

TIMEKEEPERS IN HISTORICAL OBSERVATORIES
Challenges in conservation, restoration and maintenance

International Workshop
Palermo, 25-27 March 2025

PROGRAMME

Tue 25 March (*Faculty of Theology, corso Vittorio Emanuele 463*)

9.00 | 9.30 Registrations

9.30 | 10.00 Welcome addresses (A. Gasperini, A. Ciaravella, M. Palma, M. Gruttadauria)

I Session (History) (*Chair: G. Strano*)

- 10.00 | 10.35 Conversations on 18th- and 19th-century British clockmakers (*Jonathan Betts, Royal Observatory of Greenwich, Emeritus*)

10.35 | 11.10 Coffee break

- 11.10 | 11.45 Julien Gressot (Université de Neuchâtel)
Studying the heritage of observatories: an approach through archives, material culture and operating chains of astronomical pendulum clocks

- 11.45 | 12.20 Günther Oestmann (Technical University of Berlin)
The regulator clocks by J. H. Kessels

12.20 | 13.00 Discussion on Session I

13.00 | 14.30 Light lunch

14.30 | 17.00 Visits to collections:

- Museum of Motors and Mechanisms - Viale delle Scienze, Edificio 8
(short presentation by Giuseppe Genchi on *Clocks like cold motors: similar approaches*)
- Historical Collection of Physics and Library of Physics and Chemistry – Via Archirafi, 36
(short presentation by Aurelio Agliolo Gallitto on *The Hipp chronoscope in Palermo*)

Wed 26 March (*Faculty of Theology, corso Vittorio Emanuele 463*)

II Session (Conservation, restoration, maintenance) (*Chair: J. Gressot*)

- 9.30 | 10.05 Romain Jeanneret (Haute Ecole Arc de conservation-restauration (HE-Arc CR), Neuchâtel)
The Philosophy of Observatory Clock Conservation: Reconsidering Know Why Before Know How
- 10.05 | 10.40 Giorgio Strano (Museo Galileo, Florence)
To restore or not to restore? An Hamlet Question with more than Two Answers
- 10.40 | 11.15 Anna Giatti (Free-lance Restorer)
The clock made by Officina Galileo and donated to the Arcetri Observatory

11.15 | 11.45 Coffee break

- 11.45 | 12.20 Ileana Chinnici (INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Palermo)
Chronometric collections in INAF observatories

12.20 | 13.00 Discussion on Session II

13.00 | 14.30 Light lunch

14.30 | 16.00 Demonstrations at Specola Museum by Jonathan Betts (Royal Observatory of Greenwich, Emeritus) and Thomas Rebényi (Deutsche Museum) - max 15 people per group

16.00 | 16.30 Refreshments

16.30 Visits to collections:

- Specola Museum at the Astronomical Observatory – Piazza del Parlamento, 1 (optional – please, ask the registration desk)

20.00 – Social Dinner at Bellini Restaurant (Piazza Bellini, 6)

Thu 27 March (*Specola Museum at INAF Astronomical Observatory, Piazza del Parlamento, 1*)

9.30 | 11.00 Demonstrations at Specola Museum by Jonathan Betts (Royal Observatory of Greenwich, Emeritus) and Thomas Rebényi (Deutsche Museum) - max 15 people per group

11.00 | 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 | 12.30 Final discussion and conclusions (*Chair: G. Oestmann*)