

Rediscovering the Classical: Graeco-Italian Relations and Ancient Drama in the early 20th Century

I approach Graeco-Italian relations concerning ancient drama in the early 20th century within the context of international connections among individuals and institutions advocating classical heritage as a symbolic asset in modern Europe. My focus lies on the Mediterranean region and the international relationships that evolved among classicists, archaeologists, writers, poets, playwrights, and journalists. Representatives from various European institutions and organizations emerged as ideal agents for establishing international networks, during a period when classical culture resurged in the public sphere.

The pivotal events enabling these individuals to forge international connections included conferences, world fairs, exhibitions, participation in artistic networks, professional stays in institutions such as the Italian Archaeological School at Athens etc. These events created a thriving international arena that facilitated intellectuals' communication and collaboration. In addition, since the late 19th and mainly the early 20th centuries, open-air festivals of classical drama in France, Italy, Greece, and Spain furnished a sociocultural context that fostered the exchange of artistic perspectives and facilitated fresh insights into the reception of the classical.