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## Bulletin of the Archaeological Museum of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum

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### News:

#### **Giovanna's work with Byzantine oil lamps and Persian armor**

Giovanna Pellizzari, a restorer from Venice, has spent the months of November and December working at the museum of the *Studium Biblicum Franciscanum*. The Italian specialist teaches restoration at the Venetian Institute for Cultural Heritage and has many years' experience in restoring metals. Among the projects on which she has worked are the bronzes of Tiziano Aspell and two silver candelabra from the Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua, the statue of the Assumption of Mary in the square in front of Strasbourg Cathedral, the monument to Giuseppe Verdi in Parma, and numerous silver pieces from the collections in the Venetian palaces. In Jerusalem she has looked after the cleaning and restoration of numerous metallic objects from the museum's collections. Of particular interest have been the results obtained for the large number of bronze oil lamps from the early Byzantine period and the cleaning of a metallic set of armor, whose shield and helmet have decorations covering their surfaces and inscriptions in



relief embellished with silver. Based on its style the armor was initially thought to be Arab/Saracen but a more detailed analysis led to the conclusion that the inscriptions on the shield and helmet, referring to a sura from the Koran, were in Persian.

## Scientific Activities:

### **The experience of Francesco, between archaeological excavations and scientific research**

During his study of Aegean and Cypriot pieces, carried out for his masters thesis in Archaeology at the University of Florence, Francesco Pollastri came to realize that the study of the entire *assemblage* of materials from the Canaanite burial ground at *Dominus Flevit* would provide a series of answers to integrate the earlier researches of Father Saller. The materials, preserved in the museum of the *Studium Biblicum*, had been brought to light by Saller himself during the summer and autumn of 1954. At the time, the approach to archaeological excavations was different from today: it was in fact not usually the case to take into consideration the potential usefulness of auxiliary sciences such as palynology, petrographic studies and neutron activation analysis.



The burial ground at *Dominus Flevit* was used for approximately four centuries, from the first half of the 16th to the end of the 13th centuries BC; the deceased who were buried there belonged to the Jerusalem aristocracy. The Archaeological Museum is in charge of the largest and most important corpus of materials from excavations documenting and providing evidence regarding the life of Jerusalem in the Middle and Late Bronze Ages. Today it would be possible to determine the periods in which the tombs, probably even individual ones, were placed in the burial ground, thanks to the reinterpretation of data from other excavations carried out in the Middle East, Cyprus and the Aegean. The work carried out by Francesco in September and October, with the assistance and support of his director, Father Eugenio Alliata ofm, has served both to advance this study and to develop a further research project that has been submitted for funding to the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP).

## **The new *Pilgrim's Guide* dedicated to the Mount of Olives**

Since the beginning of November a new volunteer, Angela Ricci, has been collaborating with ATS pro Terra Sancta as part of the project “**Gethsemane: preserving the past and training the future**” being carried out in conjunction with the Italian Consulate, through the *Palestinian Municipalities Support Program* (PMSP), and the Mosaic Center of Jericho.

Her individual expertise, passion and interest in Jerusalem and the Middle East, along with her considerable experience in editing texts for a number of Italian publishers, were the factors leading Angela to take up the challenge of gathering together texts and other materials for producing a new *Pilgrim's Guide* for visiting the sanctuaries on the Mount of Olives.



This mount has been the subject of great historical and archaeological interest and is of particular importance for the Christians who come to visit Jerusalem.

For this reason it was decided to create a useful and practical tool for visitors, to be carried out in collaboration with ETS, Edizioni di Terra Santa, which will publish the work. The guide is intended for pilgrims and other visitors to the site, a destination that is unique both for prayer and for commemorating one of the most important memories of the redemption and salvation of man: the beginning of the Passion of Christ.