



SOPRINTENDENZA  
ARCHEOLOGIA DEL LAZIO  
E DELL'ETRURIA MERIDIONALE

## *Symposium Peregrinum 2016*

TARQUINIA-VULCI (VT)-MARINO 16-19 June

### *The Mysteries of Mithras and other Mystic Cults in the Roman World*

The International Conference *The Mysteries of Mithras and other Mystic Cults in the Roman World* promotes a phenomenon of the antiquity which has become more and more important, thanks to recent archaeological discoveries. This phenomenon is the dialectic between the traditional Roman religion and foreign cults, mainly those with an Oriental origin.

Mithras, Cybele, Isis, Serapis are also known as "oriental" or "mysterious" cults. These "foreign" cults, according to the Roman concept, had a great diffusion within the Roman society. Many current researches study how cults were organized or how and why they had so deep roots in the Roman world.

This reveals interesting insights on issues little known so far: the interaction between the various Eastern religions and their relationship with the imperial ideology and Christianity, without neglecting a better definition of what was considered mysterious and what not.

Archaeological excavations and studies have clarified the role of the Greek and Carthaginians presence along the Lazio's coasts for the development of phenomena of reception of external elements and transformation of pantheon of the Etruscan and Lazio cities. The cult of Adonis at Gravisca or the initiates into the Dionysian cults in Tarquinia are a clear evidence. It is the imperial era to have reserved the biggest surprises. Two stunning monuments of the worship of Mithras have been recently brought to light at Veii and Tarquinia; whereas the Mithraeum of Vulci and of Marino are well-known in the literature.

This conference is part of the famous series of meetings begun fifteen years ago at the Villa Vergiliana at the American Vergilian Society by Professor Patricia Johnston, Brandeis University of Waltham/Boston. The avenue of the conferences has moved in the last years; this is why the conference is called *Symposia Peregrina*. They were held in Grumento Nova in Lucania, in Verona and in Budapest. Tarquinia, the main venue for the 2016 conference, is placed side by side by other important locations with mithraea such as Vulci (Canino, in the Viterbo province) and Marino (in the Rome province). The different venues are chosen for the recent archaeological discoveries and news to be submitted and to offer the opportunity to visit the places of Mithras cult as well.

Papers will be in English, Italian, and French. Material in English will be welcomed to encourage broader discussion.

To attend the conference please confirm your participation with an email to: [sar-laz.soprintendente@beniculturali.it](mailto:sar-laz.soprintendente@beniculturali.it), no later than 12 noon on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

### **Organizers:**

Alfonsina Russo Tagliente (Archaeological Superintendence of Lazio and Southern Etruria)

Attilio Mastrocinque (University of Verona)

Lászlo Tákács (Péter Pázmány Catholic University, Budapest)

Patricia A. Johnston (Brandeis University, Waltham, MA)

During the conference days:

Guided tour to the Vulci Mithraeum (Friday 17 June, 2-3pm) Info and booking: [info@vulci.it](mailto:info@vulci.it); +39.0766.89298

Guided tour to the Marino Mithraeum (Sunday 19 June, from 10am) max 50 people. Info and booking: [museocivico@comune.marino.rm.it](mailto:museocivico@comune.marino.rm.it)

### **How to reach:**

#### **Tarquinia (Palazzo Comunale, via Piazza Giacomo Matteotti, 6)**

**From Rome.** TRAIN: from Termini station, train line Roma-Civitavecchia-Grosseto, stop in Tarquinia Station. Shuttle from the station to Tarquinia centre. (Autotrasporti Eusepi: [info@eusepitrasporti.it](mailto:info@eusepitrasporti.it); tel. 0766-848280)

Infopoint Tarquinia: 0766.849282 [info@tarquiniaturismo.it](mailto:info@tarquiniaturismo.it); [www.tarquiniaturismo.it](http://www.tarquiniaturismo.it)

#### **Vulci (Sala François, Parco Naturalistico Archeologico di Vulci).**

**From Rome.** Highway A12/E80 Roma-Civitavecchia-Tarquinia. Proceed along E80 until Hotel Vulci (km 111); turn right into the Provincial Road 105 (SP105); follow indications for the Vulci Park (13 km).

**From North.** Proceed along the Livorno-Grosseto road, then the S.S. 1 Aurelia and exit at Montalto di Castro (km 109). Return on S.S. 1 Aurelia direction North and exit for Vulci at Km 111. Follow the Provincial Road Fiora (SP del Fiora), then the Provincial Road to the Badia (13 Km in total).

**From East.** Motorway Orte-Viterbo until to Viterbo, then take the road Viterbo-Tuscania-Montalto di Castro. At Montalto di Castro return on S.S. 1 Aurelia direction North and exit for Vulci at Km 111. Follow the Provincial Road Fiora (SP del Fiora), then the Provincial Road to the Badia (13 Km in total).

Info: Biglietteria Parco Archeologico Naturalistico di Vulci: +39.0766.89298 +39.0766.870179; [info@vulci.it](mailto:info@vulci.it)

#### **Marino (University of Dallas, via dei Ceraseti 12).**

**From Rome.** METRO: metro A (red line) to Anagnina station. Bus from Terminal 2 (Albano-Velletri line) get off at Due Santi, on request; go towards right and turn left in Via dei Ceraseti and continue for about 200 m.