



PRESS RELEASE

Discovering Entella

On December 7, the presentation in Palermo of educational panels prepared by the Normale di Pisa and the ceremony for the bestowing of the Giuseppe Nenci Prize in collaboration with Donnafugata.

Palermo, December 8, 2004—A new path fitted out with a series of panels pointing out and commenting on the attractions of an archaeological zone at Entella was inaugurated in ceremonies held at 5:30 p.m. yesterday, December 7. The Normale di Pisa created the panels, which were honored at the event, attended by representatives of the prestigious university of Pisa, the Palermo superintendency for cultural and environmental goods and the Donnafugata wine estate.

The ceremonies, held at the Convent of the Magione, honored the memory of Professor Giuseppe Nenci, an illustrious researcher at the Normale di Pisa who made major contributions to historical and archaeological research in western Sicily and in particular the ancient city of Entella. An annual award, financed by Donnafugata, has been established to honor Nenci and it was conferred yesterday on a brilliant young British researcher.

At the center of the event was the city of Entella and the close collaboration begun many decades ago between the Normale and the Palermo Superintendency, which thanks to the financial commitment by the Regional BB.CC.AA. Assessorate has assured the continuity of research at the ancient city and in the surrounding countryside.

It was in 1985 that the two institutions began to cooperate in historical research and archaeological enquiries in the field. Since 2000, the Donnafugata estate, traditionally open to themes involving the culture and promotion of the territory, has made a truly impressive contribution.

At yesterday's event, the new instructional panels, which were designed for the hospitality center created by the Superintendency at the archaeological site of Rocca di Entellina were the focus of attention. The 12 panels offer visitors an overall vision of the ancient Elymian city and inform them of the important role the redoubt played in the history of ancient Sicily.

This year, the Giuseppe Nenci Award was presented to Jonathan Prag of London University, who discussed a thesis explored in his doctoral thesis, "Sicily and the Roman Republic 241-44 BC. Provincialization and Provincial Identities."

Professor Salvatore Settis, director of the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa; Alessandro Pagano, regional assessor of cultural goods of Palermo; Carmine Ampolo, director of the Laboratory of History, Archaeology and Topography of the Ancient World at the Normale di Pisa; Dr. Francesca Spatafora director of the archaeology section of the Superintendency of Palermo and José Rallo of Donnafugata participated in the event.

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