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Bulletin of the Archaeological Museum of the “*Studium Biblicum Franciscanum*”

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News:

The experiences of two Polish volunteers in Jerusalem

Their names are Magdalena Dziackowska and Małgorzata Miłkowska, they are both twenty-seven years old and have university degrees in art history. The two young Polish-born women have been serving as volunteers at the *Studium Biblicum Franciscanum* in Jerusalem. Their collaboration with the Custody of the Holy Land began last year, when the two worked for four months in the library at St. Saviour's Monastery, cataloguing books and periodicals.



This year they have been working on cataloguing and digitizing the photographic archive of Fathers Virgilio Corbo ofm and Stanislao Loffreda ofm. The numerous photos and negatives testify to the great importance of the archaeological excavations carried out by these Franciscan Fathers at Herodion, Machaerus, Tabgha and Magdala.

The two women decided to return because of their continuing fascination with the multiculturalism of Jerusalem, and their desire to learn more about the life and customs of its inhabitants. During their stay in the Holy Land they have had the opportunity to meet people from all over the world as well as to study the Hebrew language. They have expressed their sincere gratitude for the cordial welcome extended to them by the Franciscan friars and above all for the collaboration with the museum's director, Father Eugenio Alliata ofm. Their experience has led them to develop an appreciation of religious and cultural diversity as well as the capacity to find beauty and charm in situations and people that are seemingly different from them, but in which a profound common cultural heritage is to be found.



The visit of a member of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On Wednesday 26 September Dr. Isabelle Denis, *conservatrice en chef du patrimoine* at the *Département du patrimoine et de la décoration* of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, came to visit the museum. The French expert was on a visit to Jerusalem, where she was carefully looking over the different archaeological and historical sites owned by the French government in the Holy Land.

Thanks to the valuable suggestion of Marie-Armelle Beaulieu, chief editor of the magazine *La Terre Sainte*, the French official was able to meet with Father Eugenio Alliata ofm, with whom she visited the priceless archaeological collections of the museum of the *Studium Biblicum Franciscanum*.



The group of special French visitors with the Director, Father Eugenio Alliata ofm.

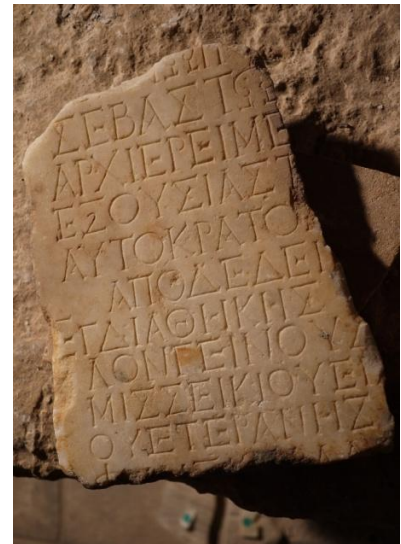
Scientific Activities:

The study of inscriptions in the museum's *lapidarium*

After finishing cataloguing the Byzantine-era oil lamps in the private collection of Father Stanislao Loffreda ofm, the young archaeologist Giuseppe Schiavariello has begun to study and catalogue the inscriptions contained in the museum's *lapidarium*. The museum's epigraphical collection consists of inscriptions in Greek, Latin, Aramaic, Ancient Hebrew, Syriac, Arabic, Paleo-Babylonian and Assyrian.

There are a large number of archaeological discoveries where inscriptions are preserved. Among these, of considerable interest is a marble inscription, discovered at Caesarea, that mentions an orphanage, and three Latin tombstones of Roman soldiers from the Fourth, Fifth and Tenth Legions found at *Amwas* and Jerusalem.

Other epigraphic documents are displayed in the entrance hall of the museum; here can be seen two fragmentary monumental inscriptions in Latin in honor of the Emperor Hadrian who had the city of Jerusalem rebuilt with the name of *Aelia Capitolina*. On the west wall, alongside the entrance into the Chapel of Condemnation, is a dedicatory inscription in mosaic from a Byzantine chapel in Bethlehem.



Fragment of a marble slab with inscription in Greek



Inscriptions in Qatabanic, an ancient language of the Arabian Peninsula



A fundamental element in the study of inscriptions is measuring the dimensions of the support