

of the

Non-Catholic Cemetery in Rome

NEWSLETTER

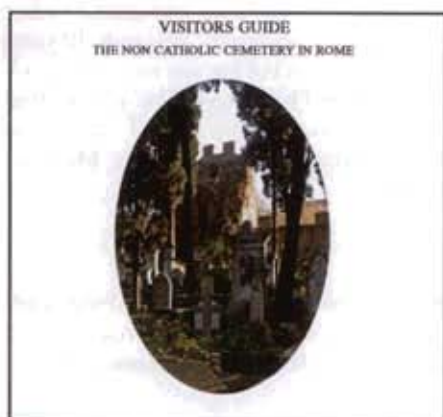
A new guide to the Cemetery graves published!

We now have on sale in the Visitors' Centre a new map-guide to graves in the Cemetery, thanks to the hard work of a number of our volunteers. It revises and expands considerably the map included in the guidebook first published in 1956 by Johan Beck-Friis that is sold in the Visitors' Centre.

What's new? The new guide adds a large number of names of prominent people buried in the Cemetery (now some 170 instead of less than 100 on the previous map). The location of the grave of each listed person is marked on the map, using a larger type-face in red than on the existing map. The graves are listed by Zone and by row, with the names listed in alphabetical order within each Zone. Grave numbers used on the previous map remain unchanged.

Italian and English versions are on sale, and a German edition is in preparation. We are offering visitors the new map (€3.00) together with the guidebook (€5.00) at a discount price of €7.00. In the first few weeks it has been selling very well.

The new map is the result of teamwork by a number of our volunteers, Friends and members of the Advisory Committee. Our heartfelt thanks to all of them, with a special word for Heidi and Emilia Jones, and to Peter Bridges for his help with biographical notes.



Detail of the marble sculpture on the tomb of Maria von Kuehlle Wein (1825-1864) before and after restoration in 2007.

The conservation and restoration of the funerary monuments

The Non-Catholic Cemetery is a group of monuments that can be seen as an "open-air museum" (of various coloured marbles, peperino, travertine, breccia and sandstone), in which every element should be recorded and preserved as historical and artistic evidence: the stone, the style, and the epitaph all have a role to play in preserving and passing on the historical memory of the person buried there.

Every funerary monument is of a certain time and antiquity, but it also shows the effect of time which, when exerted on the monument, on the one hand enhances it and on the other leads it towards inevitable deterioration.

In 2003 the Director and Committee of Experts, conscious of the need to intervene to preserve the Cemetery, added to the staff a specialist qualified restorer. I was taken on as restorer responsible for protecting and conserving the artistic heritage of the Cemetery. My task has been to optimise quality with respect to the time that a job takes and the methods used, following the principles of conservation and restoration.

I have found it of fundamental importance to get to know and analyse the Cemetery based on an assumption that every historical monument is complex, consisting of architectural and artistic elements which interact with the environment. There are many possible interactions between nature, the needs of the monument and the techniques applicable to its treatment. We aim to determine the most appropriate criteria and operating procedures to follow, first when making the preliminary diagnosis and then carrying out the conservation work; and to arrive at ways of coordinating operations so as to collect accurately the information yielded during the diagnosis and restoration of a tomb.

Our work in conserving the funerary monuments is based on the principles of preventive conservation and stone conservation.

Daily normal maintenance work in the Cemetery depends on analysing and classifying those factors that can set off processes of deterioration. So we have an active conservation programme for the tombs that takes place regularly in spring and autumn. Its aim is to control the progress of alteration and deterioration. Timely intervention in conjunction with monitoring and prevention stops the first signs of biological-chemical or aesthetic-structural deterioration of the stone. The

- continued on p.4

WHO THEY WERE...

Captain C.H. Darley, DSC, DFC
(c.1886 – 1919)

Second Lieutenant F.G. Prince
(1892 – 1919)

Second Lieutenant S. Spratt
(1900 – 1919)

The ease of international air travel nowadays can make us forget how exciting, but also how dangerous, were the pioneering days of civilian air travel. With the end of the First World War, experienced pilots competed for prizes offered for long-distance air travel. Thus, in 1919 Alcock and Brown successfully crossed the Atlantic and a few months later Ross Smith and his crew won a prize for the first London-Australia flight to take less than thirty days. At the same time, competition was developing among the newly formed airlines of Europe to introduce scheduled air services. Sadly, some of the pioneer crews paid with their lives while testing new routes.

For the British, who ended the war with a large airforce, the goal was to bring the Empire closer by opening up air routes via the Middle East to India, Australia and Africa. Egypt was an important hub in the proposed network. In 1918 the new Royal Air Force started to test the idea of flying its Handley Page biplane bombers all the way from London to Cairo – this instead of shipping them in crates for re-assembly in Egypt. The main challenge, given the navigational aids of the time, was crossing extensive stretches of open water (and later, as the routes expanded, of deserts).

In May 1919 a squadron of 50 Handley Page bombers had assembled in Paris to test the feasibility of a London – Cairo air route. The pilots of one of the bombers, Second Lieutenants Prince and Spratt, were assigned an illustrious passenger, T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia). Lawrence was in Paris attending the Peace Conference, where he had also started to write *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. He wished to visit the Arab Bureau in Cairo and to collect his wartime reports and other papers to help him in his writing.

Tragically, the plane piloted by Second Lieutenants Prince and Spratt crashed on landing at the Centocelle airfield in Rome on May 17. It had left Pisa too late in the afternoon to arrive during daylight. As the British Embassy reported later to London, "The pilot, 2/Lt Prince, made a very good landing but ran on some way owing to the shape of the ground and to the lack of wind. Evidently thinking he was running too far, he switched on again and attempted to get off again and make another circuit of the aerodrome. When about 20 feet up his right wing hit a tree and he crashed into a road on the edge of the aerodrome."

2/Lt Prince was killed instantly; 2/Lt Spratt was taken to hospital with a fractured skull, only to die three hours later. Of those in the rear of the plane, Aircraftsmen Daw and Tunley suffered only concussion while Lawrence escaped with a fractured shoulder-blade and cracked ribs. Lawrence could scarcely be kept in the Addolorata hospital to which he had been taken, insisting on going to visit his companions at the Celio military hospital.

Within a few days he was well enough to go to stay with the British Ambassador, Sir Rennell Rodd, who wrote about his unexpected guest in his Memoirs. It was the same Rodd, of course, who had managed in earlier years to preserve the Cemetery in the face of various threats to it. We can imagine that he may have helped secure the burial of Second Lieutenants Spratt and Prince in the plots where they now rest.

In the Cemetery, the neatly kerbed plot of Spratt's grave is shared with that of Captain C.H. Darley (his gravestone gives him the title of Major). Captain Cecil Hill Darley was another of the pioneers of the London – Cairo flight in 1919 who tragically lost his life in Italy. He was piloting a Vickers Vimy two-engined bomber with his younger brother, Charles Curtis Darley, as Navigation Officer. On the night of 27 September they made a forced landing near Lake Bracciano; taking off the next morning they failed to clear a telegraph pole and crashed in flames. C.C. Darley was later awarded the Albert Medal for his bravery in trying to rescue his brother pinned in his seat, despite himself being severely burnt. He went on to a distinguished career in the RAF, retiring as Air Commodore.

Both brothers had a record of bravery. C.H. Darley was awarded the Cross of Military Merit (Spain), the DSC (Distinguished Service Cross) and Bar, and the DFC (the Distinguished Flying Cross). Known as an experienced Handley Page pilot, he had shown conspicuous bravery in action during the World War. The DFC was awarded to him for a daring bombing raid on the Bruges – Zeebrugge canal in May, 1918.



Grave of Second Lieutenant F.G. Prince

Frederick Prince was an only son, a Londoner, and aged 27 when he died; Sidney Spratt, from a Cheshire family, was only 19 years old. Cecil Darley's family was British but his war record in a volume on 'Canadian airmen and the First World War' gives Montreal as his home. All three pilots gave their lives in the courageous attempt to make civilian air travel a reality. May they rest in peace in the Cemetery.

Nicholas Stanley-Price

Note: my thanks to Alda De Franceschi for kindly making available relevant sources on T.E. Lawrence. The graves are well maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

New President of the Assembly elected

At the Assembly of the Ambassadors held on 24 June 2008, His Excellency Mr Einar M. Bull, Ambassador of Norway to Italy, was elected President in succession to H.E. Mr Bruno Spinner, Ambassador of Switzerland. The Cemetery owes a considerable debt to Ambassador Spinner for his enthusiasm and pragmatic support during his year of office, and also to Manuela Leimgruber, First Secretary of the Embassy, for her very active role. During the year, Ambassador Spinner oversaw the first-ever appointment of a new Director through competitive selection, and also the negotiations for new arrangements for the Cemetery's garden maintenance (see below). The Embassy also organized the successful Family Day (see Newsletter No. 4) and printed an attractive brochure, *Luoghi della Memoria*, which commemorates in particular the Swiss presence in the cemetery. The brochure is on sale in the Visitors' Centre, with proceeds going to the Cemetery. It is an appropriate souvenir of the strong contribution made by the Embassy during its year of the Presidency, for which we are very grateful.

New arrangements for garden maintenance

As so many visitors comment, the trees, shrubs and flowers of the Cemetery are what make it so beautiful. For many years the Cemetery has employed its own gardening staff to maintain this beauty. But this year difficult decisions have had to be made because of the steadily increasing staff costs. Since July garden maintenance has been contracted to a specialist firm, Il Trattore, and so regular visitors will see new faces at work in the Cemetery. The change to outsourcing of the garden work will represent a substantial saving of expenditure, which continues to be a main goal for the Cemetery while maintaining a high level of service.

Guided tour of cemetery for friends

An offer of guided tours of the Cemetery especially for Friends on 15 October met with an enthusiastic response. Volunteers Carolyn Valone and Federico Erba led English- and Italian-speaking groups in an informative tour of some of the more notable tombs. Its success encourages us to organize more tours and other events for Friends in the future.

Weed & Read

The fourth Weed&Read event scheduled for 17 October coincided with a local transport strike and the first rain after a long, warm spell of weather. Student volunteers from the University of Dallas and from the Rome chapter of the Association of American College and University Programs in Italy had been enrolled to help with garden maintenance or to clean tombstones under the supervision of the Cemetery's restorer, Rita Galluccio. Some work was possible during the morning but the afternoon session was cancelled. We hope to organize another day before the end of the year to make the most of the enthusiasm being shown by the students.

The Visitors' Centre at the Cemetery needs
VOLUNTEERS.

We depend on **volunteers** to keep the Centre open and to assist visitors, help with events, do translations, and update our databases.

If you like to work with people and have some time free, please contact us:

EMAIL: visitorcenter@protestantcemetery.it
333.309.2201 or 06.574.1900



YOUR HELP WILL BE WELCOME!



Restorer Rita Galluccio removes black incrustations from a marble tombstone with a microsand machine.

HOW TO BECOME A FRIEND

This Newsletter is made possible by the contributions of Friends of the Cemetery but we *urgently* need more Friends in order to continue the Newsletter and the many other activities that they make possible. Please use the enclosed sheet to renew or to start your membership. Otherwise, please go to our website to find a membership form and instructions:

www.protestantcemetery.it



Conservation (continued from p.1)



Dr.ssa Rita Galluccio

tombs form part of an environmental context of vegetation which is the natural setting for every object exposed to the open air. It interacts with all the external factors (such as climate, smog, acid rain, and biodeterioration) of the urban area of Rome and outside it. So we try all the more to protect the state of conservation of the whole Cemetery complex and to impede its inevitable decay.

A different phase of conservation consists of projects of restoration which are organized as an action plan either for a specific tomb or for a group of monuments considered to be at risk. These are designed as part of a strategy that aims to optimize the resources available, either by means of a one-off intervention or by deciding to carry out restoration work that is more extensive and, therefore, more expensive.

We have to remember that all restoration work aimed at improving the condition of the tombs, classified according to their advanced state of deterioration and of high value, requires conservation work that is an investment, and has organizational, cost and technical implications.

It is only thanks to the external donations made by private enterprise, cultural bodies, academies, churches, museums and embassies, that we are able to realize our aim of improving and conserving the Non-Catholic Cemetery.

Dr.ssa Rita Galluccio

The Cemetery would welcome your contribution and support for restoring its monuments. Please contact the Director for information on how you can help.

How others see the Cemetery

Non-Catholic Cemetery voted the fourth most popular cemetery in the world!

According to a photo feature issued by the ANSA press agency in Rome on 28 October, a poll of users of the Tripadvisor.com web site for travellers came up with this result. The first three places in the poll went to Highgate cemetery in London, the Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris and the Jewish cemetery in Prague.

Following this report by ANSA we had a request from RAI News 24 to film in the Cemetery, with commentary by the well-known author and journalist Corrado Augias. In his recent book *The Secrets of Rome* (English edition, Rizzoli 2007), Augias actually starts his itinerary across Rome in the Cemetery, having been first drawn to it by Pasolini's poem *The Ashes of Gramsci*. He credits the poem with having transformed the Cemetery into 'an intensely poetic place, a Père Lachaise in miniature, contained and severe in its modesty, both neoclassical and romantic, set like a gem into the edge of baroque and Classical Rome'.

If it was the political sentiments in Pasolini's poem celebrating Gramsci that inspired Augias to visit the Cemetery, it is the legacy of the English Romantic poets that draws so many of our other visitors, and that inspired another tribute to the Cemetery: 'This is the most beautiful cemetery on earth...It is lush and green and drowsy, the trees whirr with birds' wings, and the grass crawls with insects. The promise of continuance is not in the angels or cherubs or the stiff crosses but in this fecundity of Nature, in the ivy which effaces the chiselled letters of a name. Indeed, do we ever linger in cemeteries which are bare of vegetation?' (from Christopher Woodward's *In Ruins*, (Vintage 2002)).

This column will be a regular feature of the Newsletter, reporting how others have viewed or been inspired by the Cemetery. Contributions of relevant material will be welcome and should be sent to mail@protestantcemetery.it

CORRECTION:

Our sincere apologies to Dott. Gian Pietro Cantiani for misspelling his name as author of the lead article in Newsletter no.4.

NON-CATHOLIC CEMETERY IN ROME

Director: Amanda Thursfield
Via Caio Cestio, 6
00153 Rome, Italy

MON - SAT

9.00am - 5.00pm

(last entrance 4.30pm)

Sundays & Public Holidays

9.00am - 1.00pm

(last entrance 12.30pm)

VISITORS' CENTRE

Information Point & Bookshop

Mon - Sat 10.00am - 4.00pm

Sunday

9:00am - 1:00pm

OFFICE OPEN

Tues & Thur

10.00am - 1.00pm

Thur 2.30 - 4.00pm

By Appointment Only

Tel 06.574.1900

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Scientific collaboration with the University of Calabria

We have made an agreement with the University of Calabria for scientific analysis of stone deterioration in the Cemetery. Rita Galluccio is working with Dr Marco Malagodi, a biochemist specialised in the conservation of cultural heritage, and his staff of the Facoltà di Scienze, Fisica e Diagnostica per la Conservazione e Restauro dei Beni Culturali at the Università degli Studi della Calabria. A report on this work will appear in a future Newsletter.

NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Non-Catholic
Cemetery in Rome

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