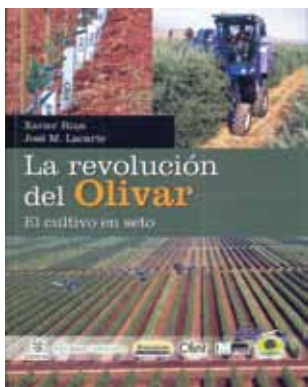


BOOK REVIEWS



LA REVOLUCIÓN DEL OLIVAR. EL CULTIVO EN SETO. Rius Xavier, and José M. Lacarte. Agromillora Iberia, Subirata, Barcelona, Spain, 2010, pp. 340. ISBN 978-0-646-53737-5.

The need to lower costs to manage olive orchards in order to make the production of extra virgin olive oil more profitable has been for some time an important objective for olive growers worldwide. In this regards, mechanization has helped: today it is at its best when it comes to pruning and harvesting. In this context, the volume by Xavier Rius and José M. Lacarte is timely and offers a wealth of information. The title itself suggests the quality of the content: research and experimentation that have radically transformed an obsolete management system into new hope for olive growing in the third millennium.

The text is divided into four chapters: 1. *El aceite de oliva en el mundo* (Olive oil in the world); 2. *La oportunidad de negocio en las plantaciones de olivar superintensivo* (The economic opportunity in the superintensive planting system olive groves). 3. *El cultivo superintensivo del olivar: respuesta a las necesidades del sector* (The superintensive planting system in olive groves: response to sector needs). 4. *El cultivo superintensivo en los principales países oleícolas (España, Italia, Grecia, Portugal, Túnez, Marruecos, Estados Unidos, Chile, Australia, Argentina, resto del mundo)* (The superintensive planting system in the major olive-producing countries: Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Tunisia, Morocco, USA, Chile, Australia, Argentina, Rest of the World).

A wealth of tables, figures and color image aid consultation of the text and add value to its presentation.

Considering the global interest of the topic, translation of the text into English is desirable and perhaps predictable in the near future.

Enrico Rinaldelli

IL PAESAGGIO MANTOVANO. NELLE TRACCE MATERIALI, NELLE LETTERE E NELLE ARTI. IV. IL PAESAGGIO MANTOVANO DALL'ETÀ DELLE RIFORME ALL'UNITÀ (1700-1865).

Atti del Convegno di Studi (Mantova, 19-20 Maggio 2005) (The Mantuan landscape. From material, literary and artistic traces. The Mantuan landscape from the period of Reform to Unity (1700-1865). Proceedings from the study convention in Mantua, 19-20 May 2005). Camerlenghi E., V. Rebonato, and S. Tammaccaro (eds.). Leo S. Olschki, Florence (Italy), 2010. pp. x + 454 + 7 figures and 70 plates, 63 of which in color. ISBN 978-88-222-5845-8. € 55.00.

The Proceedings, edited by E. Camerlenghi, V. Rebonato, and S. Tammaccaro, of the study convention held in Mantua, 19-20 May 2005 have recently been published. They are the fourth volume of the work on the Mantuan Landscape presented by *Accademia Nazionale Virgiliana di Scienze, Lettere, e Arti* and edit by Leo S. Olschki.

The various contributions which make up the volume, and include images from the period, have been prepared by outstanding experts in the field of historical Italian landscapes and offer stimulation for debate about the causes behind the development of the Mantua area during the subject period. Ample space is dedicated to hydraulic conditions, which were tied to the control of power of Padanian principalities, agronomic aspects and the evolution of crops, as well as to literary sources, from Folengo to Renaissance novelists. All this, without overlooking the urban landscape, which in this historic period in Mantua offered moments of great splendor.

Some of the chapters clearly highlight the changes which occurred in the landscape, above all with regard to the management of water resources, while others focus on the parks, gardens and urban green spaces of Mantua during the period.

The text, which includes a generous list of bibliographic references, also contains illustrations (both color and black and white) and color photos. This volume is a valuable addition, under a scientific and technical profile as well as from a historical and cultural point of view, to the vast literature that exists on the evolution of historical-landscape areas. The work thus offers the reader insight and knowledge about numerous and important aspects of the landscape which make up our image of the Mantuan territory.



Francesco Ferrini



L'ARCHITETTO SAPIENTE. GIARDINO, TEATRO, CITTÀ COME SCHEMI MNEMONICI TRA IL XVI E IL XVII SECOLO. Koji Kuwakino. Giardini e paesaggio, vol. 28. Leo S. Olschki, Florence (Italy), 2011. pp. xxiv-326 + 70 figures and 7 plates in colour. ISBN 978-88-222-6046-8. € 29.00.

In this work, by the Japanese scholar Koji Kuwakino and published by Leo S. Olschki of Florence, the little-known relationship between architecture, the art of memory and encyclopaedism of the first modern age is examined through examples of the fruitful interaction between words, images and space. The subtitle of the book underlines the investigated subject: garden, theater, and city as mnemonic schemes in the 16th and 17th centuries. This architectonic typology offers the schemes of a complex conceptual construction able to collect, order and internalize the enormous quantity of knowledge acquired and accumulated over the centuries, from the ancient world up to the contemporary age. The author analyzes

the ideal gardens of Agostino del Riccio and Giovan Battista Ferrari, the universal theater of Samuel von Quiccheberg and the mnemonic city of Cosma Rosselli. As the author points out in the introduction, it is “an ideal journey” aimed at analyzing “three architectonic typologies often utilized as mental spaces: the garden, the theater, and the city”. These spaces “are not so much concretely real, but rather are ideal plans created with words, and the authors are not professional architects but gifted men and *virtuosi* who understand architecture”. Dr. Kuwakino goes on to explain that these examples of spaces “set outside the specialized field of ‘ars aedificatoria’, present only in text and for the most part unknown to historians, reveal, as in filigree, aspects that were previously hidden or scarcely examined despite being of considerable interest and rich in suggestion”. The analysis presented in the book aims to offer a complementary reading and enrichment of the history of 16th century architecture.

Through this work the author succeeds in shining light on fundamental cognitive aspects of the architectonic culture of the first modernity which previously had not been sufficiently emphasized. “*L'architetto sapiente*” demonstrates clearly how much architecture is under the influence of the spirit of the times - architectonic space become, for example, a metaphor for knowledge - and how much architecture has contributed to the building of new structures of modern thought.

After the author's introduction, the text is divided into six chapters: “*L'arte della memoria architettonica*” (The art of architectonic memory); “*Il giardino del tardo cinquecento come luogo del pensiero*” (The garden in the late 16th century as a place for thought); “*La rappresentazione emblematica del sapere enciclopedico nel giardino mnemonico di Del Riccio*” (Emblematic representation of encyclopaedic knowledge in the mnemonic garden of Del Riccio); “*Il ‘Paradiso Celeste’ nel giardino italiano*” (The ‘Paradiso Celeste’ in the Italian garden); “*Il grande teatro del pensiero creativo*” (The great theater of creative thought); and “*Città celeste e ‘loca communia’*”, (The celestial city and the ‘loca communia’), followed by the conclusions. The text includes a ample list of bibliographic references and is enriched by various illustrations and photos (black and white and color) which highlight the presented material.

This work is clearly a precious addition to the existing literature on landscape studies, from both scientific and historical-cultural points of view, and offers, page after page, new and significant knowledge to the reader.

Cinzia Silori

TERRITORI DELLE ACQUE. ESPERIENZE E TEORIE IN ITALIA E IN INGHILTERRA NELL'OTTOCENTO (TERRITORIES OF WATER: EXPERIENCES AND THEORIES IN ITALY AND ENGLAND IN THE 19TH CENTURY). *Aquae Studi e testi sulle terme*, 4. Gabriele Corsani (ed.). Leo S. Olschki, Florence (Italy), 2010. pp. 164. ISBN 978-88-222-5988-2. € 20.00.

Water, promethean and domestic, represents the magnificent destiny of progress as the most radical adherence to the spirit and laws of nature.

Certainly, it is not easy to reduce down to a single text the myriad aspects of water and its interaction between the earth and the living things which occupy our planet. For example, water as power and energy but also as nourishment for life and the human spirit. In this context, Gabriele Corsani has deftly succeeded in telling the story of water in Italy and England over the course of the 19th century. The volume, which contains a wealth of bibliographic information and illustrations from the period, is a complete work from different points of view: an interesting historical analysis and a precious bibliographic source for historians and researchers.



The text, compiled by notable authors, includes the following ten contributions: Gabriele Corsani, *Territori delle acque: esperienze e teorie in Italia e in Inghilterra nell'Ottocento* (Territories of water: experiences and theories in Italy and England in the 19th century). Antonello Boatti, *Storici e scrittori lombardi dell'Ottocento di fronte al paesaggio. Corsi d'acqua naturali e artificiali tra agricoltura e industria negli scenari disegnati da Carlo Cattaneo e Cesare Cantù* (Lombard historians and writers in the 19th century in a landscape context. Natural and artificial waterways in agriculture and industry in scenes drawn by Carlo Cattaneo and Cesare Cantù). Carlo Cattaneo, *Prospetto della navigazione interna delle province lombarde con alcune notizie sulla loro irrigazione* (“*Il Politecnico*”, 1841) (Prospectives of navigation within the province of Lombardy and notes on irrigation) (“*Il Politecnico*”, 1841). Cesare Cantù, *Storia di Milano, Diocesi e Provincia di Milano, cap. V. Acque* (History of Milan, Diocese and Province of Milan, Chapter V. Water). Marco Geddes da Filicaia, *Corrado Tommasi-Crudeli e il tema dell'acqua ai tempi del colera* (Corrado Tommasi-Crudeli and the topic of water during times of cholera). Corrado Tommasi-Crudeli, *La canalizzazione delle città* (Canalization of the city). Katia Caldari, *Alfred Marshall e l'importanza delle risorse naturali* (Alfred Marshall and the importance of natural resources). Alfred Marshall, *L'acqua come un elemento della ricchezza nazionale* (Water as an element of national wealth). Gabriele Corsani, *La Appendix howardiana: tecnica e retorica comunitaria per le acque ludiche di città giardino* (The Howardian appendix: technique and community rhetoric for water in the city garden). Ebenezer Howard, *Appendice. L'approvvigionamento idrico* (Appendix. The provisioning of water).

Enrico Rinaldelli



FILIPPO DE PISIS BOTANICO FLÂNEUR, Un giovane tra erbe, ville, poesia. Ricostruita la collezione giovanile di erbe secche. Roncarati Paola and Rossella Marcucci. Giardini e paesaggio, vol. 30. Leo S. Olschki, Florence (Italy), 2011. pp. 208. ISBN 978-88-222-6139-7. € 28.00.

This attractive volume by Paola Roncarati and Rossella Marcucci presents ample and detailed documentation about an interesting but rarely mentioned, multifaceted man: Filippo De Pisis. De Pisis is identified principally as a notable painter of the early 20th century but he was also, from a young age, a talented writer and poet as well as a passionate entomologist and botanist. Indeed, it is on these latter aspects of his career that the two authors, through a combination of their areas of expertise, have focused the current work, offering an important contribution to the complex and heterogeneous biography of the painter.

The volume begins with an introduction by Lucia Tongiorni Tomasi and Luigi Zangheri entitled “L’erbario essiccato, un inedito tributo alla personalità di Filippo De Pisis”, (The dried herbarium, a tribute to Filippo De Pisis), which is then followed by a carefully written preface by Gianni Venturi, who admirably comments on the meaning and significance of the work: “It is clear that this book is difficult to define as a study of an herbalist, just as every work of poetry includes a multitude of meanings which render it precious, not only for a specific interest, but above all as an important step toward understanding the life and works of the artist in greater depth.”

The text is divided into two parts. The first is dedicated to “Le implicazioni culturali di una passione botanica” (The cultural implications of a passion for botany) and the second to “Luoghi di erborizzazione, escursioni della mente, passeggiate dello sguardo” (Places for herbalism, excursions of the mind, and a stroll for the eyes). Finally, there is an analytical comment by the authors on the Estrosità nell’erbario: lo sguardo “asistemático” di un botanico originale”. (Creativity in the herbarium: an asystematic outlook by an original botanist). The work also includes a series of documents, including an article by Giuseppe Viviani “A passeggio con De Pisis” (A walk with De Pisis) and a rich bibliography.

Enrico Rinaldelli