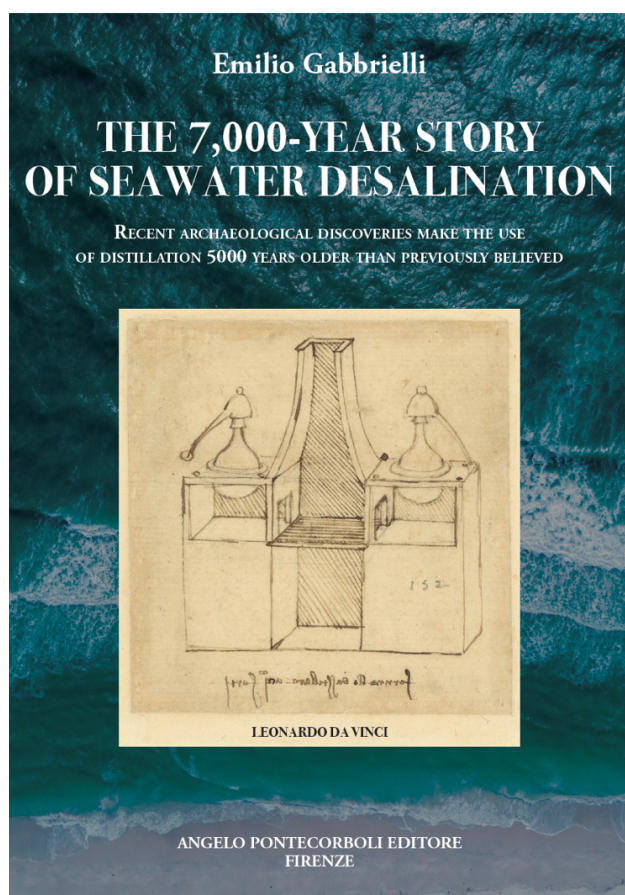


Press Release

From February 1st 2025 the English and Italian versions of the book “The 7,000 year story of seawater desalination” by Emilio Gabrielli will become available for sale on the publisher website <https://www.pontecorboli.com> and through major retail sites. The Spanish and Portuguese versions will become available by the end of April 2025.



Desalination developed over thousands of years until, in the last one hundred and fifty years, it exploded in the face of a growing global water crisis. Often without us being aware, it has become an integral part of the drinking water supply in many cities such as London, Barcelona, Perth and Singapore, and particularly in the Middle East and North Africa, e.g. Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Tel Aviv and Algiers, as well as supplying major industries and agriculture. In 2024, more than 5% of mankind consumes desalinated water from the sea on a daily basis.

This book has been conceived not only for members of the international desalination community, but also for the non-specialist readers who are interested in the historical and

social development of an ancient technology that has become of fundamental relevance today and will increasingly be so for the benefit of all mankind.

Excerpts from the cover of the book:

Emilio Gabbrielli takes us on a fascinating journey over many millennia to appreciate the history and evolution of desalination techniques. In this deeply researched book, Emilio tells a very human story and identifies the pioneers, the challenges, the breakthroughs and the geopolitics of this vital scientific and engineering quest, from antiquity to the present day.

Anthony (Tony) Fane

Emeritus Professor, UNESCO Centre for Membranes,
UNSW, Australia

This history of desalination is most fascinating to experts and to laymen since water is essential to life on earth and has been considered over the ages by philosophers by technologists and entire populations.

Miriam Balaban

Editor in Chief, “Desalination”,
“Desalination and Water Treatment”
Secretary General of the European Desalination Society (EDS)

There is a belief that someone cannot be a full-fledged member of their profession without understanding its history. In that light, members of the desalination community will be well served by this book. Emilio Gabbrielli has gathered here a very readable work including some material not previously published.

James (Jim) Birkett

This account is a must-read for anyone interested in the intersection of ancient civilisations, technology and environmental resilience. Gabbrielli’s pioneering work enriches our understanding of the past and inspires critical reflection on current challenges and opportunities in water management.

Shannon McCarthy

Secretary General, International Desalination and Reuse Association (IDRA)