**S. Domenico Church**

**Alba - Cuneo**

**Wine in Ancient Egypt**

**The past in the glass**

*by the care of Sabina Malgora*

**21 March – 19 May 2014**

**Opening Friday 21st March, 17.30**

*Press release, 5.02.2014*

“*Wine in Ancient Egypt. The Past in the glass*” is **an archaeological exhibition, showed for the first time and innovative**. Through the history of wine, it investigate the egyptian civilization from the Ancient Kingdom to the Roman Period. It is organized by the **Mummy Project Cultural Association** in cooperation with the **Town of Alba, Councillorship on Culture**, and the patronage of Piemonte Region and Province of Cuneo. The supporters are the **Cuneo Saving Bank Foundation**, **“Tu Langhe Roero” Turist Office**, **Bra**, **Langhe and Roero Consortium for Turists**, **Consortium for the protection of Barolo and Barbaresco**, the **ACA** (Alba Shopkeepers Association).

The exhibition managed by Sabina Malgora, archaeologist, egyptologist, will enhance, with the **wine subject**, the **strong connection between the ancient Egyptian culture** –from 2686 B.C. - and that of our land. Moreover two special sections will put the people in contact with the Egyptian world. One concerns the **Late Period Mummy** (650-332 B.C.) and **its coffin**, from the Meran Town Museum, as well as the Mummy Project research explained by a 3D photo set. **The other is the reconstruction**, **full size scale, of the TT290 Irynefer Tomb** in the necropolis of the Deir el Medina village of the workers, who were building the tombs in the nearby Kings and Queens Valleys.

**In the exhibition the ancient time and the history go through the wine and join Alba with Egypt**. So it makes an high interesting visit for people of any age, pointing out usages, customs, cultivation techniques, artistic works and everyday objects like glasses and jewels. The findings are flanked by a **strong photo set**, that marks the exhibition ground of the S. Domenico Church. **The show goes down deep in the several aspects and significances of the wine**: the vine culture, the wine-making, the grape-harvest, the jar filling, the ageing and the following trade. The subject is regarded in **its religious significance** with **symbolic meanings** and the **associated deities**, but also in the **funerary world**, with the help of the **most considerable archaeological discoveries**, that revealed significant works, as the TT52 Tomb of Nakht in the Thebes necropolis of Sheikh Abd el-Qurna.

Furthermore the expo will explain the **everyday life, the farming, the food, the social life, the belief in the eternal life** in a netherworld similar to the real world, where the deceased will have his full life and need his foodstuffs.

Over **50 findings highlight the way**: bowls, plates, crockery and jars, dated to the VI-VII century d.C. and I-III century d.C., all waterproof inside to receive the wine. Jars are still depicted on the **Senbi stela** (Middle Kingdom, XII Dynasty) that show the gifts for the deceased. People will find in addition a set of objects made of faience, an enamelled silica paste very popular before the discovery of the glass, such as a goblet, with a **lotus flower form**, and **decorations**, **in the shape of grapes bunches**, a regeneration symbol: these latter were used in collars for women and men and even for decorating temples and royal palaces.

Another object, that recall the **regeneration symbol associated to the wine**, is the **bronze statuette of the God Osiris**, brought back to life thanks to the magic power of his wife Isis, whose Late Period statuette of blue faience is showed in the exhibition. Osiris do also create the direct connection between the red colour of the wine and the colour of the God’s blood. To be mentioned, among the various statues, **the big sculpture, 3 meters of high, of diorite-quartz, representing the goddess Sekhmet with lioness head,** whose name means “ The powerful “.

The archaeological findings are borrowed from two most important Italian Museums for Egyptian collections, the Turin Egyptian Museum Foundation and the Egyptian Museum of Florence, where, of these two, the Turin Museum is in the world second only to the Cairo Egyptian Museum.

*“The most difficult challenge in setting up an expo – says the curator – is just how to translate the various messages, coming from an archaeological finding, in a language, that everyone will understand, and in an enjoyable pleasure to share. The show is magic, a fascinating translation, where the scientific and specialized knowledge spread in a fairly simple language and a story*

*Begins”.*

A further highlight to the exhibition is the **catalogue**, published by Ananke Edizioni, by the care of Sabina Malgora, with accounts of renowned English, American, Chinese, Italian scholars: Federico Bottigliengo, Alida Dell’Anna, Jonathan Elias, Maria Rosa Guasch-Jané, Maria Cristina Guidotti, Patrick McGovern, Gilberto Modonesi, Marco Mozzone, Poo Mu-Chou, Dominic Rathbone. The side activities concern **occasional events**, evening visits, wine and food tasting events, lectures, poetry, ballets and concerts.

The exhibition is realized thanks to the contribution of: Barolo & Castles Foundation, Pio Cesare, Baratti & Milano, Cassa di Risparmio di Bra, Egea, Labirinto, Accedis.

Project manager of the exhibiotion is Alida Dell’Anna, the set-up projcet is by the care of Alessandra Chiti for +39 and the lighting design is curated by Marco Palandella and Roberto Corradini.

**Exhibition Infos**

**Title:** Wine in Ancient Egypt. The Past in the glass.

**Curator:** Sabina Malgora

**Where:** San Domenico Church, Alba

**When:** 21 March – 19 May

**Press Conference:** Friday 28 February, 11.00 – Alba City, Teatro Sociale G. Busca

**Opening Ceremony:** Friday 21 March, 17.30

**Catalogue:** Ananke, by the care of Sabina Malgora and other authors

**Opening time**

**Tuesday to Friday:** 14.30 – 18.30 (in the morning and Monday only upon reservations)

**Saturday:** 10 – 22

**Sunday:** 10 – 19

**Admission**

Ticket € 5

Students, over 70, under 14 € 4

Children under 6 free

Collective visit with guide upon reservation € 15

Visit with guide upon reservation and visit with the curator on request

Educational program for children, students, families and special requests

info@ambientecultura.it, www.ambientecultura.it

**Infos for the people**

Infos, booking and visits with guide Tel 017335833, info@ambientecultura.it,

mummyproject@libero.it, www.mummyproject.wix.com/eventi

Educational program for children, students, families and special requests

info@ambientecultura.it, www.ambientecultura.it

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