



Documentary series of Tiber floods in Rome: 2000 years of interactions between the town and the river. A focus on the LIA period.

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The Tiber floods documentary series is the longest and most complete existing in Italy, covering a time span of almost 2500 years. The first record dates back to 414 BC (Titus Livius). Flowing across Rome, this river always gained great public interest both on regional and European scale. Its vicissitudes are well documented in a large and different number and kind of historical sources. All them have been applied in our analysis: narrative (e.g. diaries, chronicles, Pope's lives histories), legal-administrative documentation (e.g. technical relations, damage protocol/accounts), iconographical and epigraphical evidences.

While the hydrological and meteorological analysis of this exceptionally long series has been presented elsewhere (Camuffo-Enzi, 1996, The Analysis of two bi-millenary series: Tiber and Po River Floods, in P.D Jones, R.D. Bradley and J. Jouzel, eds: Climatic variations and forcing mechanisms of the last 2000 years, NATO ASI Series, I, 41, Springer, http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-61113-1_20)

), the historical analysis of this series, provided in the presentation, approaches different social, economic, and political aspects. Observing the effects of the river floods in Rome, it will be pointed out how the urbanistic, social and also cultural changes influenced the relationship of the town and its inhabitants with the river and its past occurrences. It will be discussed, for instance, as the poorer population was more affected and the particular interests of the various social classes collided in taking actions in the defense against floods.

The following main questions are also addressed: which approach people and authorities had to the floods; which actions were possibly undertaken by the authorities in charge and how the political assets conditioned them; how the city shape and economy acted in the impact of the floods and viceversa, with a focus on the Little Ice Age period.