



THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

Volume 27, Number 1 2001

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COVER: Artist's conception of one of the covered wooden lock structures along Wood Creek. See "The Covered Locks of Wood Creek," pp. 5-15.

IA Editorial

With papers on covered locks, mining in Italy, and two presentations from the Whither IA? Conference at Lowell, this issue is a typically eclectic IA mixture.

Phil Lord of the New York State Museum has offered a glimpse at evidence related to some curious early canal locks in the area near Rome, New York. Though represented by only ephemeral traces, these locks apparently took on an unusual form, and Phil has depended on both documentary and artistic sources of data to reveal their nature.

Gabriele Cruciani has provided a description of a complex group of mining structures within a new park in Sardinia, Italy. As the focus of intensive preservation and interpretation efforts, the mines of Montevecchio are an interesting example of the evolution of an industrial landscape, with crucial elements of architecture, technology, and environment all preserved for interpretation.

Laurence Gross presented his views on the role of labor in the IA story at Lowell and was especially pointed in his insistence that investigators look beyond the traditional sources. His list of rich literary, film, and social commentary treatments gave the assembled participants serious food for thought. I trust that the expanded printed version will do the same.

Charlie Hyde was chosen as a concluding speaker at Lowell for his long perspective on the field. His remarks on the conference were critical, but hopeful, recognizing some potential minefields in the future for IA but also finding reason for optimism for the field.

Patrick E. Martin

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THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

Full page	—\$200.00
½ page	—\$125.00
¼ page	—\$ 75.00

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The Montevecchio Mining District: Industrial Archeology in SW Sardinia, Italy

Gabriele Cruciani

Industrial development in Sardinia, which dates back to the 19th century, started with the growth of lead and zinc mines. The Montevecchio mines represent an industrial activity that started in 1848 and operated until its definitive end in 1991. This paper describes some abandoned mines and buildings that are being restored and rehabilitated for the creation of a tourist area in the eastern industrial area of the Montevecchio mining district. Some attention has also been paid to the geological background and the environmental problems related to the mining activity, most of which must be solved before the adaptive reuse project is completed.

Introduction

Lead and zinc mining in southwestern Sardinia has a long tradition, starting from the Roman age up to the present, through the Pisan and Spanish dominations.¹ Only from the second half of the 19th century, with the establishment of the most important lead and zinc mining societies (Montevecchio in 1848 and Monteponi two years later), does mining activity take on the character of large-scale industrial production. Until that period, Romans, Pisans, and Spaniards alternated in extracting raw materials from the earth. In Sardinia the Industrial Revolution was delayed by the difficult social conditions existing up to the second half of the 19th century. Mining activity, which started from the available mineral resources, represented an almost unique industrial field. Many Italian and foreign companies (especially English and French) undertook the management of mining sites in Sardinia, importing the technical and engineering knowledge needed and contributing to the industrial and social development of the island. After nearly 150 years of activity, the modern age of mining activity in Sardinia lasted until the 1990s, when most of the mines closed. This paper describes one of the most important examples of industrial archeology in southern Sardinia—the eastern area of the Montevecchio mining district. It is being partially restored to attract tourists. While the eastern area of the district is being preserved and re-evaluated, the western area is still completely abandoned and has few chances of evaluation in the near future.

Historical Context

In 1848 Sardinia, together with Piemonte, Valle d'Aosta, Liguria, Savoia, and Nizza, belonged to the Sardinia kingdom ruled by Carlo Alberto of the Savoia dynasty. The remaining regions of today's Italy were, directly or indirectly, under the control of Austria, except for the Papal State which was relatively independent under Pious IX. During the 19th century because of the historic movement called Risorgimento, Italy became a national, independent, and unitary state. The most important personalities taking an active part in this process were Giuseppe Mazzini, Giuseppe Garibaldi, and Camillo Benso Count of Cavour. National independence was achieved after three wars fought against the Austrian oppressor, the first in 1848 and the last in 1866. In this period, the industrial age of Sardinia began with intensive exploitation of the mines. Unification occurred for most of the country between 1859 and 1860 and was completed with the conquest of Veneto and Rome in 1866 and 1870 respectively. On March 17, 1861, in Turin, the first Italian Parliament elected Vittorio Emanuele II, of the Savoia dynasty, the first king of Italy. After the conquest of Rome, which became the capital of the new nation in 1871, only the Italian-speaking populations of Trieste, Trentino, and Istria remained excluded from the Italian territory. The government was a constitutional monarchy, guided by Vittorio Emanuele II and, after his death, by his son Umberto I who was assassinated by an anarchist in 1900 and was succeeded to the throne by Vittorio Emanuele III.

The newly formed state had several problems to solve. The moderate party, *Destra Storica*, tried to solve them in the 15 years which followed the death of Cavour in 1861. As the most representative figure of the opposite party (the leftist *Sinistra Storica*), Agostino Depretis was elected leader of the government in 1876. In 1882, with the acquisition by the Italian government of the royalties of the Assab Port on the Red Sea African coast, the first attempts of colonial expansion began until Eritrea was officially named an Italian colony in 1890. Analogous attempts to conquer the Ethiopian territories failed with the battles of Amba Alagi and Adua in 1895 and 1896 respectively.² Gio-