The impressive research activity carried on by Ernesto Schiaparelli in Egypt was highly favoured by the collaboration of a few distinguished scholars. Their serious and devoted participation greatly enhanced the success of the excavations, that provided thousands of finds. Thanks to these the knowledge of the civilization of ancient Egypt and the contents of the Turin Egyptian Museum were largely increased. One of these scholars was Virginio Rosa, a young man who deserved special merits during the hard work achieved in the archaeological sites of Gebelein and Asyut just in one excavations season. In the 1911 campaign he brought to light, besides the tombs of Iti, Ini, and of the Unknown Owners, remains of other untouched burials, several of which go back to the times before the Pharaohs. All the results are carefully recorded in the « excavations journal » and in a lot of pictures. The Gebelein campaign was reckoned among the most successful excavations, but unfortunately Virginio Rosa could not resume it again. Soon as he came back to Italy after an absence of five months, an obscure illness took him away at the age of only 26 years.

Il nome di Virginio Rosa è legato alle straordinarie campagne di ricerca condotte in Egitto da Ernesto Schiaparelli che, tra il 1903 e il 1920, consentirono l’ulteriore arricchimento del già grande museo torinese, con fortunati e importanti ritrovamenti che ne colmarono numerose lacune.

Virginio Rosa entrò a far parte della MAI (M missione Archeologica Italiana) quasi per caso, in un momento per la stessa molto cruciale, e la sua prematura scomparsa a soli ventisei anni, il 20 febbraio 1912, contribuì certamente a offuscare il ricordo e l’operato.

A cento anni dalla sua scomparsa ne rinverdiamo il ricordo percorrendo per la prima volta le principali tappe della sua breve esistenza attraverso le poche notizie in nostro possesso, tratte da documenti custoditi in più archivi pubblici e privati; non essendo stato Virginio Rosa dipendente della neonata Soprintendenza archeologica piemontese (1907), vengono purtroppo a mancare quelle testimonianze amministrative utili a delinearne la figura sotto l’aspetto professionale.