

Italian Archaeological Mission in Afghanistan

Archaeological campaigns, participants, and activities

Period	Participants	Sites & Activities
Summer-Autumn 1956 <i>(IsMEO Act. E&W 1957, 7/4: 392)</i>	G. Tucci and A. Bombaci	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tucci made arrangements with the Afghan Government for starting the work of the archaeological campaign; - Preliminary survey at Ghazni; - First enquiries on historical sources.
Summer-Autumn 1957 <i>(IsMEO Act. E&W 1958, 9/3: 274)</i>	A. Bombaci (field-director), U. Scerrato, M.T. Scerrato Ragni (archaeologists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First archaeological campaign at Ghazni (the Palace and the house); - Exploration in Ghazni area; - Excursion to Bamiyan where, in the Foladi valley, Mission members visited a group of unknown Buddhist grottoes, in close proximity to the Deh-i Ahangaran villages.
Summer-Autumn 1958 <i>(Scerrato 1959: 23)</i>	U. Scerrato (field-director), A. Bombaci (for a very brief period), A. Davico (architect), Sadiq Khan (assistant), G. Ambrosetti and Shay-Bay Moustamendi (students)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Second archaeological campaign at Ghazni (the Palace); - Exploration in Ghazni area.
Summer-Autumn 1959 <i>(IsMEO Act. E&W 1959, 10/3: 234; 1959, 10/4: 309)</i>	D. Adamesteanu (field-director) assisted by Italian and Afghan engineers and workmen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Third archaeological campaign at Ghazni: a large part of the Palace was uncovered) - Solving the problems connected with the history and topography of the city - First archaeological campaign at Tapa Sardar
Oct.-Nov. 1960 <i>(IsMEO Act. E&W 1960, 11/4: 306)</i>	G. Tucci (director), D. Adamesteanu (field-director), F. Bonardi (photographer), Antonioni (graphic), A. D'Amico (technical assistant). In the final phase: G. Gullini and U. Scerrato (specialist in Islamic ceramics). A. Bruno (architect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fourth archaeological campaign at Ghazni (mosque and the monumental entrance of the Palace) - Complete survey of the monuments of artistic and archaeological interest in Afghanistan - Second archaeological campaign at Tapa Sardar
Summer-Autumn 1961 <i>(IsMEO Act. E&W 1961, 12/4: 290)</i>	G. Tucci (director) A. Bruno (architect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fifth archaeological campaign at Ghazni - Presentation of the restoration project of the most important ancient monuments of Afghanistan, and for an urban and town-planning reorganization of relevant historical and touristic places in the country - Starting restoration work of the ancient mausoleum in Rawza, which is to be turned into a museum to house the numerous objects discovered at Ghazni by the Mission - First exploration at Hazar Sum (Samangan)
Oct.-Nov. 1962 <i>(E&W 1963, 14/1-2: S. Puglisi, pp. 3-12; E&W 1963, 14/3-4: E. Castaldi, pp. 183-205)</i>	S. Puglisi (field-director), E. Castaldi and Aziz Kakar (assistants), G. Ioppolo (architect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excavation campaign at Hazar Sum. Exploration at Darra-i Kalon
Sept.-Dec. 1966 <i>(IsMEO Act. E&W 1966, 16/3-4: 384)</i>	U. Scerrato (field-director), G. Ioppolo (architect), F. Bonardi (photographer), A. D'Amico and G. Graziani (assistants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sixth archaeological campaign at Ghazni (Palace entrance area) - Restoration of the southern and western facades giving onto the court

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	B.C. Bono (architect), C. D'Amico (assistant) A. Bruno (architect), A. D'Amico (assistant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection and classification of the artistic and epigraphical material - Apportionment of the Islamic archaeological finds. Following the agreement established with the Ministry of Education, a group of finds will be stored at MNAOr - In collaboration with the experts appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, completion of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. restoration of the Mosque erected by Shah Jahan in the garden of Babur at Kabul (Bono) 2. restoration of the great Timurid mausoleum of Abd al-Razzaq (Bruno) - Set up of the Museum of Islamic Art in the mausoleum; this being the first museum of its kind in Afghanistan. Dr Faccenna has been responsible for the organization and arrangement of the Museum.
1967 May 24-June 15 (IsMEO Act. E&W 1967, 17/1-2: 172)		Exhibition held in the new display halls of the MNAO, in Palazzo Brancaccio, showing the results of Missions activities in Pakistan and Afghanistan from 1962 to 1966. A large number of distinguished visitors have crowded the halls on this occasion
Sept.-Nov. 1967 (IsMEO Act. E&W 1967, 17/3-4: 344-345)	M. Taddei (field-director), M. Valentini and A. D'Amico (assistants), G. Ioppolo (architect-draftsman), F. Bonardi (photographer), E. Crisanti (restorer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excavation work at Tapa Sardar; In the village of Rawza, during the works for the re-planning of the public park, where the mausoleum of Mahmud is erected, accidentally come to light the remains of a pavement of marble slabs, presumably belonging to the Ghaznavid era, although reused in later times. Massive masonry structures in stone (foundations) have been discovered to the rear and the sides of the mausoleum (which in its present form merely dates back to the reign of Amir Habibullah), in the course for sustaining the foundations. At the invitation of the Director of the Afghan Institute of Archaeology, the Mission has proceeded to the execution of an indicative sounding and the survey of the structures, obtaining from the Afghan Authorities permission to discontinue the work in progress in the park. The outstanding importance of this site from the standpoint of archaeology has been in fact ascertained, since it is now proved that sultan Mahmud was buried in his Kakh-i Firuzi. The Mission has in addition begun the survey of the whole complex of the garden of sultan Mahmud that preserves also on the surface abundant evidence of its ancient building phases.
Sept.-Nov. 1968 (IsMEO Act. E&W 1968, 18/3-4: 444)	M. Taddei (field-director), M. Valentini and A. D'Amico (assistants), N. Labianca (draftsman), F. Bonardi (photographer), E. Crisanti (restorer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excavation work at Tapa Sardar;
Sept.-Nov. 1969 (IsMEO Act. E&W 1969, 19/3-4: 545-546)	M. Taddei (field-director), M. Valentini (assistant), N. Labianca (draftsman), F. Bonardi (photographer), E. Pagliani and M. Eclisse (restorers), G. Verardi (student), M. Tahir (assistant / restorer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excavation work at Tapa Sardar; - Surveys in the zone of Qarabagh and Mukur
1970 (IsMEO Act. E&W 1970, 20/3-4: 109-110)	M. Taddei (field-director), M. Valentini (assistant), N. Labianca (draftsman), F. Bonardi (photographer), E. Pagliani and E.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excavation work at Tapa Sardar

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	Crisanti (restorers), P. Puddinu (student), M. Tahir (assistant / restorer)	
Sept.-Nov. 1972 (IsMEO Act. E&W 1972, 22/3-4: 379-384)	M. Taddei (field-director), A. Forte (historian of Far Eastern religions), G. Verardi (archaeologist), M. Valentini (assistant), N. Labianca (draftsman), F. Bonardi (photographer), E. Pagliani and M. Eclisse (restorers), M. Ehsan Aram (assistant), Ghulam Naqshband Rajabi (works supervisor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excavation work at Tapa Sardar (chapels 50 and 63, zone around stupa 64, building 65); - Conservation work in the Palace and consolidation work at Tapa Sardar
Oct.-Nov. 1973 (IsMEO Act. E&W 1973, 23/3-4: 420)	M. Taddei (field-director), N. Labianca (draftsman), E. Paparatti (restorer), M. Ehsan Aram (assistant), Ghulam Naqshband Rajabi (works supervisor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Checking, repairing, and strengthening the roofing covering the excavated areas; - Cataloguing and restoring Tapa Sardar finds; - Cleaning of niche no. 76 at Tapa Sardar; - Thanks to an agreement signed by Prof. M. Taddei and Dr Zemariale Tarzi (Director General of Archaeology in Afghanistan) an Archaeological Museum will be built by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and IsMEO in the town of Ghazni.
Oct.-Nov. 1974 (IsMEO Act. E&W 1974, 24/3-4: 478)	M. Taddei (field-director), G. Verardi (archaeologist), M. Valentini (assistant), N. Labianca (draftsman), E. Pagliani and E. Paparatti (restorers), M. Ehsan Aram (assistant), Ghulam Naqshband Rajabi (foreman and supervisor). R. Orazi (architect of the Italian Restoration Mission)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Studying of chapel no. 17 at Tapa Sardar; - Discovering of Homay Qal'a, an ancient monastic complex excavated in the rock at the eastern limits of the Dasht-i Tamaki (45 km north of Qarabagh-i Ghazni); - Restoration of the objects and the maintenance of the monuments at Tapa Sardar and in the Palace; - Examination of the structures at the Timurid Ziyara Sharif Khan in view of a restoration project (Orazi); - Elaboration of the project of the Archaeological Museum.
Sept.-Oct. 1975 (IsMEO Act. E&W 1975, 25/3-4: 544-545)	M. Taddei (field-director), G. Verardi (archaeologist), M. Valentini (assistant), N. Labianca (draftsman), Fazlur Rahman Mujaddidi and Habibullah Samani (assistants), Ghulam Naqshband Rajabi (foreman and supervisor) E. Galdieri and R. Orazi (architects of the Italian Restoration Mission),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resuming excavation work at Tapa Sardar; - Reconnaissance of the region lying between the upper valley of the Arghandab, the Nawor swampland, the Jaghatu of Ghazni and the Jaghatu of Wardak; - Further exploration in the Woleswali of Qarabagh and Jaghuri on the southern slopes of the Hindukush and discovery of a series of rock monuments spread over 50 km ca. (i.e. Nai Qal'a, Homay Qal'a, Tapa Senaubar, Shah Khwaja, Sangdara, Sar, Bayak, Lalakhil); - Surveys and operational programmes for the restoration of the Ziyara Sharif Khan and of the two Ghaznavid minarets; - Finalizing the agreement concerning the Archaeological museum in Ghazni, with the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture, the Director General of Archaeology and the Preservation of Monuments and the Director General of Museums. The programme was approved.
Aug.-Nov. 1976 (IsMEO Act. E&W 1976, 26/3-4: 599-601)	M. Taddei (field-director), U. Scerrato, C. Silvi Antonini and G. Verardi (archaeologists), M. Valentini (assistant), N. Labianca (draftsman), E. Pagliani and E. Paparatti (restorers), G. De Marco (student), Daud Kawaian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excavation work at Tapa Sardar; - Identification of the areas of Jaghuri and Jaghatu to the west and southwest of Ghazni; - Preliminary identification of the area of Ab-e Estada in Katawaz to the south of Ghazni where, in the Woleswali of Nawa, near the southwest side of the lake, where a large number of <i>tepes</i> was found;

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	<p>(assistant), Ghulam Naqshband Rajabi (foreman and supervisor)</p> <p>E. Galdieri (architect of the Italian Restoration Mission)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of some sherds of Islamic pottery in the Red Tapa city (especially on the central <i>tepe</i> and the inner wall circle). Islamic occupation does not seem to have continued later than the 12th c. and would account for the remains of kiln-fired brick structures on the central <i>tepe</i> and two large complexes inside the inner wall circle: an orientated building (which was perhaps a mosque) and a building which seems to have a central courtyard with rooms arranged in a rather complex pattern on the four sides (palace or caravanserai); - Exploration of the Buddhist antiquities in the Woleswali of Qarabagh and Jaghuri on the eastern slopes of the Hindukush, where a large number of monastic cave ensembles was discovered; a group of caves was also identified in the Olaitu valley at Gaza Babra Kamal, where one of the cave was later used as an Islamic oratory as is proved by a niche mihrab carved out of the rock and framed by a polylobate arch; the most important group of caves was identified in the large complex of Tapa Zaytun, situated near the Bazar of Olaitu; other groups of caves lie on the road to Nawor; - Surveys inside the minaret of Bahram Shah (Galdieri, Restoration mission); - Surveys of the minaret of Mas'ud III and the ziyarat of Khwaja Baqal, Khwaja Laikwar, Shah Mir Falezvan, Shaykh Wardeki and Sultan Mas'ud I.
<p>May 1976 (IsMEO Act. E&W 1976, 26/3-4: 607-608)</p>	<p>E. Galdieri (architect of the Italian Restoration Mission), B. Trezza (assistant)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Starting of the construction works of the Archaeological Museum at Ghazni under the technical direction of E. Galdieri.
<p>Oct. 1977 (IsMEO Act. E&W 1977, 27/1-4: 458)</p>	<p>M. Taddei (field-director), G. Verardi (archaeologist), Ghulam Naqshband Rajabi (works supervisor).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance to repair and maintenance of the roofing over the excavation at Tapa Sardar and the Palace; - Completing the excavation report and the catalogue of the sculptures belonging to the chapels 17, 23 and 37 at Tapa Sardar
<p>June-Nov. 1977 (IsMEO Act. E&W 1977, 27/1-4: 470)</p>	<p>E. Galdieri (architect of the Italian Restoration Mission), B. Trezza (assistant)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resuming of the construction of the new Archaeological Museum at Ghazni; - Completion of the reinforcing of the concrete structures of the first six units; - Completion of the surveying of some minor religious monuments, including the so-called ziyara of Sultan Mas'ud I and the ziyara Khwaja Laikwar.
<p>Summer-Autumn 1978 (IsMEO Act. E&W 1978, 28/1-4: 338-339)</p>	<p>E. Pecoraro and E. Galdieri (architects), F. Noci (archaeologist), R. Baglioni (restorer), B. Trezza (assistant)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing the building of the six units of the museum project; - Checking and reinforcing the minaret of Bahram Shah; - Systematic examination of the decorated surfaces and the wooden structures in the area of the minaret; - Surveys were made in the crypt and in the whole lower part of the mausoleum in order to complete the drawings that were done some time ago by A. Bruno. In the light of the new evidence obtained, a study is being made concerning two phases in the building of the mausoleum that were hitherto unknown; - Repairing the most serious damage as well as organizing efficient protection for the two archaeological sites which suffered considerable damage as a consequence of the heavy rain that fell in Ghazni on July and August.