



Embassy of Italy Kampala

PRESS RELEASE

From the North Pole to the Equator – The Duke of the Abruzzi's Exploration Voyages

28 April – 28 May 2018

The Embassy of Italy in Uganda, with the participation of the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, is organizing a conference and photo-exhibition on the expeditions of Luigi Amedeo of Savoy-Aosta, Duke of the Abruzzi, a passionate mountaineer and explorer of his time.

The Conference will take place at Makerere University's Art Gallery on Friday 27 April at 5:30pm on invitation from the Ambassador of Italy to Uganda, H.E. Domenico Fornara. The Guest of Honor will be the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu.

The Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, will deliver a welcome speech followed by interventions from the following distinguished panelists: Prof. Edward Kirumira (Principal, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Makerere University); Mr. Sam Mwandha (Executive Director Uganda Wildlife Authority); Mr. David Duli (Executive Director, World Wildlife Fund, Uganda); Mr. Stephen Asimwe (Chief Executive Officer, Uganda Tourism Board); Prof. Cecilia Pennacini (Director of the Italian Ethnological Mission to Equatorial Africa and of the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, University of Torino, Italy).

After the conference, the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities will officially inaugurate the exhibition.

The exhibition will be displayed at the Art Gallery until 28 May (opening hours: Monday – Saturday, 9.00am – 5.00pm).

The Duke of the Abruzzi climbed the highest peaks of the "Mountains of the moon", the Rwenzori range, in 1906 marking the beginning of friendship between Italy and Uganda. He traveled to Uganda primarily to study the topography of Rwenzori Mountains, but was profoundly attracted also by its geology, flora and fauna. This



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expedition, documented by a detailed photographic report, consisted of 300 participants including a renowned photographer and fellow mountaineer, Vittorio Sella, the documenter who was developing the photos in a tent that worked as a dark room in the mountains. Through Vittorio Sella's pictures, the Duke of the Abruzzi offers a unique view on the authentic scenes of the Rwenzori range and Ugandan life as they were over a hundred years ago.

The photo-exhibition shall also be the opportunity for discovering other extraordinary adventures of Luigi Amedeo around the world: USA, Canada, North Pole, Pakistan and Somalia. In 1897 he was the first to reach the top of Mount Saint Elias, located on the border between USA and Canada while, in 1899-1900 during a two year expedition, he almost reached the North Pole. After the exploration of the Rwenzori Range in 1909, he attempted the K2 mountain (Karakorum/Pakistan), where - even though the peak remained unscaled - the Duke marked the highest altitude ever achieved by man. Finally, between 1928 and 1929, he explored the Wabi-Webi Shebeli River in Somalia.

The conference/exhibition is yet another occasion to celebrate over a century of bilateral relationship between Italy and Uganda and a historical journey which combines research, exploration, tourism, environment and culture. The Embassy warmly thanks the panelists and all who are participating in the organization of the event.

The exhibition is curated by the Independent curator Robinah Nansubuga.

For further information:

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