job opportunities and improved their skills.

In her paper *“Italian Egyptologists through the Ages”* Reham El-Shiwy looked at heritage from a different prospective focusing on how part of the Egyptian heritage was discovered in the past by Italian archaeologists, explorers and missionaries. The paper sheds light on the efforts of famous Italians such as Ippolito Rosellini, Giovanni Battista Caviglia, Belzoni, Ernesto Schiaparelli, Silvio Curto and others; highlighting their findings in Egypt and discussing their participation in the field of Egyptology.

Heba Mahmoud Saad



## Italian Egyptologists through the Ages

Reham El Shiwy  
(Alexandria University, Egypt)

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### *Abstract*

Starting from the nineteenth century A.D many archaeologists, explorers and missionaries found their way to Egypt to gather information about its history and monuments. Italians in particular had great interest in travelling to Egypt and exploring its archaeological sites, and have contributed to the advanced knowledge of Ancient Egypt. On top of the list of these explorers the name of Ippolito Rosellini (1800-1843) is always mentioned as the founder of Egyptology in Italy. Other names are also much known, such as Giovanni Battista Caviglia (1770-1845), Giovanni Battista Belzoni (1778-1823), Bernardino Drovetti (1776-1852), Ernesto Schiaparelli (1856-1928), Fabrizio Sergio Donadoni (1914-2015,) Silvio Curto (1919-2015), etc.

The present article focuses on the history of these prominent Italian figures, including the most famous early explorers of the nineteenth century as well as some of the modern Egyptologists of the twenty and twenty-first century A.D, discussing their work and participation in the field of Egyptology.

### *Keywords*

Italian travellers; Egyptology; Excavations.

### *Riassunto*

A partire dal XIX secolo A.D. molti archeologi, esploratori e missionari si sono recati in Egitto per raccogliere informazioni sulla sua storia e i suoi monumenti. Gli italiani in particolare avevano grande interesse a viaggiare in Egitto e a esplorare i suoi siti archeologici, e hanno contribuito alla conoscenza approfondita dell'antico Egitto. In cima alla lista di questi esploratori, è sempre citato il nome di Ippolito Rosellini (1800-1843) come fondatore dell'Egittologia in Italia. Altri nomi sono ugualmente molto noti, come Giovanni Battista Caviglia (1770-1845), Giovanni Battista Belzoni (1778-1823), Bernardino Drovetti (1776-1852), Ernesto Schiaparelli (1856-1928), Fabrizio Sergio Donadoni (1914-2015), Silvio Curto (1919-2015), ecc.

Il presente articolo si concentra sulla storia di queste importanti personalità italiane, comprendendo i più famosi esploratori dell'800 e alcuni dei moderni egittologi del XX e XXI secolo A.D., analizzando la loro opera e la loro partecipazione nel campo dell'Egittologia

### *Parole Chiave*

Viaggiatori italiani; Egittologia; Scavi archeologici.

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1. *Introduction.* - 2. *Italian Explorers in the Early Nineteenth Century.* - 3. *Modern Egyptologists in the Twenty and Twenty-First Century.* - 4. *Modern Egyptologists in the Twenty and Twenty-First Century.* - 5. *Conclusion and Recommendations.* - 6. *References.* - 7. *Curriculum vitae.*

### 1. *Introduction*

Ancient Egyptian civilization was always a valuable source of interest to the ancient and modern cultures. In the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries many travellers visited Egypt out of curiosity and interest rather than discovering and exploring its monuments. During the eighteenth century, when Napoleon's forces invaded Egypt, first hand access to ancient Egypt flourished, and a new path to the awareness of this mysterious civilization at last started. Travellers and experts poured into Egypt and explored the great antiquities of the Nile. In the meantime Mohammed Ali Pasha, a Turkish Albanian commander came first to Egypt in order to fight against the French forces in 1799 and was able to specify the country in 1818 after years of civil wars. Unlike his predecessors the Pasha was eager for Western knowledge. From this time on, in the first quarter of the nineteenth century many of the pioneers of Egyptian archaeology, explorers of the Nile valley, visitors and artists were welcomed to Egypt for the rediscovery of the great monuments of the country. Hence, simple accounts devolved into accurate descriptive geographical catalogues of ancient sites and monuments and their inscriptions, which would be produced for the first time. These documents provided at last a foundation, upon which modern Egyptology could begin to build. Many of these explorers, who recorded and documented the monuments were Italians (Donadoni - Curto - Donadoni Roveri, 1999, p. 115; Lehner, 1997, pp. 47-48; Reeves, 2000, p. 11).

### 2. *Italian Explorers in the Early Nineteenth Century*

The first Italian explorer to travel to Egypt was Bernardino Michele Maria Drovetti. He was born in 1776 in Barbania, near Turin in the kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia. He studied law in the University of Turin. Drovetti later gained the French nationality and joined the Grande Armée. He accompanied the French campaign in Egypt (1798–1799) and fought with Napoleon's forces. Later Drovetti became the French Consul-General in Egypt during the period

from 1802 to 1814, regaining the post in 1820 after Henry Salt<sup>1</sup> was appointed British Consul-General in 1816. He became a close collaborator of Egyptian Viceroy Mohammed Ali Pasha, and had a role in some of the latter's administrative reforms (Dawson, 1972, p. 90; Casini, 2001, p. 41). In 1820 he was granted the title of Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Legion d'Honneur.<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 1)

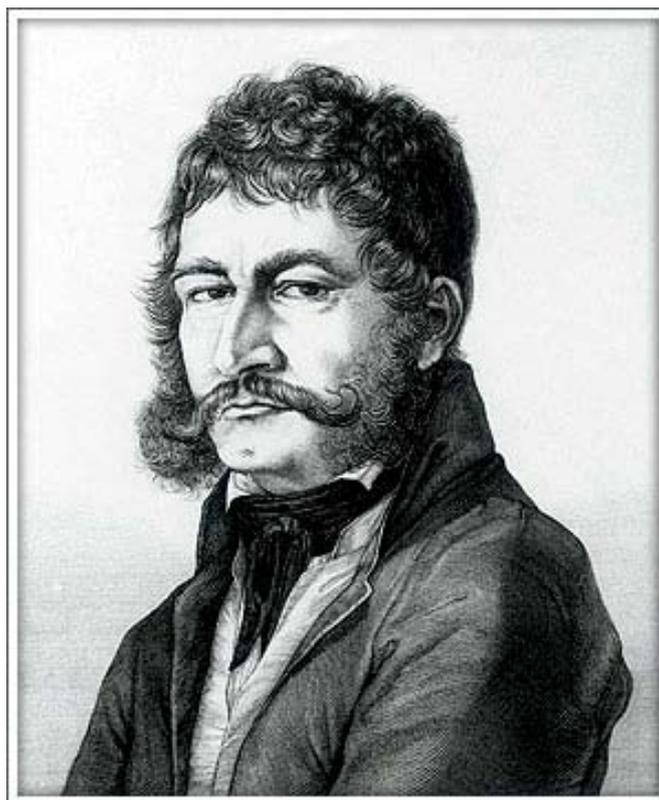


Fig. 1. A portrait of Bernardino Drovetti painted by the German scholar Franz Gau. After Sergio Donadoni - Silvio Curto - Anna Maria Donadoni Roveri, 1999, p. 115.

During his stay in Egypt, Drovetti became a passionate collector of Egyptian antiquities besides being a diplomat. He financed excavations and gathered large amounts of artefacts, particularly from Luxor, where he was very active.

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<sup>1</sup> Henry Salt had been trained as an artist and travelled extensively in the East. Drovetti was particularly hostile against Henry Salt. Lehner, 1997, p. 47.

<sup>2</sup> Full name of the grant is "National Order of the Legion of Honour" (French: Ordre national de la Légion d' honneur). It is the highest French order of merit for military and civil merits, established in 1802 by Napoléon Bonaparte. Roederer, 2008, pp. 101–102.

However Drovetti's excavations were not restricted to Thebes, but included other sites as well. A particularly rich site was Saqqara, where Drovetti discovered the tomb of the General Djehuty, who worked under king Tuthmosis III from the New Kingdom. The tomb equipment included various treasured objects that have been sent to various museums outside Egypt. Unfortunately the contents of the tomb were dispelled by Drovetti and his team without any records. The most remarkable finding in the tomb was Papyrus Harris, a document recording the tale called "The capture of Joppa", which recounts an episode of Tuthmosis III's campaign in Syria (Reeves, 2000, pp. 30-31). This Papyrus is preserved now in the British Museum in London.

Drovetti sold his findings in Europe to finance more excavations. His first collection, sold to King Charles Felix of Sardinia in 1824 became the first core of the future Museo Egizio in Turin. Among the treasures was the valuable Turin Royal Canon papyrus, a historic source of kings' list dating to the reign of Ramesses II, and which was discovered by Drovetti at Luxor in 1820. King Charles X of France acquired another collection, which is now housed at the Louvre Museum in Paris. Drovetti's third collection was obtained by Karl Richard Lepsius in 1836 and moved to Prussia to be stored in the Egyptian Museum of Berlin. Later on, Drovetti returned to Italy, where he spent some time in a mental institution at Turin. Drovetti died at the age of 76 in March 5, 1852 (Dawson, 1972, p. 90; Donadoni - Curto - Donadoni Roveri, 1999, p. 115; Reeves, 2000, p. 31).

During the same period, Italy produced two exceptional antique-collectors, who shared first names. Giovanni Battista Caviglia, and Giovanni Battista Belzoni. Caviglia was born in Genoa in 1770 and started his career as a merchant captain sailing most of his life in the Mediterranean. Although he was uneducated for the most part of his life, he became interested in Egypt and in collecting artefacts. He managed to find a new career as an explorer and offered his services to several European antiquity collectors. In 1816 he left his ship in Alexandria and moved to Cairo (Dawson, 1972, p. 90; Reeves, 2000, p. 31).

Most of the excavations were financed and carried out on behalf of the British consul Henry Salt. Caviglia was the first to carry out major excavations on the Giza Plateau from 1816 to 1819. He succeeded in exploring the Great Pyramid of Khufu and was able to discover "Davison's Chamber" hoping to find a secret room. In 1817 he managed to descend into the vertical shaft known as the well, and was able to prove the connection of the well with the descending passage, which gave access to the workmen to escape after the ascending passage was sealed. Afterwards he found the unfinished Subterranean Chamber located in the Great Pyramid as well. Soon, after his discoveries in the Great Pyramid he turned to clearing the Sphinx. During his

work, he managed to find a small open-air chapel between the monument's forepaws, which held the famous Stela of Tuthmosis IV. (Fig. 2)



Fig. 2. The open-air chapel between the forepaws of the Sphinx, with the granite Stela of Tuthmosis IV at Giza. After (<http://giza.fas.harvard.edu/sites/2080/allphotos/>) (Access 15 August 2018)

He also discovered fragments of the beard of the Sphinx, one piece of which is now in the British Museum. Caviglia's excavations included an exceptional discovery at Memphis. In 1820 he was able to discover the huge colossi of Ramses II, which is now on display in the Museum of Mit Rahina, modern Memphis. The colossi originally stood at the entrance of the temple of God Ptah at Memphis (Fig. 3) (Nicholas Reeves, 2000, p. 26)



Fig. 3: The colossal statue of Ramses II discovered by Caviglia at Memphis and displayed later in the Open Air Museum at Mit Rahina. After ([https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/de/Ancient\\_Egypty-Antico\\_Egitto-II\\_Cairo-Memphis-DSC00576.JPG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/de/Ancient_Egypty-Antico_Egitto-II_Cairo-Memphis-DSC00576.JPG)) (Access 2 December 2017)

Caviglia's career ended after a collaboration with Colonel Howard Vyse in 1835, who employed Caviglia to help him explore the pyramids. Afterwards the relationship between both became unsteady when the Italian spent most of his time looking for mummy pits instead. Caviglia then retired from Egypt and spent the last years of his life in Paris, where he died on 7 September 1845 (Dawson, 1972, p. 56; Reeves, 2000, p. 26).

The second Italian prolific figure Giovanni Battista Belzoni, was born in Padua, Italy in 1778. Known as the Great Belzoni, he led a varied career during his life of adventure. He was a son of a barber, who grew in the uneasy climate of the French revolution. Although he studied hydraulics, his early ambition was to become a monk. In 1803 when Napoleon's armies entered Italy, Belzoni moved to England, where he earned money as a theatrical performer. He spent nine years travelling eventually becoming a circus strongman, a work suited to the enormous strength and physical stature of a two meters long man. It was

only in 1814 when Belzoni travelled with his wife to Egypt to capitalize on his knowledge of hydraulics and to present his design for a new water-lifting wheel to Mohammed Ali Pasha, a project which was unfortunately rejected.

Meanwhile, fate brought him into the circle of European antiquity collectors, and since 1816 Belzoni was employed by the British Consul Henry Salt to collect antiquities for the British Museum (Fagan, 1973, p. 48; Fagan, 2003, pp. 29-30; Clayton, 1982, p. 31; Ryan, 1986, p. 133; Lehner, 1997, p. 49; Mayes, 2003, p. 11).

Belzoni's first destination was Thebes, the modern city of Luxor, where he succeeded in removing the seven ton bust of King Ramses II, called "Young Memnon" from the Ramesseum to the banks of the Nile. The bust was then shipped to England to be displayed in the British Museum.

At the Karnak temple he recovered a large significant cache of stone statues, most of which are preserved now in Egypt. In 1817 Belzoni made his most famous discovery. He was the first to excavate in the Valley of the Kings, where he uncovered more than five tombs in a few days. Most noteworthy was the discovery of the best-preserved example of Ancient Egyptian tombs, also known as "Belzoni's tomb", the tomb of King Seti I, father of Ramses II. He was also the first to make comprehensive records and sketches with detailed measurements to an Egyptian royal tomb. (Fig. 4)

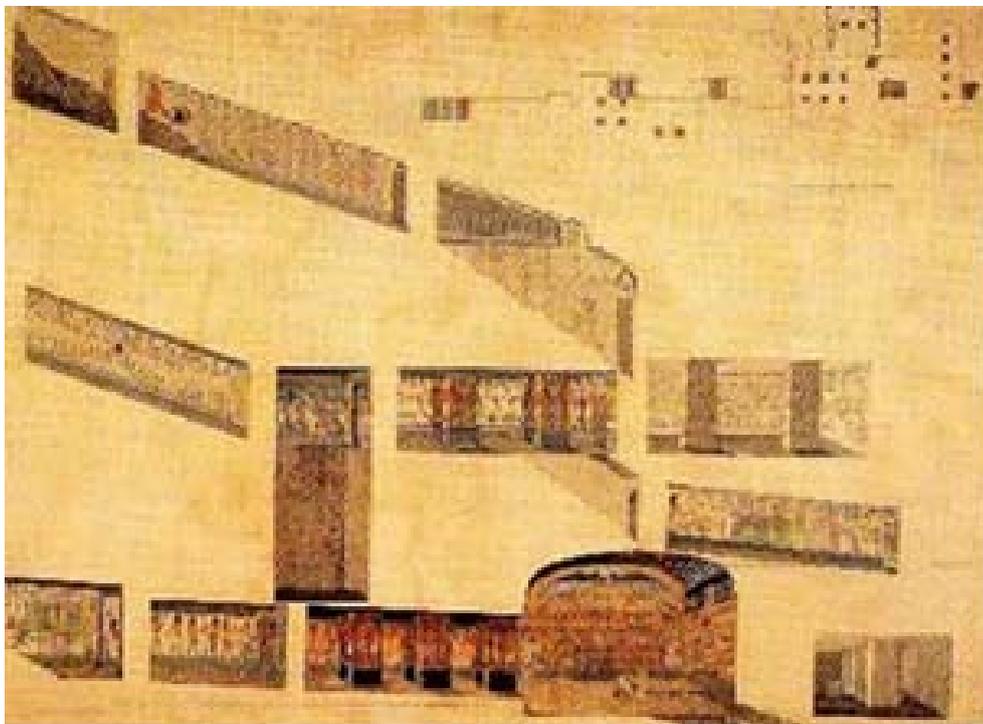


Fig. 4: Belzoni's plan and section of the tomb of King Seti I in the Valley of the King. After Nicholas Reeves, 2000, p. 22.

In the adjacent West Valley of the Kings, Belzoni discovered the tomb of Ay, who succeeded Tutankhamun to the throne of Egypt. On another trip further to the south, Belzoni did not only manage to uncover the long-buried temple of Ramses II at Abu Simbel, but he was the first European to penetrate into the monument. Plans and sketches were produced and an attempt was made for the first time to record the inscriptions of the precious temple (Fagan, 1973, p. 48; Clayton, 1982, p. 31; Ryan, 1986, p. 133; Lehner, 1997, p. 49; Reeves-Wilkinson, 2000, p. 58; Mayes, 2003, pp. 112-187; Fagan, 2003, pp. 30-32).

In 1818 Belzoni turned his attention to the northern part of Egypt. He visited the pyramids of Saqqara and Dahshur, but his greatest discovery was at Giza. He located the upper entrance to the second pyramid of Khafra, and was the first European to enter the royal tomb. Furthermore he managed to reach the burial chamber. An inscription with his name on the wall of the burial room still exists nowadays. (Fig. 5)



Fig. 5: The burial chamber of the Pyramid of Khafra at Giza. The name of Belzoni inscribed on the wall of the room. After (<<https://www.timetrips.co.uk/pharaoh%20khafre.htm>>) (Access 20 December 2018).

During the same year Belzoni travelled to Aswan to retrieve an obelisk of Ptolemy VIII on the island of Philae and arranged for its transportation to Alexandria by river. Although the boat with the obelisk concluded in the river,

the monument was rescued and can be seen in the gardens of Kingston Lacy in Dorset, England (Clayton, 1982, p. 31; Ryan, 1986, p. 133; Lehner, 1997, p. 49).

After one final adventure to the Fayoum region and Bahareyia Oasis, Belzoni left Egypt in 1819 for good. Two years later he exhibited all his discoveries at the Egyptian Hall in Piccadilly, London. Soon in 1823 Belzoni's adventurous spirit directed him to explore Africa and search for the source of the Niger River. After several months of fever, Great Belzoni died at the age of 45 and was buried in Nigeria, where his grave is now lost (Dawson, 1972, p. 24; Clayton, 1982, p. 43).

Another Italian pioneer who travelled to Egypt in the early nineteenth century is Girolamo Segato, who was born 1792 in Belluno, Italy. Girolamo was an introvert but also a bright student, who became later a cartographer and Egyptologist. It was only in 1818, when he first joined the expedition to Egypt. His most impressive work took place at Saqqara, where he was able to explore the Step Pyramid of King Djoser and was the first to document the monument. During his excavations he was obsessed with the mummification process. In 1823 he returned to Italy, settled in Florence and developed a technique for the mineralization of human remains that left his materials their original colour and elasticity. Girolamo died in 1836, and was buried in the Basilica of Santa Croce and many of Segato's surviving human remains can be found in the Museum of the Department of Anatomy in Florence (Orlandini, 2007, pp. 13-15).

### *3. Italian Egyptologists of the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century*

The year 1822 was the turning point in the archaeological research and knowledge of Ancient Egypt. In fact it marked a dividing line between Pre-Egyptology and Egyptology. The discovery of the Rosetta stone and the deciphering of the ancient texts -covering many monuments- by the brilliant scholar Jean Francois Champollion was the first step for actual scientific research in Egyptology. The vicious exploitation of the ancient Egyptian monuments by antiquity collectors as Drovetti and Belzoni was fortunately a temporary phase and actual scientific investigation was to begin. Modern archaeology would have started with the famous "Franco-Tuscan Expedition in Egypt and Nubia" (1828-29) directed by the pioneer of decipherment Champollion and the great Italian Egyptologist Ippolito Rosellini (Nicholas Reeves, 2000, p. 38).

Niccolo Francesco Ippolito Rosellini, who was born in Pisa in 1800, was regarded as the founder of Egyptology in Italy. He studied Hebrew and graduated in Theology from the University of Pisa in 1821. At the age of 24

years he became a professor of Oriental Languages at the University of Pisa. In 1827 Rosellini travelled to France to improve his knowledge of the method of decipherment proposed by Champollion (Dawson, 1972, p. 253; Reeves, 2000, p. 34; Casini, 2001, p. 17; Weeks, 2011, p. 42).

A year later, Rosellini became the leader of the Tuscan group in the Franco-Tuscan expedition (1828-29). He accompanied Champollion in his first expedition to Egypt, which was financed by the Grand-duke of Tuscany, Leopold II, and King Charles X of France. The expedition's guide was Alessandro Ricci, an Italian explorer, who had previously worked with Belzoni in the tomb of King Seti I at the Valley of the Kings, and was able to prepare copies of the scenes in the tomb. The expedition lasted for fifteen months exploring almost all the major Egyptian sites, including Giza, Saqqara, Memphis, Beni Hassan, Thebes, and even reached Nubia. At the Valley of the Kings Ippolito and his team appeared to have access to sixteen tombs and succeeded in copying and recording several texts and scenes. Thousands of precious scientific drawings and handwritten notes to documentation of Egyptian monuments and sites were made for the first time. They published volumes of 400 folio plates of Ancient Egyptian texts and scenes. These treasured sources were one of the main references for many years and still remain precious. Nowadays these documents are guarded by Pisa University Library. Moreover about 1800 antiquities are today at the Egyptian Museum of Florence. After a long journey of exploring Ancient Egyptian monuments, Rosellini died in June, 1843 (Dawson, 1972, p. 253; Reeves - Wilkinson, 2002, p. 64).

By the middle of the nineteenth century it was becoming clear that Egyptian monuments are a very finite resource that has to be conserved and protected. It was in year 1858 that the Egyptian government under Isma'il Pasha established the Egyptian Department of Antiquities, later known as Supreme Council of Antiquities. The Service of Antiquities was directed by the famous French Egyptologist Auguste Mariette, succeeded by Gaston Maspero. Since that time, although techniques still remained poor, archaeology, scientific research and progress was maintained in the names of Egypt rather in the pursuit of personal profit (Dawson, 1972, p. 253; Reeves, 2000, p. 38).

Among those who arrived in Egypt in the early twentieth century, two Italian scholars were to leave important records, Ernesto Schiaparelli and Alessandro Barsanti. Ernesto Schiaparelli was born in Occhieppo Inferiore, Biella, Italy, July 1856. Born from a distinguished family of scholars, Ernesto's father Luigi Schiaparelli was a professor of history at the University of Turin. The young Schiaparelli started to study Egyptology at the University of Turin under Francesco Rossi. He continued his studies in Egyptology under the

great French Egyptologist Gaston Maspero in 1877 for three years. Shortly, in the year 1880, Schiaparelli was appointed director of the Egyptian section in the Museum of Florence, where he was able to reorganize the collections of the museum in new quarters. Then at the peak of his career the Italian Egyptologist became the director of Turin Museum during the period from 1894 to 1927. Thankful to Schiaparelli's large number of fruitful excavations the museum became one of the biggest Egyptian museums in the world. Exceptional artefacts dating to the Old and Middle Kingdom were recovered and displayed at the Museum of Turin (Dawson, 1972, p. 253; Reeves, 2000, p. 38).

It was only in 1902 when Schiaparelli started his productive excavations in Egypt. His choice of the archaeological sites was influenced by his aim to complete some historical gaps in his museum collection. Schiaparelli undertook a great number of excavations at Heliopolis, Giza, Al-Ashmonein, Asyut, Qaw El-Kabir and Thebes. This was the first "Italian Archaeological Mission" in Egypt financed by the Italian Government (Donadoni - Curto - Donadoni Roveri, 1999, pp. 247-249; Reeves, 2000, p. 121; Ugliano, 2017, pp. 199-200).

Under the permission of Gaston Maspero the director of the Antiquities Service during this period, the work at the Western cemetery at Giza was divided between three teams of explorers. Schiaparelli explored the southern area, while the German Archaeologist Ludwig Borchardt worked in the middle area, and the American Egyptologist George Reisner explored the northern part (Reeves, 2000, p. 121).

Schiaparelli made his most famous discovery in 1904. It was in the Valley of the Queens at Thebes that the Italian Egyptologist discovered one of the most precious monuments, the tomb of Queen Nefertari, the principle wife of King Ramses II. Schiaparelli and his team were amazed from the brilliant colours and execution of the tomb decoration. Although the tomb was plundered in antiquity as many other Ancient Egyptian graves, Schiaparelli managed to save a number of the valuable queen's equipment. Among the saved items were fragments of the granite lid of the sarcophagus, pieces of a gilded wooden coffin and remains of Ushabti figures (Markowitz, Haynes and Freed, 2002, p. 33).

Another great discovery took place in the private cemetery of Deir El-Madina at Thebes in 1906. Schiaparelli and a team of 25 workers were accompanied by Arthur Weigall, the Inspector of the Antiquities Service. After four weeks of work and digging Schiaparelli and his team succeeded in penetrating into the tomb of the architect of King Amenhotep II, Kha and his wife Meryet. The tomb chapel, surmounted by a small pyramid was discovered earlier by Bernardino Drovetti in the early nineteenth century, and the funerary stela bearing Kha's name was sent to the Museum of Turin. However, the underground part with

the burial apartment was the discovery of Schiaparelli. The funeral furniture of the couple was found in a good state of preservation. The content of the tomb included items of furniture as tables, beds and boxes belonging to the tomb owners. Among the precious items were the mummies of Kha and his wife preserved in two anthropoid coffins and a cartonnage mask, including some funerary jewellery. The coffin of Kha included one of the earliest copies of the Book of the Dead, consisting of texts that ensure a safe journey for the deceased to the afterlife. At the same cemetery of Deir El-Madina, Schiaparelli explored the tomb of Maya a royal painter from the eighteenth Dynasty (Reeves, 2000, p. 123).

Two more intact private tombs were discovered by Schiaparelli in 1911 in the cemetery of Gebelein, 40 kilometres to the south of Luxor. A private tomb of an anonymous official dating to the Old Kingdom and that of the royal treasurer Ini from the Middle Kingdom. The treasures found inside the tombs are now displayed in the Museum of Turin (Weigall, 1911, pp. 177-82; Tyson-Smith, 1992, pp. 193-197; Reeves, 2000, pp. 121-122).

During the long series of excavations made by Schiaparelli, he reviewed his colleague's specialization for optimum results. He was assisted by an anthropologist named Giovanni Marro and a restorer called Fabrizio Lucarini, who was able to invent a technique to detach wall scenes from the tomb of the royal painter Maya, which are now reconstructed and preserved in the Museum of Turin (Casini, 2001, p. 17).

The second great Egyptologist, who was to leave his mark in the early twentieth century is Alessandro Barsanti. He was born in Alexandria 1858. He travelled back to Italy, where he studied at the Institute des Beaux Arts at Florence. It was only in 1891 when the young explorer returned to Egypt. Barsanti was experienced and talented in conserving and repairing damaged artefacts and constructions, and thus was appointed in 1891 in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo as a restorer, artist and technician (Reeves, 2000, p. 122).

Besides working in the Egyptian Museum, Barsanti excavated throughout Egypt. In 1892 he accompanied the active French Egyptologist Jacques de Morgan to Upper Egypt. Two years later he joined Daressy, another French Archaeologist, in the clearance of the Great temple of Ramses III at Madinet Habu, in the West bank of Thebes (Casini, 2001, p. 17).

Barsanti's most prominent discovery took place at El-Amarna, the ancient city of King Akhenaton. In a narrow side valley lies the royal tomb of Akhenaton, which was damaged and robbed in antiquity. The tomb was found in 1880 by some local Egyptians, however attention was first drawn to the area, when Barsanti started exploring the site and the royal tomb was officially discovered under Barsanti in 1891. Some precious findings and painted

pavements from the ancient city of El- Amarna were discovered and sent to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, but unfortunately these excavations had never been published (Dawson, 1972, pp. 19-20).

The following years from 1912 to 1914 were very productive. Barsanti's excavations and restoration activities extended to the north of Egypt. In 1912 Barsanti visited Saqqara, a necropolis mainly dating to the Old Kingdom. There, he excavated the Serapeum and the private cemetery, and succeeded in restoring and repairing many mastabas. At this period he undertook many excavations particularly around the pyramid of King Unas from the Old Kingdom and managed to discover the remains of the mortuary temple. A little to the north at the cemetery of Zawyet El-Eryan, Barsanti succeeded in clearing the underground portion of the so-called Layer pyramid, as well as the shaft and burial apartment of the North pyramid (Dawson, 1972, p. 20).

In 1913 Barsanti travelled southwards to Nubia, where he supervised the restoration and conservation works in the temples and buildings in many Nubian sites. He restored buildings at the Island of Biggeh, temple of Dakkeh, temple of Philae, temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel and many other Nubian temples. Afterwards Barsanti conducted further excavations in Upper Egypt, where he restored in some areas of the funerary temple of Ramses II, known as the Ramasseum. Moreover he worked in two of the most famous royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings, the tomb of Ramses III and that of Seti I, the latter being previously discovered by Belzoni. Shortly afterwards Barsanti passed away in October, 1917 (Peet - Woolley, 1923, pp. 109-110).

#### *4. Modern Egyptologists in the Twenty and Twenty-First Century*

By the middle of the twentieth and beginning of the twenty-first century there was an obvious development in academic research in various fields of Egyptology, which by that time became a very well established study in Italy. All the modern and current Italian excavations were then conducted under the affiliation of Institutions and Universities as that of Pisa, Rome, Bologna and Sapienza. Every year there are numbers of new archaeological campaigns and surveys associated with distinguished Italian names in the history of the current research in Egyptology (Barsanti, 1917, pp. 9-10).

A very significant Italian contribution to the Ancient Egyptian archaeology started shortly after 1958 when the Egyptian government approved the construction of the High Dam to the south of Aswan. This project, posing a serious threat to the Nubian area, would result in submerging the site and its monuments. However the construction of the High Dam drew international attention to the protection of cultural heritage. International cooperation was

necessary to save the Nubian temples. UNESCO launched an international safeguarding campaign to save Nubian sites and monuments. Italy; the Universities of Milan and Rome and Turin Museum responded to the safeguarding campaign and cooperated in this huge project, which lasted about six years. Among those who participated in the project of rescuing the Nubian monuments, two were to leave a mark. Sergio Donadoni, a professor at the University of Sapienza, and Silvio Curto, the director of Turin Museum during this period (Barsanti, 1917, pp. 11-24; Dawson, 1972, p. 20).

Fabrizio Sergio Donadoni was born in Palermo in 1914. Since his childhood he was fascinated by the Ancient Egyptian civilization. He graduated from the University of Pisa in 1931, and later completed his studies in France under three well-known French Archaeologists, Gustave Lefebvre, Étienne Drioton and Alexandre Moret. Afterwards he travelled to Egypt, and studied under the German Egyptologist Hermann Junker (Casini, 2001, p. 19, 42).

Donadoni was an active explorer, who joined many excavation campaigns in Egypt. Interested particularly in the Greco-Roman era, he joined the team excavating Antinopolis in 1935. Antinopolis is a small city founded by the Roman emperor Hadrian, and lies on the east bank of the Nile. Furthermore Donadoni participated in the excavations conducted in the area of the Middle Kingdom Temple at Madinet Madi in the south-western Fayoum region. It was in 1940 that Donadoni returned to Italy in order to start teaching in the University of Pisa first and later in the University of Sapienza (Hölbl, 2006, pp. 15-16).

In the year 1961 Donadoni returned to Egypt and joined the team of archaeologists, who were able to save the two temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel in Nubia from being flooded by the waters of Lake Nasser after the construction of the High Dam. (Fig. 6)

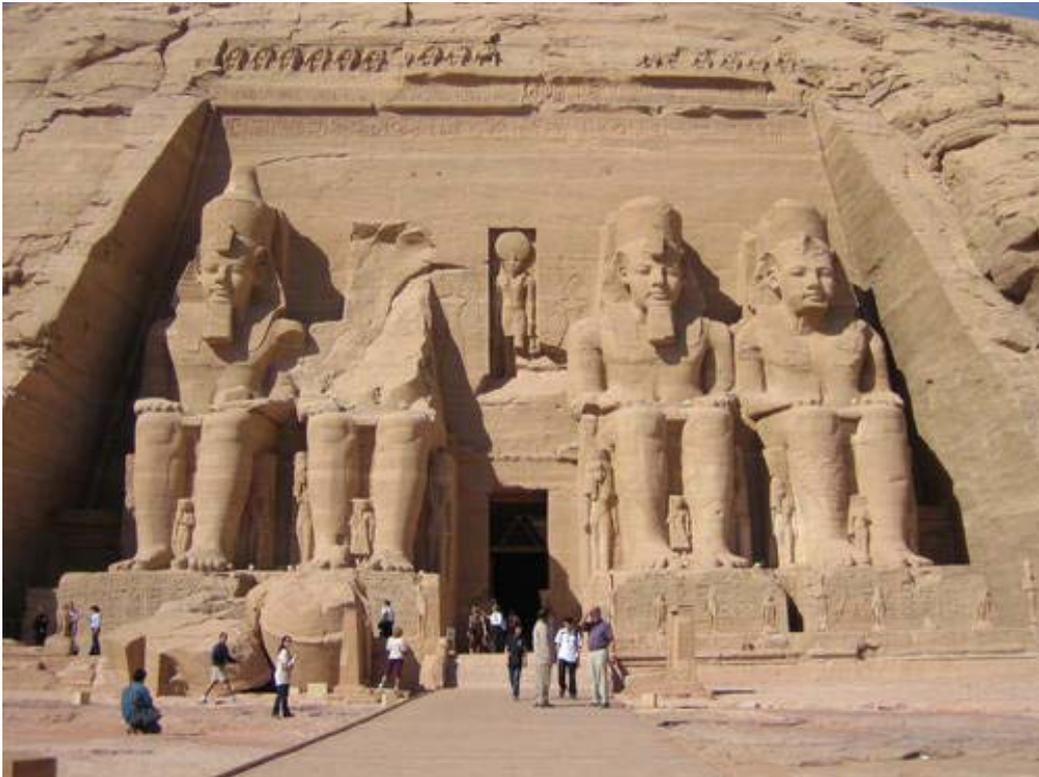


Fig. 6: Abu Simbel temple of Ramses II. After ( <<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/88/gallery/>>)  
(Access 3 December 2017)

The team further succeeded in dismantling the stones of the temples and relocating the construction in a safe area. Since that time Donadoni turned his attention to the Nubian monuments and undertook several campaigns in the area, where he excavated in 1973 the site of Jebel Barkal. Furthermore he excavated the Theban Tomb TT 27, which is located in El-Assasif, a Theban Necropolis, situated on the west bank of Thebes. The tomb is the burial place of Sheshonk, the chief steward of one of the divine adoratrice of Amun in the Late Period of the Egyptian History. After his final excavation, Donadoni returned to Italy and continued his work as a professor in Sapienza University in Rome. As a prolific author, Sergio Donadoni published several books, of which a remarkable work entitled *The Egyptians* was issued in 1997. Shortly afterwards in the year 2000 the great Egyptologist was awarded with the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic<sup>3</sup>. Donadoni died in Rom in October 2015 (Hölbl, 2006, pp. 16-19).

<sup>3</sup> It is the highest ranking honour of the Republic, and is awarded for "merit acquired by the nation" in the fields of literature, the arts, economy, public service, and social, philanthropic and humanitarian activities and for long and conspicuous service in civil and military careers.

The other distinguished Egyptologist, Silvio Curto was born in Bra, Piedmont in 1919. He graduated in Roman archaeology in 1941. After few years in the military service, Curto was appointed in 1946 inspector at the Superintendency for Egyptian Antiquities maintaining his position for almost eighteen years. In 1964 he became the director of the Egyptian Museum in Turin, a charge he held until 1984. During this period Silvio Curto succeeded in renovating some of the rooms of the Institution and providing the museum with a complete Egyptological library, which is now one of the unique libraries in Italy. In order to attract the interest of scholars and the general public, Silvio Curto organized in 1965 the publication of a new catalogue of Turin Museum, describing its treasures. In the meantime, Silvio Curto was a professor of Egyptology in the University of Turin until 1989. He was also Senior Manager in the Ministry of Cultural and Environmental Heritage. It was only in 1961 when Silvio Curto travelled to Egypt along with Sergio Donadoni. Silvio Curto directed the Archaeological Mission of the Egyptian Museum of Turin in Nubia until 1969. The team participated in relocating the temples of Abu Simbel in Nubia. Furthermore the mission managed to rescue the small temple of Ellesya, built by King Tuthmosis III, and which Italy obtained as a gift from Egypt. In 1970 Curto was able to reconstruct the sanctuary inside the Museo Egizio in Turin, where it still exists.<sup>4</sup>

During his long career, Silvio Curto contributed to various Egyptian collections throughout Italy. In 1961 he cooperated in reorganizing the collection in the Archaeological Museum of Bologna. Moreover he participated in establishing the Egyptian Museum of Milan in 1972 and the Museum of Mantua in 1982. In 2002 he returned to take care of Turin Museum and dedicated the rest of his life to scientific research. He published several valuable works in Egyptology as “Ancient Egypt - Reality and Fantasy” issued in 2001 and “Humor and Satire in Ancient Egypt” published in 2006. Curto died in 2015 in Turin at the age of 96. In his honour, the director of Turin Museum named the library of the institution after him<sup>5</sup>.

##### *5. Conclusion and Recommendations*

The celebrated collectors of Egyptian antiquities in the first quarter of the nineteenth century (1800-1820) were not “Archaeologists” or “Egyptologists”, but on the other hand, they had other professions, as Drovetti, Caviglia and

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<sup>4</sup> <[www.accademiadelle scienze.it/accademia/soci/silvio-curto](http://www.accademiadelle scienze.it/accademia/soci/silvio-curto)> (Access August 5, 2018).

<sup>5</sup> <[www.accademiadelle scienze.it/accademia/soci/silvio-curto](http://www.accademiadelle scienze.it/accademia/soci/silvio-curto)> (Access August 5, 2018)

Belzoni. Yet they clearly contributed to the discovery of Ancient Egyptian monuments and sites. The main objective of these early excavations and discoveries, funded mostly by the British Consul in Egypt, was mainly to collect antiquities to be sold to various museums abroad.

Archaeological research and knowledge of Ancient Egypt would not have been possible without the comprehension of the Hieroglyphs under Champollion in 1822. Therefore scientific documentation of monuments started only in 1826 with the first “Franco-Tuscan” expedition which was directed from the Italian side by the founder of Egyptology in Italy, Ippolito Rossellini. The goal of these excavations was not for personal interest anymore, however it aimed to dig for information. Since then, actual scientific research of Egyptology existed.

Over the last two centuries, Italian expeditions have discovered many important monuments in Egypt dating to various periods. Excavations of the Italian missions included several sites all over Egypt, but in particular Memphis, Giza, Luxor and Nubia. In addition, a number of royal and private tombs were explored by Italians. The main discoveries and achievements have been summarized in (Table 1).

Italian Egyptologist	Main Discoveries and Achievements	Date	Site
Bernardino Drovetti (1776-1852)	Turin Papyrus Kings' List	1820	Luxor. Now preserved in Turin Museum in Italy.
	Tomb and tomb equipment of high official and general “Djehuty” under King Tuthmosis III	1824	Saqqara
Giovanni Battista Caviglia (1770-1845)	Davison's and Subterranean Chambers in the Great Pyramid of Khufu.	1817	Giza
	The open-air chapel between the Sphinx's forepaws and the Dream Stela of King Tuthmosis IV	1817	Giza
	Huge colossi of Ramses II	1820	Memphis. Now displayed in the Museum at Mit Rahina
Giovanni Battista	Removing the colossal bust of	1816	Thebes, temple

Italian Egyptologist	Main Discoveries and Achievements	Date	Site
Belzoni (1778-1823)	Ramses II "Young Memnon" from Ramesseum to the Nile to be transported abroad		of Ramses II, Ramesseum. The bust is now on display in the British museum in London
	Cache of stone statues at the temple of Karnak	1816	Thebes
	➤ Tomb of King Ay ➤ Tomb WV 25 of unfinished burial of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dynasty	1817	Western Valley of the Kings
	➤ KV 19 tomb of Ramesside Prince Mentuherkhepeshef ➤ KV 21 18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty tomb with two female mummies ➤ KV 16 Tomb of Ramses I ➤ KV 17 tomb of King Seti I	1817	Valley of the Kings
	➤ Clearing the Two temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel from Sand	1817	Abu Simbel-Nubia
	• Locating the entrance and discovering the burial chamber in the Pyramid of Khafra.	1818	Giza
Girolamo Segato (1792- 1863)	➤ Exploring the Step Pyramid of King Djoser at Saqqara - First one to document the monument	1818	Saqqara
Ippolito Rosellini (1800-1843)	➤ Directed the Tuscan group in the Franco-Tuscan expeditions (First scientific expedition) and produced first scientific drawings and records guarded at the University of Pisa nowadays	1828-1829	Several sites as: Giza, Saqqara, Memphis, Beni Hassan, Thebes and Nubia
Ernesto Schiaparelli (1856-1928)	➤ Tomb of Queen Nefertari, wife of Ramses II	1904	Valley of the Queens-Luxor
	➤ Tomb and tomb equipment of the architect of King Amenhotep II, Kha and his wife Meryet ➤ Tomb of the royal painter Maya	1906	Deir El-Madina workers' cemetery-Luxor. The tomb equipment of Kha are now

Italian Egyptologist	Main Discoveries and Achievements	Date	Site
			in display in Turin Museum
	➤ Two private tombs of the Old and Middle Kingdom	1911	Gebelein, south of Luxor
Alessandro Barsanti (1858–1917)	➤ Official discovery of the tomb of King Akhenaton from the 18 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	1891	El- Amarna, in El- Menya north of Luxor
	➤ Mortuary temple of pyramid complex of King Unas from the 5 <sup>th</sup> Dynasty	1912	Saqqara
Sergio Donadoni (1914 –2015)	➤ Participated in the project of rescuing the temples of Nubia from being flooded by the waters of Lake Nasser, after the construction of the High Dam, south of Aswan	1961-1969	Nubia
	➤ Excavated the tomb TT 27 of Sheshonk, the chief steward of one of the divine adoratrice of Amun in the Late Period of the Egyptian History	1973-1978	El-Assasif cemetery, West Luxor
Silvio Curto	➤ Directed the Archaeological Mission of the Egyptian Museum of Turin in rescuing and relocating the Nubian temples	1961-1969	Nubia
	➤ Rescued the temple of Tuthmosis III at Ellesyia and reconstructed it in the Museum of Turin	1970	Nubia.

Table 1. A Selection of Italian Egyptologists from the Nineteenth to the Twenty-First Century and their main Discoveries and Achievements.

In the twentieth century modern Italian Egyptologists participated in projects saving the heritage of Egypt as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the “Nubian Monuments”. They contributed in relocating the temples of Nubia to rescue the after the construction of the High Dam at Aswan. Recently Italian missions work with the most advanced technologies, making excavations and contributing to the conservation of the Egyptian cultural heritage, in collaboration with the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities.

Based upon the major contributions and achievements of Italian Egyptologists discussed previously the following recommendation should be considered:

- Organizing temporary exhibition highlighting the work of Italian archaeological missions at different archaeological sites in Egypt since the nineteenth century. These exhibition places special emphasis on the life, history and achievements of the Italian Egyptologists. A successful temporary exhibition was organized in August 2018 in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, hosting a number of artifacts, discovered by Italians and were displayed for the first time.<sup>6</sup> Similar exhibitions should take place in various museums throughout Egypt, and should display the collections that have been discovered by prominent Italian explorers from different eras. The valuable artifacts might be illustrated and accompanied by video animations, interactive projections, and touch screens. The exhibition should be suitable for scholars, school students and families. Guided tours and informative workshops can be organized to involve visitors in discovering all about Italian Egyptologists.

- Creating and promoting annual cultural events aiming at spreading awareness regarding the history, achievements, and monuments discovered by Italian Egyptologists. These events might be organized on the anniversaries of those Italian explorers or on the days and in locations, where the great discoveries took place. As an example the day, Great Belzoni discovered the tomb of King Seti I in the Valley of the Kings.

- More efforts should be directed to produce documentary movies describing the history of Italian Egyptologists and the importance of their discoveries in promoting cultural heritage. Since documentary movies play a very important role in educating old and young generations, these movies should be displayed in museums, educational institutions or even accessed free online.

- Organizing exhibitions inside and outside Egypt displaying replicas of the discovered monuments by Italians. Replicas of Egypt's monuments have been popular ever since the Italian Explorer Giovanni Belzoni, who discovered the tomb of Seti I in 1817, created a hand-painted walk-through model of two decorated chambers for an exhibition in London in 1821. The replica would offer visitors an alternative to the original with certain advantages, including the possibility of photographing and touching the surfaces of the artifacts. In April 2014, a remarkable replica of the tomb of Tutankhamon was designed

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<sup>6</sup> < <http://www.cairo.gov.eg/CairoPortal/disNews.aspx?ID=183> > (Access 1 October 2018)

beside the house of the discoverer Howard Carter to resemble the original grave. The details of the burial chamber were copied with accuracy<sup>7</sup>. The flaking plaster and the brown spots on the walls and the painted scenes were reproduced as the original. Visitors entered a place surrounded by desert as the original and the replicated burial apartment with its sarcophagus amazed the visitors. A replicated model of the huge tomb of Seti I explored by Belzoni and another of the tomb of Nefertari discovered by Schiaparelli may be replicated and exhibited outside Egypt. Parts of the tombs, that are preserved in museums worldwide could be recorded and reproduced to make the replica more complete than the original. Creating replicas for exhibitions would inspire people to visit Egypt, its unique monuments and the great discoveries accomplished by famous Italian explorers. Furthermore organizing workshops where the replicas will be produced would provide an added attraction and information about how these discoveries were made.

- Dedicating galleries or halls in museums to preserve and display some of the personal effects, sketches and photographs of the Italian Egyptologists during their work in different sites. A remarkable example is the library dedicated to the prolific French Archaeologist Jean Philippe Lauer in the Museum of Imhotep at Saqqara, the ancient necropolis, which was explored by him. It preserves most of his personal belongings and photographs of the excavations conducted by him.

- Transforming the historic residences of the Italian explorers into museums, where the personal belongings, sketches and photographs of the owner are exhibited. Howard Carter, a British Egyptologist, who became world-famous after the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun lived in a house in Luxor, which was turned into a museum after his death. The museum displays his personal effects, tools the archaeologist used in excavations and a collection of photographs of his work in progress.

- Organizing exhibitions of photographs, earliest vintage prints, drawings and hand-crafted facsimiles, which were used as preferred tools of record by the archaeological surveys. These offer insights into the era of early photographs and facsimiles and raise the awareness of the conditions, under which the early Italians travelled, and the means they had at their disposal to produce these fascinating images and drawings.

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<sup>7</sup> <<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/10/131026-king-tut-tomb-replica-ancient-egypt-pharaoh-archaeology-science/>> (Access 2 September 2018).

- There is need to organize workshops, seminars and discussions in collaboration with current Egyptologists to enhance public knowledge about the history and discoveries of the early and modern Italian Egyptologists.
- Labelling all the archaeological discoveries with the names and historical information of Italian explorers, who made these valuable discoveries. This includes signs and illustrated panels to be located in the archaeological sites, where the discoveries took place. As an example locating panels in the area of the pyramids of Giza, where Belzoni discovered the entrance of the second Great pyramid of Khafra.
- Because cultural heritage needs to be remembered, cultural campaigns should be launched at least once per year under the supervision of the Ministry of State for Antiquities and the Italian Cultural Institute in Egypt. Suitable slogans may be designed for these campaigns as: “Italian - Egyptian Culture Day”, or “Never Forget Italian Discoveries”.
- Coping with the digital revolution era, there is a need to use modern technology in marketing cultural heritage. This can be achieved through social networking and special websites dealing with the biographies and discoveries of the Italian Egyptologists, which may reach to a wide range of people.
- Educating school students about the Italian Egyptologists and discoveries through various attractive methods as cartoon movies or educational games, “Gamification”.

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### *7. Curriculum vitae*

Reham El-Shiwy is an assistant professor in the Tourist Guiding Department at the Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Alexandria University, Egypt. She graduated in 1998 and was employed as a faculty staff member in the Faculty of Tourism and Hotels in 1999. Since then, she has been focusing on Ancient Egyptian history, culture and archaeology. In 2006 she finished her study about one of the ancient Egyptian religious rituals and earned the Master Science Degree in Tourist Guidance. Her PhD Thesis discussed the monuments of royal wives in the Old Kingdom of the Ancient Egyptian history.

Since 2015 she has been working as a lecturer of Egyptology in the Tourist Guiding Department, started participating in Egyptology conferences and is currently focusing on publishing researches in Egyptology.





