

The study and care of places

International Landscape Study Days, ninth seminar
dedicated to Francesco Franceschini (1908-1987)
Treviso, Thursday 14th and Friday 15th February 2013

Francesco Franceschini

The 2013 *Landscape Study Days* are dedicated to Francesco Franceschini (1904-1987). He was a Member of the Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Italy, a Member of the Chamber of Deputies and Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry for the protection and promotion of the historical, archaeological, artistic and landscape heritage, universally known as the “Franceschini Commission”. Amongst the many achievements of the Commission, which was instituted in 1964 and concluded its work in 1966, one of the most significant was its adoption of the term “*bene culturale*” (“cultural property” or “item of cultural heritage”) to mean «everything that constitutes material evidence of cultural value», a radical change of perspective that led to the creation of the Italian Ministry of the Cultural Heritage in 1974.

The Proceedings, reports and other materials produced by the Commission were published in three volumes in 1967, under the title *Per la salvezza dei beni culturali in Italia* (For the safeguarding of the cultural heritage in Italy).

It is - as Roberto Cecchi emphasized - «research pure and simple, without pretentiousness, without rhetoric, which does not lend itself to commonplace compliments and quick judgements but takes account of facts and first-hand observation of all sectors» (Cecchi 2006, p. 12). Though it led to the creation of a ministry at the enthusiastic insistence of Giovanni Spadolini, its essence was soon disregarded in operational terms when people forgot the name of the man who, with passion and intelligence, with immense effort and without yielding to partisanship had coordinated and guided it into existence, an adornment to a brief period of well-being in the political history of this country, providing us not only with an extraordinarily apposite and effective instrument of knowledge-gathering and practical action but also with a reminder of our ineluctable responsibilities in the matter of study and care of places.

Thus we thought it fitting to bring to the attention of all participants in the Study Days the name, captiously set aside by a superficial, heedless and indifferent political and cultural universe, of Francesco Franceschini.

bibliographical references

Per la salvezza dei beni culturali in Italia, atti e documenti della commissione d'indagine per la tutela e la valorizzazione del patrimonio storico, archeologico, artistico e del paesaggio, Casa Editrice Colombo, Roma 1967, 3 voll. (gli indici dei tre volumi sono disponibili nel sito internet www.fbsr.it nelle pagine dedicate alle *giornate di studio*, con altri materiali di approfondimento).

MASSIMO PALLOTTINO, *La stagione della Commissione Franceschini*, in *Memorabilia: il futuro della memoria. Beni ambientali architettonici archeologici artistici e storici in Italia*, coordinamento di Francesco Perego, Ministero per i Beni culturali e ambientali, Laterza, Roma-Bari 1987, 3 voll., I (Tutela e valorizzazione oggi), pp. 7-11.

ALDO TOFFOLI, *Letteratura vittoriana. Autori e testi di Ceneda, Serravalle, Vittorio Veneto dal VI al XX secolo*, Dario De Bastiani Editore, Vittorio Veneto 2005, 2 voll., II, pp. 1459-1466 (scheda su Francesco Franceschini).

ROBERTO CECCHI, *I Beni culturali. Testimonianza materiale di civiltà*, Spirali, Milano 2006.

ILARIA BRUNO, *La nascita del Ministero per i Beni culturali e ambientali*, Edizioni Universitarie di Lettere Economia Diritto, Milano 2011, in particolare *Gli anni della Commissione Franceschini (1964-1966)*, pp. 39-54.

IVANO SARTOR, *I Costituenti Trevigiani*, Archivi Contemporanei di Storia Politica, Fondazione Cassamarca (in occasione del 150° anniversario dell'Unità d'Italia), maggio 2011, p. 18.

Si veda anche il portale storico della Camera dei Deputati che dà conto dei 408 interventi, dei 175 progetti di legge presentati e dei 3 incarichi parlamentari di Francesco Franceschini negli anni 1948-1968 e ne rende disponibile tutta la documentazione (link <http://storia.camera.it/deputato/francesco-franceschini-19080222?reloaded&nmload#nav>).