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Studi umanistici – Antichistica

Digital and Traditional Epigraphy in Context

Proceedings of the EAGLE 2016 International Conference

edited by

Silvia Orlandi, Raffaella Santucci, Francesco Mambrini, Pietro Maria Liuzzo

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In copertina: Logo EAGLE – *The Europeana network of Ancient Greek and Latin Epigraphy*.

This volume is dedicated
to the memory of

Silvio Panciera

without whom EAGLE
would have never existed.

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Preface

Information Technologies have set made many unexpected changes in motion in the field of cultural heritage; they continue to provide dynamic and exciting media platforms through which new possibilities perpetually emerge. This wave of changes has been particularly significant for the field of the antiquity and classical studies, where a wide range of possibilities for digital exploitation continues to present itself to users, constantly opening the doors to new and as-yet-unexplored synergies. Many technological developments concerning content access and fruition, the renovation of digital libraries, the facilitation of education and research are being proposed, applied, and utilised by the public.

Of this constant innovation, the pool of research institutions, museums and business companies reunited in the EAGLE network have been both the grateful beneficiary and one of the leading promoters. EAGLE is a best practice network co-funded through the ICT Policy Support Programme of the European Commission. EAGLE aims to stimulate exploitation of new ICT technologies for digital content access to epigraphy resources, and provide guidelines about the adoption of metadata standards for indexing, searching and browsing content. The institutions involved are prestigious and leading in the field. An ever-growing fund of digital resources is accessible through a common, multilingual, easy-to-use EAGLE portal. The EAGLE metadata are available on Europeana, a European multi-lingual online collection of millions of digitized items from museums, libraries, archives and multimedia collections.

One of the main commitments that the EAGLE project made to the funding institutions was to foster the dialogue between the different professional figures and communities that work in the field of digital epigraphy, in a constant effort to discuss our commun problems together, and to share methodologies, tools and results. Over the years, the EAGLE network has been continuously expanded, while several agreements of different forms with companies, research groups and cultural institutions were signed. The list of partners with different type of affiliations can be consulted. But we believe that present volume, who is one of the product in the project's effort toward a global shared knowledge, speaks well for the degree of success in this enterprise, as the list of the contributions, the affiliations of the different presenters and the variety of topic touched by the contributions make clear. Also, together with Europeana (the European platform for cultural heritage that integrates EAGLE's work) and the EAGLE's sister projects we are building a movement towards openness, interoperability and common standards that will influence the way that others in the cultural sector view and use cultural content online. We are committed to actively contributing to the mission (which is at the core of Europeana) of creating new ways for people to engage with their cultural history, whether for work, learning or pleasure, while promoting the exchange of ideas and information and contributing to a thriving knowledge economy.

The EAGLE 2016 Conference, held in Rome in the Odeion of La Sapienza University from January the 27th to the 29th, marked the conclusion of the works of the EAGLE's consortium funded under the UE-funded ICT Policy Support Programme. This volume, that collects all the keynote speeches, the papers of the conference presentations and some of the posters, provides to us and to the community of the enthusiasts of (digital) epigraphy, whatever their background or professional title is, with an opportunity to make an overall assessment on the group's activity, and especially look at the future of the technology and of our discipline(s).

In addition to that, and just like the previous conference held in Paris in 2014, the EAGLE 2016 conference aimed to function once again as a forum in which progress-oriented individuals and institutions find a place to collaborate and present results. It also aimed to provide an overview of the state of the art for epigraphy digital collections within the framework of the following best-practice themes: digital library tools, education and research facilities, IPR issues, cultural heritage and technologies.

The event consisted of a set of sessions and panels that conform to our standard of excellence. After the opening by Silvio Panciera and Silvia Orlandi, we hosted a keynote-speaker lineup consisting of some of the most salient voices in the field. Figures as diverse as Mary Beard, who is universally known not only for her outstanding scholarly production, but also for her presence in popular media; Werner Eck, one of the world's leading expert in Ancient History and epigraphy, who has authored several fundamental publications in the field; Charlotte Roueché, whose commitment to the digital publication and digitally-oriented research in epigraphy, as well as her friendship and generosity, are equally well known; Lorna Hughes, Professor of Digital Humanities at the University of Glasgow and Head of Subject at the Humanities Advanced Technology and Information Institute (HATII), whose research addresses the creation and use of digital cultural heritage, with a focus on collaborations between the humanities and scientific disciplines; these world-leading specialists have contributed to review the work of the EAGLE community in the context of the history of traditional research in Epigraphy, in the Digital Humanities and in the panorama of the technologies for Cultural Heritage.

The EAGLE 2016 conference international committee selected only the best proposals. We received 45 submissions, all in anonymous form, which were blindly peer-reviewed by our scientific committee. This board was chosen so as to reflect the manifold expertise, interests and scientific traditions of our network at large, including professionals from different areas (industry, research, cultural heritage, institutions) and countries (from Europe, Asia and North America). The list of the committee members is reported in the final appendix of the present volume. EAGLE 2016 featured more than 30 presentations, with speaker coming from several countries and professional fields. United States, Israel, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Germany, France, to name but a few countries that hosts the presenters, are represented in various degrees in the proceedings.

As we mentioned, particular emphasis was placed in shaping the conference as the meeting place for different professional figures to discuss about inscriptions in the cultural landscape of the world. The conference was open to researchers, professionals, industries, institutions, technicians, practitioners in the area of classical studies and technologies, cultural heritage, and digital library. The EAGLE 2016 conference has became a place in which institutions, industries, and

the Europeana family projects in the areas of cultural heritage could find a wealth of opportunities for networking, debating, and sharing ideas and best practices. Readers will find several traces of this ongoing debate in the volume.

We will not attempt to provide a summary of the multiple subjects that are touched in the various papers. For readers will find an illuminating and inspiring discussion about the published contributions and, in general, about the work of the EAGLE network at large in the first chapter of these proceedings. This text is the English version of the introductory speech that was delivered by Silvio Panciera and Silvia Orlandi at the opening of the EAGLE 2016 conference. Professor Panciera passed away on August, the 16th 2016, not long after the conclusion of the project, leaving an immense legacy in terms of research and teaching, as well as an affectionate memory in his students and friends. However, far from simply reflecting on the past, his introductory prolusion casts a sharp and inspiring look onto the future and on the work that remains to be done. We are both honored and deeply saddened to publish here one of the very last scientific writings of Professor Panciera: the EAGLE project owes a lot to his scientific knowledge, sensible advice and "digital wisdom".

As co-chairs of the conference and editors of the present volumes, we wish to express our gratitude to the keynote speakers, the dedicated program co-chairs, committee members and conference support staff who have contributed to making EAGLE 2016 a success.

The EAGLE 2016 Co-chairs and Organizers
Silvia Orlandi (Sapienza University of Rome)
Pietro Liuzzo (University of Heidelberg)
Francesco Mambrini (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut)
Raffaella Santucci (Sapienza University of Rome)