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Conservation, Cultural Heritage, and the Gallery of Epigraphic Casts of Sapienza University Department of Classics*

Abstract

The article presents the Collection of the plaster casts of Greek inscriptions newly exposed in a wing of the Museo dell'Arte Classica of the Department of Classics in the Sapienza University (Rome, Italy), stressing their importance as part of the Italian Cultural Heritage.

Keywords: Plaster casts; Greek inscriptions; Exhibition; Cultural Heritage, Sapienza University of Rome.

L'articolo presenta la collezione dei calchi in gesso delle iscrizioni greche esposti di recente in un'ala del Museo dell'Arte Classica del Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità (Università di Roma "La Sapienza") della quale si sottolinea l'importanza in quanto parte del patrimonio culturale italiano.

Parole chiave: Calchi in gesso; Iscrizioni greche; Mostra; Patrimonio culturale, Università di Roma "La Sapienza".

1. Introduction

The Department of Classics at Sapienza University boasts an extensive collection of casts, mainly housed in the Museum of Classical Art. The collection began thanks to the initiative of the great Austrian scholar, Emanuel Löwy, who was called to lead the first department of Archeology at Sapienza after the unification of Italy in 1890. Already in 1889, Löwy sent a letter to Rector Cerruti where he outlined his plan for the creation of "Archeology Rooms," attached to the Department of Archeology and Roman and Greek Art, which were to include a collection of plaster casts¹.

At the same time, a parallel collection of epigraphic casts in various materials, conceived as a scientific and teaching tool, was growing and although its origins were less well known, Gaetano De Sanctis became

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