

Il Novissimo Ramusio

Conferenze ISMEO

5

Living in a Territory

Four Lectures from a Workshop
Held in Naples, 16 May 2017, Palazzo Corigliano

edited by Bruno Genito



ISMEO

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PREFACE

It is for me a reason of particular satisfaction to introduce to the readers the lectures held in occasion of a doctoral seminar organized by Bruno Genito in Naples (at the Università degli studi L'Orientale) on 16th May 2017. I participated in the whole Seminar, and I preserve the memory of a wonderful day that brought scholars and students together in Palazzo Corigliano, in the very center of ancient Greek Naples.

The fact that the Proceedings of the Seminar are being published as Number 5 of Il Novissimo Ramusio, Conferenze ISMEO highlights once again the ongoing link between ISMEO and L'Orientale University, through a continuous series of scientific initiatives involving teachers, researchers and young collaborators of the two institutions.

The theme is quite unusual, but nonetheless fascinating. It relates to the age-old question of the origin of the urban structure and the question of urbanisation in ancient Iran and Central Asia, particularly from the Achaemenid times up to the Sasanian period. The point of view is mainly archaeological, even if the Seminar also (partially) included philological contributions.

The starting point of the reflections made in Palazzo Corigliano was linked to the complex interpretation of the 'urban' remains of Persepolis and Pasargade. The name of Persepolis given by the Greeks to the area of Parsa (a name surely present in the old Persian traditions contemporary to the Achaemenid dynasty), and of Takht-e Jamshid given to the terraced remains by the literary and legendary Ferdousi tradition, as Bruno Genito says, "has not facilitated a full understanding over time of the earliest imperial Achaemenid political formation."

Mario Liverani wrote in his L'origine delle città (Roma 1986, p. 22):

Città, scrittura, stato nascono insieme, studiare l'uno significa studiare anche gli altri [...] non è però senza conseguenze mettere la città al centro della ricerca [...] Studiare la città significa studiare

tutto quel complesso di problemi, ma mettendo al centro dell'interesse la loro organizzazione nello spazio, il modo di disporsi nel territorio.

IsMEO/IsIAO/ISMEO have studied for years this complex of problems in the different places in Iran and Central Asia where the research of the archaeological missions directed by the scholars who signed the following papers continues today.

On behalf of ISMEO, an International Association that today unites more than 350 scholars from all over the world in the same project of scientific alliance conceived almost a century ago by Giuseppe Tucci, I would like to emphasize conclusively how Italian archaeological researchpioneeringly began to enhance over 60 years ago a commitment to scientific research in an interdisciplinary network logic – cross-cutting to time and space – that today as perhaps never before shows all its essential indispensability in a globalized but mixed-up world that has lost the meaning of its own history.

ADRIANO V. ROSSI
President, ISMEO