

# Cultural Heritage. Scenarios 2015-2017

edited by Simona Pinton and Lauso Zagato

## Preface

### This Volume, This Series

Simona Pinton, Lauso Zagato  
(Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Italia)

1. This volume represents the fourth accomplishment of the editorial undertaking of *Sapere l'Europa, sapere d'Europa*. It elaborates on the issues presented at the International Conference *Cultural Heritage. Scenarios 2015* held at Ca' Foscari University on 26-28 November 2015.<sup>1</sup> The event has been particularly successful thanks to the significant participation of governmental and non-governmental institutions and associations, in addition to Ca' Foscari University, in particular Cestudir (Studies on Human Rights Centre), and MacLab (Management of Arts and Culture Laboratory). Namely: the Council of Europe Office in Venice; the University of Florence, the Department of Education and Psychology; the Erasmus University of Rotterdam; the UNPLI (National Union of Italian 'Pro Loco'); the Venice Foundation for Peace Research; the Simbdea (Italian Society for Museum and Heritage Anthropology); the Unioncamere - Eurosportello of Veneto; the City of Venice Europe Direct; the Scuola Grande of San Rocco and the Coordinamento Scuole Storiche of Venezia; El Felze; Faro Venezia; Arzanà; il Sestante. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for their support. Furthermore, distinctive significance has characterized the participation at the Conference of Giulia Narduolo as representative of the Cultural Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies. Her presence has acted as a catalyst for an active cooperation that has started to lead to important normative achievements as reported in the Appendix of this volume.

In conclusion, the editors are truly pleased to have completed this ambitious project, challenged by a considerable amount of papers, more than 40, on one side, and by an expansive interdisciplinary nature of the writings. Finally, our heartfelt thanks to Edizioni Ca' Foscari - Digital Publishing for their assistance in the realization of this enormous editorial effort and their guidance at the most delicate steps.

<sup>1</sup> The Conference took place at various Ca' Foscari facilities (aule Baratto and Archivio at the Ca' Foscari Palace and aula Morelli at Malcanton-Marcorà Palace), and in Scuola grande of San Rocco.

2. The Series involves a historical notable group of authors - Picchio Forlati, Tamma, Zagato, Pinton, Lapicirella Zingari, De Vido, Bellato, Sciruba, Da Re - who has been active in the scientific-editorial experience for long.

The body of work is complemented with contributions by proff. Clemente, Goisis, Scovazzi, Giampieretti, El Felze's President Saverio Pastor, and others who collaborated in the previous publications. As indicated in the cover of each past volume, the Series *Sapere l'Europa, sapere d'Europa* aims at "approfondire i profili legati al processo di integrazione europeo, non ignorandone i risvolti più burocratici e discutibili ma sapendo guardare al di là di essi" (examining the elements of the integration process in Europe, not ignoring the most bureaucratic and questionable implications but knowing to look beyond them).

One could argue whether a volume with the title *Cultural Heritage. Scenarios 2015-2017*, without a specific reference to the European regional scenario, does coherently fall within the scope of the Series. A careful reading of the Table of contents can easily dispel any doubt: the core of the intellectual adventure that follows is in fact the Faro Convention, with its ongoing implementation's experiences and Venice as the focal point. In the preface to the previous volume of the Series, *Citizens of Europe. Culture and Rights*, we wrote about it (Zagato, Vecco 2015): the Faro Convention, along with the ELC and the recent Istanbul Convention, should be acknowledged as the "sweet fruits that Europe has brought to us even in the dramatic circumstances of the beginning of this millennium".<sup>2</sup> So, even though the scope of the research extends to a global perspective, the volume certainly concerns *Sapere l'Europa, sapere d'Europa*.

3. The Conference on *Cultural Heritage. Scenarios 2015* from which this volume originates had been designed as a fluid combination of both theoretical discussions and cultural practical experiences. In particular, all extra-curricular activities had been chosen to let the participants experience the Venetian traditional practices and knowledge. On the one hand, the food experience focused on the Marco Polo route and the opportunity to taste Middle East dishes and recipes; on the other hand, a dinner was organized at the Cooperativa il Cerchio in Sacca Fisola, reached by a motorboat ride across the lagoon, enjoying the dishes prepared by the cooperative's cooks, among whom there are vulnerable people. Before each culinary event, the leaders of the associations offered detailed descriptions of the quality ingredients and preparations of the dishes, and explained the

---

2 Zagato, Lauso; Vecco, Marilena (2015). "Prefazione". Zagato, Lauso; Vecco, Marilena (a cura di), *Citizens of Europe. Culture e diritti*. Venezia: Edizioni Ca' Foscari, 9-13, DOI 10.14277/978-88-6969-052-5.

motivations and the goals behind their job and commitment.<sup>3</sup> The second day concluded with a unique visit to the Scuola Grande of San Rocco (Scoletta, Sala terrena, Sala capitolare, Sala dell'Albergo) whose *teleri* frescos were described by a captivating young expert. A boat cruise towards the Arsenal concluded the Conference for the 'remaining participants', on Saturday afternoon. Entering the Arsenal from the side of the Lagoon, the participants were lectured on the boat by the eloquent historical and military recount of Commander Zanelli, a renowned expert on the topic. On the ground, we visited some 'Tese', accompanied by the thought-provoking telling of Alessandro Ervas. This moment marked the emotional climax of the whole intellectual journey embodied in the Conference.

4. In its internal structure, the volume mirrors the Conference architecture in four sessions, titled according to the idea of a constant lively CH in which the soul dominates,<sup>4</sup> an idea we tried to translate by using tense verbs rather than nouns. Namely: "CH Blazes", "CH Inspires", "CH Condenses", "CH Either Finds Hearts' and Hands' Care or Dies". The volume remains faithful to the event from which it originated, recapturing the particular structure of the Conference referred by prof. Clemente, in his Chairman's Notes,<sup>5</sup> as a 'sandwich': the academic part - the four sessions - has been layered between an introduction and a conclusion merging together according to the idea of: "in the end my beginning". In this way, the Conference undertook a cyclical pattern, a 'circular wave' - end/principle - that was not apparent in the initial phase,<sup>6</sup> but developed deep-

3 Regrettably, a more extended explanation of the work of each association is not included in this volume.

4 This choice has been agreed upon by the Scientific Committee of the Conference in charge of selecting the papers and the speakers and constituted by: Luigi Perissinotto, Fabrizio Panozzo, Simona Pinton, Elide Pittarello, Michele Tamma, Luigi Tarca, Lauso Zagato of Ca' Foscari University; Maria Laura Picchio Forlati of Scuola Grande di San Rocco; Pietro Clemente, Honorary President of Simbdea; Giovanna Del Gobbo, University of Florence; Marilena Vecco, Erasmus University of Rotterdam.

5 Pietro Clemente has been the chairman of the fascinating Section 3 of the Conference on "CH Condenses", opened by prof. Wilmer, Master of the Guild of S. George (London) as the key note speaker.

6 We are honored to include in this volume the contribution of dr. Pellizzon, Director of the Research Office at Ca' Foscari University, together with dr. Silvia Zabeo, of the same Office. It was not possible, for different reasons, to receive a written contribution by Commander Zanelli. We decided to include the abstract, originally written by dr. Peranetti (former officer at Veneto Region) for the *Papers Preview* (<http://www.unive.it/media/allegato/centri/CESTUDIR/CulturalHeritage-April2016.pdf> [2017-12-19]). The end/principle introductory section of the volume has been enriched by Francesco Calzolaio's paper, president of the Venti di cultura association, by the above-quoted prof. Clemente's Chairman's Notes, and by a brief presentation of the theoretical 'stones' on which the 2015 Conference (and this book) have been built, by Lauso Zagato.

er in significance as the presentations unfolded. The Conference, in fact, started with the session “CH Blazes”, opened by prof. Venturini’s lecture on the international law applicable to the intentional destruction of CH, and continued with prof. Scovazzi’s lecture on the return of cultural objects illegally removed. The final session – “CH Either Finds Hearths’ and Hands’ Care or Dies” – ended with a sub-session dedicated to “Traditional Knowledge, Lagoon, Sustainability”. The fascinating closing remarks made by Alessandro Ervas from the Associations El Felze and ArcheoClub Venice, at the second sub-session of the Conference – session opened by prof. Vallerani’s lecture – have been dedicated to the ongoing ‘cultural sterilization’ of Venice: a meaningful expression coined by Alessandro during an important debate held at the Venice Arsenal in late summer 2015, in the realm of an event promoted by “Stories Under the Felze”.

In the volume, the presentation of Alessandro Ervas has been rendered as *à tout azyimuth* interview with Saverio Pastor, an interview that concludes the volume by offering a concrete application of the principle of “in the end my beginning”.

At this point, it should be clear what we intend by using the concept of a ‘circular wave’ permeating the scientific part of the volume: a concern, but also a sincere desire, to bring together the living forces present in Venice, those forces that identify with this unique city and genuinely care for it.

5. Now a few comments regarding the essays. First, the choice to have the essays written in English is intended to make the volume’s subjects accessible to an international audience. This, however, produced a delay in the publication deadline and a non-homogeneous quality of the form due to the lack of availability of professional translation services. Second, in the two years debate following the Conference, the choice between the expressions heritagization and patrimonialization has resolved in favor of the former. Consequently, the first sub-section of the section “CH Inspires” is under the title “Heritagization and Communities”.<sup>7</sup> However, some articles still use the word ‘patrimonialization’, and the authors’ preference has been respect.

Third, we immediately noticed, after the arrival of the abstracts in response to the Conference’s ‘call for papers’, the unforeseen development of ten dissonant from what we meant when we thought and proposed the topic of the first session on “CH Blazes”. We are still surprised of the outcome, but it’s worth mentioning how what was initially perceived as an apparent misleading development has turned into a refreshing opportunity to let ourselves be involved in something inherently favored by the CH’s inner spirit to be alive, constantly creating innovative and unanticipated work streams.

---

7 The two sub-sections are unified by the opening paper of prof. Arantes, from the University of Campinas, Brazil.

6. We do not want to close on a pessimistic note. The first brief sub-section of the final section – “CH or Finds Hearths’ and Hands’ Care or Dies” – is titled “Traditional Knowledge and Communities”. Prof. Macmillan’s essay, dedicated to “The Problematic Relationship between Traditional Knowledge and the Commons”, opens the way to a high-level research on the protection of the TK. This research must be conducted in light of the nexus that explores the extent of the safeguard of tangible and intangible CH, and the TK in the perspective of common goods.

More than any other place in Europe, Venice is the right workspace for carrying out this research.<sup>8</sup>

The next commitment of those working on the heritagization’s issue, and fighting ‘cultural sterilization’, is to promote an intellectual co-operation to benefit local communities, also by establishing an intellectual service structure. Interested scholars must be able to contribute, through their specific disciplines, to the efforts, accomplished or in progress, of local HCs dealing with the complex challenges they have ahead. This is our final, strongest expectation: the online availability of this volume can provide a useful tool to cope with the looming key problems and inherent issues of CH.

Venice, 20 December 2017

---

<sup>8</sup> At the time of the 2015 Conference, some interesting proposals had been suggested and are still under scrutiny. Among others, it is worth mentioning the one stirred by prof. Arantes, and focused on a joint research on the protection of TK (among the Universities of Ca’ Foscari, Padova and Campinas). This proposal offers the chance to combine the Italian and Brazilian’s fields of research. Among others, is the relevant issue of connections and differences between the TK of indigenous people and the TK created by the expertise and practices of artisan communities that do not fall under that concept, yet

