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THE TERRACED LANDSCAPE IN A STUDY OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT

This study ranges from the observation of the landscape to the study of its evolution and includes the description of the various historical phases through images. This research is carried out first in the schools of the Fontanabuona Valley in Liguria, then developed at the University of Genova. The study of the terraces and their organization has allowed to reconstruct the history of this part of the region, while the investigated territory has enabled to carry out field researches through the observation of the evolution of the natural environment, the changes of the vegetable mantle, the incessant alteration of the slopes and of the water canalization, the settlement system originally organized according to the curtis model. Here two historical moments are proposed concerning the planning of the terraces: the former is a short historical phase of the construction of the “domestico” lasting two-three months, the latter represents the evolution of a long historical phase starting from the Neolithic age synthesising some macrophases of the ancient rural colonization, phases that have left traces in the subsequent colonizations for partial or total continuity of use till the contemporary epoch. The pictures have didactic purpose reconstructing the human settlements and activities precisely during the analysed period.

Keywords: terraced landscape, historical geography, archeology of the landscape, management of the economy

IL PAESAGGIO TERRAZZATO IN UNO STUDIO DI GEOGRAFIA STORICA

SINTESI

Dall’osservazione del paesaggio, allo studio della sua costruzione e alla descrizione per immagini delle varie fasi storiche: questo lavoro deriva da una ricerca condotta prima nelle scuole della Valle Fontanabuona in Liguria, poi sviluppata nell’Università di Genova. Lo studio dei terrazzamenti, con la loro organizzazione, ha consentito di ricomporre la storia di questa parte della regione, mentre il territorio indagato ha offerto possibilità di ricerca sul campo, con le osservazioni sull’evoluzione dell’ambiente naturale, le trasformazioni del manto vegetale, l’incessante modificazione dei versanti e della canalizzazione delle acque, il sistema insediativo organizzato originariamente sul modello della curtis. Sono qui proposti due momenti storici che riguardano la progettazione del terrazzamento: il primo è una fase storica breve della costruzione del domestico della durata di due-tre mesi, il secondo rappresenta l’evolversi di una fase storica lunga che parte dall’epoca neolitica e sintetizza alcune macrofasi della colonizzazione agricola antica, fasi che hanno lasciato tracce di sé nelle colonizzazioni successive per parziale o totale continuità di utilizzo fino all’epoca contemporanea. Le immagini sono utilizzate a scopo didattico e sono la ricostruzione puntuale e precisa di manufatti, insediamenti e attività umane nel corso del periodo analizzato.

Parole chiave: paesaggio terrazzato, geografia storica, archeologia del paesaggio, organizzazione economica

INTRODUCTION

The terraced landscape seen as the stratification of ancient organizations in Eastern Liguria

In the past Ligurian agriculture was characterized by the conquest of mountain and hilly marginal lands, as a consequence of the demographic growth, of the organization and the colonization of the countryside.

In Liguria the terraces were built to exploit the natural slopes, where the difference in levels limited the utilization of the territory, and to increase the lands devoted to farming: in the region a particular mix exists of environmental factors, but also of historical and social factors, which offers an exemplar case of how close the relationship between man and environment was in the past and, especially, of how it succeeded in reaching a balanced relationship.

Careful examination and interpretation of the Ligurian landscape show that geography can be written starting from the handwork to be found in the territory: houses, villages, scattered villas, mills, transhumance routes, tracks, open or closed fields, terraces, are the items of the everyday sceneries of human existence. The study of those same items can be considered landscape archaeology, a true method to analyse the structures of territory, based on the aimed observation of all that is landscape and the inter relations existing inside it. The word “archaeology” has its reason for being, because the investigation method applied to the landscape itself is founded on the analysis and interpretation of the material remains (those handworks quoted above) that man has left in the territory and that give evidence of his abilities and his modalities of intervention and organization of the space in which he has settled. Therefore the term “archaeology” must be understood in its broadest sense, referring to a working method that is characterized as a study of finds evaluated as historical sources and of the remnants of the material culture, which are formed by all those items that constitute the structure of the landscape, analysed individually and in relation with each other in the considered area. The term archaeology can assume a figurative value: as a matter of fact the landscape is considered as a stratification of territorial organizations in chronological sequences, according to a conceptual process that has many similarities with what an archaeologist implements in a stratigraphic excavation (Allegri, Garbarino, 2018).

Following this procedure and methodology of investigation, we realize that the space distribution and the coexistence of the phenomena in the territory is not at all casual and it reflects a frame of functional relations, a real mutual relationship that affects their coexistence in space: in our case the study of the mountains, the forests, the steep slopes and the terraces form an organic unity where all the components have their own func-

tions. Even when signs of randomness appear to us, it is always necessary to look for the settlement rules and, even more importantly, for the rule that has determined it in the past, rule that can be sought, among many others, in the economic management and in the social organization.

The terraces supported by dry stone walls occupy very wide areas in Liguria, still well visible on the coast and more concealed in the hinterland, where they are often hidden by bush and woodland or removed by landslides that have cancelled their existence. Anyhow the terracing is almost continuous and has been implemented by teams of farmer-labourers who for centuries have followed the same construction techniques (Allegri, 2003a).

The techniques had been perfected in ancient times until they reached a set of knowledge of popular engineering of great value that the drawings here presented (which are the synthesis of the carried out research) define in the various steps. Different historical phases have occurred, with a collective planning of the territory that, as far as the hinterland of Eastern Liguria is concerned, dates as far back as the early Middle Ages and has characterised the colonization and the reclamation of these marginal lands (Garbarino, 2007).

METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach outlined here owes much to the development of the concept of Global Archaeology emerged from the experience of research of the Institute of History of Material Culture of Genova (ISCUM) and, in particular, from the formative contacts with professor Tiziano Mannoni who was its founder. By global archaeology we mean the comparative use of data coming from all the historical, archaeological and scientific disciplines in order to make up a “global” contextual framework - that is to say “indicative” and with possible integrations, rather than “general” (that is totally objective), generalizing and comprehensive depending on the reconstruction of the contexts where scientific research is performed (Mannoni, 1983). Professor Mannoni himself had followed with interest the development of the research that, having a historic-geographic approach, turned to an integrated view of the territory, as a container of information about the societies that have succeeded in it. But the primary purpose of the research was that of showing with an effective figurative language some synthetic images, easier to look at and to be used in teaching, where it could be easier to grasp details, similarities and differences, especially when it came to illustrate how the landscapes had been modified by man over the centuries.

In this article two historical moments are set concerning traces of the subsequent terrace planning: the former is a short historical phase of the construction of the domestic, the latter is a long historical phase



Figure 1: The Selvatico (wild terrain): rooted woods. Eastern ligurian woods: oaks, poison oaks, hornbeams, ashes. Steep slopes (original drawing of the author, based on observation).



Figure 2: The settler or the owner decides to create a new small plot. A squad of daily workers-farmers begin to work. Starting phase: construction of embankment for the river and plot support.

that synthesizes a few macrophases of the ancient rural colonization, phases that have left traces in the subsequent colonizations owing to partial or total continuity of use, as, for example, we notice in the survival of the Roman praedial toponymy or in the survival of the early medieval Germanic one (ASG, 2018).

As to the first part the oral sources necessary to hand down the construction knowledge have been sought for: the research developed starting from the early 2000s had the purpose of involving the students of the schools of the Fontanabuona Valley in the investigation of the territory that was being abandoned. The didactic project was called Increasing the value of mountain schools and was developed with the convention of ISCUM, the Superintendence of Cultural and Archaeologic Domain, of the MIUR (Ministry of Education, Universities, and Research for the relapse of knowledge in the schools and for the teachers' training), of the Faculty of Training Science of Genova (when I started the collaboration for teaching in scientific research) and was ran by the writer (Allegri, 2003b).

The aged people we interviewed had contributed putting together the different phases of the construction of the domestic, with the techniques that had been used, the times and the manners of working modes, and had allowed to go back to the latest experiences of ex novo construction of a domestic, dating as far back as the first half of the twentieth century (fonti orali: De Martini, Garbarino, Mangini, Segale, 2002).

As to the second part of the research, we started from a study (still of global archaeology and archaeology of the elevated) carried out by prof. arch. Osvaldo Garbarino, developed on the Caratata of 1641, descriptive cadastre of the Genoese Republic and fiscal tool to impose the payment of the avaria, that is to say the tax on property (Garbarino, 2000). The document has been compared with the archaeologic and morphologic study of the place and of the settlements: in this way it was possible to infer the stratification phases of the land framework. The tables of graphic synthesis have not identified and represented a specific locality, but have created a hypothetical one (still referred



Figure 3: *Trenching of the ground: Separation of the ground and stones (useful for the drainage). Completion of the river embankment.*



Figure 4: *Final phase: walls 2-3 meters tall, terrace 3-5 meters. Various textures for the dry stone wall. Various types of access (stairs of exposed plates, walkable paths).*

to the hinterland of eastern Liguria) with its peculiar characteristics.

In order to reach a knowledge of the organization of the territory and the consequent formation of the landscape, first of all it is necessary to point out that this is founded on the implementation of a cultural, social and economic apparatus: to identify its stages means to understand its planning. Reading a landscape should always consider that it is the outcome of human actions and choices that have followed one another in time and that, inevitably, must be analysed in diachronic and synchronic strain; however the variety of the items that are visible in a landscape may be such to make the reading itself really complicated, not to speak of all that is not immediately perceivable. The most correct way to reach an appropriate vision would be that of considering the human mark as the outcome of a relationship between man and natural environment, with the specific answers that man offers to the environment in which he is operating, or with the different attributions that man has ascribed to it at economic, social and religious level (Allegri, Garbarino, 2018).

A descriptive and traditional vision of the observation of the territory should always be integrated with the historical dimension (in a perfect synthesis between geography and history, interdependent disciplines) and with the identification of the items that form it as unity and combinations of the landscape which, as we have seen, can be settlements, communication lines, borders, toponyms, demographic course.

Another successive step is that in which, to the description and the interpretation of the present social and territorial organization, a retrospective method must be applied enabling to reconstruct the organizations of the past with a stratigraphic procedure, in such way becoming archaeology of the landscape.

The complete framework of the observation of the territory proposed for a didactic-interpretative reading such as this aims at starting from the present to get to the past considering that each territory is never an isolated world closed in itself; consequently the research must also be organized from the local to the general or from the analysis to the synthesis, crossing the sources and creating the image of a territorial system where the



Figure 5: Domestico result: load-bearing structure for the fields, sufficient for the sustenance of a family. Intervantion accounted for the sustainment of the population, but planned. Alteration of the pre-existing condition.



Figure 6: First phase of abandonment: Development of parasitic vegetation, expanding to the wood. Slow erosion of the foundation. The last consequences of the abandonment caused by river's erosion, no long under control, are the destructive landslides.

phenomena are reciprocally dependent (Allegri, Garbarino, 2015).

This contribution means to express my personal memento of lamented Prof. Mannoni and my gratitude for the always profitable collaboration with Architect Garbarino, with whom I share the pleasure of drawing and who is active in methodologic and research studies of the archaeology of the elevated (Garbarino, 2004), demonstrating that the exchange of knowledge is always profitable.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The short time transformation: the construction of the domestic

The domestic is an agricultural fund that the settler decided to plow occupying a part of the silva. Such habit dated as far back as the Middle Ages and lasted until the first half of the twentieth century, handing down a

number of constructive skills and technical knowledge that were passed down from generation to generation: the juxtaposition between the two toponyms already appears in the Ligurian notary documents of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries (Ferretto, 1906).

The domestici have been set up till the first half of the twentieth century, with greater increase in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when the demographic pressure on the territory reached its peak (Gorini, 1931).

The illustrated tables have divided the construction in different phases, from the choice of the wooded land (Fig.1) to the cooperation of the team of peasants-workers, some of them skilled in constructing in dry stone, others as unskilled workers, who could devote themselves to this constructing activity during the winter season.

The initial phase of the work (Fig.2) regarded the construction of the maxee (from Latin maceria), powerful embankments with the double function of contain-



Figure 7: Natural environment of ligurian. Castellieri: leveled clearings, hillock, first settlements for the Ligurians, based on an agrarian economy, with exchange trade and seasonal occupation. Under: Hypothesis of the Castellaro of Uscio, Neolithic, Iron age.

ing the flow of the stream and of forming a foundation supporting the terraces that were to be built afterwards. The control of the waters and the regularization of the external drain of the terraced field is vital for its conservation and is the first care of the planning team. In the meantime a part of the team sets the ground free from the rocky emergences (*schëuggi*), from the blocks, crushing them and using the splintered stones or the stumps.

The land then is marked by large breakings and the main activity is that of separating land and stones: the latter will be used as filling in the deepest part of the excavations and will serve as drainage for external water infiltrations that could destroy the terraces in case they were not able to stand them. The sieved ground instead is distributed in an upper layer about 50 cm deep (looking at the lateral section of the drawing (Fig. 3) you can see the different layers of the material that, compared to the initial situation shown in the first picture, is definitely greater and less susceptible to wash out). The construction of the banks is over and the system is by now protected by possible floods, besides the internal water is regularized by a slight slope of the terraces just to the side where the regimented stream flows.

In the final stage (Fig. 4) the terraced system is all but defined and the slope is supported by walls between two and three meters high, with spans between three to five meters wide. In the drawings two different types of accesses to the cultivable land are identified (in protruding slabs and as walkways) together with the construction of a *casella* for the storage of tools. In the framework of the dry walls some courses of stones are highlighted, arranged in a herringbone pattern: these differences and peculiarities that characterize the geometry of the terraces are frequent and may be typical of even small areas.

At this point some people of the team carried allochthonous fertile soil taken from the woods (with the *corbe*—baskets carried on their shoulders and laid on sacks), to increase the layer of cultivable earth in the terraces arranged at the top, where the material derived from the breaking was no longer sufficient.

It took about two months of collective work to complete the domestic (Fig. 5) and the terracing became the backbone of the rural landscape following the thin framework of the contour lines, even on the roughest sides. The vineyard disposed in rows that appears in the illustration, if placed in the perimeter of the *fascia* (the terrace in *ligurian* dialect) has a function that can also be of protection of the cultivated land from insolation. In the drawing we have tried to emphasize even the colour differences with the wood that has not been colonized: the team of men have utterly altered the environment and have transformed an ecosystem into a geosystem.

The land presented here and used as a sample covers about 300m² that the farmer could cultivate by himself, therefore necessary to the sustenance of only

one family when grown with seasonal vegetable crops producing fresh products; otherwise it could be destined to the cultivation of rye, spelt and millet (in the modern era, starting from the late eighteenth century often replaced by the cultivation of potatoes and maize), with other similar plots.

When the domestic ceases to be used, it is no longer able to survive by itself, just because it depends on the actions of the man who has transformed it and who must unceasingly take care of its survival, especially against erosion damage (Fig. 6).

The terraced areas may well suffer great degradation that leads to their disappearance: the first visible consequences of the abandonment are the erosion of the maxea caused by the stream and the surface waters, with sinkings taking away stability to the construction, and the growth of spontaneous parasite vegetation among which brambles prevail (*rubus* spp, arboreal heather, braken and *clematis vitalba* in the woods). The interaction between man and environment concerning the protection of the entire territory was intense and varied in the past to the point of making even the transformation of the vegetable cover complex. This form of dependence has evolved with consequences that are visible especially in the different stages of the abandonment, and that make the areas vulnerable to other degradation processes: lack of care of the underwood may also favour the breaking out of fires.

The long time transformation: the organizations of the past

The portion of land taken into consideration to address a sequence of transformations of the territory linked to a long historical period is proposed in the first table in what could be its naturalness. Here a conformation defined by physical and geomorphological phenomena is described (streams in deeply cut valleys, mountains that can exceed 1000 meters, steep slopes) with widespread forests of bay oaks, turkey oaks, ash trees, hornbeams and beeches over the elevation range of 1000 meters.

In the picture (Fig. 7) there are the levellings placed on top of a hillock: these interventions were frequent in ancient Liguria, they were usually found between 400 and 600 meters above sea level, where it was possible to act without major works, even if they were supported by terraced structures. In this way areas suitable for cultivation were obtained, also to be watched and guarded easily, especially in the Neolithic era: in fact the archaeological excavations carried out have brought to light settlements of that period, of which the best known is the Castellaro of Uscio (Maggi, 1990).

The Castellieri were an early form of settlement of the Ligurian people, related to the exploitation of the territory, whose economy was based on agriculture (in the biconical vases found in the excavations seeds of lentils, millet, wheat and broad beans were stored)



Figure 8: High Middle Ages: Organization of royal properties in *villae curtensi*, farms based on one crop (chestnut grove). Reclamation of the territory through *maxee* (*maceriae*), supporting the whole slope. The plots were divided using vegetable gardens close to the dweller houses (*famuli*). The *chiosa* (closed plot of land) in the middle was dedicated to the *pars dominica*. Building *Sala dominicale* (described on edict of Rotari and Liutprando): house for the coordinating dweller.



Figure 9: Low Middle Ages: Title of possession for the feudatory: establishment of the Allodium. Population increases: expansion of the plots, *ad meliorandum* (*livelli*) contracts, management of *ronchi* (public lands managed by the feud) Under: The domestic groups (*parentelle*) settle permanently on the *Mansum*, not as isolated houses but as hamlets owned by the families.



Figure 10: Age of Caratata (1641). End of feudal obligations. Transformation of patriarchal property. The silva (public woods) disappears with the feudal obligation and the parentelle extend the chestnut grove as much as possible. The mills become private. The plots become private thanks to the concessions of the Republic of Genoa: this process started in the Middle Age with allodium and the concessions ad libellum.

and supplemented by hunting and gathering (Maggi, 1990). They stood on ridge-way routes that from the coast went to the Appennine territories and to distribution centres such as Genova and the finds have confirmed that there were short range exchanges both with handicraft and food products such as the Etruscan wine, and with import products such as amber beads coming from Northern Europe. Therefore their function was also linked to exchange, to animals sheltering or to seasonal employment and dwelling structures were put in place.

Later, in Roman times, the forested territories as the one shown before were in all probability part of the *ager publicus* of a *vicus* (Petracco Sicardi, 1958–59). Here boundary terms have been found that are similar to those quoted in the famous Table of Polcevera, an epigraphic document of the first century BC, on which an arbitration is reported between the Langates, inhabitants of the Polcevera Valley, and the Genuati federated with the Romans, for the administration of the Langate *ager publicus* and the payment of the *vectigal*, the property tax (Petracco Sicardi, Caprini, 1971).

The second image (Fig. 8) shows how the transformation had been fully underway in the early Middle Ages. The sources dating back to the Longobard epoch as the “mount Penice” drawn up by Teodolinda and the subsequent ones as the Carolingian land lists of 862 and 883 (Cipolla, 1918), witness that the Bobbio monks were charged of the organization of the possessions, the *Fiscus regio* granted to them, in a series of *curtenses villae* that were linked up to as many religious centres called *cellae*, considered as branches of the monastery itself.

Such strict hierarchical organization allowed to densely colonize this territory that, as we have seen, offered very few natural resources.

Besides the Carolingian land documents describe the organization of the *villae*, implemented according to the manorial system and already adopted in Gaul. The *villae* were the starting points for the clearing of the surrounding lands, all of them on steep slopes: it was in this period that the land reclamation began widely through the terraces that characterize the local landscape and the drawing shows how the foundation maxee support the entire slope. Each manorial villa was an enterprise relying mainly on the monoculture of agricultural produce whose cultivation was determined by the environmental factor. The olive grove or the chestnut wood or the areas destined to cereals occupied the coastal and piedmont territory, while the *curtes* situated over the altitude range of the chestnut were reserved to the summer pasture. The foodstuffs were stored up at the *cellae*, from which they departed to be exchanged. To the agricultural activity pig breeding was associated, practiced mostly in the woods where the recurring toponym was *pigsty* (Pavoni, 2004).

This rigorous organization became a planned economic system determining the appearance of the landscape completely.

In the second picture in this sequence, we can see a villa, with the highlighted central structure of the corte, the dominical enterprise. The funds are divided into a terraced vegetable garden close to the settlers (or *famuli*) homes and to their use, and a large area planted in chestnut, because in the examined territory the monoculture was dedicated to this type of cultivation. Among the vegetable funds at the centre a *chiosa* (from *clausura*), can be identified, arable land or vineyard, owned by the *pars dominica* and anyhow run by the *famuli*.

Each enterprise owned some pertinences as the *compascuo*, the high pasture land on which you can see some *salecte*, later called *cassette*, for seasonal use, and the *silva*, the coppice destined to pig grazing and to the cut of the *gahagium* or *foresto*. The drawing shows a possible defensive tower while, a little higher up, in the ancient site of the Castelliere, the embanked ground is used for haymaking. Each villa owned its mills: in the Middle Ages the mill remains a public facility used by the *curtis*, but it is proportionate to its agricultural activities and thus less impressive than the Roman model from which it derived.

In the Late Middle Ages (Fig. 9) a first transformation of the original arrangement began, due to the affirmation of the Gregorian reform, when the ownership title was granted to the feudal lords who could be *marquis* or *priests*. In this way the settlers were related to the funds through the institution of the *allodio*, a lifelong grant of the feudal vassal to a settler head of a family, which later became hereditary to the firstborn male (Bloch, 1973), in order to facilitate the entrenchment of the local peasant population. Therefore noble groups established in the *mansio*, called *parentelle*, and the structure of the settlement changed: no longer isolated houses of the *famuli*, but hamlets: the different family groups that made up the *parentella* lived together in the inherited *mansio*, enlarging the original house with adjoining houses and forming a family neighborhood.

The settlers continued managing the funds, expanding the chestnut wood towards the *silva* and making it thicker than in the previous period, also because its cultivation was modified since they no longer exploited the ground under the chestnut trees as in the early Middle Ages, destining it to haymaking. At this historic moment we witness the expansion of the terraces with the management of non free-hold funds based on contracts of *livelli* (*enfiteusi*) *ad meliorandum* (Belgrano, 1923), privileging the chestnut and the vineyard.

The consequent increase of the aristocratic groups was absorbed by the management of the *ronchi*, visible in the drawing on the underside of the tower, that were public lands managed by the feud available to the farmers. It is very likely that the *corvè* were replaced with

modest contributions in money and that a supervisory system (*guaita*) was maintained on the main lines, particularly those intended for the transhumance system which ceased when the administrative units broke into fragments.

The feudal lords also preserved the *defensio* on the forest lands because the documents regarding the land lordships of the eleventh and twelfth centuries are well aware of the lords' rights on the *silvae*: however the exploitation of the forest for breeding, hunting and gathering, was sold in *emphyteusis* by the lord, as any property of the feud (Formentini, 1925, 1926).

In fig. 10, which shows the land situation at the time of the Caratata (1641), the *silva* practically disappears because the feudal constraints cease and the *parentelle* expand the chestnut wood as far as possible. The arable land expands and the families divide the property: new family groups are born that in the picture are represented by scattered houses, built even in the woods. The milling business is gradually privatized: these mills do not differ from the medioeval ones but they increase in number and take on the names of the owners. Finally during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries their residential function will be defined and the mill will take the characteristics of a true industrial factory.

The change in the management of the land happens because the feudal system had gradually lost its control of the territory, due to the demographic decrease (owing to the historical events of the fourteenth century) and the abandonment of the rural activity in favour of the merchant one. The control turned into a tax levy which, as a consequence, led to the sale of the lands and the loss of those feudal customs that regulated the economic regimes of the peasant families. The concessions of the Republic of Genova in the following sixteenth and seventeenth centuries completed the formation of private property that, in fact, had been started in the early Middle Ages with the *alodial* concessions to the settlers. From this moment the *alodium* loses its cohesive appearance inside the different *parentelle* and the minor branches fractionate their properties more and more, starting a slow demographic pressure that until then had been controlled by the system.

At this point the territory did not offer the resources necessary for the sustenance and the agriculture any longer, having become subsistence agriculture, inevitably initiating a phase of expulsion of the population, which will accrue a century later and that forced thousands of people to emigrate, even over the ocean.

Fig. 11 presents the territory examined in the mid-twentieth century, when the decline of the rural society had not yet started. The exodus to the coast, the cities and the Americas had already rebalanced the system, with a part of the population firmly tied to the land of origin and, in some cases, had brought welfare in the form of remittances and lucky repatriations. These little welfare signs are represented in the drawing

by the new look of the houses, no longer in stone but plastered with the typical Ligurian colours, and by the works for the modernization of the churches, obtained with the offers of emigrated parishioners.

The household units have become increasingly divided and the *parentelle* are dissolved.

The cultivated areas are reduced, with diversified cultures: the olive tree that could supplement the income had been introduced from no longer than a hundred years, but the chestnut wood completely dominates the landscape at the expense of the *silva*, by now disappeared. Only the beech wood resists over 1000 meters, although even the *comunaglie* and the *ronchi* had been privatized.

CONCLUSION

The legacies of the terraced landscape

Observing this territory in its transformations has made it possible to consider its history not in the identification of a series of epochs, one after the other, but in the development of a material civilization that has marked the whole landscape.

The terraces with their organization allow to reconstruct the history of this peculiar subregion and the territory makes direct research possible, with the evolution of the natural environment, the transformations of the vegetation mantle, the incessant modification of the slopes and the canalization of the waters, the settlement system originally organized on the model of the *curtis* (Garbarino, 2004, 2007).

This research had the purpose to reconstruct the historical phases of transformation of the terraced landscape through drawings which also have the ultimate target to display and recompose the constructive knowledge and the social organization.

From the Neolithic revolution to the present day, the rural society had followed an economic organization based on careful planning or large scale projects, which had very little to do with that image of spontaneity that we often tend to associate to the rural civilization. On the contrary, uncertain management of the territory together with lack of effective control, has allowed to accomplish acts in the closest period to us that, if taken individually, seem to be scarcely incisive, but that added together have produced true environmental crises.

Therefore the current landscape that we can see today does not only refer to the contemporary age, but carries within itself fragments of the past organizations of the territory.

Consequently, any analysis of the arrangement of the territory is neither convincing nor exhaustive if it neglects the historical aspect of the territory to privilege the socio-economic functional aspect: this consideration is to be deemed valid even if the analysis is ai-



Figure 11: Half of XX century. After the population growth and the splitting up of the properties, the emigration starts. The territory returns in an balanced phase, thanks to the remittances of the emigrants in the Americas. The chestnut trees overlooks the landscape, over 1000 meters remains the beech grove and where possible olive trees are planted.

med at the design, that is at an intervention of planning and reorganization of the territory itself; we can even say that in such case it is even more valid, because each action is performed not only on the present situation, but also on the past of the territory.

The knowledge and the utilization of an environment stem from concrete needs. Necessity gives rise to the organization of the environment based on geographical features, but which nevertheless modifies its original aspect, as we have seen, even in radical way.

Account should be taken, however, that if the needs change over time, even the organization of the environment and its use vary over time. The importance of landscape archeology studies is detected through their spread, but it is mainly the school that can convey the idea that the landscape should be a representative of the human design on the territory and his way of relating to nature.

In addition to giving a more accurate perception of itself, this activity can encourage the interpretation of the relationships in landscape composition and raise awareness of current and urgent problems (survival of the environmental and cultural heritage or, as we have seen, the understanding of environmental emergencies), providing, finally and above all, a correct approach to the interventions on its transformations.

Unfortunately we must take in due consideration that the actions that tend to destroy are much more rapid than the assimilation of values; society has, in fact, a complex metabolism, slow in conservation and fast in destruction.

However, it is only through the population that we can intervene to protect the landscape, to preserve messages and memories. And this can be achieved naturally through the education, but also through the dissemination of information, even in their most direct form of transmission, such as through images.

TERASIRANA KRAJINA V ŠTUDIJI ZGODOVINSKE GEOGRAFIJE

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POVZETEK

Od raziskovanja krajine do preučevanja njenega ustroja in opisovanja skozi podobe zgodovinskih faz: pričujoči prispevek je rezultat raziskave, poskusno izvajane na šolah v dolini Fontanabuona v italijanski deželi Ligurija v sklopu državnega projekta za prostorski razvoj. Na podlagi izsledkov je bil nato v sodelovanju med Ministrstvom za kulturo, Inštitutom za zgodovino materialne kulture (Istituto di Storia della Cultura Materiale) in Univerzo v Genovi razvit projekt, namenjen predvsem usposabljanju učiteljev in študentov.

S študijo teras in njihove razporeditve je bilo mogoče rekonstruirati zgodovino tega predela Ligurije, preučevano območje pa je nudilo tudi možnosti raziskovanja na terenu ter obravnave razvoja naravnega okolja, sprememb v rastlinskem pokrovu, nenehnega preoblikovanja pobočij, preusmerjanja vodotokov in spreminjanja poselitve, prvotno organizirane po vzorcu srednjeveškega dvora (curtisa). V raziskavi sta izpostavljena dva zgodovinska trenutka, povezana z načrtovanjem teras: pri prvem gre za krajšo, dve- do trimesečno zgodovinsko fazo v urejanju domesticusa, drugi pa ponazori potek daljše zgodovinske faze, ki se začne v obdobju neolitika in povzema nekatere makrofaze antične agrarne kolonizacije, ki so se skozi kasnejše kolonizacije z delno ali popolno kontinuiteto uporabe ohranile vse do danes.

Metoda analize prostorskih struktur temelji na arheologiji krajine ter zajema analizo in interpretacijo materialnih ostankov, ki jih je v krajini zapustil človek in ki pričajo o človeških zmožnostih in načinih poseganja v naselitveni prostor ter oblikah njegove ureditve. Izraz arheologija je v raziskavi uporabljen v prenesenem pomenu, krajina je namreč v njej analizirana po ravneh prostorskih razporeditev, v kronološkem sosledju in po konceptualnem postopku, ki je v marsičem soroden delu arheologa pri stratigrafskem izkopavanju. Tehnike gradnje, ki jih je človek začel izpopolnjevati že v daljni preteklosti, so se postopoma razvile v ljudsko znanje o inženirstvu, predstavljene risbe (ki služijo kot povzetek opravljene raziskave) pa ponazarjajo njegove različne segmente.

Ključne besede: terasirana pokrajina, zgodovinska geografija, krajinska arheologija, gospodarska organizacija

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