

scarab and a flat half with iconography incised into it, these objects are found in funerary and votive contexts in Etruria, as they serve multiple functions in life and death. However, most scholarship on Etruscan scarabs comes in catalogues or studies focused on a few examples of a particular iconography. My research does not aim to create a new catalogue but rather to present new interpretations of the corpus, given the position of scarab gems within the significant artistic output shifts of central Italy in the fifth century BC, and explore why the medium persisted in Etruria. This change and continuity of scarabs in Etruscan art chronology are yet to be discussed, given the changes in their material, production locations, trade relations and functions.

My time at the BSR has been instrumental for both research projects. Access to the institute's expansive library with sources unavailable back home has been enormously influential. Additionally, as I come from Australia (a country not known for its Etruscan museums), it was incredible to be able to visit the many Etruscan cities and their respective museums and necropolises. Furthermore, as I study many ancient examples of art, conversing in multi-disciplinary discussions with the non-archaeologists at the BSR was a fantastic opportunity to gain new insights.

I am still relatively early in my academic career, yet this experience has been exceedingly valuable to my future in archaeology. I am incredibly grateful to my Macquarie University department and Mrs Gale for this fantastic opportunity to reside at the BSR in 2024. I am also very thankful to the BSR staff and fellow residents for all their support.

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RALEGH REDFORD ROME AWARD

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Genoa in the Islamicate Mediterranean: diplomatic and economic relationships between the Genoese and the Qalāwūnid sultanate of Egypt, 1279–1382

My PhD thesis investigates practices and modalities of Egyptian–Genoese diplomatic and commercial relationships in the port city of Alexandria during the Qalāwūnid Sultanate (1279–1382). To fully grasp the complexity of these relationships, it is essential to address diplomacy and commerce within the context of Egyptian and Genoese administrative practices in Alexandria and in light of the mediating role played by diplomatic and commercial agents in the city's distinct social and political environment.

During my three-month fellowship at the British School at Rome (BSR) as a Raleigh Radford Rome Award-holder, my research evolved into a micro-history of the geographies of Egyptian–Genoese relationships in Alexandria and the people and institutions involved. The study examined the activities of ambassadors, merchants, interpreters and clerks, and the functions of the Genoese *fondaco* (a system established to accommodate foreign merchants and store their merchandise) and consulate, along with the *dūwān* (customs office) of Alexandria and the chancery of the Sultanate.

My research at the BSR library centred on editions of Genoese chartularies, which provided significant insights into the Genoese network of people moving across the

eastern Mediterranean. Different contracts recorded Genoese merchants active in Egypt, shedding light on the Genoese trading community of Alexandria.

At the library of the *École Française de Rome*, I examined publications from the Centre d'Études Alexandrines. The results of archaeological excavations and extensive historical research on Islamicate Alexandria provided valuable insights into the city's geographies and the institutions affiliated with the Genoese and Egyptian administrations.

Traditionally, the history of diplomacy and commerce in the medieval Mediterranean has been influenced by nationalist views, producing a dichotomy between a 'Christian West' and an 'Islamic East'. Consequently, Egyptian and Italian communities in Alexandria have often been depicted as competing and opposing groups. This perspective originated from a 'top-down' approach, focusing on state narratives and neglecting the multi-layered structure of diplomacy and commerce.

More recently, scholars have challenged these conservative views, but Genoa has been largely excluded from these new inquiries. My project addresses this gap and reverses the old rhetoric of divisions and antagonisms between Egyptians and Genoese, highlighting cross-cultural and trans-Mediterranean interconnections. It presents a more nuanced and comprehensive view of this shared, composite whole.

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ROME AWARDS

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Identity and community in the immigrant artisan population of early modern Rome

During my time as a Rome Awardee at the British School at Rome, I investigated immigrant artisan communities in Rome from 1550–1650. In particular, I was interested in the German communities of Early Modern Rome, who, whilst seeking to maintain a strong national identity, especially through the preservation of the German language, also formed an important part of the artisanal workforce and contributed to the creation and development of culture. In general, I was interested in understanding more about how these 'national' groupings developed, and how they intersected with craft, neighbourhood and confessional identity. By exploring how immigrant artisans assimilated into Roman communities, I wanted to understand more about how those in Rome interacted with other cultures. I was interested in looking at both master artisans, who made their homes within Rome and joined trade organizations, and journeymen passing through the city.

I completed my fellowship at the British School at Rome amid the pandemic in the autumn of 2020. Whilst I had planned to spend much of my time at the BSR examining archival collections, because of strict regulations related to the coronavirus pandemic, I was only able to spend a limited amount of time in the Archivio di Stato di Roma at the beginning of my stay in Rome. This necessarily altered the scope of my research. Nevertheless, in the time that I was able to have in the archive, I identified some interesting material. I focused my attention on the Collegio dei Notai Capitolini.