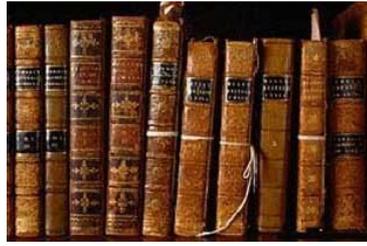


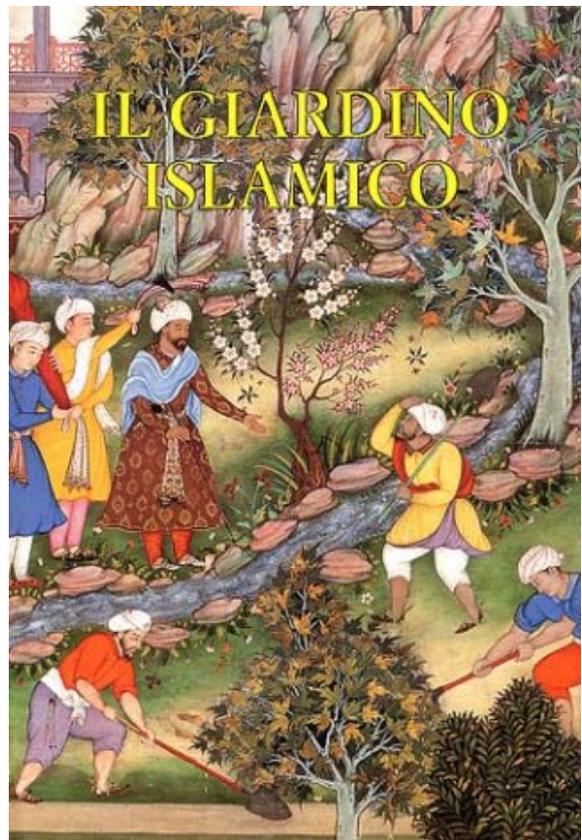
Libri Ricevuti – Books Received



Luigi Zangheri, Brunella Lorenzi, Nausikaa Mandana Rahmati, *Il giardino islamico*, collana “Giardini e paesaggio”, vol. 15, ed. Olschki, Città di Castello (PG), 2006.

(484 pp., 45€, ISBN 88-222-5521-6)

Il volume costituisce la prima monografia sul giardino islamico di un autore italiano. Un tema affascinante quanto difficile risolto sia attraverso la documentazione ottenuta con visite mirate nei più lontani paesi, che con la rilettura dei resoconti dovuti ai viaggiatori del passato, e illustranti le suggestioni e l'originalità di giardini che non avevano pari in Occidente. Giardini appartenenti a un universo vastissimo che andava dalla Spagna all'India, passando per l'Africa del Nord, la Siria, l'Uzbekistan, e il Pakistan, e che trovavano una matrice comune nelle forme del persiano *cahârbâgh*, il giardino quadripartito attraversato da canali e recinto da mura che evocava il paradiso musulmano. Solo nella Turchia ottomana si lasciò spazio a soluzioni più paesaggistiche che anticiparono quelle del giardino all'inglese. A questi giardini dobbiamo la diffusione in Europa di numerose specie vegetali che vanno dal limone all'arancio, dal tulipano al gelsomino. Accompagnano il testo iniziale un'antologia di antichi documenti con le pagine sui giardini della Sicilia islamica dovute a Brunella Lorenzi, e quelle sulla diffusione e fortuna del giardino persiano redatte da Nausikaa Mandana Rahmati con un abaco alfabetico dei giardini islamici e un glossario delle dinastie che regnarono nei paesi musulmani.



Juliette van Krieken-Pieters (ed.), *Art and Archaeology of Afghanistan. Its Fall and Survival – A Multi-Disciplinary Approach*, “Handbook of Oriental Studies. Section 8 Uralic & Central Asian Studies”, vol. 14, Brill Publisher, Leiden-Boston, 2006.

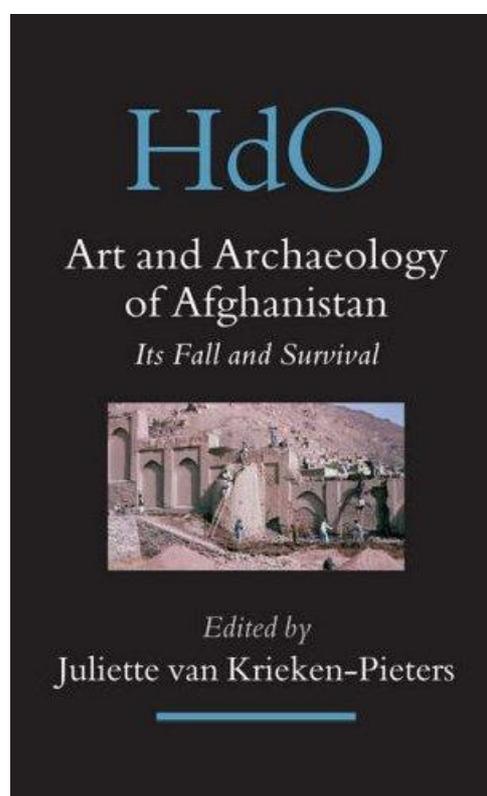
(412 pp., 89€, ISBN 9004-151-826)

During the last couple of decades Afghanistan’s cultural heritage has faced exceptional challenges. Looting of the National Museum, ‘Kabul Museum’, the neglect of monuments and extensive illegal excavations have taken place. However, what really shook the world was the destruction of the Buddhas of Bamiyan in March 2001.

This volume focuses on Afghanistan’s cultural heritage protection. Its purpose is threefold. To provide an overview of the diversity of activities undertaken in the cultural heritage field. To change public opinion into a more positive one. And to serve as an example for future generations.

This multidisciplinary book (including contributions from archaeologists, linguists, and lawyers) will interest both scholars in the cultural, legal and humanistic field as well as the public at large. Many exceptional photographs are included.

Contributions by Warwick Ball, Bedran Cassar, Francesco Francioni, Alison Gascoigne, Carla Grissmann, Nancy Hatch Dupree, Federico Lenzerini, Jolyon Leslie, Kasaku Maeda, Christian Manhart, Fabio Maniscalco, Atle Omland, Lyndel V. Prott, Ellen M. Raven, Ana Rosa Rodríguez García, Viktor Sarianidi, Kurt Siehr, Nadia Tarzi, Gerda Theuns-de Boer, David Thomas, Jos van Beurden, Juliette van Krieken-Pieters.

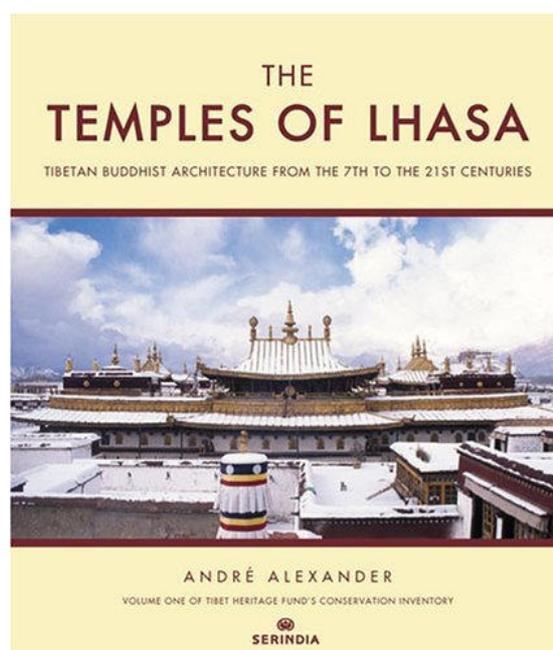


André Alexander, *The Temples of Lhasa: Tibetan Buddhist Architecture from the 7th to the 21st Centuries*, vol. 15, Serindia Publisher, Chicago 2005. (336 pp., 65 \$, ISBN 1-932476-20-2)

This book is a comprehensive survey of historic Buddhist sites in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa. The study is based on the Tibetan Heritage Fund's official five-year architectural conservation project in Tibet, during which the author and his team had unlimited access to the buildings studied. The documented sites span the entire known history of Tibetan Buddhist art and architecture from the 7th to the 21st centuries.

The book is divided into thirteen chapters, covering all the major and minor temples in historic Lhasa. These include some of Tibet's oldest and most revered sites, such as the Lhasa Tsukla-khang and Ramoché, as well as lesser-known but highly important sites such as the Jébumgang Lha-khang, Meru Dratsang and Meru Nyingpa. It is illustrated with numerous color plates taken over a period of roughly 15 years from the mid-1980s to today and is augmented with rare photographs and reproductions of Tibetan paintings. This book also provides detailed architectural drawings and maps made by the project. Each site has been completely surveyed, documented and analyzed. The history of each site has been written – often for the first time – based on source texts and survey results, as well as up-to-date technology such as carbon dating, dendrochronology, and satellite data. Tibetan source texts and oral accounts have also been used to reconstruct the original design of the sites. Matthew Akester has contributed translations of Tibetan source texts, including excerpts from the writings of the Fifth and Thirteenth Dalai Lamas.

This documentation of Tibetan Buddhist temple buildings is the most detailed of its kind, and is the first professional study of some of Tibet's most significant religious buildings. The comparative analysis of Tibetan Buddhist architecture covers 13 centuries of architectural history in Tibet.



Fabio Maniscalco (ed.), *Tutela, conservazione e valorizzazione del Patrimonio Culturale della Palestina*, monographic series “Mediterraneum. Tutela e valorizzazione dei beni culturali ed ambientali”, vol. 5, Massa Publisher, Naples 2005.

(272 pp., 35€, ISBN 88-87835-62-4)

On behalf of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in the Palestinian National Authority, I am honored to endorse this book on Palestinian cultural heritage. Palestine played an important role in the human civilization. It was a meeting place and a cultural bridge for various cultures and ideas. It is the birthplace of the first technology, settled societies, alphabet, religion, and literature. This cultural diversity characteristic to Palestine is viewed as a source of wealth to our culture and people. At the same time this heritage is regarded as an integral part of the human heritage. The rich cultural heritage is an important resource for sustainable development of Palestine and obviously for sustaining the cultural identity of the Palestinian people.

But Palestine under the prolonged occupation since 1967 is facing a great challenge in safeguarding its rich cultural heritage. A great damage has been inflicted on archeological and cultural heritage sites since October 2000. The attack on Cultural heritage sites has been intensified since the incursion in 2002 causing severe damages, especially in the historic towns and cities of Nablus, Bethlehem, Hebron, Beit Jala, Tulkarem, Salfit, Jenin, Khan Yunis and Rafah. This policy was associated with siege, roadblocks, military closure. Of our particular concern is the separation wall built inside the Palestinian land in the West Bank and separating Jerusalem from its surrounding.

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities is launching a process of reform. In 2002 a management body for Antiquities and Cultural heritage was established. A draft of an updated law is ready to be submitted to the Palestinian Council. The new policy



enhances the role of the local community in the protection of cultural heritage. The ministry attempts to build a new partnership between various stakeholders in the realm of tourism and cultural heritage.

Despite all political difficulties and the lack of resources, the Department of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in the ministry has managed in the last ten years to attend to its tasks in the protection and management of cultural heritage sites, institution building and training of human resources. The department carried out a large program of restoration and rehabilitation of a wide range of archeological and cultural heritage sites throughout the country, including, historic building, vernacular architecture, archeological sites and small site-museums. Thanks to the support of the donor countries, Italy, Holland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, United States of America, Arab States, and the international organizations, the United Nation Development Programme, UNESCO, and the World Heritage Centre.

I am grateful to Prof. Fabio Maniscalco, the editor of this volume and to the scholars who have readily submitted their contributions on wide range of subjects on the archeology and cultural heritage of Palestine.

The volume, edited by Fabio Maniscalco, has two sections: The first one is about relevant legislation and general problems regarding the protection of cultural property of Palestine. The second section is subdivided into geographical areas and their analyses, treating multiple aspects related to tutelage, conservation and valorization of the Palestinian cultural heritage.

Contributions by: I. Abu A'mar, M. Abu Khalaf, E.M. Amad, N. Arafat, C. Benelli, K. Bshara, P. Ciriello, F.J. Cobbing, G. Fontana Antonelli, O. Hamdan, F. Maniscalco, L. Marino, A. Misiani, H. Nur el-Din, M. Piccirillo, S. Ricca, M. Sadeq, M. Saleh Lamei, I. Sarie', H. Taha, J.N. Tubb, M. Willemsen.

Ziad el-Bandak¹

¹ Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Palestine.

Neil Brodie, Jennifer Doole and Colin Renfrew (eds.), *Trade in Illicit Antiquities: the Destruction of the World's Archaeological Heritage*, McDonald Institute Monographs, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research – University of Cambridge, Cambridge, 2001.
(176 pp., 45 \$, ISBN 1-902937-17-1)

All over the world archaeological sites are being looted to feed an ever-expanding antiquities market. The phenomenon has been well-documented, by journalists and TV documentaries as much as by academic study, but its true scale remains a matter for conjecture. With this in mind in October 1999 the McDonald Institute convened an international symposium of archaeologists and other interested parties, which allowed them to give accounts of looting in their own countries, share their experiences, and to consider possible remedies or preventative measures. The proceedings of the Symposium are now published in this volume.

Contributions by: A. Abdulrahman, G.H.O. Abungu, P. Addyman, I. Ali, W. Alva, G. Bisheh, N. Brodie, V. Canouts, R. Coningham, J. Doole, R. J. Elia, B. Gado, E. Gilgan, S. Hadjisavvas, L.M. Kaye, F.P. McManamon, B.B.B. Mapunda, M. Marthari, E. Ozgen, G. Pastore, C. Renfrew, A. Shankar, H. Shuzhong, H.N. Spiegler, R. Thosarat.

