



Cultural Heritage Center,  
SA-5, Fifth Floor,  
Department of State,  
Washington, DC 20522-0505.  
Nov. 2, 2009

Madame Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Governing Board and members of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) to express our support for the ongoing work of the Republic of Italy to protect its cultural patrimony and share the benefits of this rich heritage with the people of the United States. The AIA takes particular note of those actions that fall within the scope of Article II of the 2001 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Italy and the United States as amended in 2006. We believe Italy's actions demonstrate the success of Article II and we look forward to further strengthening of the MoU when CPAC considers future requests for renewal.

Founded in 1879 and chartered by an Act of Congress in 1906, the Archaeological Institute of America is the nation's largest archaeological organization. Representing over 200,000 members and over one hundred local societies throughout the United States, the AIA's membership comprises both professional archaeologists and interested individuals. Our members work around the world and are active in safeguarding archaeological resources as a common heritage of both the people of the United States and of other nations. Throughout its history and especially in recent years, many AIA members have worked in Italy and have cooperated with Italian authorities in the excavation, study, publication and public presentation of Italian objects, both in that country and here in the United States. Accordingly, the AIA has a strong interest in the continuation of such cooperation, particularly as expressed in Article II of the MoU.

As Article II recognizes, excavation remains a primary means of expanding our knowledge about Italy's ancient history. American archaeologists are leaders in collaborating with Italian authorities to pursue such work. The following is a partial list of American institutions participating in fieldwork in Italy: the University of Pennsylvania's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology began fieldwork at Villa Magna near Rome in 2006, the University of Michigan's Kelsey Museum initiated a project at Gabii in 2007, Drew University

in New Jersey began excavation at Vicus ad Martis Tudertium in Umbria in 2008, Oberlin College in Ohio continues to work at Monte Pallano in Abruzzo, the University of Cincinnati is working at Pompeii, and the University of Colorado excavates at the Villa of Maxentius outside of Rome. All of these projects include staff or undergraduate students drawn from multiple American institutions so that the benefits of their work are spread throughout the United States.

Article II also calls for Italy to loan excavated material to American museums. Accordingly, we note that in 2009 the Meadows Museum at Southern Methodist University in Texas hosted the exhibition *From the Temple and the Tomb: Etruscan Treasures from Tuscany*, which it described as “the most comprehensive exhibition of Etruscan art ever undertaken in the U.S.” In addition to other pieces, Italy loaned nearly 100 objects excavated at Poggio Colla near Florence. That excavation is jointly sponsored by SMU and the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and since 1995 has trained students through direct exposure to work in Italy. It is particularly fitting, therefore, that one of the featured objects of the exhibition was a bronze Etruscan coin recorded by an SMU undergraduate.

In accordance with Article II, Italy has offered objects of Greek and Roman antiquity on long-term loan to American Museums. As widely reported in the American press, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Getty Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Princeton University Art Museum have each entered into agreements by which they returned artifacts to Italian ownership and simultaneously arranged for loans of objects for display in their galleries. Short-term loans also serve to bring the benefits of Italy’s cultural patrimony to the American public. The 2002 exhibition *Magna Graecia: Greek art from south Italy and Sicily* placed exceptional Italian objects on display at the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Tampa Museum. The exhibition catalog, which is easily available for purchase via Amazon.com, thanks a wide range of Italian colleagues and museums, noting that their efforts made it possible for Americans to “appreciate, firsthand, ancient Greek masterworks of the highest quality from South Italy and Sicily.” (p. 8). At the time of this writing through February 2010, the Getty Museum is exhibiting the so-called Arezzo Chimera, a masterwork of Etruscan sculpture, via a loan from the National

Archaeological Museum of Florence. This is a work of primary artistic importance and its availability in the United States signals the success of Article II.

For its part, Italy has effectively used museum exhibitions to increase public awareness of the importance of protecting its archaeological heritage. The very successful 2008 exhibition *Nostoi* included 74 illegally exported objects that had been returned to Italy. In the fall of 2009 the show *L'Arma per l'Arte* opened in Rome in commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the *Comando Carabinieri per la Tutela del Patrimonio Culturale*. It is also relevant that the Salinas Regional Archaeological Museum in Palermo offered a fragment of the Parthenon frieze for display in the new Acropolis Museum in Athens, an act of international cooperation as called for in Article II, paragraph D.

Finally, we note that Italy has taken advantage of digital technologies to share the results of scientific excavation with an international audience. In particular, the website <http://www.fastionline.org/>, initiated by the *Associazione Internazionale di Archeologia Classica* in Rome and funded in part by the Packard Humanities Institute, facilitates the rapid publication of archaeological projects in Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Kosovo, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. For Italy, over 1200 reports give details of coins, ceramics and other objects from fieldwork conducted since 2000, and as recently as the summer of 2009. With this innovative project, Italy is showing that scientifically recorded results can be brought directly to an international readership in a timely fashion.

In summary and on behalf of the Archaeological Institute of America's more than 200,000 members, the AIA respectfully requests that the Committee reach a favorable assessment of the role of Article II in fostering an admirable record of co-operation between museums and archaeologists in the Republic of Italy and the United States of America as well as its role in bringing demonstrable benefits to the American public.

Respectfully submitted,



Sebastian Heath, Ph.D.,  
Vice-President for Professional Responsibilities,  
Archaeological Institute of America.