



## **PALAZZO BRANCACCIO**

**CONSENSUS CONFERENCE FOR THE  
METABOLIC DIAGNOSIS AND MEDICAL  
PREVENTION OF CALCIUM  
NEPHROLITHIASIS AND ITS SYSTEMIC  
MANIFESTATIONS  
(& EDUCATIONAL COURSE ON RENAL STONE DISEASE)**

**ROME (ITALY), MARCH 26-28, 2015**

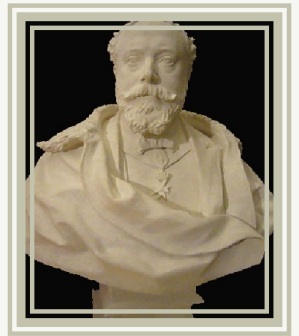




## BRIEF HISTORY

Fondazione Internazionale Menarini organizes this Conference at the end of March 2015 in Rome, at the sumptuous Brancaccio Palace which is considered the last Roman Patrician Palace built within the historic Aurelian city walls. It is sited in the Monti district, between the Colosseum and the papal Basilica of S. Maria Maggiore.

It is on the Esquilinus, the highest and largest of the seven hills of Rome, more specifically on the slopes of the Colle Oppio, largely occupied by the public Archaeological Park of Trajan full of Roman ruins of a baths complex, fountains and majestic trees. Here underneath is buried the huge and still preserved complex of *Domus Aurea* (the Golden House) built after the fire of Rome in AD 64. It was accidentally discovered at the end of 1400, during the early Renaissance. Artists as Michelangelo, Raphael, Perugino, Filippino Lippi and many others lowered themselves into the ruins in order to study the frescoed grottoes. All of them later used motifs from the *Domus Aurea* frescoes in their work. In 1506, one of the most famous ancient sculptures ever since was unearthed here: the *Laocoon and His Sons*, a Greek statue of AD I. It made a great impression on Italian artists and continued to influence Italian art into the Baroque period.



Palazzo Brancaccio belonged to the American Mary Elizabeth Bradhurst Field whose daughter married the Neapolitan nobleman Don Salvatore Brancaccio, Prince of Triggiano, Duke of Lustra and Marquis of Montecagliostro. He moved from Naples to Rome at the end of 1800. Mrs. Mary Elisabeth was a rich heiress of New York and in 1879 acquired from the Municipality of Rome a convent with the attached church of the nuns *Clarisse Franciscan Sisterhood of Santa Maria della Purificazione ai Monti* on the Oppio hill. Behind the property and included in the convent were extensive gardens covering most of the actual Traian public park. She commissioned the Roman architect Gaetano Koch a sumptuous residential building for her, her daughter and husband prince Brancaccio. The architect was well celebrated and known in Rome for the construction of the palace of the present Bank of Italy and for Boncompagni-Ludovisi Palace, the current location of the USA Embassy. He erected a three-storey building, in a Classical, elegant style, with luxurious interiors and with an ample curve ashlar portal and a park at the back.

Between 1830 and 1890 the palace was enlarged by the Roman architect Luca Carimini who took inspiration from Renaissance models projecting gable windows, large cornices and an imposing ashlar coating. The main new facade was on via Merulana, adorned with three windows and three portals, framed by four big Doric columns supporting the above loggia.



The palace became a form of rare grandiosity and a triumph of richness and the couple princes Brancaccio and Mrs. Field used the venue to give grand parties for the Roman and foreign aristocracy and also in honour of the King Umberto of Savoy.

To enrich the interiors Mrs. Field hired a local painter-decorator in 1880, Francesco Gai, who worked in the Palace for about twenty years. He became the “personal painter” of the two families, the Brancaccio and the Field, and realized the portraits of all of them. He decorated most part of the palace, walls, ceilings as the main



bedrooms. Designed furnitures, cabinetry, chimney and restored antique paintings. He also realized the beautiful Nymphaeum and rich mural decorations in the charming Hunting Lodge, turned into a Coffee House, and designed one entrance park gate. In 1922, the son of Prince Brancaccio commissioned Carlo Sacconi the last architectural works. In 1916 a theatre was opened next to the palace, called Teatro Morgana. It has become the Teatro Politeama Brancaccio, still open now and devoted especially to musicals. A list of famous actors as Totò, Aldo Fabrizi, Anna Magnani performed many plays here and Gigi Proietti and Maurizio Costanzo worked as art directors.

The entrance hall of the palace hosts columns made of single grey granite blocks and a large monumental staircase leading to the piano noble where are the most sumptuous and important rooms decorated in a baroque and rococò style with luxury and opulence.

Red velvet curtains, tapestries, carpets, brocade, glass, refined crystal chandeliers, lace, stuccos, gold plaster, frescoes and bronze busts.



There are seven halls: Hall Gaia, Hall of Mirrors with the bust of Prince Brancaccio, the romantic Hall of the Vestal Virgins, Hall of the Clock, Hall Mimosa. They are often used for public and private



events, balls or fashion shows.



The palace was also the set for the production of beloved movies as the American “Roman Holiday” (1953) starring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck and the italian “The Great Beauty” by Paolo Sorrentino where Rome and its beauty are celebrated.

The private Park of Palazzo Brancaccio, with its century-old trees, originally extended on the entire Colle Oppio but was expropriated by the Municipality of Rome to make way for the public archeological Traian area. In the remaining area arises the Nymphaeum enriched by two ponds at different levels of the waterfall and the small and charming Hunting Lodge turned into a Coffee House, rich of decorations and painted by Francesco Gai.



Today the last floor of the palace hosts offices of public and private Institutions and, on the piano noble, the National Museum of Oriental Art dedicated to the arts of the Orient, from the Middle East to Japan. It was founded in 1957 and has a rather remarkable collection of artifacts from the Gandhara area (north Pakistan and east Afghanistan). On May 2005 it was dedicated to Giuseppe Tucci (1894-1984) who promoted its foundation and was one of the most important orientalists in twentieth-century.



## COME RAGGIUNGERE PALAZZO BRANCACCIO VIALE DEL MONTE OPPIO, 7– LARGO BRANCACCIO, 82/A–ROMA

### **From Airport Leonardo da Vinci:**

Train FS Leonardo Express until Stazione Termini (every 30 minutes).

### **From Stazione Termini:**

Underground Linea A: Direction Anagnina, stop Vittorio Emanuele and 5 minuti walk;  
or City Bus 714, stop Merulana-Brancaccio.

ROME - PALAZZO BRANCACCIO



### **Fondazione Internazionale Menarini**

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