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## The “Tavolette Enigmatiche” Project

The term “enigmatic tablet” refers to a class of finds represented by small clay or stone objects, oval or rectangular in shape, referred to Early-middle bronze age (ca. 2100-1400 B.C), with mysterious symbols impressed and/or engraved on. The distribution of these objects covers a geographic area from the Garda Lake in Italy to the Carpatian and South-Danube territory.

Our understanding of precise meaning of the symbols has been hampered by the relative scarcity of finds and by a lack of a detailed data base. Thanks to the efforts produced by a group of archaeologists working in Italy, the Cavriana Museum has investigated until now 230 of these tablets, found in different regions of central and northern Italy. We are now completing our database with findings coming from outside Italy. A list of all the Universities, Museums, and supporting institutions as well as other additional details on the Project are available in our web page at [www.museocavriana.it](http://www.museocavriana.it).

The Cavriana Project is a 2-year project that aims to create a digital registry of enigmatic tablets to enhance the recognition of the interconnection between objects collected in different countries and the discovery of a common basic code underlying these symbols. An on-line database of all known tablets will be available from the beginning of 2009. An exhibition and an international congress will complete our research in the same year.

Our call refers to all Museum that may have some enigmatic tablet in their collections.

To be eligible for consideration under the Project, the candidate museums must meet the following minimum criteria:

1. Availability to send digital photos (or drawings if available), within a definite standard format.
2. Availability to share detail information about the tablets, giving information on their finding, origin, conservation etc.

In return, each Museum, Institution or Private Collection that want to share with us information about *tablets* will have full access to our database, will have the possibility to host the itinerant exhibition of *Enigmatic Tablets* (from 2010) and can obtain a 3D-laser scanning of selected tablets.

Info and application forms at <http://www.museocavriana.it>