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Carlo Anti and Gilbert Bagnani: their working relationship

Abstract

After the end of his first season excavating at Tebtunis in 1930, Carlo Anti invited Gilbert Bagnani to join him as his Egyptological assistant. This was the beginning of a working relationship that lasted for the duration of the dig. The two men had met years earlier in Athens in December 1921 when Bagnani was just arriving in Greece to study at the Italian School of Archaeology and Anti was on his way back home from an archaeological survey mission in southwestern Anatolia. During their first season at Tebtunis together, when they discovered the sanctuary of Soknebtunis, Bagnani assisted Anti by running errands back and forth to Cairo. In 1932 they built a mudbrick excavation house and Bagnani's wife joined them in the field. At the end of 1932, however, Anti was promoted to become the Rector of the University of Padua and, while continuing as Director of the dig, he no longer participated actively in the excavations. For the remaining four seasons, Bagnani was effectively the Field Director of the dig, sending photos and reports to Anti back in Padua. When their funding ceased in 1934, Bagnani continued the dig with financial support from Prof. Achile Vogliano, a papyrologist from Milan, who lived in the dig house with the Bagnanis. After the final season in 1936, Bagnani immigrated to Ontario, Canada. His final meeting with Anti occurred in 1951 in Padua while on sabbatical from the University of Toronto. Thus there was a relationship over the course of three decades documented in their letters, preserved among their papers at the University of Padua, the Istituto Veneto and Trent University.