

Press Release

Immagini per il Grand Tour. La Stamperia Reale Borbonica

from 10 december 2015 to 6 march 2016

opening 10 december 2015 at 18,00

Rome, Istituto centrale per la grafica, Museo dell'Istituto

From 10 December 2015 until 6 march 2016 the Museo dell'Istituto centrale per la grafica will host *Immagini per il Grand Tour. La Stamperia Reale Borbonica*, an exhibition organized by the Istituto centrale per la grafica, by the Segretariato Regionale del Ministero dei beni e delle attività culturali e del turismo per la Campania and by Museo Archeologico Nazionale of Naples.

The works on display illustrate the diversity and quality of the publishing production of the *Stamperia Reale di Napoli* (The Royal printery of Naples), introducing a selection of plates and prints, selected among the ones realised by the Neapolitan publishing centre - founded by Charles of Bourbon inside the Royal Palace - from the 18 th century to the 19 th century.

The exhibition gives a wide overview of the high cultural level reached by the people revolving around the Bourbon court: ranging from the building plan of the Royal Palace in Caserta (*Dichiarazione dei disegni del Reale Palazzo*) by Luigi Vanvitelli to the reproductions of the paintings of the Farnese picture gallery, traditional costumes worn in the kingdom, to the paleontology, botany, geography, physics; as in the case of the first Italian book dedicated to the swimming and the theory of flotation (*The floating man*). But the 19th century “publishing house”s specialisation manifests itself in the challenging publishing of *Antichità di Ercolano esposte* (1757 – 1792), the most important nineteenth century archeological work, in the field, that helped shape the taste of the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth century reproducing the extraordinary findings from the excavations, in very prestigious volumes intended for a wealthy well read public.

In the first room of the Museo dell'Istituto you can see the etchings pulled from the *Antichità di Ercolano esposte*, in the second the translation etchings of some important paintings from the Farnese Collection (Correggio, Giulio Romano, Guercino) and in the third room the etchings from monographic publications devoted to several topics: papyrus, costumes, earthquakes, the Vesuvius eruption, the first treatise on swimming and the theory of floating and the plans for the Royal Palace of Caserta by Vanvitelli.

In 2011 the Direzione Regionale per i Beni culturali e Paesaggistici della Campania entrusted the Institute with 200 plates from the *Reale Stamperia* selected among almost 6000 plates. From the copper-plates, restored by the Diagnostic Laboratory of matrices in the Istituto centrale per la

grafica (following specific protocols) the printers pulled the post-restoration documentary prints following the traditional method using the old manual press in the printery at the Institute. On this occasion were produced the prints which were then donated to the Ministers of Tourism during the European Forum of Tourism held in Naples in 2014.

The catalogue, published by Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane, is curated by Maria Rosaria Nappi, and includes essays by Gregorio Angelini, Rita Bernini, Angela Cerasuolo, Katia Fiorentino, Maria Antonella Fusco (Director of the Istituto centrale per la grafica), Luca Maggi, Gabriella Mansi, Maria Rosaria Nappi, Ciro Salinitro, Valeria Sampaolo, Luigi Zuccarello.

Useful information

Where: Rome, Istituto centrale per la grafica, Museo dell'Istituto, via della Stamperia, 6

opening: 10 december at 18.00

When: from 11 december 2015 to 6 march 2016

from monday to saturday from 10.00 to 19.00

and on sundays 3 january 2016, 7 february 2016 and 6 march 2016.

Possible openings at Christmas and New Year please visit our website www.grafica.beniculturali.it

Free entrance

No luggage is allowed in the premises of the Institute

No cloakroom is available

Free guided tours by the Educational Service

Booking compulsory on www.grafica.beniculturali.it

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