

**PERMANENT EXHIBITION
THE TOPOGRAPHICAL AND CARTOGRAPHIC HERITAGE OF CADASTRE
“A LIVING CULTURAL ASSET”**

Brief introduction

Welcome to “*The Topographical and Cartographic Heritage of the Cadastre - A living cultural asset*” exhibition. The permanent exhibition is housed in Rome, in Largo Leopardi, in the historical headquarters of the former General Directorate of the Land Registry, now premises of the Revenue Agency’s Central Directorates for the management of territory.

A real didactic-narrative exhibition itinerary has been set up to make visitors aware of the existence of a precious cartographic and topographical heritage of the Cadastre. This heritage has a considerable importance from an artistic and historical, as well as a technical and scientific point of view, although only partially known to the technicians of the sector and little to the general public and students of all levels.

This exhibition offers visitors a fascinating and diachronic journey to discover the different knowledges, the professionalism and skills of the Cadastre, through a narration that traces the stages of topography and cartography and the asset of the scientific, technical and artistic knowledge aimed at the symbolic representation of a geographical territory.

Atlases, *Cabrei* (documents and drawn or watercolour tables of great beauty, which schematically reproduce inventoried assets, such as buildings, churches, manors, lands and sometimes crops), maps, scientific instruments, documents and the creation of an exhibit showing to the visitor the typical squares of cadastral surveyors, or the workstation used to form and update the Cadastral cartography, represent the tangible science of a precious and accurate work, that has evolved over time.

Some maps are real artworks, they are completely drawn and coloured by hand with meticulous and refined decoration, where the finest artistic ability coexist with the technical mathematical “ratio” in perfect balance. This is the reason why, in this path, cartography plays a leading role.

Along with the maps, viewers will also find a rich selection of scientific instruments for surveying and map representation, together with videos, documents, registers, photos belonging to the cadastral history. The exhibition offers several cross-references between culture, art and history, which lead visitors towards the knowledge of a little-known institution, yet custodian of an extraordinary heritage of knowledge.

The exhibition is divided into three sections. The first one is dedicated to the previous Cadastres, existing before the unification of Italy which took place in 1861. The second part is focused on the establishment of the Cadastre in the modern State of Italy. The third section is centred on the activities of maintenance and updating.

Enjoy the virtual tour!

Central Directorate for Cadastral, Cartographic and Land Registration Services