

RiMe

Rivista dell'Istituto  
di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea

ISBN 9788897317401

numero 2/I n. s., giugno 2018

ISSN 2035-794X

The evolution of the mining village of  
Montevecchio from archival sources to museum  
reconversion

Eleonora Todde

DOI: 10.7410/1349

**Direttore responsabile**

Luciano GALLINARI

**Segreteria di redazione**

Esther MARTÍSENTAÑES

**Comitato di redazione**

Grazia BIORCI, Maria Eugenia CADEDDU, Monica CINI, Alessandra CIOPPI, Riccardo CONDRÒ, Gessica DI STEFANO, Yvonne FRACASSETTI, Raoudha GUEMARA, Maria Grazia KRAWCZYK, Maurizio LUPO, Alberto MARTINENGO, Maria Grazia Rosaria MELE, Maria Giuseppina MELONI, Sebastiana NOCCO, Michele M. RABÀ, Riccardo REGIS, Oscar SANGUINETTI, Giovanni SERRELI, Giovanni SINI, Luisa SPAGNOLI, Patrizia SPINATO BRUSCHI, Federica SULAS, Massimo VIGLIONE, Isabella Maria ZOPPI

**Comitato scientifico**

Luis ADÃO DA FONSECA, Sergio BELARDINELLI, Michele BRONDINO, Lucio CARACCILO, Dino COFRANCESCO, Daniela COLI, Miguel Ángel DE BUNES IBARRA, Antonio DONNO, Antonella EMINA, Giorgio ISRAEL, Ada LONNI, Massimo MIGLIO, Anna Paola MOSSETTO, Michela NACCI, Emilia PERASSI, Adeline RUCQUOI, Flocel SABATÉ i CURULL, Gianni VATTIMO, Cristina VERA DE FLACHS, Sergio ZOPPI

**Comitato di lettura**

In accordo con i membri del Comitato scientifico, la Direzione di RiMe sottopone a referee, in forma anonima, tutti i contributi ricevuti per la pubblicazione

**Responsabile del sito**

Claudia FIRINO

RiMe. Rivista dell'Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea (<http://rime.cnr.it>)

Direzione: via G.B. Tuveri, 128 - 09129 CAGLIARI - I

Segreteria editoriale: via G.B. Tuveri 128 -09129 CAGLIARI - I

Telefono: +39 070403635 / 70 -Fax: +39 070498118

Redazione: [rime@isem.cnr.it](mailto:rime@isem.cnr.it) (invio contributi)

## RiMe 2/I n.s

### Indice

Patrizia Sardina	5-35
<i>Vizi privati e pubbliche virtù dei Gerosolimitani di Corleone tra XIV e XV secolo / Private vices and public virtues of the Jerosolimitan of Corleone between the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.</i>	
María Teresa Monterisi	37-59
<i>Víctimas y criminales entre trabajadores inmigrantes italianos en Córdoba, Argentina (1887/1912) / Victims and criminals between italians immigrants workers in Córdoba, Argentina (1887/1912).</i>	
Cristina Gadaleta	61-81
<i>Gli italiani e l'italiano in Cile: storia e attualità / Italians and Italian language in Chile: history and actuality.</i>	
Eleonora Todde	83-100
<i>The evolution of the mining village of Montevecchio from archival sources to museum reconversion.</i>	
Fabio Manuel Serra	101-123
<i>Riflessioni sulla logica in rapporto al metodo storiografico. Paragone tra il lavoro dello storico e quello dello storiologo / What distinguishes a professional historian from an amateur: reflections about logic and historical method.</i>	



## The evolution of the mining village of Montevecchio from archival sources to museum reconversion

Eleonora Todde  
(Università degli studi di Cagliari)

### *Abstract*

This paper aims at reconstructing, through key stages, the evolution of the village of Montevecchio mine, located in Medio Campidano. The first bibliographic and archival sources of the nineteenth century will be covered and then we will analyse the records of the Parpaglia Commission (1911) and the Covacivich Commission documents (1953), up to the current tourist conversion.

At the end of the text, an appendix will contain the descriptive cards of 25 completely unpublished archival units indicating the description, the chronological references and the current signage, useful for reconstructing the structure of the village from its origin until the 1950s.

### *Keywords*

Mining village, Montevecchio, archival sources, reconversion.

### *Riassunto*

Il presente contributo ha come obiettivo quello di ricostruire, attraverso alcune tappe fondamentali, l'evoluzione del villaggio della miniera di Montevecchio, ubicato nel Medio Campidano. Verranno illustrate le prime fonti bibliografiche e archivistiche ottocentesche, per poi passare all'analisi degli atti della Commissione Parpaglia (1911) e i documenti della Commissione Covacivich (1953), fino ad arrivare all'attuale riconversione turistica.

A corredo finale, un'appendice conterrà le schede descrittive di 25 unità archivistiche completamente inedite indicanti la descrizione, gli estremi cronologici e l'attuale segnatura, utili per ricostruire la struttura del villaggio dall'origine fino agli anni Cinquanta del Novecento.

### *Parole chiave*

Villaggio minerario, Montevecchio, fonti archivistiche, riconversione.

---

1. The Montevecchio mine in the first attestations. - 2. The village in the Documents of the Parpaglia Commission (1906-1910). - 3. The Fifties and the Inquiry Council Commission. - 4. The Geo-mining Historical Environmental Park of Sardinia and the current conversion. - 5. Documentary Appendix. - 6. Bibliography. - 7. Curriculum vitae.

The landscape of southwestern Sardinia is deeply characterised by the presence of mines, exploited by man since prehistoric times up to the 1990s. The mining centres rose, often in locations that were distant from the town centres, in the second half of the nineteenth century and were a unique phenomenon of the Sardinian settlement system. The unspoilt landscapes were populated with plants and construction sites and of homes, hospitals, and post offices as well. The mining village's production facilities were outside, the houses for married workers with dependent children, the guesthouse for unmarried workers and employees, the Management's villa and the main services: transformations dominated every aspect of the landscape (Boggio, 1994, p. 94).

This important material heritage becomes part of the Parco Geominerario, Storico ed Ambientale della Sardegna, established in 1997, with the purpose of being reclassified and valued through the reconversion of the industrial sites into museum structures.

Among these sites, the Genna Serapis village, belonging to the mine of Montevecchio, stands out for size and peculiarity. This mine, operating from 1848 to 1991, was the jewel in the crown of the whole mining sector of the island. It is currently facing a long and lengthy transformation pathway from mining industry into "cultural industry". The management issues of the Parco Geominerario, the shortage of funds and the lack of a long-term integrated project with the municipalities of the concerned area, have led to a partial reconversion of sites, that can be visited now in four paths that include surface structures and subsoil sections.

This article aims to reconstruct the fundamental phases in the evolution of the above-mentioned village from the first archival certificates, kept at the Archivio Documentale della Miniera di Montevecchio located in the municipality of Guspini, up to the fifties with the following acts Commissione speciale consiliare d'indagine e di studio sulle condizioni di sicurezza e di igiene e sui sistemi di lavoro e di produzione nelle miniere sarde<sup>1</sup> kept at the Archivio del Consiglio Regionale della Sardegna, to the present situation midway between a village and a museum structure.

### *1. The Montevecchio mine in the first attestations*

The Sardinian mining houses followed a development in three main stages: the initial research stage, in which the workers did not live at the workplace, the phase of the start of activity and the phase of the regular mining activity. In the

---

<sup>1</sup> Special Commission of inquiry and study about health and safety conditions and about work systems and production in Sardinian mines.

first phase, the homes were mainly huts made of branches and twigs, built in scattered areas, with a round shape and a sharp roof, a legacy of the typical hut of the agro-pastoral world. In the second phase, the population of workers was beginning to intensify at the workplace and the workers began to build the first houses. In the last phase, the operators were concerned with building houses and formed the real mining villages (Boggio, 1994, p. 94; Mistretta, 1986, pp. 115-138)<sup>2</sup>.

The village of Montevecchio mine, dated 1848, is one of the oldest settlements of Sardinia. The mining complex, expanded as a result of the constant growth of the concessions during the first fifty years of activity, was fragmented in terms of urban planning: the service facilities and settlements formed around the five sites that made up the mine, in the “mine’s mouth” according to the type of big rooms. These scattered groups developed later into real villages with different architectural features (Ingegno, 2004, pp. 26-28).

In the mid nineteenth century the area was a desert, there were no roads, houses and warehouses. The area began to populate as well as the building of the village with the start of activities by the entrepreneur Giovanni Antonio Sanna<sup>3</sup>. Eugene Marchese<sup>4</sup>, engineer of the Royal Corps of the Mines<sup>5</sup>, noted, during his first visit in 1859, the presence of a modest building for the management office in which the director Giuseppe Galletti lived. Ten years later, in 1869, during the visit of Quintino Sella<sup>6</sup>, accompanied by Marchese

---

<sup>2</sup> See also Zedda Macciò, 1993; Saiu Deidda, 1993; Masala, 1993.

<sup>3</sup> Born in Sassari on 19 August 1819 and died in Rome on 9 February 1875. He left soon to Sassari to try to realize its ambitions. He emigrated stopping in France in Marseilles, where he improvised as a trader. Politician, parliamentarian, journalist, industrial, patron. He was elected deputy to the chamber for the constituency of Isili from 1857 to 1865, in the VI and in the VII legislature. For the history and the biography of the man who started the contemporary phase of the mine, see Sanna, 1914; Del Piano, 2001; Fadda, 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Eugenio Marchese was born in Genoa on 6 June 1837 and died in Rome on 2 August 1894. He obtained in Turin the title of Hydraulic Engineer and Civil Architect, enrolled in 1857 at the Imperial School of Mines in Paris and once he finished his training he left for a trip to the main mining regions of Germany and Belgium. Back in Italy, he worked in the mining district of Sardinia. See also Traverso, 1895.

<sup>5</sup> The Royal Corps of the Mines was a state corp with peripheral offices located in the territory, made up of officials with considerable technical skills, as well as a deep-rooted sense of state. These officials drew up annual reports that contained the production report, which can be considered as "the state of health" in the mines, with a complete analysis of the national and international situation. See also Carta - Todde, 2017.

<sup>6</sup> Quintino Sella was born in Sella di Mosso on 1827 and died in Biella on 1884. In 1860 he began his political career as a deputy of the right of the college of Cossato (Biella). Minister of Finance several times (1862; 1864-65; 1869-73), he called for professional education; designed the postal savings banks; he advocated the development of the Sardinian mines and built the mining map

(Marchese, 1893), upon the investigation by the Depretis Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry (Sella, 1871), the village of Gennaserapis consisted in the building of the director<sup>7</sup>, “innalzato sopra le fondazioni troppo vaste che erano state gettate per una chiesa monumentale, stata ridotta, nel fatto, ad una sufficiente cappella nel grembo del palazzo stesso”<sup>8</sup>, houses and buildings, warehouses, a big cistern to collect water and a wonderful hospital<sup>9</sup>.

Corbetta in his travel notes, published in 1877 but already written the previous year, thus described the Montevecchio mine:

al mio primo arrivare resto stupito dall’impianto, più grandioso di quello delle miniere tanto celebri di ferro e di rame a Dannemora ed altrove, da me visitate in Isvezia. Può dirsi un villaggio composto di vasti ed alti fabbricati in solida muratura, sorto come per incanto in quelle solitudini montane. (...) sono aggruppati edificj ben costrutti che son veri palazzi. Uno è destinato ad abitazione del direttore e degli ospiti; un altro agli ufficj tecnici e di amministrazione; un terzo ad alloggio degl’impiegati, sale di mensa e riunione; un quarto è l’ospedale e l’abitazione del medico; un quinto è destinato a magazzino degli attrezzi, alle stalle, alle rimesse; un sesto finalmente, in posizione centrale, che si sta ora costruendo, è la chiesa con annesso fabbricato per le scuole. (...) [I sardi] non vivono in case apposite, ma si costruiscono delle capanne isolate di rame e frondi, coperte di foglie secche, a tetto acuminato, che, sparse sul dorso del monte per lo scolo delle acque, fanno un effetto pittorico bellissimo, e rassomigliano ad un accampamento di negre tende (Corbetta, 1877, pp. 326-327)<sup>10</sup>.

---

of the region <<http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/quintino-sella/>> (12/06/2018). See also Carta - Todde, 2017b.

<sup>7</sup> Besides the publication by Ingegno, 2004, it is possible to reconstruct the history of the building through the technical cartography kept at the Archivio Documentale della Miniera di Montevecchio.

<sup>8</sup> “Lifted up above the foundations that were too big and had been laid for a monumental church, reduced, in fact, to a sufficient chapel in the womb of the actual building”.

<sup>9</sup> As for the management’s building, the construction, evolution of the hospital is traceable through the Archivio Documentale della Miniera di Montevecchio cartography and the photographic documents kept at the Archivio Storico del Comune di Iglesias.

<sup>10</sup> “I was amazed with the plant when I arrived, greater than those of the much celebrated mines of iron and copper in Dannemora and elsewhere, I had visited in Sweden. It can be called a village consisting of large and high buildings in solid masonry rose as if by magic in the solitude of the mountains. (...) building are grouped that are well-built and actual palaces. One will be used as the house for the director and guests; another for the technical and administration offices; a third as a house for the clerks, canteen and meeting rooms; the fourth is the hospital and the doctor’s home; a fifth is available for the storage of tools, the stables, the garages; a sixth one, in a central position at last, that is being built now, is the church with an adjoining building for schools. (...) [The Sardinians] do not live in proper houses, but they build isolated huts in branches and leaves, covered with dry leaves, with a sharp roof, that placed



In the late nineteenth century Celso Capacci narrated a village with the remains of the old mine's house called *Sa domu de is oreris* (the house of the goldsmiths) built in 1847-48, the building used by the management and the church, the homes of the employees, the warehouses, the stables, the chemist and the hospital. Capacci also spoke of the imposing drinking water cistern with a capacity of 4.000 m<sup>3</sup>, and the capillary conduit that supplied the homes of the employees and the other buildings too. The village was equipped with a 18 kilometre-long railway and seven double case cantoniere; a carriage road of 26 kilometres that connected Montevecchio with Guspini and Ingurtosu; a private telephone and telegraph line connecting the station of San Gavino with Gennas and Sciria (Capacci, 1897).



Montevecchio - House for the director 1935 (Archivio Storico del Comune di Iglesias, Fondo Mp/Mv, Serie fotografica, b. 22, f 5)

---

onto the back of the mountain to drain water, create a pictorial and beautiful effect, and remind of a camp of black tents”.

## 2. *The village in the Documents of the Parpaglia Commission (1906-1910)*

1906 was a year of major importance for the island's labour movement<sup>11</sup>: the workers riots that led to serious clashes with the councils and police were not unnoticed by the Italian Government. Following this unrest, the Chamber of Deputies on June 21, 1906, and the Senate on July 9 presented a bill on the establishment of a commission for an investigation into the conditions of workers in the Sardinian mines and on their relationships with their operators<sup>12</sup>.

The Commission's investigation showed that at Montevecchio, the Company put at the disposal of the staff, free of charge, 382 accommodation structures and the use of wood from forests, and paid a security body formed by twenty armed guards.

The workers' houses, "in solid masonry", were of two types: the first had only a ground floor; the second had the ground floor and mezzanine. All married workers with dependent children were guaranteed a home with two or more rooms including a kitchen. Unmarried workers had dormitories, which were also free. The presence of a central tank to provide water to the village was reinstated (*Commissione parlamentare*, 1910, p. 329).

The Company had also provided to the construction of a school, "il fabbricato è quale invano si desidera nella maggior parte dei piccoli comuni d'Italia: riscaldato nell'inverno, ben arredato di banchi e di supellettili scolastiche" (*Ibidem*)<sup>13</sup>. Employees also were offered the free use of the private railway that joined the mine with the royal railway network.

The village was provided with mail service that, although it had become public over the last two years, it had been placed in a building of the Company.

Also in the village of Gennas there was a cellar, a food warehouse and butcher service, a health service with a hospital with a doctor and midwife: all these services were paid by the mining administration (*Ibi*, p. 330).

---

<sup>11</sup> In Cagliari, in the mining centres of Gonnesa and Nebida, in the agro-pastoral zone the protests led to an intervention by the army that, to stop the advancing of the protesters, shot onto the people, killing many. These facts of 1906 have been greatly studied by the Sardinian historians, of these the first was Boscolo, 1948, pp. 259-276. See also Sotgiu, 1964, pp. 135-149; Sorgia, 1993, p. 659-674; Alberti - Serra, 1981; Murgia, 1997.

<sup>12</sup> The method used for the investigation consisted in studying the statistical material of the Labour Office on the miner's conditions in Italy, the arrangement of four types of questionnaires for the operators, for the organisations of workers, the mayors and doctors of the mining villages, for the questioning of 843 workers, managers, authorities, doctors, hospital directors and oops. The commission, at the end of the works, published the *Atti della Commissione parlamentare di inchiesta sulla condizione degli operai delle miniere della Sardegna*, I-IV, Roma, 1910-1911.

<sup>13</sup> The building is as present in most small towns of Italy: heated in the winter, well-furnished with desks and equipment for a school.

L'Ospedale è capace di venti letti e comprende una farmacia, due ambulatori (dei quali uno riservato esclusivamente per la cura degli infortuni sul lavoro), la sala operatoria colla relativa preparatoria, un gabinetto per le ricerche cliniche e microscopiche completamente arredato, una sala d'isolamento per malattie infettive, due spaziose infermerie per malati comuni ed una sala da bagno; vi è inoltre la cucina, il lavatoio ecc., l'alloggio per gli infermieri e l'appartamento per il sanitario che ha l'obbligo di risiedervi in permanenza (Mariani, 1912)<sup>14</sup>.



Commissione parlamentare di inchiesta sulla condizione degli operai delle miniere della Sardegna (1910) *Atti della Commissione. Relazione riassuntiva e allegati* (1910), II, Roma, Tipografia della Camera dei Deputati.

The hygienic conditions were awful: during the questioning, the workers reported that the walls were painted every other year. Some dormitories, to

---

<sup>14</sup> The hospital can hold twenty beds and includes a chemist, two doctors' visiting rooms (one of which is reserved exclusively to treat workplace accidents), the surgery room with the relative preparation area, a room for clinical and microscopic researches, completely furnished, a room for the isolation of infectious diseases, two roomy infirmaries for patients and a common bathroom; there is also a kitchen, a laundry etc., the accommodation for the nurses and health officer that are required to reside there permanently.

rationalise the space as a result of numerous requests, were divided into two floors and the conditions for those who slept on top was even worse because the division was made with a simple plank and “quando si accende il fuoco nel piano terra quelli che stanno su vengono tormentati dal fumo” (Commissione parlamentare, 1911b, p. 249)<sup>15</sup>.

### 3. *The Fifties and the Inquiry Council Commission*

Following a tragic accident in the mine of Cortoghiana<sup>16</sup>, in the province of Carbonia-Iglesias, the Regional Councillors Asquer, Borghero, Zucca, Ibba, Colia and Pirastru, on August 25, 1952, presented an urgent motion for the constitution of a Commission for the inquiry into the tragic accidents in the island’s mining areas<sup>17</sup>. The documents submitted by the inquiry and study Commission on the safety and hygiene conditions and on the working and production systems in Sardinian mines, established by Law no. 10<sup>18</sup>, dated April 27, 1953, allow us to reconstruct the situation of the village of Montevecchio in the mid-fifties: this is the last official testimony before the decline of the mine and its definitive closing in the Nineties (Todde, 2016, pp. 183-212).

In 1956, date of the questioning and of the visits of the Commission officials, 1846 people lived in the mining complex of Montevecchio. Employees resident in Gennas who had no family could enjoy two group accommodation structures: the first, called Foresteria<sup>19</sup> consisted of 16 rooms and the other, Hotel Viale Mare, with a capacity of 40 beds (Minghetti, 1949, p. 557). The housing for workers’ families were 69 distributed in seven clusters. These were usually made up of 4 rooms, beside the kitchen, the bathroom and the corridors. All employees’ accommodation structures were heated with electric heaters or wood stoves. The sewer was present only in part, and the collection and disposal of sewage took place with septic tanks (Todde, 2016, pp. 198-199)<sup>20</sup>.

At the centre of the village there was the employees’ canteen for 100 people, the company shop, the butcher’s, the dairy shop, a bakery, the central food warehouse and a resale shop for artefacts that sold everyday objects (*Ibidem*). The presence of the church, next to the management’s building was also noted,

<sup>15</sup> When a fire was lit downstairs those above were tormented by the smoke.

<sup>16</sup> On 21/08/1952 following an explosion of carbon powder, 3 workers died. For further information, see Associazione Minatori e Memoria, 2008, p. 299.

<sup>17</sup> Archivio del Consiglio Regionale della Sardegna, *Prima Legislatura*, b. 19, fasc. 60, Mozione n. 631.

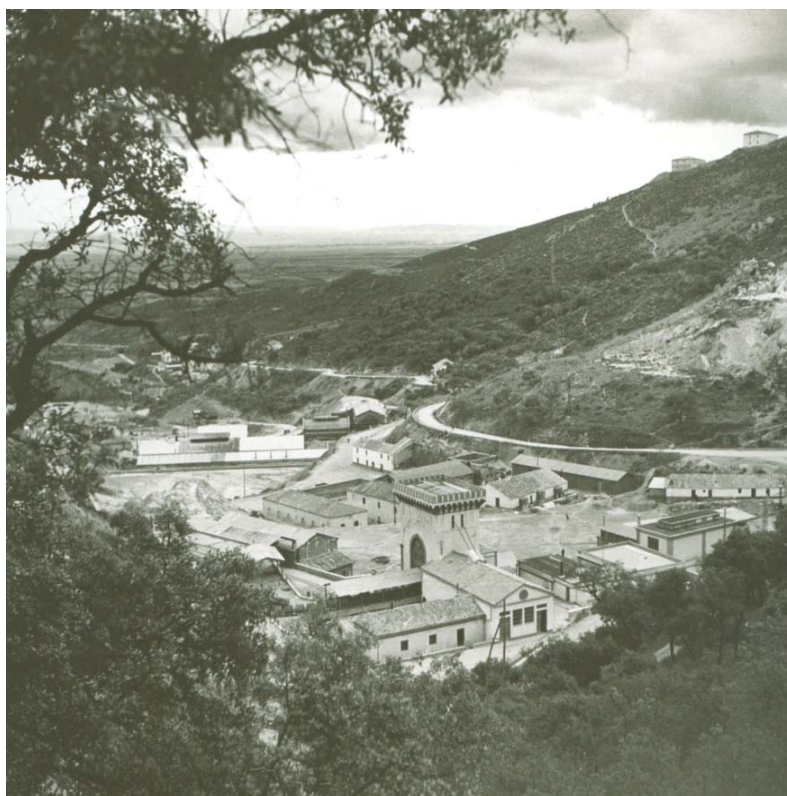
<sup>18</sup> Archivio del Consiglio Regionale della Sardegna, *Prima Legislatura, Leggi regionali*, f. 6.

<sup>19</sup> Guesthouse.

<sup>20</sup> Archivio del Consiglio Regionale della Sardegna, *V Legislatura, Atti della Commissione consiliare d’indagine sulle miniere*, b. 8, fasc. 2.5.1, Questionario A.

the public chemist (*Ibidem*) and the hospital with six beds, consisting of two doctor's visiting rooms, a dentist and a medicine closet (Minghetti, 1949, p. 561).

Besides Gennas, the villages of Sciria, Piccalinna, Sanna, Telle and Villaggio Righi had developed near the working sites as well as the settlements called Cameroni Rossi, Cameroni Bianchi, Madama, Colombi, Zely and Amsicora (*Ibi*, p. 557).



Montevercchio - House Workers [1936-48] (Archivio Storico del Comune di Iglesias, Fondo Mp/Mv, Serie fotografica, b. 23.1, f 4)

The workers without a family could stay in the workers' hotel Sartori and in the hotel of Telle, in the West area, the first consisting of 250 beds divided in dormitories with 25 beds each, with an adjacent canteen and a recreation area, the second with 150 seats and canteen. In the Levante area, there was the Hotel Piccalinna, with 250 seats, and the dormitories of Sant' Antonio and Scuderia for other 150 seats, even with a canteen and refectory (*Ibi*, p. 558). All the workers' hotels were equipped with sanitary facilities, like toilets, showers and sinks, and they were equipped with electric lighting and heating through radiators.

The education service for the employees' children was ensured by the presence of a nursery and a primary school in the villages of Gennas, Sciria and Sanna (*Ibi*, p. 561).



To ensure a healthy recreational activity at the *Circolo Aziendale Impiegati*<sup>21</sup> a bar, a reading room, a ballroom and a room with billiards and other games had been created. The Workers' Club was instead equipped with a movie theatre for 500 people open six days a week, a library, a bar and in Gennas and one in Telle. The club took care of the bocce, tennis and volleyball courts and centre for athletics (*Ibi*, pp. 563-565).

#### 4. *The Geo-mining Historical Environmental Park of Sardinia and the current conversion*

Following the closure of the entire mining sector, the issue of the abandoned industrial sites required attention and it had deeply changed the landscape and culture of the area. Already in 1975, when the industry endured a crisis, the idea came of including some mining areas of south-west Sardinia among the biosphere reserves under the *Program on Man and Biosphere* by UNESCO Programme (MAB), but this idea of Engineer Gianlupo Del Bono from the Geological Service of Italy, was ignored by the indifference of local governments for fifteen years. Only with the approval of Law 221 by the Parliament in 1990, backing measures were included for the environmental restoration of abandoned mining sites and the economic and social conversion of the island's extractive industry.

Two years later, in June 1992, the *Associazione per il Parco Geominerario, Ambientale e Storico dell'Iglesiente-Sulcis-Guspinese*<sup>22</sup>. The constant awareness-raising activities and contribution of Engineer Del Bono led to submitting the idea of the Park to the attention of UNESCO in 1993. After several visits by the Organisations' officials, on November 5, 1997, the UNESCO General Conference unanimously welcomed the request for the international recognition of the value to the Historical and Environmental Geo-mining Park of Sardinia. A year later, the official act of recognition was signed in Paris, declaring it the first park of the UNESCO Geosites/Geoparks worldwide network. With the signing of the Charter of Cagliari, on September 30, 1998, UNESCO, the Italian Government, the Region of Sardinia, the Ente Minerario Sardo<sup>23</sup> and the Universities of Cagliari and Sassari engaged to adopt 'i principi fondamentali per la salvaguardia del patrimonio tecnico-scientifico, storico-

---

<sup>21</sup> The Employees Company Club.

<sup>22</sup> The Association for the Geo-mining, Environmental and Historical Park of the Sulcis-Iglesiente-Guspinese area.

<sup>23</sup> The Sardo Mining Board.

culturale e paesaggistico-ambientale connesso alle vicende umane che hanno interessato le risorse geologiche e minerarie della Sardegna<sup>24</sup>.

This slow cultural conversion process of the Montevecchio mine (Stochino - Zedda, 2003, pp. 65-75) was immediately considered as pioneering: the first Progetto Montevecchio-Ingurtosu<sup>25</sup> for the creation of new production businesses starting from the recovery and valorisation of the heritage connected to the abandoned mining activity dates back to May 1991<sup>26</sup>. In 1997, an agreement was undersigned for a Program between the Environment Minister of the time, Edo Ronchi, the President of the Region of Sardinia Federico Palomba and the President of the Ente Minerario Sardo, Giampiero Pinna, for the elaboration of a Piano di riabilitazione e recupero ambientale delle aree minerarie dismesse del Sulcis-Iglesiente-Guspinese<sup>27</sup>. With the establishment of the Geopark, the Mine of Montevecchio was inserted in area 8 comprising the Sulcis-Iglesiente-Guspinese area.

To date, the huge real estate site is only partially inhabited, mainly the village of Gennas and the village of Rolandi. Almost half of the buildings intended for residential use in the villages of Zely and Telle are completely abandoned.

The conversion of the museum structure (Marco Piras B., 2003, pp. 235-246), which began at the turn of the twenty-first century, led to the creation of four cultural paths.

The first path, called *Piccalinna*, lasting about 45 minutes, winds in the area around the well of San Giovanni, in the surface structure and inside the winch and compressor areas.

The *Sant'Antonio* path includes, in addition to the characteristic extraction well with crenelated tower and the winch and compressor areas, the visit to the workers' accommodation area and to the former mineral deposit.

The third path, called *Officine*, traces the structures that supported the mining activities for the maintenance of machinery.

---

<sup>24</sup> *The basic principles for the safeguarding of the technical-scientific, historical-cultural and landscape-environment heritage linked to the human events that have involved the geological and mineral resources of Sardinia.* For an accurate reconstruction of the awareness of the importance of the industrial heritage leading to the idea and following birth of the Park refer to the contribution by Pinna, 2008, pp. 183-214.

<sup>25</sup> Montevecchio - Ingurtosu Project.

<sup>26</sup> The entire project is described in Mezzolani - Simoncini, 1993; Mezzolani - Simoncini, 2007, pp. 109-111.

<sup>27</sup> *Rehabilitation and environmental recovery plan for disused mining areas of Sulcis-Iglesiente-Guspinese.*

Lastly, the *Palazzina della Direzione* path that is inside the building originally used to house the Sanna family and later used for the administrative offices<sup>28</sup>.

At present, the first floor houses the historical and mapping documentation of the Document's Archive of the Mine of Montevecchio<sup>29</sup> that, following an agreement in 2001, between the Company Igea S.p.a, owner of the land, and the Municipality of Guspini, is placed under the competence of the Council and precisely under the Head of the Cultural Heritage and Activities<sup>30</sup>.

#### 5. *Documentary Appendix*<sup>31</sup>

1. Buildings and outbuildings: plans. Drawings on tracing paper.

s.d.

ASC, *Società Anonima Miniere di Montevecchio, Serie 2.7 Mappe e progetti*, u. 7

2. Mining Project: plan, section and prospect. Drawing on vellum paper.

s.d.

ASC, *Società Anonima Miniere di Montevecchio, Serie 2.7 Mappe e progetti*, u. 9

3. Piazzale di Gennaserapis: final design including the plan of the existing buildings in Montevecchio. Drawing in colour on glossy paper.

1923

ASC, *Società Anonima Miniere di Montevecchio, Serie 2.7 Mappe e progetti*, u. 18

4. Gennas - Representation of the buildings that are numbered according to an inventory list of reference. The names of streets are also indicated.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico*, u.c. 276

5. Gennas - Prospectus and planimetry.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico*, u.c. 285

6. Gennas - Residential area.

---

<sup>28</sup> <<http://www.minieramontevecchio.it/>> (12/06/2018).

<sup>29</sup> <[http://www.igeaspa.it/it/i\\_fondi\\_minerari.wp](http://www.igeaspa.it/it/i_fondi_minerari.wp)> (17/04/2018).

<sup>30</sup> <[http://www.comune.guspini.su.it/www/SezioniPrincipali/CittaTerritorio/LuoghiCultura/archivio\\_storico\\_montevecchio.html](http://www.comune.guspini.su.it/www/SezioniPrincipali/CittaTerritorio/LuoghiCultura/archivio_storico_montevecchio.html)> (12/06/2018).

<sup>31</sup> ACRS = Archivio del Consiglio Regionale della Sardegna; ADMM = Archivio Documentale della Miniera di Montevecchio; ASC = Archivio della Famiglia Sanna Castoldi; u. = item; u.c = cartographic item; b. = box; fasc. = file; s.d. = sine data.



1952

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Cat. 1, Carte dell'I.G.M.*, u.c. 2680

7. Gennas - Village Garden (Rolandi). Planimetry.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Cat. 4, Fabbricati-Strade-Opere murarie*, u.c. 2869

8. Gennas - Plan of the town with the highlighted water distribution scheme.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Cat. 5, Beni idrici-AcquedottiPotabilizzatori*, u.c. 3055

9. Gennas - Plan of the town, with an indication of the position of the hydrants.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Cat. 1, Carte dell'I.G.M.*, u.c. 3169

10. Gennas - Village with indication of the public areas (roads). Planimetry.

Post 1933

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Cat. 1, Carte dell'I.G.M.*, u.c. 3346

11. Gennas - Planimetry of the town indicating the streets and the A-B section of the excavation detail to be made for the water pipes.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Cat. 1, Carte dell'I.G.M.*, u.c. 3347

12. Gennas - Planimetry showing some details of the village.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Cat. 1, Carte dell'I.G.M.*, u.c. 3348

13. Gennas - Planimetry of the village.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Cat. 1, Carte dell'I.G.M.*, u.c. 3350

14. Gennas – Inhabited area with the names of streets.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Cat. 4, Fabbricati-Strade-Opere murarie*, u.c. 4141

15. Gennas - Village Rolandi - planimetry of the buildings and gardens.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Cat. 4, Fabbricati-Strade-Opere murarie*, u.c. 4298

16. Gennas - Placement of the fuel distributors. Planimetry.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Cat. 24, Varie e infortuni*, u.c. 4391

17. Montevecchio – Planimetry with the highlighted water network in Levante and Gennas.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Fascicoli da 1 a 88: vari argomenti*, u.c. 6916

18. Gennas – Cadastral planimetry

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Cartella fabbricati vari F11*, u.c. 10135

19. Levante – Planimetry of a portion of the buildings from Gennas to Sciria.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Vecchia catalogazione, Cat. 1*, u.c. 11402

20. Gennas - Planimetry of the town with the all the buildings highlighted that have been assigned with new numbers to replace the old ones, still visible on the paper.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Pratiche catastali - Gennas*, u.c. 12090

21. Gennas - Planimetry of the area with the highlighted buildings and various constructions, each of which has an indication of the a number placed by pen or pencil and filled in with red or blue.

1958

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Pratiche catastali diverse*, u.c. 12158

22. Sant'Antonio, Gennas - Old drawing relative to buildings with street indications.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Vecchi disegni serie 1-100*, u.c. 13463

23. Gennas - Planimetry with evidence of the structures that are present.

s.d.

ADMM, *Serie Cartografica, Ufficio tecnico, UTE, Vecchi disegni serie 1-100*, u.c. 13525

24. Questionnaires B for the mine of Piccalinna, Montevecchio I, Sanna, Genna Sciria and Montevecchio III in the municipality of Guspini.

[February 25, 1956]

ACRS, *V Legislatura, Atti della Commissione consiliare d'indagine sulle miniere*, b. 4, fasc. 2.4.35-39

25. The file on Montevecchio mines contains:

- the notice concerning the mine with reference to the various technical, administrative, social and welfare areas;
- the report on the various assistance services offered to all employees;
- questionnaire A for the mine of Piccalinna, Montevecchio I, II, III. 1956

ACRS, *V Legislatura, Atti della Commissione consiliare d'indagine sulle miniere*, b. 8, fasc. 2.5.1

## 6. Bibliography

Iberti, Alberto - Serra, Antonio (1981) *La rivolta popolare di Gonnessa e l'agitazione nel bacino minerario: i moti del 1906 in Sardegna*. Cagliari: 3T.

Associazione Minatori e Memoria (2008) *Sardegna: minatori e memorie*. Iglesias.

Commissione parlamentare di inchiesta sulla condizione degli operai delle miniere della Sardegna (1910) *Atti della Commissione. Relazione riassuntiva e allegati* (1910), II. Roma: Tipografia della Camera dei Deputati.

— *Atti della Commissione. Studi e statistiche* (1911), I. Roma: Tipografia della Camera dei Deputati.

— *Atti della Commissione. Interrogatori* (1911b), III. Roma: Tipografia della Camera dei Deputati.

— *Atti della Commissione. Questionari e documenti* (1911c), IV. Roma: Tipografia della Camera dei Deputati.

- Boggio, Francesco (1994) 'I paesaggi minerari', in Brigaglia, Manlio (a cura di) *La Sardegna. La geografia, la storia, l'arte e la letteratura*. I, 2 edizione, prima edizione. 1982. Cagliari: Edizioni della Torre, pp. 91-98.
- Boscolo, Alberto (1948) 'I moti del 1906 in Sardegna', *Studi sardi*, VIII (I-III), pp. 259-276.
- Capacci, Celso (1897) 'Studio sulle miniere di Monteponi, Montevecchio e Malfidano in Sardegna', *Bollettino della Società Geologica Italiana*, 15 (5).
- Carta, Annalisa - Todde, Eleonora (2017) 'Rappresentare il territorio nell'età del Risorgimento: il Corpo Reale delle Miniere', in Guida Marin, Luis - Mele, Maria Grazia Rosaria - Serreli, Giovanni (a cura di) *Centri di potere nel Mediterraneo occidentale: dal Medioevo alla fine dell'Antico Regime*. Milano: Franco Angeli, pp. 187-198.
- (2017b) 'Gli ingegneri minerari all'École des Mines: un "ritorno di cervelli" ante litteram', in Belli, Gemma - Capano, Francesca - Pascariello, Maria Ines (a cura di), *La città, il viaggio, il turismo. Percezione, produzione e trasformazione*. Napoli: Centro Interdipartimentale di Ricerca sull'Iconografia della Città Europea, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, pp. 649-658.
- Corbetta, Carlo (1877) *Sardegna e Corsica*, Milano: Libreria Editrice G. Brigola.
- Del Piano, Lorenzo (2001) 'Imprenditore, politico, amante dell'arte: una figura di primo piano dell'Ottocento isolano: Giovanni Antonio Sanna', *Sardegna fieristica*, 40.
- Fadda, Paolo (2010) *L'uomo di Montevecchio*. Sassari: Carlo Delfino Editore.
- Ingegno, Alfredo (2004) *Il restauro della palazzina della direzione di Montevecchio a Guspini*. Viterbo: Beta Gamma.
- Marchese, Eugenio (1893) *Quintino Sella in Sardegna*. Torino: L. Roux & C.
- Mariani, Attilio (1912) *Relazione sulle campagne antimalariche 1910/1911*. Cagliari: G. Dessì.
- Masala, Franco (1993) 'Architetture minerarie in Sardegna fra revivals ed eclettismo', in Kirova, Tatiana (a cura di), *L'uomo e le miniere in Sardegna*. Cagliari: Edizioni della Torre, pp. 115-126.
- Mezzolani, Sandro - Simoncini, Andrea (1993) *Montevecchio e la Costa Verde: metamorfosi di una zona mineraria*. Cagliari: Edisar.
- (2007) *Sardegna da salvare. Storia paesaggi architetture delle miniere*. XIII, Nuoro: Archivio fotografico sardo.

- Minghetti, Filippo (1949) 'Le miniere di Montevecchio', in *Notizie sull'industria del piombo e dello zinco in Italia*, I. Milano: Istituto grafico Bertieri.
- Mistretta, Pasquale (1986) 'Gli habitat minerari', in Manconi, Francesco (a cura di), *Le miniere e i minatori della Sardegna*. Milano: Silvana Editoriale, pp. 115-138.
- Murgia, Giovanni (1997) *Quel maggio del 1906. I moti sociali nella Sardegna giolittiana e l'eccidio di Villasalto*. Dolianova: Grafica del Parteolla.
- Pinna, Giampiero (2008) 'Dalla fine dell'attività mineraria all'istituzione del Parco Geominerario Storico Ambientale della Sardegna', in Associazione Minatori e Memoria, *Sardegna: minatori e memorie*. Iglesias, pp. 183-214.
- Marco Piras B. (2003) 'Elementi per la conservazione e la valorizzazione della miniera di Montevecchio: gestione e progetto', in Aymerich, Carlo - Migone Retting, Jaime - Stochino, Monica (a cura di), *Archeologia industriale. Esperienze per la valorizzazione in Cile e in Sardegna*. Atti del convegno (Cagliari, 11 dicembre 2003). Roma: Gangemi editore, pp. 235-246.
- Saiu Deidda, Anna (1993) 'Origine e sviluppo degli insediamenti minerari in Sardegna', in Kirova, Tatiana (a cura di), *L'uomo e le miniere in Sardegna*. Cagliari: Edizioni della Torre, pp. 89-102.
- Sanna, Ignazia (1914) *Giovanni Antonio Sanna nella vita pubblica e privata: notizie e documenti*. Roma: Tipografia Editrice Nazionale.
- Sella, Quintino (1871) *Sulle condizioni dell'industria mineraria nell'isola di Sardegna. Relazione alla Commissione parlamentare d'inchiesta*. Firenze: Tipografia Eredi Botta.
- Sorgia, Giancarlo (1993) 'Sui moti in Sardegna nel 1906. Nuovi documenti', in D'Arienzo, Luisa (a cura di), *Sardegna, Mediterraneo e Atlantico tra Medio Evo ed Età moderna. Studi storici in memoria di A. Boscolo*, I. Roma: Bulzoni, p. 659-674.
- Sotgiu, Girolamo (1969) *Questione sarda e movimento operaio: note e documenti per una storia del movimento operaio e socialista in Sardegna*. Cagliari: Edizioni sarde.
- Stochino, Maura - Zedda, Stefania (2003) 'La conoscenza per la conservazione del patrimonio industriale: la miniera di Montevecchio', in Aymerich, Carlo - Migone Retting, Jaime - Stochino, Monica (a cura di), *Archeologia industriale. Esperienze per la valorizzazione in Cile e in Sardegna*. Atti del convegno (Cagliari, 11 dicembre 2003). Roma: Gangemi editore, pp. 65-75.
- Todde, Eleonora (2016) 'La sicurezza nella miniera di Montevecchio nei documenti della Commissione consiliare di igiene e sicurezza nelle miniere

sarde', in Tasca, Cecilia - Carta, Annalisa - Todde, Eleonora (a cura di), «*Dell'industria delle argentiere*». *Nuove ricerche sulle miniere nel Mediterraneo*, Perugia: Morlacchi, pp. 183-212.

Traverso, Giovanni Battista (1895) *In memoria di Eugenio Marchese*. Alba: Tipografia Sansoldi.

Zedda Mazziò, Isabella (1993) 'Le miniere in Sardegna: dall'ambiente naturale al paesaggio minerario', in Kirova, Tatiana (a cura ,di) *L'uomo e le miniere in Sardegna*, Cagliari: Edizioni della Torre, pp. 79-88.

### 7. Curriculum vitae

Eleonora Todde, dottorato di ricerca in Storia moderna e contemporanea presso l'Università degli Studi di Cagliari, dove ora è assegnista di ricerca in Archivistica. Da anni si occupa di archivi minerari e della storia del comparto estrattivo sardo. Tra le sue pubblicazioni: *Rappresentare il sottosuolo: il fondo fotografico della miniera di Monteponi*, 2016; *La sicurezza nella miniera di Montevecchio nei documenti della Commissione consiliare di igiene e sicurezza nelle miniere sarde* 2016; con A. Carta, *Rappresentare il territorio nell'età del Risorgimento: il Corpo Reale delle Miniere*, 2017.



