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The management of cultural heritage in 150 years history of Italy. A study conference in Florence, May 20, 2011

Di Giangirolamo, G.*
University of Bologna (Italy)

A study conference on the Italian management of cultural heritage took place in Florence on Friday the 20th of May 2011. The study day have been organized by the "Filippo Turati" historical study foundation under the patronage of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Tourism, the Region of Tuscany and the Provincial Government of Florence. The president of "Filippo Turati" foundation, Maurizio Degl'Innocenti, opened and presided the conference. He introduced the theme that was retraced trough the history and the policies of conservation of Italian cultural heritage from the unification year 1861. Fourteen experts from major Italian Universities participated with their papers at the study day in Palazzo Vecchio.

There are many aspects to this theme that have been addressed: the legal point of view of the cultural policy of protecting it, until management in case of catastrophic events such as earthquakes or floods. The training models for artists and art lovers over the years and the changes in the way of the Italians to be interested in reading. Also the preservation and dissemination of its artistic and environmental heritage different perception between center and periphery, up to the birth of Ministry for Cultural Heritage with the Florentine politician Giovanni Spadolini and the creation European University Institute in Florence.

The first expert who spoke was Angelo Varni (University of Bologna) with his speech on the organization of the protection about the Superintendence of Fine Arts. He explained the evaluation and safeguard of art from the end of the nineteenth century. Followed the report of Cosimo Ceccuti, from the Spadolini Nuova Antologia Foundation, about the birth of the Ministry for Cultural and Environmental Heritage. A contribution to rebuild the steps and stages that led to the founding of an important ministry in December 1974 with a Decree Law. Andrea Ragusa from Siena University investigated the links between the emergence of consciousness in favor of protectionist cultural and environmental heritage, the initiation and consolidation of public policies for managing cultural and environmental heritage, and the developing of the relationship between state and society has experienced during the transition between the nineteenth and twentieth century. He articulated the report through three key moments: the period of the formation of heritage in Europe, the period of the emergence of consciousness as an expression of the protectionist debate that affects and involves large segments of the Italian and European culture, both at the political and scientific level and the start of a first task of the law as the first result of this debate in a

* E-mail address: gianl.digiangirolamo@unibo.it

legislative application. The conference has gone ahead with the paper by Donata Levi (University of Udine) on culture and politics of protection in Italian history, who emphasized that at the establishment of the State Unitary manifested the difficulty of managing a real preservation of the Italian cultural heritage. Pietro Sirena from the University of Siena outlined the legal profile of cultural heritage in Italy during the period that followed the State unification in 1861. About reading and social change in Italy reported Michele Rak (University of Siena). His speech observed a few moments of total growth in reading in Italy from the date of the union and its contribution to social change. He found that just observing the process of unification in terms of the use of linear writing and circulation of the book and the journal, we neglect the contribution of the Italian community in the construction of national identity which is also composed by the work of craftsmen, painters, designers, sculptors, architects and photographers. The change cannot pass only through the book and reading or through school but through the regular and new practices imposed by the need to participate in the new logic of industrial culture and to use the tools. Dino Mengozzi (University of Urbino) presented the case of the "stealing" of Gioconda portraits in 1911 by Vincenzo Peruggia, that considered his action a matter of justice. This case is representative of the relationship and the consideration towards Italian cultural heritage.

In the afternoon the conference was open from Antonella Gioli (University of Pisa). She spoke about an interpretative paradigm for the cultural heritage history: center and periphery. That is the relationship between the State and local authority in the management of artistic heritage. Luigi Tomassini from the University of Bologna addressed the perception of beauty and photography in the preservation and dissemination of heritage by presenting the first results of an ongoing research on the catalog the major photographers-editors of nineteenth-century such as Alinari, Brogi and Anderson. As a matter of the fact the photography as a means of recording and visual documentation, has played an important role in establishing the concept of heritage. In this sense, the picture with its easy to apply on a large scale has led to widely and systematically documenting the heritage. To address the theme of landscape management, Alberto Malfitano (University of Bologna) raised the case of the pine forest of Ravenna. This particular location is peculiar because it is a place where a community has identified and is a symbol of local belonging. Such an identification in a physical place is due to a well-defined operation conducted by Luigi Rava (deputy minister, and senator of the kingdom of Italy between the end of nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth). He has pursued the goal of making the forest of Ravenna, a symbolic place national literary and historical memories, a place of valid identification for all Italians. Rava was inspired by the debate that was taking place locally around the destiny of the ancient forest to make it a symbol of the Italian identity threatened by modernity and to make it the object on which he could build the first law of the unified State in the field of environmental protection. Fedele Santi from the University of Messina spoke on the theme of catastrophic event and the management of cultural and environmental heritage with reference to the case of the Strait of Messina after the earthquake of 1908. About this event he and his research team set out to make an extended analysis of the territorial government. The goal is to investigate the environmental and cultural heritage history of a small area like that around two sides of the Strait. The goal is to read the impact of public policies and interventions on the territory, focusing on issues of recovery of artistic and cultural heritage and environmental assets. A reconstruction of the archival preservation law from the unification of Italy to date was made by Carlo M. Fiorentino from the Central State Archive. In conclusion Daniele Pasquinucci (University of Siena) presented the events that led to the creation of the European University Institute of Florence in 1972. A difficult history that starts in 1958 with the idea of creating a European university that attracted a lot of hostile reactions from a large part of the academic world and European intellectual who criticized the idea on the basis of scientific and cultural considerations. Today even if the scientific, cultural and human value is certain the institute is not yet a real university has limited powers and a relative autonomy.