



## Report of the Chair of the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies

Annual General meeting,  
February 19, 2012

This is the first AGM of the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies to be held since 2004. As Chair of the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies

The period covered since our last AGM has seen many new initiatives and events, both at the National level as well as at the level of the Chapters. This report will cover some highlights.

### **Membership**

The combined membership for Ottawa and Toronto Chapters for 2011-2012 comes to about 90, which includes spouses and families. A greater effort will need to be made to encourage new members.

Membership dues will remain at their present levels and categories. However, these will be reviewed in the coming year in light of rising costs of programming

### **Scripta Mediterranea**

CIMS produces a yearly learned journal known as SCRIPTA MEDITERRANEA. The latest volume has been published in October 2011 and should be distributed shortly to all members. It is planned to have a new volume sent out each year in the future.

A special fund has been set up for its publication in the amount of \$8,968, consisting of donations and ongoing direct sales to university libraries and through specialized journal brokers.

In future, Scripta will become a voluntary item. In the past, \$10 was deducted from income tax receipts to cover the cost of its publication which will continue for those who wish to receive it. For those who choose not to receive it, income tax receipts will cover the full amount of membership dues.

### **Program**

Some of the highlights of the period 2004-2011 include the following:

In 2006 a major conference on the Sea Peoples took place with SHRCC sponsorship at the University of Toronto. Papers presented at the conference were published in a double volume of Scripta..

In the same year CIMS partnered with the Institut des Etudes méditerranéennes de Montréal IEMM and the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa to organize a lecture by world-renowned French archaeologist Jean-Yves Empereur.

Prof. Empereur returned to Canada in 2008 to give a lecture on the new discoveries of Cleopatra's palace which is submerged in the Bay of Alexandria. CIMS partnered with the Institut d'études méditerranéennes de Montréal and Concordia University. Professor Empereur presented his lecture in Ottawa at Library and Archives Canada and in Toronto at the Royal Ontario Museum.

The IEMM, which is now an independent Institute, was first set up with the assistance of CIMS in 2004 and was a chapter of our Institute for some years. Their mandate is similar to ours and we continue to work in close relationship with them

In 2009 CIMS was instrumental in bringing a major exhibit of the Dead Sea Scrolls to Canada, which was exhibited at the ROM, and co-sponsored a major two day conference at the University of Toronto and the ROM on the Dead Sea Scrolls.

In 2010 CIMS, partnering with the Albanian Embassy organized a concert by the "Trio Fammus" of Toronto

In 2011, a major event was launched in partnership with the ROM on Olive Oil, with an Olive Oil and Wine and Food tasting event at the ROM with contributions by the Consulates of Greece, Italy, France, and Israel. A one day academic conference at St. Michael's College, at U of T, followed. Papers of the conference are being included in a volume of SCRIPTA, co-edited by Prof. Domenico Pietropaolo, Principal of St. Michael's College at U of T and Prof. Antonio Ricci, of York University, and President of the Toronto Chapter.

Projects with the Italian Consul-General on Jewish/Italian Friendship were also developed, which included a lecture by Dr. Edward Goldberg, founder of the Medici Archive Project in Florence, a symposium on the Holocaust in Italy as well as co-sponsoring a new Roman period excavation in the Galilee at Tel Huqoq.

### ***Ottawa Chapter report***

**Since 2004** Ottawa has presented an average of 8 lectures a year dealing with subjects as varied as archaeology, art history, music, language, architecture and other issues dealing with the culture and traditions of the countries of the Mediterranean.

Some of the highlights from 2009 include lectures from experts brought here by the AIA such as Prof. Hazel Dodge of Dublin University and Prof. Susan Rotroff, of Washington University in St. Louis.

The Ottawa Chapter has also benefitted from the expertise of some of its members.

- Prof. Timothy P. Harrison, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto, who, in addition to having edited the volume of Scripta on the Sea Peoples, shared with

us on more than one occasion the results of his excavation at Tell Tayinat on the Plain of Antioch in Turkey;

- The Resurrection of the Ancient library of Alexandria by Hassan Eltaher;
- Bellini's Madonna of the Meadow commented by Prof. Ross Kilpatrick of Queens' University;
- Prof. Fabbio Colivicchi, also of Queen's, on Cerveteri and the Etruscans;
- Thanks to Prof. John Osborne, Dean of Arts and Sciences at Carleton University, Professor Christopher Smith, Director of the British School in Rome gave two lectures on the Roman and Etruscan Kings.
- Prof. John Osborne spoke on more than one occasion on Medieval Rome, the last lecture being on "*The Christianization of the Roman Forum in the Early Middle Ages*" as part of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy, with the sponsorship of the Italian Embassy
- Mauro Bertoli, a young Italian pianist and now lecturing at Carleton University, gave a well-attended Christmas concert of Italian composers past and contemporary, last December. This event was cosponsored with the Dante Alighieri Society and the Canadian Italian Congress of Ottawa and the reception was offered by the Italian Embassy, this being the last event of several celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unification of Italy.

Future plans include events around Olive Oil, adding a new dimension to the theme, with projects on the Mediterranean Diet and on the intangible heritage of the Mediterranean, such as theater, dance, literature, music, the arts and traditions, focusing each year on a different theme or country. This is a complementary aspect to our existing program so that, by integrating the intangible heritage, a wider cultural net on the expressions and manifestations of the culture of Mediterranean countries will be cast.

2012 will be the year of **Turkey**. A launch is being planned at the Turkish Ambassador's residence. There will be presentations such as the one tonight on the "*Trojan War as Myth and History: An Anatolian Perspective*" by Prof. Shane Hawkins; on Turkish Ceramics by Professor Cogulu: "*Turkish Ceramics: Exquisite Art and Its Impact on the Mediterranean Region*" complemented by one on "*Turkish Tulip: its history and international ties*" by Füsün Ören; the visit of a Chef from Turkey for a week of Turkish food at a downtown hotel, and many others..

**Finances** : A separate financial statement is in annex

### **Toronto Chapter Report**

#### **Report of the President of the Toronto Chapter of the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies for AGM of February 19, 2012**

**Submitted by: Antonio Ricci, President of the Toronto Chapter Read by Wendy Wynne Jones**

Since 2004, the Toronto Chapter has organized and/or sponsored the following initiatives:

1. **Annual Lecture Series.** The Chapters has held five to six lectures a year since 2004. The topics have ranged across the spectrum of Mediterranean culture, including archaeology, art history, film, literature, social history, and linguistics. The speakers are usually academics, and the talks are intended for a general public. We have co-sponsored some lectures with local institutions. The Italian Cultural Institute, for example, cooperated with us in the lecture by Dr. Edward Goldberg on Jews in Medici Florence, held in April 2011 and attended by over 100 people.

2. **Academic Conferences.** In 2006, The Chapter sponsored a major international conference on the Sea Peoples, organized by our board member, Prof. Timothy Harrison. Attendance exceeded two hundred individuals over the two days of the conference. The proceedings were published as a special issue of two volumes of SCRIPTA (Vol. 28-29 ). In Nov. 2011, we sponsored a conference on “Olive Oil in the Mediterranean”, organized by board member Prof. Domenico Pietropaolo. The proceedings will be published in Scripta.(Vol.29) and will be mailed to members in March 2012.

### **3. Projects.**

a. Dead Sea Scrolls. In 2009, Alex Gropper, president of CIMS, played a role in bringing an exhibit of the Dead Sea Scrolls to the ROM. During the exhibit, the Chapter co-sponsored a two-day conference held at the University of Toronto and the ROM.

b. Jewish/Italian Friendship Project. An ongoing collaboration with the Consul General of Italy, Gianni Bardini, it has produced thus far a symposium on the Holocaust in Italy held at St. Michael's College on November 4, 2011; the Olive Oil event held at the ROM in November, 2011, comprised of a lecture by Prof. Ken Bartlett, musical performances, and reception (with the further sponsorship of the Consulates of Greece, France, and Israel); co-sponsorship of a new Roman period excavation in the Galilee at Tel Huqoq.

4. **Scripta Mediterranea.** Although Scripta is the academic journal of the national organization, the work of producing it, including editing and fundraising, is carried out by members of the Toronto Chapter. In 2010, Prof. Domenico Pietropaolo took over as Editor and Prof. Antonio Ricci as Associate Editor. Issue 29 appeared in October, 2011; the next three issues are scheduled to be published one every year.

**Finances.** The financial business of the Chapter is handled entirely by Mario Crespi, who is submitting this documentation separately.

### **Upcoming Initiatives of the National Office in 2012** **Report by Alex Gropper, National President**

There are a number of exciting ventures that are being worked on. Two are with the ROM and one involves the Institute for Hellenistic Studies at the University of Waterloo.

The ROM is negotiating to get a major exhibit on Pompeii with the assistance of the Italian Consulate. The National President is involved in negotiations to get CIMS participation in the

venture once negotiations are finalized. The other project under discussion with the ROM also involves the Jerusalem Foundation, as well as the participation of both the Israeli and Italian Consulates. It includes the possibility of an exhibit and an international conference.

#### Bylaws and new legislation

CIMS is a not for profit charitable organization as per the Canada Corporations Act. New legislation was passed and the new Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act has come into force October 17, 2011.

All corporations incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act, Part II must transition to the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act. We have until October 17, 2014 to continue under it or take other actions to preserve the Institute's corporate existence. A revision of the bylaws will take place during the transition period. We are continuing to review our options and will take the necessary steps as soon as we have determined what is the best course of action for us.

Ottawa, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Louise Terrillon-Mackay  
Chair of the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies



With the assistance of Prof. Sakis Gekas, the Chair in Modern Hellenic History at York University, the National President is also working on a major international conference on *Migration in the Mediterranean* as a co-operative venture with the Hellenistic Institute at the University of Waterloo. The help and sponsorship of various Mediterranean Consulates will be solicited once the conference is organized.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all our volunteers who devote their time to making our programs a success in both Ottawa and Toronto and all our partners who make these events possible, in particular, the Archaeological Institute of America, the Canadian institute in Greece, the Dante Alighieri Society, the Canadian-Italian Congress Ottawa Chapter, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the various Embassies and Consulates not to forget our academic partners from the University of Toronto, York University, Carleton University and the University of Ottawa who have helped us during the past years.

Louise Terrillon-Mackay  
Chair of the Board of Directors  
Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies