

# The Horemheb & Saqqara Project of the Archaeological Museum of Bologna

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(PLATES XXVI–XXVII)

*How can the nineteenth-century rediscovery of Egypt and history of collecting be productively linked to museum management and archaeological sites, as well as to conservation issues? The Horemheb & Saqqara Project, which was the start of a five-year agreement signed between the Archaeological Museum of Bologna and the National Museum of Antiquities of Leiden in 2011, can be considered an example of this interdisciplinary approach to Egyptology. The Archaeological Museum and the Laboratory ProtoLab - ENEA of Bologna made the replicas of two reliefs from the Horemheb and Ptahemwia tombs at Saqqara. The replicas of these 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty reliefs, which are central to both the Bolognese history of collecting and the archaeological site management of Saqqara, were placed in situ by the Dutch excavation mission in early 2013, carrying out a project launched by G.T. Martin in the Eighties and continued by M. Raven. In addition to this, the replication methods developed by the Laboratory ProtoLab - ENEA can be considered an important test for the application of the most advanced techniques of reverse engineering, 3D CAD modelling, and rapid prototyping, which allow museum and site staff to obtain valuable information on the morphological characteristics of artefacts and, consequently, to perform simulations of and plan restorations, as well as to enhance and protect cultural heritage through the creation of high-quality 3D models and replicas.*

## *The Egyptian collection of Bologna and Saqqara*

The Egyptian collection of the Archaeological Museum of Bologna is one of the most important in Italy, together with those of Turin and Florence, and it is also notable at European level for the number, historical value and conservation status of its approximately 4,000 objects.<sup>1</sup> The Egyptian department, like many other sections of the museum, was founded in 1881 by the merging of the

1. G. KMINEK-SZEDLO, *Catalogo di Antichità Egizie*, Torino 1895; S. PERNIGOTTI, *Una nuova collezione egiziana al Museo Civico Archeologico di Bologna*, «Monografie di SEAP - Series Minor» 6, Pisa 1994; D. PICCHI, *Ancient Egypt in Bologna: Past and Future*, in A.-A. MARAVELIA (ed.), *Europe, Hellas and Egypt Complementary Antipodes during the Late Antiquity*, «BAR International Series» 1218, Oxford 2004, pp. 21-33.