



National Report Italy
September 2006 – June 2009

The years from the XIII Ticcih Conference **of 2006 in Italy and the one in Freiberg of 2009** were very busy ones for the Italian Association of Industrial Archaeological Heritage (Aipai) for activity as well as organizational expansion.

Two elements stood out in this three-year period. The first one was the increasing interest on behalf of the official culture and institutions concerning production monuments leading to the explicit recognition, in the new **Italian Cultural Heritage Code**, of industrial heritage as something to be protected and valued. The second is the **further** growth of Aipai's influence in the associative world that deals with cultural heritage and landscape and the recognition of the **Association** as sole subject operating in Italy in the industrial archaeological sector.

The main event, in the first half of 2007, was the outcome of the world meeting held in Terni – Rome in September 2006 and the redefinition of Aipai's activity. It culminated with the national assembly held in Terni in July 2007 where association roles were renewed in a well debated preliminary document. In the document – unanimously approved - **the following were defined:**

- a. Aipai's aims, whose task is that of preserving industrial patrimony in all its forms (buildings, machines, archives, libraries, photographic and cinematographic collections);
- b. attracting specific attention towards industrial landscapes as a connecting tissue that links the various sites and monuments and that is in rapport with the different landscapes present on the territory from various eras;
- c. the outlines of industrial patrimony and patrimonilization processes of industrialization testimony;
- d. the procedures dictating conservation and patrimonilization that go from the heritage awareness, to its cataloguing, the processes involving communities and local institutions, relations with public institutions responsible for cultural heritage and good practices concerning recovery and reuse;
- e. the need to **articulate associative activity on a reticular basis** with multiple subjects engaged on the territory and the expansion of the association's regional seats;
- f. the need to **create a system** with other associations concerned with cultural patrimony and landscape.

Presidente nazionale

Prof. Renato Covino
www.patrimonioindustriale.it
e-mail: presidente@patrimonioindustriale.it
mobile: 347 1222189

Sede legale

c/o ICSIM (Istituto per la Cultura e la Storia d'Impresa "Franco Momigliano")
piazzale Antonio Bosco, 3A – 05100 Terni
tel. 0744 407187
fax 0744 407468



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The assembly elected the new **Executive Board** indicating the **Executive Committee** in the persons of Renato Covino (president), Franco Mancuso, Massimo Preite and Roberto Parisi (vice presidents), Patrizia Chierici (president of auditors), Giovanni Luigi Fontana (past president), Stefano Ceccarelli (secretary) and Gianni Bovini (treasurer).

The **Executive Board** and the **Executive Committee** followed the guide lines indicated by the National Assembly, developing **a wide range of interventions throughout Italy** striving to create intervention tools able to assure the continuation of associative activity.

First of all, in this scenario all participation in **initiatives organized together with other associative and institutional realities** is indicated.

Firstly, participation in the diffusion **of the 'Cattedrali del mare'** (*cathedrals of the sea*) project. *Following the footsteps of industrial archaeology along Italian and European coastlines*, sponsoring the initiative and guaranteeing – between October and November 2007 – a presence in the various seats where the project was presented (Carloforte, Taranto, Porto Recanati, Gaeta, Siracusa and Venice). Also participated with reports and communications in the 'Archiexpo' organized by the Italian National Archive Association about *Sos Company Archives, project experience, solutions and visions*; in the conference organized by the Upgrading Coordination of the former Industrial Zones of Parma, at the Auditorium of the main seat of the University of Studies, Parma, entitled: *"Memories of Glass, recovery and transformation of the former Bormioli Rocco factory of Parma"* (November 2007). In Milan, in collaboration with the Focus, Centre for Business Culture and Museum enterprise: *"Company Patrimony: which forms for company memory and culture"* in the Workshop: *"Preserve and Display. Patrimonial enhancement of Museum assets"* promoted by the National Museum of Science and Technology of Milan; participation in the *"Industrial Archaeology in Puglia via Foggia"* conference held in Foggia, organized by the Ministry for Cultural Assets and Activities, by the Superintendence for Architectonic and Landscape Heritage of the Bari and Foggia provinces, by the Provincial Administration of Foggia and the Alternative Art Association (March 2008).

Furthermore, the presence at the III study day: *"Food Industry and Industrial Patrimony in Otranto"* at the Santa Barbara Wine Cellar of San Pietro Vernotico (BR) was guaranteed, in occasion of which the exhibition of *"Industrial*

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Patrimony of the Province of Brindisi” was presented, we were at Trieste with a report at the conference: *“Harbour constructions, the restoration of the state-owned Cultural Patrimony”* promoted by ‘Italia Nostra’. (May 2008).

Aipai participated in the **XXIII UIA Off-Congress of Turin**, World Architect Congress, organizing a special session of industrial patrimony and presenting the exhibitions *“Paths of Industrial Patrimony in Italy”* and *“Transmitting the Industrial City”* plus a preview of the work site exhibitions: *“Industrial patrimony national reports in various countries”* and *“North Turin digital images of the city from the XIX and XXI century”* (May - June 2008). It presented reports and communication at the international conference of Monfalcone *“From industrial areas to cultural landscapes. Planning paths, experience, enhancement potential, reconversion and recovery of patrimony and industrial archaeological sites”* (October 2008) as well as at the *“International Geo Sites and Industrial Archaeology Networks”* in Carbonia (November 2008).

The numerous conferences directly organized by the national Aipai and its regional departments had a significant impact: *“Industrial patrimony in the province of Brindisi”* (Brindisi, Aipai Puglia, February 2008); *“Ecomuseums, Territorial Museums and Cultural Parks. Italian experience and the Case of Molise”*, (Campobasso, Aipai Molise and University of Studies of Molise, February 2008); *“Historical and territorial events and conservation. Comparing industrial towns and cities, enhancement experience and reuse”* (Torviscosa, Aipai Friuli Venezia Giulia, Municipality of Torviscosa, University of Trieste, CID, February 2008); *“Marches Industrial Patrimony”* (Ascoli Piceno, Aipai Marches, April 2008); Gino Papuli remembrance day (national Aipai, Icsim, Terni and Narni Cassa di Risparmio Bank Foundation and the Engineers Association of the Terni Province, July 2008); *“Industrial Patrimony of the Steel industry. Territories Events Enhancement”* (Piombino, national Aipai, Aipai Tuscany, Municipality of Piombino and the Lucchini Company, July 2008); *“Factories and workers in the “Great War”* (Terni, national Aipai and Icsim, November 2008); *“Lost, Compromised, at Risk, Enhanced. Patrimony of Industrial Archaeology in Veneto amidst history and planning”* (Padua, Aipai Veneto, December 2008); *“Industrial Archaeology in Italy 1978-2008” - Research, Didactics and Training* (Termoli – Pontedera, Aipai, Aisu, University of Molise, University of Pisa, the Piaggio Foundation, December 2008 – April 2009); *“Let’s restart from.... Industrial Archaeology in Abruzzi”* (Pescara, Aipai Abruzzi, December 2008); *“Pier Luigi Nervi, the Silos Solvay and the mark of industry in San Vincenzo”*, (Aipai Tuscany, San Vincenzo. April 2009); *“Tobacco factories in Italy: from*

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Manufacture to Patrimony" (Turin, national Aipai, University of Turin, Superintendence of Architectonic Heritage and Landscape Heritage of Piemonte, May 2009); *Enhancement and Scenario of Industrial Patrimony. Study cases, museumification and intervention planning*" (Lecce, Aipai Puglia, June 2009).

Just as widespread were the sponsored initiatives concerning the ideas of industrial site reuse, organization and participation, presentation of books, patrimony days, exhibitions (organized directly or in partnership with others) about individual conservation aspects and the reuse of single sites and monuments. Amongst these, worthy of note was the participation in *"Open Doors"*, an initiative organized by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, for the southern regions and the initiative sponsored by Co.mo.do (confederation of associations for soft mobility which Aipai is part of) for the organization of disused railway dedicated days. Also participation in the conference of *"Promoting Industry, promoting the territory, promoting the patrimony. Territorial marketing strategies"* was extremely significant and in the round table: *"Ecomuseums and Museums of the Territory: experience and accounts"* (Settimo Torinese. Aipai, Metropolitan Culture Experience Foundation, Icsim. September 2008)

Over the following months a conference will be prepared about transversal railways in the Italian peninsular and one about Pierluigi Nervi, factory constructor, as well as regional conferences in Puglia, Umbria, **Veneto** and Emilia Romagna.

The participation in **debates of an international level** are also worthy of note, while in July 2009 the collaboration between **Aipai** and Ticcih was formalized with a **letter of Agreement**, signed by both the President of AIPAI, Renato Covino and by the President of Ticcih, Eusebi Casanelles.

Special interest was paid to the stipulation of **draft agreements with other associations and institutions**. The first being drawn up between Aipai and

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Icsim which consolidates a long-term relationship culminating in the organization of the Ticcih XIII conference. Afterwards the ones with the Italian Forum on Cement, the Centre of Studies in Biella, 'Italia nostra' and Historical Centre Associations, the Luigi Sturzo Foundation, the municipalities of Guspini, Dueville, Crocetta, Morigerati, Maglie, Piombino and the University of Padua, etc.

The most important Aipai **ongoing projects** are those with the Municipality of Piombino and the Lucchini Company for the creation of the Museum of Iron at Piombino; with the Municipality of Maglie for the creation of the virtual Museum of Industry in Salento; with the Chambers of Commerce in Puglia for the creation of an industrial image exhibition and with the University of Padua "*Company towns in the world. Origins, evolution and rehabilitation (16th-20th centuries)*".

Also the long-term engagement in the field of **training** continues with the participation in the Master "Conservation, management and enhancement of Industrial Patrimony" with administrative seat at the History Department of the University of Padua now at its eighth edition under the **direction** of Giovanni Luigi Fontana. **Over the last three years, a partnership has started up between the University of Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne, University of Evora (Portugal) and University of Padua, the Master Erasmus Mundus TPTI - Techniques, patrimoines, territoires de l'industrie: histoire, valorisation, didactique (TPTI), coordinated by Anne Françoise Garçon. Aipai takes part in the Italian activities.**

Concerning **tools**. At present there is an internet site and an on-line news letter; from September 2009, the news letter will also be printed and will be like a true and proper six-monthly magazine. In a specific section of the portal (www.patrimonioindustriale.it), bibliographies of industrial patrimony and some magazines now out of circulation have been published, most important of all, the *Industrial Archaeology Association Bulletin*. Documentation and Research Centre for Southern Italy – Naples: Managing director: Gregorio E. Rubino Editorial committee: Francesco Barbagallo, Cesare de Seta, Ermanno Guida and Francesco Starace. Editorial secretariat: Adriana Pica and Roberto Parisi, with the relative consultation indexes in order of author, venue and sections by Margherita Parrilli and Vito Ganga, with the supervision of Francesco Starace, from the AIPAI-Calabria section. These tools were backed up by the association's "notebooks" that should rationalize the journalism on current events of the regional sections that have to date been entrusted to single local

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publishers, while a convention has been stipulated with the publisher Rubettino for a special series of studies that should gather together the most important contributions.

Finally, **the Aipai organization** is articulated as per regional sections and work subject commissions. The sections are now present throughout all the Italian regions with the exclusion of Basilicata where it should be constituted by October 2009. In 2008, the Calabria and Abruzzi sections were constituted. Seven subject commissions are foreseen (machines, architectonic planning, steel industry, textile, mines, food and cataloguing) at present three **have been constituted**: planning, mines (that has already organized public deadlines: mine day and in-depth seminars and has also constituted a promising network of geo-mining parks) and cataloguing. In 2008 the total enrolments were about 300 of which approximately 15% is made up of national and local associations, local bodies and **museum** structures. The **remaining** 85% is divided among scholars from many Italian universities, museum workers, services and the young that mainly came into contact with Aipai through the Master "Conservation, management and enhancement of Industrial Patrimony". 2009 registered a steady growth in membership rapidly approaching the 400 mark, with a growth of all types of enrolments and a significant presence of associations and institutions.

We are counting on a further growth for 2010, the year in which management bodies will be renewed and a conference of study and review of associative activities will be organized. We are already taking into consideration the ambitious objective of multiplying our presence throughout the territory, with different sized delegations to that of the region, especially for the bigger regional realities, of activating all subject commissions and reaching the objective of 500 members.

President
of the Italian Association for the patrimony of industrial
archaeology

Prof. Renato Covino

Terni, 13 August 2009

Presidente nazionale

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