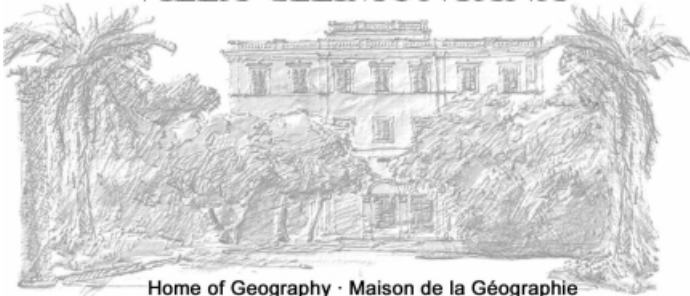


## VILLA CELIMONTANA



### ACCOMMODATION

The four-star Mercure Hotel Delta Colosseo, via Labicana 144, (E-mail: delta@italyhotel.com) and the three-star Celio Hotel, via S.S. Quattro, 35, (Tel: 06-0495333) are at walking distance from Villa Celimontana. A single room costs 130 Euros (special offer for the Home of Geography).

Casa Kolbe, close to the Roman Forum, costs about 50 Euros. Other cheaper accommodation can be found at religious convents or at Bed & Breakfasts but they are limited in space, for periods of stay and season.

Some countries have academies and cultural institutes in Rome and offer accommodation to their nationals.

### LUNCHES AND DINNERS

There are numerous restaurants near Villa Celimontana. Their costs can vary from 20 to 35 Euros. For a quick standing lunch at a coffeehouse (Italian Bar) the cost can be 5-10 Euros.

Catering at Villa Celimontana is possible. Lunch for 50-100 persons costs 15 - 25 Euros per person.

## SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OF THE ITALIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Faithful to its secular tradition and in conformity with statutory objectives, the Italian Geographical Society has developed an intense research activity and scientific popularization as well as cultural promotion at the service of the community of scholars and more generally to civil, local, national and international society.

Research themes that have already been addressed in the last few years are being accompanied by pertinent applications of rational and knowledgeable management of the national territory. This ranges from economic development to underdevelopment, from the setting up of beginning structures to production, from the defense of the land, the evaluation of environmental damage and the protection of cultural legacy, to the management of protected areas. Areas of study that directly touch upon the tradition of investigation of the society have not been neglected, including the history of cartography to the exploration of new forms of geographical acumen.

Within the framework of popularization and scientific communication, other than traditional conferences, held periodically by foreign and native scholars, we have also intense cycles of seminars, round tables, study groups and conventions on themes related to scientific, cultural and current events urged by the demands of research promoted and realized by the Society and other associations and organizations from publications of works and by the particular circumstances of social and cultural life. Special shows are also set up as well as initiatives on the annual National Days of Cultural Affairs and Scientific Culture.

Ideal and operational relations linking the Society with other organizations and institutions are very intense and fruitful, especially the geographical ones, both Italian and foreign. In this framework, the contribution of the Italian Geographical Society is especially important to the national and international geographical seats and the promotional activities developed by them for the realization, in a European site, of a permanent forum linking various geographical Societies. These activities have culminated in the founding of the European Society for Geography (EUGEO), of which the geographical societies of the main countries of the European Union are members.



Home of  
Geography

# Newsletter

N°. 2 June, 2001

## VILLA CELIMONTANA

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(this newsletter is also available on our website in  
English and French)

### WORK ARRANGEMENTS

1. Considering that Palazzetto Mattei is within Villa Celimontana, i.e. a public park managed by the Municipality of Rome which has its own timetable, and that entry to Palazzetto Mattei is under the responsibility of the SGI staff, access to the Home of Geography rooms is allowed only during SGI opening hours (at the moment, Monday to Thursday: 9.15 am – 4.45 p.m.; Friday: 9.15 am – 12.45 p.m.).
2. For international conferences, meetings and other planned events, an extension of the opening hours can be adapted upon request.
3. The SGI will decide during which religious holidays and public holidays the Home of Geography will remain closed to users, including the summer holiday period.
4. Access to the library, map collection, newspaper room, photograph library and archives will be allowed via SGI staff and in accordance with their working hours. Visitors will be given an identity card issued by the Director of the Home of Geography or by one of his delegates.

## THE LIBRARY OF THE ITALIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

An essential element of the available services of the Italian Geographical Society is the Library which is specialized in the complex framework of geography to such a degree that it is the most important one in the country and the most conspicuous one in Europe. Individual members (geographers, travellers and explorers) first built it up through donations. Since then, it has steadily continued making acquisitions, thus becoming an obligatory stop for geography scholars.

At present, the library collection (which in 1911 already contained 11,000 volumes, then 25,000 in 1915, and 50,000 in 1940) holds 300,000 titles. Among these can be found ancient texts, numerous works, prized or rare prints, and various manuscripts related to travels from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries.

The updating is carried out in regular fashion in as much as it is possible given the limits accorded to the integration of rare works.

The periodical section includes approximately 2000 titles on geography or pertaining to geography, 500 of which are current and two thirds foreign. Many of them come from the regular exchange of publications such as those from analogous organizations and Italian and foreign institutes. The library catalogue (organized on file card system until 1994 and electronically thereafter), is organized according to author and from 1980 on also by subject, with several additions from the subject list drawn up by the Institute for a Single Catalogue. We should remember that the Library has been linked by computer since October 1993 with the National Library Service (SBN) within the framework of the "Centre for Roman Cultural Institutions."

Therefore, it is possible for users to obtain information "on line" even with titles located in the libraries of other institutions. One can also benefit, at a fee, from bibliographical research, documentation and reproduction through the technical support in use. Borrowing services, instead, are limited to members under the conditions established by the Regulations or within the framework of "interlibrary loan."

## THE PHOTO COLLECTIONS OF THE ITALIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Particular emphasis is given to the Photo Library. This has been supplied through successive stratification in the course of almost 120 years beginning in the 1870s when the Society, having transferred its seat to Rome, became the point of reference of travellers and explorers while photography was changing from being a strictly professional domain to a way of documenting, in an "objective" way, the reality of people and faraway places.

It has been reorganized only recently and today contains 60,000 photos in two distinct sections: historical and contemporary.

Photography in the historical section that contains documentary and artefact materials, makes up most of the 40,000 pieces and is now distributed in four collections:

The true photo collection of the society includes photos that have accompanied the explorative, editorial and cultural activities of the geographical society and those that present the most rare and prestigious material. The collection consists of the following:

1. The Giotto Dainelli collection, made up of 18,000 negatives donated by this illustrious geographer to the Italian Geographical Society. They picture his scholarly activity and explorations carried out during the first half of our century.

2. The Elio Migliorini collection, acquired only in 1992, including both photographs of travels by this geographer and much material relative to the "Bulletin of the Italian Geographical Society" overseen by him in the space of twenty years from 1928 to 1947;

3. The small Edoardo Zavattari collection of 3000 negatives of the trips to Africa of this single naturalist.

4. The contemporary section, made up during recent years, involves the Migliorini collection relative to his most recent travels after 1950, including a recent donation of colour slides taken all over the world and other photos of various origins.

*As far as content is concerned, the majority of the photographic material refers to, understandably, facts, men or institutions directly or indirectly linked to the scientific, political and cultural activities of the Geographical society.*

## THE PHOTO COLLECTIONS OF THE ITALIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Particularly rich in this sense is the legacy relative to African countries. In a broad sense, we can say that at the end of World War One exploration photos predominate. Subsequently, especially after the acquisition of African colonies and their consolidation, the photographs are characterized by increasing scientific connotation.

The authors mainly include photographer amateurs, scholars or military men but notables such as Lodovico Tuminello and Luigi Fiorillo are also present.

Among the numerous prestige collections, we can point out the photographs of the expedition to Tunisia promoted in 1875 by the Geographical Society; the album of Gerhard Rohlf on the Libya desert (1872-1873); the photographs of the two Bottego expeditions, the majority of which were recuperated several years after the tragic end of the second expedition; the unpublished photos of Enrico Baudi of Vesme and Giuseppe Candeo of Somalia (1891); the photos of Guido Boggiani relative to his trips to the Indios of Chaco; the albums of his expedition to Karakorum by Aimone of Savoia Aosta at the end of the 1920s.

A computerized database has been made of all the photographic collections. Conditions for access, consulting and reproduction are presently being defined.