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ANNALISA FALCONE*

INTRODUCTION TO THE 2023 EDITION OF THE EUROPEAN ARCHAEOLOGY DAYS

It is a pleasure to once again inaugurate a new issue of the *Bollettino di Archeologia Online*, whose initial section is dedicated to presenting the results of work showcased during events organized and promoted by the ICA for the European Archaeology Days (EADs)¹. For the third consecutive year, we have upheld a tradition initiated in 2021: ensuring that the ICA's events held for the EADs are editorially formed within a year. The spirit of sharing, the true objective of the EADs, motivate us to maintain the pace we have achieved, and we enjoy recounting this progress annually².

The first part of the issue is indeed dedicated to hosting the outcomes of ICA workshop titled *Sharing Archaeology: Languages, Tools, Protagonists* which took place June 16, 2023, at the Museo Ninfeo in Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II in Rome³. This event was made possible thanks to the collaboration of the Archaeological Park of Ostia Antica, which accepted the invitation to contribute to reaching different audiences (on the same date the Park hosted activities for children under the aegis of the same initiative).

¹ The second part of the issue is also dedicated to the theme of sharing: sharing field research excavations on the National Geoportal for Archaeology, promoting free accessibility to the archaeological date according to the European directives later transposed at the national legislative level. Please refer below to the introduction on the theme by Valeria Acconcia, pp. 83-84. To differentiate the two sections of the issue and identify more immediately the contributions related to the EADs, it was chosen to mark the first page of each article with the EADs logo.

² All colleagues from ICA and Enrico Proietti (General Directorate for Contemporary Creativity) collaborated in organizing the event. A special thanks to him and to Riccardo Artico, who moderated the conference sessions with the writer. Thanks also to the Editorial board of the *Bollettino di Archeologia online*, which works with discipline and expertise to maintain a high level of quality and a constant periodicity. Lastly, once again, thanks to Mirella Serlorenzi for her constant support and willingness to collaborate on the event, facilitating its realization at the Museo Ninfeo.

³ With satisfaction, I recall that even the first event promoted by the ICA for the 2019 GEA edition, *Symposion: The art of drinking together: wine and convivial practices between past and present*, was published in 2021 on the *Bollettino di Archeologia online* (XII, 2021/2). A small setback was experienced during the lockdown of 2020 (a year in which it was not possible to propose events), but then resumed periodically in 2021.

Additionally, thanks to the valuable support of the Special Superintendency for Archaeology, Fine Arts, and Landscape of Rome, the ENPAM foundation allowed us to host the workshop in its evocative Conference Hall, nestled within the archaeological area and part of the current exposition route of the Museo Ninfeo. Furthermore, thanks to the networking efforts of ICA Director Elena Calandra, the event received international support from the Universidad Pablo de Olavide, featuring a presentation by Professor Juan Manuel Cortés Copete, who participated remotely from Seville.

Throughout the day's three sessions, the theme of sharing, and consequently of communication in archaeology, was approached from various angles. The first session aimed to provide a theoretical framework, with contributions from Silvia Pallecchi and Marco Ramazzotti. The second session presented experiences of institutional communication of archaeological research and protection activities, including that of the Archaeological Park of Ostia Antica, represented in this issue by the contribution of Marina Lo Blundo and Claudia Tempesta. The third session explored how recent communication languages, such as comics, social media, and video games, can engage new audiences, as clearly outlined in the presentations by Carlotta Caruso, Sara Colantonio, and Agnese Pergola (National Roman Museum); Emanuele Ciampini and Francesca Iannarilli (Italian Archaeological Mission in Sudan); Agostino Sotgia (University of Groningen) and Emiliano Barletta (Oblò APS).

The workshop concluded with a call from both speakers and attendees: to continue reflecting on the theme of sharing archaeology with the public. Moreover, it is undeniable that failing to understand the activities of archaeologist's risks widening the gap between archaeology and society, jeopardizing the delicate balance between heritage preservation and landscape transformation. Engaging the public entails equipping them with the tools to interact consciously with cultural heritage, promoting collaboration; this can only be achieved by promoting synergy among professionals and all stakeholders contributing to archaeology.

In the awareness of having addressed a topic widely debated in recent years, we hope to have contributed to the reflection on the theme. Certainly, the request made by speakers and attendees last June 16 at the Museo Ninfeo has been met: as I write, preparations are underway for the second edition (or rather, an edition squared) of *Sharing Archaeology*, dedicated to the theme of visual storytelling, which will take place next June 14 at the site of the Baths of Caracalla. But we will certainly talk about this in a year's time!