

MUSEUMS: 1ST ARABIC VERSION OF 'RESTORATION THEORY' IN CAIRO

(ANSAMED) - CAIRO, APRIL 15 –

The first Arabic translation of «Restoration Theory,» the book which has been a point of reference for restorers since it was published in 1963, based on the lessons of Cesare Brandi, «the father of Italian restoration», was presented today in Cairo at the head offices of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities (ESCA) in the presence of the general secretary **Zahi Hawass** and the Italian ambassador to Cairo, **Claudio Pacifico**. The occasion also saw the graduation ceremony of around forty of the 120 Egyptian students taking courses in restoration training, conservation and museums studies under the architect **Donatella Cavezzali**, with speeches by **Armida Batori**, director of the Central Institute for the Restoration of Archive and Library Heritage and **Caterina Bon Valsassina**, director of the Superior Institute for Restoration (ISCR) . The courses were designed around an agreement made between the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and the ESCA, and are part of a project known as the «Upgrading of the Egyptian Museum System», financed by the Foreign Ministry (the Italian Cooperation in Development Fund) for a total of 1,300,000 euros. **Hawass** said: «I am happy to be able to announce that tomorrow Egyptian newspapers will print details of a competition to select the director of conservation works at the new Grand Museum, which is to be built in the Pyramids zone, in the next five years if all goes well. The new director could be from Italy, France, Egypt or any other country.» The General Secretary went on, to say that «today's ceremony is further proof of the excellent collaboration taking place between Italy and Egypt in terms of planning for culture.» The strong ties between the two countries, the ambassador continued, can be seen in projects such as the training scheme which just ended, as well as political meetings - as is the case during the second bilateral meeting between representatives of the two governments due to take place on May 12 at Sharm El Sheikh, with the participation of the Italian prime minister. He went on to express his hopes for the work of the new Egyptian graduates in restoration and conservation, calling them «the true ambassadors of the cooperation between Italy and Egypt.»

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