

EAST AND WEST

First Series:
Founded in 1950 by Giuseppe Tucci
1979-2012 directed by Gherardo Gnoli

New Series:
2020 – published as a bi-annual peer-reviewed scientific journal:
edited by ISMEO – The International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies

International Editorial Board

Elena Bashir (University of Chicago), Ágnes Birtalan (Eötvös Loránd University), Pierfrancesco Callieri (Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna), Franco Cardini (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa), Riccardo Contini (University of Naples L'Orientale), Michel Fournié (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales), Claudio Lo Jacono (Istituto per l'Oriente C.A. Nallino), Marco Mancini (Sapienza University of Rome), Luca Maria Olivieri (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), Simonetta Ponchia (University of Verona), Adriano Rossi (ISMEO/University of Naples L'Orientale, **chairman**), Maurizio Scarpari (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), Fabio Scialpi (Sapienza University of Rome), Miriam T. Stark (University of Hawai'i - Mānoa), Giulia Torri (University of Florence), Fabio Vicini (University of Verona), Silvia Vignato (University of Milan - Bicocca)

International Advisory Board

Giorgio Banti (University of Naples L'Orientale), Pia Brancaccio (University of Naples L'Orientale), Laurianne Bruneau (École Pratique des Hautes Études), Giuseppe Buffon (Pontificia Università Antonianum), Franco Crevatin (University of Trieste), Hildegard Diemberger (University of Cambridge), Andrea Manzo (University of Naples L'Orientale), Annachiara Raia (Leiden University), Cristina Scherrer-Schaub (École pratique des Hautes Études), Daniel Septfonds (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales)

Editorial Staff: Marco Baldi, Luca Maria Olivieri (**senior editor**), Priscilla Vitolo

EAST AND WEST

BI-ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL
PUBLISHED BY ISMEO – THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR MEDITERRANEAN AND ORIENTAL STUDIES



ISMEO

VOL. N.S. 6 (65) – No. 2, DECEMBER 2025

This issue has been published with a grant from the “Progetto MUR Storia, lingue e culture dei paesi asiatici e africani: ricerca scientifica, promozione e divulgazione”

Digital manuscripts (in English, font: Times New Roman) and figures (min. 300 dpi) should be sent to the International Editorial Board, e-mail: ismo@ismo.eu

Yearly subscription:

Italy: € 130,00
Europe: € 140,00
Abroad: € 160,00

Subscription orders must be sent direct to:

Scienze e Lettere S.r.l.
via Alessandro Malladra 33 – 00157 Rome
e-mail: info@scienzelettere.com
www.scienzelettere.com

ISSN 0012-8376 ISBN 978-88-6687-320-4

© 2025 ISMEO – Associazione Internazionale di Studi sul Mediterraneo e l'Oriente
Palazzo Baleani, Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, 244 – 00186 Rome
e-mail: ismo@ismo.eu
www.ismo.eu

Any eventual copyright on the images will be recognized when legitimately requested

Coordinatore attività editoriali ISMEO: Beniamino Melasecchi

Direttore responsabile: Francesco Palmieri
Registrazione presso il Tribunale di Roma al n. 83/2020 del Registro Stampa in data 6 agosto 2020
Classificazione ANVUR: Classe A per l'Area 10

Finito di stampare nel mese di dicembre 2025
presso Global Print srl, Via Degli Abeti 17/1, 20064 Gorgonzola (MI)

La presente rivista è patrocinata dal Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (MAECI).
Tutti i contenuti sono esclusiva espressione degli autori e non rappresentano le posizioni del MAECI.

CONTENTS

E. Morano, E. Shavarebi, <i>Irano-Semitica minora: 1. Gaza, 2. wādī</i>	7
A. Bréard, F. Olivotto, <i>Giovanni Vacca's Oriental Studies Library on the Shelf</i> ...	17
M. Labbaf-Khaniki, <i>The Last Image of the Last King: A Sasanian Scene from the Bāzeh Hūr Fire Temple</i>	39
M. Vidale, E. Foietta, S. Berlioz, A. Fateh Ali, A. Squitieri with contributions by C. Usai and G. Barella, <i>The Temple of Allat, Hatra. Preliminary Conservation Activities with Remarks on Architecture</i>	63
A. Casalini, <i>Remarks on a Crowned Man from Haḏḏa: Reconstructing a Lost Identity</i>	111
Rafiullah Khan, <i>Piecing Together Aurel Stein's Letter to Norman Bolton and the Proposed Explorations in the Indus Kohistan</i>	135
 <i>Obituaries</i>	
Yaqob Beyene (1936-2025)	149
 <i>ISMEO Activities, 2025</i>	 153
 <i>List of Contributors</i>	 223

Mount Chikiani Obsidian Sources (Lesser Caucasus, Georgia)
ISMEO/Ca' Foscari/Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University,
dir. Paolo Biagi, Vakhtang Licheli

Surveys along the slopes of Mount Chikiani and the mountains that surround Lake Paravani were conducted during the last week of July and the first week of August 2025. Their scope was to improve our knowledge of the distribution and circulation of obsidian artefacts in the region, which were extracted from the Mount Chikiani open quarries. Our interest was centred in the area of the Paravani Pass, also known as Chikiani (Tiklatashi) Pass. It is located at 2170 m a.s.l., 200 m North-West of the *menhir* locally known as Tikma-Dash, which marks the Northernmost distribution limit of the Bronze Age obsidian quarrying area. Some 200 m North-East of the aforementioned pass, an important group of *kurgans* was mapped and photographed from the air using a non-professional drone. It consists of at least fourteen funerary structures of various dimensions grouped in an area of c. 7000 sq. m, some of which appeared to be partly excavated. Obsidian artefacts were collected from the surface of several *kurgans* and are now being characterised. Apart from the features reported above, an impressive heap of obsidian blocks and knapped artefacts, measuring c. 2.5 m in diameter, called PPN-1, has been discovered at 2179 m a.s.l. among the Northernmost *kurgans* (41°29'58.4" N–43°52'25.0" E). Obsidian samples were taken from this important feature, on the surface of which a bladelet fragment with trapezoidal cross-section was retrieved. This discovery is very important, as it shows how complex to interpret the Mount Chikiani quarries and the manufacture of knapped tools can be. Most probably, these activities took place in other parts of the plateau, as the presence of accumulations of obsidian blocks and a manufacturing workshop discovered along the slope of another volcanic dome clearly indicates. The new discovery reported above contributes to the interpretation of the Mount Chikiani obsidian exploitation in the Javakheti Plateau and the surrounding region.



Paravani Pass: group of *kurgans* located North of the road (above); heap of obsidian small blocks and knapped artefacts (left). Photos by M. Ferrandi.