

Unpublished documents *ad memoriam* of the scientific
exploration of ancient and modern habitats in the Valley of
the Nile: W.F. Hemprich and B. Drovetti,
E. Schiaparelli and A. Schweinfurth *

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(PLATES XIII-XIV)

The present paper describes a new genus of plant called Drovettia by botanist Wilhelm Friedrich Hemprich in honour of Bernardino Drovetti. Hemprich informed Drovetti of its discovery in a letter dated May 20, 1822. The original document, preserved at the Academy of Sciences, Turin, is reproduced in the text. In the second part, some unpublished documents of the Library of the Egyptian Museum in Turin about Ernesto Schiaparelli and the botanist August Schweinfurth are offered for consideration. This section aims at presenting a more complete portrait of Ernesto Schiaparelli as an Egyptologist by both widening the perception of his interests and examining his position in the historical times in which he lived.

In 1826, Giuseppe Passalacqua's collection of Egyptian antiquities was exhibited in Paris and acquired by the Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm IV. It is now an important section of the Berlin Museums. We mention this collection in connection to a new Egyptian plant, *Areca Passalacquae*, first identified by botanical studies on the flora of ancient Pharaonic times. Passalacqua's collection was very popular, especially for its everyday objects and botanist Kunth referred to an unknown palm tree in this collection as to *Areca Passalacquae*.¹ Another plant with a name related to the rediscovery of the ancient Egyptian civilization preceded the *Areca Passalacquae*.

In the early scientific expeditions of the eighteenth century in the Valley of the Nile, some seeds sent by botanist Vitaliano Donati to his colleague Ferdinando Bassi in Bologna produced a new shrub species. The director of the

* *Addenda* to A. ACTIS CAPOREALE - E. D'AMICONE - F. RELATS - P.R. TRAGAN (a cura di), *Naturalia e Artificialia. Egitto archeologico e naturalistico. Le piante e i fiori d'Egitto nell'esperienza museografica degli scavi e degli erbari*, *Atti della giornata scientifica, Torino, 11 maggio 2013*, Montserrat 2015.

1. E. D'AMICONE, *Da Donati, a Delile, a Schweinfurth e le «molte foglie secche e frutti» degli scavi di Ernesto Schiaparelli*, in ACTIS CAPOREALE - D'AMICONE - RELATS - TRAGAN, *Naturalia e Artificialia*, pp. 84-86.