

Presentation of the President of the Regional Council of Tuscany

Cosimo I is the first to be appointed with the name of Dux Etruriae, title that was given him by the seal issued by Pope Pius V on the 27th of August 1569: with him there is the consolidation of a trend that had already begun with Lorenzo il Magnifico, that is to correspond the borders of the dominion of the Medici with those of the Etruscans. Therefore the moral inheritance becomes a practical inheritance and the Etruscans become the founders of a dynasty that intends to enlarge the borders far beyond the florentine ends.

The political as well as the cultural aim feed mutually and therefore this was the beginning of the etruscology. The etruscan antiques during the fourteenth and fifteenth had a significant influence on the thought and the arts of the main protagonists of the florentine Renaissance and Humanism. This is the reason for which the date of the 27th August is an anniversary to celebrate fully as a cultural belonging to our Region.

This year, for the first time, the Regional Council of Tuscany devote the day of the 27th August to the celebration of that important appointment received by Cosimo I and which had a great influence on the whole history of Tuscany.

Therefore the best way to do this is to devote a focus at Poggio Colla, an important archaeological site at Vicchio in Mugello. In fact some main finds coming from the Tuscan digging out will be displayed at the Regional Council, among these five little bronzes dating from the Etruscan age and a seal in earthenware depicting the child birth. Further we can see a suggestive hologram representing the stone just discovered by a team of researchers of the Mugello Valley Archaeological Project with an Etruscan writing. The discovery has been done in the site of Poggio Colla and the stone, weight 227 kilos with a height of about one meter. It was in a holy temple that 2500 years ago was destroyed to make a bigger one. This stone contains 70 readable letters and marks of dotting, with these features it is considered one of the longest examples of Etruscan writing never found before. The scientists think that the words and the concepts of the stone are a rare fitness of this civilization, taking into consideration that our knowledge about the Etruscans refer overall to the necropolis, tombs and funerary objects.

The translation of the text will be entrusted with the University of Massachusetts of Amherst. These discoveries, after which the nice Museum of the land of Dicomano has been realized, find in the stone a point of essential reference. It is significant to keep going on a work of recovery of this wonderful civilization with the help and the network of all the Tuscan municipalities with main witnesses, from Cortona to Chiusi, from Sarteano to Pienza, from Bacchereto to Artimino and Volterra, Fiesole up to the discovery of Gonfienti in Prato.

Eugenio Giani

President of the Regional Council of Tuscany