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PREFACE

The workshop “Iran and Italy: 60 Years of Collaborations on Cultural Heritage” was held on 17th November 2019, at the Iran National Museum. In the framework of the workshop, eight presentations were selected, concerning the collaborations of longest duration, based on five thematical axes as follows:

- a) Iranian prehistoric archaeology;
- b) Iranian historical archaeology;
- c) Iranian Islamic archaeology;
- d) Interdisciplinary researches;
- e) Conservation and restoration activities.

In parallel with the workshop, an exhibition was also organized from 17th to 30th November 2019, synthetically representing the results of all the mutual activities realized by the archaeologists and restorers of the two countries through 52 posters in Persian and Italian, accompanied by a rich selection of artefacts resulting from the joint activities at various sites.

While the organization of the exhibition was an ideal opportunity for each of the researchers of both the countries to introduce the results of their own scientific efforts, one of the main aims of the workshop program was to provide a chance for discussion on the thematic axes, as well as a time for presenting the main collaborative activities in the field of cultural heritage to other colleagues. Another aim of the workshop was emphasizing the positive aspects of mutual collaborations in achieving reliable scientific results. Common researches in various Iranian sites such as archaeological and restoration activities in the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan, Fars and Isfahan are good examples to show how an accurate selection of the experts for realizing them could be important to gain brilliant results. On the other hand, this kind of workshops provides good platform for exchange of ideas and data among the scholars that have not always access to the fresh and new scientific data.

It should be noted that holding this program was also a good opportunity to record the results of bilateral cooperation between Iran and Italy. Hence, in addition to the catalogue of the exhibition, it was also decided to publish another volume containing the proceedings of the workshop, with the text of the presentations in



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the form of scientific articles. We hope that the honorable readers through these articles will obtain a truthful image of the scientific collaborations between Iran and Italy in the field of cultural heritage. May such constructive cooperations continue in the future.

PIERFRANCESCO CALLIERI
ADRIANO VALERIO ROSSI
SEYYED MANSUR SEYYED SAJJADI
ROUHOLLAH SHIRAZI



INTRODUCTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE IRAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

When Dr Omrani, Dr Shirazi, H.E. the Ambassador Perrone and Professor Rossi requested the availability of the Iran National Museum to host a conference and an exhibition dedicated to this theme, I accepted with great conviction to make available to the event not only the spaces but also the staff of our Museum.

The Iran National Museum has a long tradition of collaborative projects with different European and Asian countries, and today's event represents in this spirit of cultural encounter a moment that reinforces the deep bond that unites Iran and Italy, two countries of ancient culture, both with a rich cultural heritage.

The Italian colleagues who have worked in collaboration with their Iranian colleagues have given their expertise and received in return the Iranian one, thus obtaining results of great substance.

For a country like Italy, aware of the need and urgency to protect its cultural heritage, it would not have been possible to conduct research in the field of archaeology without worrying about the conservation and restoration of cultural heritage.

Therefore, if the Italian contribution to the archaeology of Iran is added to that of many other countries, the one in the field of conservation and restoration has represented an exceptional event, which left a lasting mark on the Iranian tradition, already so rich in experience and skills.

The Scientific Committee that conceived the workshop and the exhibition in close connection, has intended to dedicate the workshop to the illustration of the contribution of the joint missions that had a longer duration and whose impact was felt more decisively on the relevant field of study, the general framework of which is presented before the illustration of the individual joint activities. With the exhibition, on the other hand, we wanted to give all the active missions the opportunity to illustrate the results of their work. In addition, the exhibition could not help but also illustrate the substantial activities that took place before 1979. The high number of 52 panels was reached, which made it necessary for reasons of space to reduce the length of the texts, in Persian and Italian, to the minimum necessary. Fortunately, the catalogue has been able to accommodate longer texts, from which it emerges a picture of great liveliness and of different organization of activities, from the joint missions themselves to the collaboration of Italian archaeologists to Iranian activities.



I wish to thank not only the Italian and Iranian colleagues intervening both from Italy and Iran, but also the Embassy of Italy and the ISMEO for their financial commitment, as well as the staff of the Museum that made it possible to realize this double event in a relatively short time and with great skill. In particular, it is my duty to mention here the contribution of Dr Fereidun Biglari, of Dr Hassan Youssufzadeh and Dr Mohammad Hossein Azizi Kharanaghi, and of Omolbanin Ghafoori and Nina Rezaei, who collaborated with Prof. Pierfrancesco Callieri and Dr Seyyed Mansur Seyyed Sajjadi in the editing of the texts: to them our gratitude.

DR JEBRAEL NOKANDEH
Director, Iran National Museum



ADDRESS TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE AMBASSADOR OF ITALY
TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Deputy Minister Dr Talebian,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Professors
Dear guests,

As the Ambassador of Italy to the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is a great honour for me to be here today at the opening ceremony of an event that has a twofold historical significance for the cooperation between Italy and Iran in the field of promotion of cultural heritage.

Firstly, with the exhibition we are about to inaugurate, and the seminar which will follow, we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of successful archaeological and restoration activities carried out with passion, professionalism and scientific rigour by the best specialists our two Countries could offer.

This glorious history started in that far-off year of 1959 when the late Prof. Giuseppe Tucci—President of ISMEO and one of the most prominent and respected Italian figures in Iran at that time, along with Enrico Mattei—laid the foundation for the future of Italian archaeological activities in Iran.

As all of you know, back then ISMEO's archaeological research focused on the Sistan Province and the city of Esfahan where Prof. Scerrato and his team worked on the Masjed-e Jom'e, a landmark mosque dating back to the VIII century.

In Sistan ISMEO—in the early sixties—conducted activities on the sites of Kuh-e Khwaja, Qal'a Tapa, Dahane-ye Gholaman and Qal'a-ye Sam, starting excavation activities in Shahr-e Sokhte also known as the 'Burnt City' in 1967.

Concerning restoration activities, in 1964 an ISMEO mission, coordinated by Prof. Giuseppe Zander, started to work on some of the most important monumental complexes in Persepolis and Pasargadae and on the Safavid pavilions of 'Ali Qapu and Chehel Sotun.

Until 1979, when the archaeological and restoration activities were briefly stopped, ISMEO had been the only Italian Institution present in Iran in this field, with the only exception of the ISMEA/CNR mission in Orumyeh in the late seventies.

The number of archaeological and restoration missions significantly increased in number, range and scope of activities after the Islamic Revolution.

Several Iranian and Italian Universities stepped in to carry out—through different management methods and procedures—new scientifically ambitious joint missions, all illustrated in the 52 panels of the exhibition we are opening today to celebrate our long history of shared success and achievements.

The second reason that makes today's event historically significant is that *Iran and Italy: 60 years of collaboration on cultural heritage* is the most comprehensive and complete exhibition on bilateral activities in the field of promotion of cultural heritage to ever be organized in Italy or Iran since 1959.

This show includes information on many research activities led by Iranian scholars and experts who were students of the Italian Directors of the great archaeological and restoration missions of the 1959-1979.

These former students built on the legacy of their teachers to achieve remarkable scientific results.

Throughout all these years, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stood by successive archaeological and restoration missions in Iran, by providing assistance and financial support and contribution to shape what we consider a milestone of our cultural diplomacy vis-à-vis Iran.

That makes me particularly proud—as the Representative of the Italian Government in the Islamic Republic of Iran—to be here today to renew and reaffirm our commitment and celebrate 60 years of bilateral cooperation on cultural heritage with a special event whose organization the Italian Embassy strongly supported since the very beginning.

Today's event does not—and should not—have just a celebrative purpose. Recognizing the achievements of the past must lead us to further enhance our future joint cooperation in a field where Italy and Iran—with their vast and rich historical, cultural and artistic heritage—have a special responsibility as 'cultural superpowers.'

Indeed, our duty is not only to preserve what we achieved together—which has a universal scientific value transcending the purely bilateral dimension—but also to encourage and support new initiatives likely to expand and strengthen our partnership.

An important step in this direction is the *Persepolis International Monuments Conservation Project (PIMCP)*, carried out by the non-profit association Restauratori Senza Frontiere – Italia (RSF), on the basis of a MoU between RSF, the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT) and the Persepolis World Heritage Site.

This project, supervised by the Co-directors of the Iranian-Italian Joint Archaeological Mission in Fars, Prof. Alireza Askari Chaverdi and Prof. Pierfrancesco Callieri, focuses on some of the most astonishing but damaged stone reliefs of the Persepolis Terrace, namely the Southern façade of the Tachara and the Eastern door of the Tripylon. It represents the first large scale conservation project in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Persepolis carried out with a foreign partner after 1979.

Through new initiatives such as this one and our ongoing archaeological and restoration joint missions, I am sure we can effectively make a worthy contribution towards reaching the overarching aim of strengthening the cultural bridges between our two Countries and deepening mutual understanding and friendship between the people of Italy and Iran.

I would like to conclude my remarks thanking the Minister for Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicraft, H.E. Ali Asghar Mounesan, his Deputy H.E. Mohammad Hassan Talebian, Dr Behrouz Omrani, Dr Rouhollah Shirazi and Dr Jebrael Nokandeh for their relentless efforts in promoting our cultural bilateral ties as well as all the Italian and Iranian archaeologists, restorers and specialists for their critical scientific contribution. Last, but not least, my special thanks to Prof. Adriano Rossi and Prof. Pierfrancesco Callieri. Without their scientific and organizational contribution, today's event could not have taken place.

GIUSEPPE PERRONE
Ambassador of Italy
to the Islamic Republic of Iran

ADDRESS TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE PRESIDENT OF ISMEO

I am extremely pleased to offer the participants of the Workshop held on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition *Iran and Italy: 60 years of collaboration on cultural heritage*, the greeting of ISMEO – The International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies—which as many know has recently resumed the historical and illustrious denomination of Giuseppe Tucci’s *IsMEO*—the most cordial greetings of the entire social body of our Association, which currently can count on a membership of over 350 scholars including 120 eminent foreign correspondents, ideally on behalf of more than 100 universities, research centers and academic, scientific and museum institutions from throughout the world.

The ISMEO—re-founded in Rome in November 2012 as an International Association—wanted to reconnect through its name to the *Institute for the Middle and Far East* (IsMEO), founded in the 1930s by Giovanni Gentile and Giuseppe Tucci, and many of its members, who were also members of IsIAO (an Italian public institution that continued from 1995 to 2012 the activity of the historical IsMEO), always had a deep interest, in different ways, in that world that has been one of the main lines of the investigations of these great Italian research institutions that have crossed throughout the twentieth century: the Iranian world, from prehistory and the Achaemenid state to the present day, in its geographical, political and cultural assumptions on and around the plateau, in the irradiation of Iranian culture in the Caucasus and Central Asia, in that vast set that today is called in English language ‘the *Persianate* world.’

We are therefore very grateful on the one hand to the Embassy of Italy, represented here by H.E. Ambassador Giuseppe Perrone and the Head of the Cultural Section, Dr Vincenzo Russo Spena, who took charge of the organization of the Workshop, on the other to Dr Behrouz Omrani, Director of the Research Centre for Cultural Heritage and Tourism, to Dr Rouhollah Shirazi, Director of the Iranian Centre for Archaeological Research, and to the Director of the Iran National Museum hosting the Exhibition, Dr Jebrail Nokandeh, with all their collaborators—truly commendable organizers in almost emergency circumstances—who have once again allowed to live a renewed Italian-Iranian friendship in the hallmark of ‘archaeology, culture and friendship,’ producing this relevant exhibition on Italian archaeological and restorative activity in Iran, the largest and most complete ever organized both in Italy and in Iran.

Several times we have evoked in Iran and Italy, the trips that Enrico Mattei and Giuseppe Tucci—to whom the Italian museum containing the greatest amount of cultural heritage belonging to the Iranian heritage in Italy is now entitled—made at the end of the 1950s in Iran, at the time entering the modernization phase of its oil industry. Iran's gratitude for the egalitarian openness that—first in the world—Enrico Mattei proposed in the division of oil revenues produced the conditions for an intensified Italian cultural presence in this country.

From 1958-1959 Umberto Scerrato began to devote himself to the excavation of the Achaemenid site problematically identified with ancient Zranka, at Dahane-ye Gholaman, in eastern Iran, on the border with Afghanistan and Pakistan. I cannot dwell on the details of this great enterprise, which lasted seven seasons of excavation leaving fundamental questions still open; anyway, this first Italian-Iranian intervention in Sistan created the conditions for a fruitful season of Italian studies and restorations in Persepolis, Pasargade, Esfahan and numerous other places where dozens of important monuments from the different eras of Iranian history urgently needed both restoration and ex-novo study of their respective contexts. We will try to give a brief idea of these joint Iranian-Italian experiences in the illustrative panels that make up the Exhibition.

The Italian idea of using Iranian technical skill, Iranian materials, suggestions of ancient Iranian authors on their own monuments produced such a tenacious experience of comparison between the two great artistic traditions that over time they left material traces and schools of Italian-Iranian technology that still today repeat and perfect the lesson of those masters. I do not think that we can find another example as successful—I say this without modesty, being Italian—of perfect and harmonious fusion of experiences between two friendly peoples and between two multi-thousand-year-old artistic and cultural traditions.

The still unpublished documentary mass that derives from those early works, through the Italian and Iranian scholars of the younger generations who have been working on it for several years now, it is a common heritage of Iran, Italy and the world, and the refounded ISMEO recognizes its duty to make available to international scholars all its experiences and all the data that have remained unpublished so far (see e.g. Vidale-Lazzari, eds., *Lapis Lazuli Bead Making at Shahr-i Sokhta*, 2017; Kavosh-Vidale-Fazeli, *Tappeh Graziani, Sistan, Iran: Stratigraphy, Formation Processes and Chronology of a Suburban Site of Shahr-i Sokhta/Prehistoric Sistan 2*, 2019; Genito, ed., *Fieldnotes and Reports from Scerrato's Excavations at Dahane-ye Gholaman*, in preparation etc.).

More than half a century has passed since Italian archaeologists began to intensify their presence in Iran, but today we are here to testify that dedication, friendship and competence continue unchanged to strengthen the bridges of knowledge between the generations of scholars who love the products of the



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genius of the Ancient Iranian civilizations and of the Irano-Islamic world in the land of Iran in the same way the generations of scholars who have opened these routes have loved them.

ADRIANO V. ROSSI
President, ISMEO

