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The Presentation of Project “Cultural Heritage in Rimini and in Romagna: Historical Archives for Fashion and Mode between the XIX and XX Century”

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The Italian public archives i.e. *Archivi di Stato*, of which there are 100 based in the regional capital of the town. The archives have the task of preserving the archives of central and suburban pre-unification Italian Administrations, also the rare documentary collections. Therefore, the *Archivi di Stato*, are not only powdery deposits of papers full of professional registers and plans, but for anyone who wishes to consult them, for example researchers or people interested in our regional history, they tell many stories. Archives are places of memory, the identity of a community and often they allow one to reconstruct those important moments of Great History, but they are always a source of valuable information of “know how” of a territory, *scilicet* those crafts and excellence of *made in Italy*, much appreciated abroad.

The project *Cultural heritage in Rimini and in Romagna: historical archive for fashion and mode between the XIX and XX century*, presented at the Archivio di Stato di Rimini, on 21st April 2012 during the event “Settimana della Cultura 2012” promoted by the Archives and by the new Dipartimento di Scienze Per la Qualità della Vita of Rimini, of the Bologna University. Its objective is the creation of a web portal, where not only the documents now well preserved in an archive or a library speak, but also those contained in private archives of the fashion companies and retailers, as noted in the provincial territory of Rimini.

It is from these motives that it is clear why the project was promoted by the new Dipartimento in partnership with Confartigianato and Confindustria of Rimini, under the patronage of the Comune di Rimini, Unesco/Unitwin and the Facoltà di Conservazione Beni Culturali in Ravenna, of the Bologna University.

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Let us now see the key themes that emerged during the presentation, in the words of those who are scientifically responsible for the project.

The Director, Gianluca Braschi, of the Archivio di Stato who hosted the presentation, emphasized his intention not only to perform the function of preserving the documents, but also the development and promotion, producing culture, in a field of modern and contemporary history. The Archivio di Rimini, which is relatively recent, has already been moving in this direction for several years by promoting research, exhibitions and conferences. Therefore the objective is the creation of a web portal continuously implementable using documents of the city's Archive and Library including private archives and collections together with the SAN (Sistema Archivistico Nazionale, www.san.beniculturali.it), which is a web portal of the Ministero della Cultura, that brings together the thematic web portals as "Archivi della moda del Novecento" and "Archivi d'impresa".

Angelo Turchini, professor of Archivistica in Facoltà di Conservazione Beni Culturali of the Bologna University in Ravenna, has enthusiastically joined the initiative, that directly affects their teaching subject, focusing on the theme of the document creators and typology, for example, the Archivio di Stato in Milano, where the textile samples are preserved or Rimini's private collection such as the "Museo del bottone" and also in Library Gambalunga in Rimini the collection of 500.000 photographs made by the well known photographer Minghini of Rimini, which gives an overview of the fashion in Rimini after the War World II.

Daniela Calanca, contemporary history professor in the new Department at Rimini, brought the greetings of Giovanni Matteucci, Director of the Dipartimento and President of Corso di Laurea Culture e Tecniche della Moda. Entering into the merits of the scientific project's purposes, she called it "ambitious and innovative both from the methodological point of view that issues and the results it wants to achieve", perfectly in line with the dictates of the paper Unesco, that is storage, transmission and enhancement of cultural heritage. The choice of Rimini is strategic. It is innovative in its research in the archive documents of the fashion theme, about everything surrounding mode, not only in production, technical methods, trade, and the consumer, but also social heritage, the *made in Italy*, that characterizes our territory in the world. The objective of the project is to propose a model of "fashion archive", combining various expertise and to upgrade Rimini's *brand*, that has great potential economically and culturally.

Fiorella Dallari, geography professor in Bologna's University, who is also a representative of the UNESCO / UNITWIN, from her particular point of view, emphasized that the project is fully in the international scenery, because the issue of the archives value is not only Italian, in fact, the paper UNESCO promotes culture, tourism and development in this order, with the culture that occupies first place and on which everything else depends. The archives do not

preserve only dusty papers, but they are places of memory for excellence, places of the "know how", essential for the developing contemporary and future time, where you can discover the territorial vocations. In France, for example, the archives of "lost know how", have allowed the reconstruction of small industrial districts, such as French cutlery. Working in the archives is like working on the contemporary time.

Cristina Ravara Montebelli, professional archaeologist, who acted as a *trait d'union* between the institutions involved in the project, entered on the substance of some of the topics she will explore, related to, in particular the industrial archeology, with the study of silk manufacturing and the silk mills in Rimini in both modern and contemporary age. She then drew attention to some surveys conducted in the archival documents, with the collaboration of a trainee from the Corso di Culture e Tecniche della moda di Rimini, Maria Francesca Stella, which allowed them to detect in Rimini, in the XIX century, the presence of different skilled craftsmen fashion-related referred to in the course of the project: it will be interesting to see the dynamics in connection with the development of the business beach resorts.

Some representatives of Rimini business and cultural institutions, F. Casadei (Confartigianato, Rimini) A. Citti (Biblioteca centralizzata del polo universitario, Rimini), O. Maroni (Biblioteca Gambalunga, Rimini), have finally declared that they have added themselves as partners in the project enthusiastically, to offer each other professionalism, competence, experience and provide contacts with fashion companies and map public documents. In this way the project can be appreciated not only by researchers but by everyone in a virtual, accessible site.