

Genoa , Liguria and Turkey.

Settlements, land use and human landscapes of Genoese tradition in the Black Sea

Starting from the first half of the seventies of the last century most of my university research has been devoted to the landscape's study of land and seavariouly connected to the Ligurian and Genoese historical presence in the world.

My work experience is relevant to contemporary issues for the protection and enhancement of man made environments.

My professional expertise is, in fact, entirely focused on planning regulations and the corresponding processes of landscapes projects.

This premise is essential to highlight my predominant role as a Landscape Architect rather than an historian architectural's expert, as highlighted by the entire repertoire of activities carried out through nearly 50 years of academic and professional commitment.

With the occasion of the invitation that brought me here in Turkey, I decided to propose a brief summary of my activities directly or indirectly related to the exceptional heritage of traditional Genoese settlement from Istanbul to the shores of the Aegean and the Black Sea. All the settlements I have visited maintain evident testimonies of the ancient relations with Genoa and Liguria.

Based on this specific purpose, I have organized my presentation into five main points schematically summarized as follows:

- 1- Genoa, Liguria, Turkey and the Black Sea. Harbours, maritime and commercial bases, castles, mines, ships and trade between the middle ages and modern age;
- 2- protagonists of the story; men, families and noble factions;
- 3- historical landscapes of land and sea; from past to future;
- 4- an outline application for the inclusion of Ligurian and Turkish town centers on the seaside in the network of World Heritage protected by UNESCO;
- 5- copper mines of Kastamonu Kure and the prospects for development of tourism and cultural heritage of the region

Regarding **the first point**, the fieldwork was done over a period of several decades and ranges from a journey made in 1971 from Genoa to Antalya in Anatolia, Istanbul and subsequent site investigations in the area of Focee to the latest reconnaissance missions. This last one was carried out between 2009 and 2011 in the Crimean peninsula with the contribution of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1). I was able to take a census of the Genoese settlements in the Black Sea with almost forty (2) different locations, which include: main historical maritime settlements and harbours such as Galata, Trebizond and Caffa; warehouses and smaller settlements like Sinop and Amasra; castles and fortifications such as Rumeli Kavak and Sudak; mines such as Koloneia and Kure; rural settlements such as Gurzuf and Balaklava on the Crimean peninsula. **FIG. I.** The earliest evidence of settlements of Genoese tradition in Turkey refer to the area of Antioch "Antakya" in the twelfth century; the most recent date back to the 16th century on the islands of Chios and Cesme in the Aegean Sea. **FIG. II.**

This research has referred to several international conferences of interest (3) , exhibitions in Liguria and abroad (4) , educational training (5) and interesting learning experiences conducted at the University of Genoa (6) , with other European (7) and American (8) universities. Over the past two years, all this work has been collected by the Foundation "Alte Vie" of which I am President (9).

At the same timemany publications bear witness to the most significant moments of this research as " Genoa and Liguria in the Mediterranean Sea in 1982 " (10) , " Crimean Liguria " (11) , " Genoese Mediterranean Sea" (12) , " Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea " (13) , and in this same year the two

volumes of the initiative “ Ligurian Traces between Oltregiogo and Overseas” attended, also, by several professors of the University of Istanbul Mimar Sinam (14).

The future of my study include further exploration of the realities of settlement of Genoese tradition on the Black Sea with new research in parts of the coast till now poorly known and studied

In the case **of the second paragraph** of this report, I consider it necessary to recall some basic features of the protagonists of the history of medieval Genoa and Liguria in Turkey, all of which are engaged to strengthen their maritime and commercial interests in the Aegean Sea, Marmara Sea and the Black Sea. I will mention only the most important activities which fall between the beginning of the thirteenth century and the end of the fifteenth. Benedetto Zaccaria (15) is certainly the most famous in reference to his interests in mining, trade of the alum that are directly related also to the Kastamonu region. This mineral of the Black Sea, which has always been considered the most valuable compared to that extracted in the area of Focee on the Aegean coast, falls within the maritime and commercial monopolies of Genoa for at least two centuries since the Treaty of Nymphaeum. The family of Zaccaria, due to territorial concessions obtained in Izmir region prefer, however, the mines of the Aegean and in this enterprise appears variously linked to Gattilusio of Lesbos and the “Maona” of the Giustiniani of Chios.

The Genoese Consuls of the colony of Caffa and Galata will, therefore, gain influence and more obvious interests in the maritime trade of the Black Sea and most of the settlements of Genoese tradition of the stretch of sea between Istanbul and Trabzon recall this history. **FIG. III.** Starting from the second half of the fifteenth century the Ottoman conquest and the closure of the straits to ships of Genoa break this kind of monopoly. With the establishment of new mines of alum in Tolfa in the Papal States in the early sixteenth, routes of Genoese ships that continue to carry this mineral are now concentrated between the Tyrrhenian Sea and the western Mediterranean Sea.

With regard to **the third point** I took advantage of this journey that brought me here in Kastamonu Kure. The most important thing in this research, from my point of view, namely the characteristics of the human landscape in contemporary locations of Genoese tradition, are still visually perceptible. I am referring to that environmental reality stratified in the time of landing, in the urban fabric, the fortifications, mines and rural settlements. Consider how they can be seen constructed and transformed over time through the evidences of their cultural image and the contemporary landscape. I have focused my interest on fourteen locations fairly reliable in terms of history which are, proceeding from west to east: Galata (16), Rumeli Kavak (17), Anadolu Kavak (18), Akcakoca (19), Eregli (20), Hisaronu (21), Amasra (22), Cide (23), Inebolu (24), Kastamonu Kure (25), Sinop (26), Samsun (27), Giresun (28), Sebinkarahissar (29), Trabzon (30).

It is an historical and architectural heritage of outstanding landscape value, object of interest in cultural tourism and an urban-environmental priority. Proper planning of this reality can lead to significant social and economic impact, however, and it is deserving of a commitment to research and study of international scope. As evidenced by the pictures that accompany the text of this report, each site here presented has natural-environmental values considered just as important for the morphological characteristics of the sites as for the compositions of vegetation that represent them.

Many images evoke the same values on the coast of Liguria over the two rivieras that form part of the Gulf of Genoa. Again this is a historical choice well thought out. Throughout the dissemination of settlement of Genoese tradition in the world, from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Sea, it is regularly conditioning - as if our captains and merchants did not like to land and settle in places too different from the motherland. The richness of this heritage is even more important to the extent that nature and culture will be the existential realities increasingly considered in Europe and in the World. They are irreplaceable components of a

territorial and social duo, which will certainly win out in our third millennium.

As a **fourth point** of this report I would like to recall the outline application for the inclusion of the network of maritime town centers of Genoese tradition in the Mediterranean and Black Sea in the UNESCO World Heritage. I reproduce below, in extract, a few notes of the first Tentative List which had the historic center of Genoese foundation in Sudak in the Crimea as a key component. The rich heritage of architectural settlement and cultural environment for which it was nominated as candidate for inclusion in the Heritage List, included the network of the main Genoese historical settlements, maritime and fortified, in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. - Those which present the greatest references of content, image and value with the location of Sudak in the Crimea.

The application of Sudak, already submitted to UNESCO in 2008, was thus improved with a range of maritime and trading polarities of medieval foundation that highlights, generally and reciprocally, its internationally exceptional emergence of association and the unique of this cultural, social and economic context.

Some hundreds of settlements in the Mediterranean, the Black Sea to the Atlantic zone and northern Europe testify to the Genoese presence in the Middle Ages. It is a story that develops between the eleventh and sixteenth centuries with particular characteristics, along the lines of strategic action performed by the only municipal system connected to the ruling class of Genoa and Liguria, organized in blocks of families of great importance, with branches all over the world.

The classic trilogy of plan matrices of these settlements is defined by its three ingredients: the urban core of the *Castrum*, by *Civitas* and *Burgus*. The original strategic architecture of the settlement, which is often identified with the defensive configuration of the *Castrum*, is its initial core and it represents that most protected commercial heart. This type of fabric, closed and walled, is linked to the Islamic fonduk and defines the typological form of the meshes built for all its subsequent urban development. The *Civitas* identifies the first expansion and contains in its perimeter buildings of the urban Genoese aristocracy. The *Burgus*, in more complex and articulated cases, characterise the urban additions, almost always "outside the walls", inhabited by a cosmopolitan population, which generally excludes the Genoese.

After Sudak refrained from a continued effort with the process of candidacy indicated by UNESCO, new contacts have been initiated. These are determined to focus in Genoa and Istanbul, the principal catalysts of the project, and to make the municipality of Beyoglu key in a new proposal. This program, currently being defined, could include more settlements of the Turkish coast of the Black Sea, neglecting others in the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean which are less tied to the new main duo of application cities.

As a **fifth and last argument** I would like to highlight some considerations on the proposals of Kastamonu region including the stretch of coast between Sinop and Amasra, with special attention to the historical route of Inebolu node and copper mines. It is a crossroads of land and sea territory, closely linked to the main trade routes of navigation and the Genoese in the Black Sea between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries. The extraction of this mineral is already one of the main activities related to Genoese seafaring, with the great maritime settlements of the Crimea. *Michel Balard* in his study "*The Romanie Genoise*" (30) recalls how the trade in copper appears by far more important than any other non-ferrous metal products in this area. "*The most important origin of the copper is Turkey and more specifically the region of Kastamonu. In 1390, two bourgeois of Pera associate to go there to buy 4000 cantari of copper, more than 190 tons, at Suleyman Pasha, the Bey of Kastamonu. A few years later, a ship owner of Pera, while arrangements are underway to load copper in the region of Sinope, is officially requisitioned by the captain general Gianotto Lomellini. The material of copper sheet is also brought to Caffa by Greek merchants living in Sinope.*"

The current copper mines of Kastamonu Kure represent, therefore, a legacy of territorial resources and a commercial town with almost seven hundred years of history. The wealth of trade and traffic between the northern coast of Turkey on the Black Sea and the large, Genoese warehouses of Pera and the Crimean peninsula is still legible in the repertoire of historical settlements, from Sinope to Amasra, and especially in the maritime node Inebolu. The hypothesis of an application to UNESCO of our local environment - mentioned in the previous point - finds here an important new cultural motivation and social inclusion. The University of Genoa and those of Istanbul, already operating on this project in collaboration with the "Alte Vie Foundation", could find important logistic and economic references in local government and in the same Company that manages the contemporary production of copper.

Prof. Paolo Stringa
University of Genoa
President of the Foundation "Alte Vie"
Genoa - April 28, 2014

Notes

-1- This refers to three reconnaissance missions, architectural and archaeological settlement-made environment, with my scientific direction, between 2009 and 2011, partly summarized in the literature referred to in the notes that follow.

-2- -10- As shown in FIG I these locations represent the state of research in 1982 and, therefore, should be updated with the most recent surveys performed in the subsequent missions of the nineties and the first decade of 2000. (See "Genoa and Liguria in the Mediterranean. Settlements and urban cultures." Editions Sagep -Genoa 1982 -)

-3- The most important on this issue are "Port City of the Mediterranean" Genoa 1985 - "Mediterranean Genovese" Genoa, 1992 - "Traces of the Ligurian Oltregiogo and Overseas" Gavi Ligure in 2013 (see also the website www.oltregiogo.eu)

-4- -11- The show that has had more references to the Genoese Black Sea is entitled "Crimean Riviera" and was presented in different localities of Liguria, the Crimea and Russia since 1985. See also publications "Crimean Riviera - Pictures in history" in collaboration with Prof. Airaldi G. and G. Pistarino. "Catalogue of the exhibition" p. 43 - Genoa, October 1985. "Crimean Riviera" in "The Casana" p. 18-26. Genoa. October to December 1985

-5- The main experience of Higher Education for which I was responsible was the scientific area of the Black Sea for a collaboration with the University of Kiev Scevcenko and exchange of researchers and teachers with my Teaching Laboratories at the University of Genoa in 2010. Activities of higher education have been updated and, in this case, financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the initiative of the Italian Cultural Center of the Ukraine Capital.

-6- As for the University of Genoa, training activities in question concern different thesis and initiatives within the two laboratories of Urban Design and Planning Landscape since the academic years 1998/99 and up until today.

-7- Among the European universities most involved in the project, particularly remember: The University of Corsica Pascal Paoli (Fr), Sophia Antipolis in Nice (Fr), Lisbon (Pt), Frankfurt (D), Tenerife Canary (Sp).

-8- In Brazil I have focused more research on the Genoese in the world with official collaborations enabled by the PUC University of Campinas (São Paulo State) and the State University of Florianopolis (State of Santa Catarina). Relations with Latin America also affected my PhD dedicated to the Geography and Planning at the Landscape.

-9- Alte Vie Foundation, recently established, collect and promote all teaching materials (Tesi

degree) and research product under my scientific responsibility on issues of historical and contemporary built landscape. For more information, please consult the website www.fondazionealtevie.altervista.org

- 12- "Mediterranean Genovese" - Proceedings of the International Conference of Studies in collaboration with Gabriella Airaldi. Ed ecig Genoa 1994
- 13- "Traces of the Ligurian Oltregiogo and Overseas" Vol.I and Vol.II Proceedings of the Conference of Gavi in September 2013. Editions De Ferrari Genoa - 2014
- 14- I refer, in particular, to the cooperation with Prof. Demet Cap Yucel of the Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, who participated with his interesting report on Galata at the Conference "Traces between the Ligurian Oltregiogo and Overseas" of September 26, 2013 in Gavi .
- 15- Taken from "Admiral Benedetto Zaccaria and merchant in Genoa in the thirteenth century" by Roberto S. Lopez - Frilli Brothers Publishers - Genoa 2004
- 16- Galata - Vd card #19 "Genoa and Liguria in the Mediterranean - settlements and urban cultures." Op. Cit.
- 17- Rumeli Kavak - Vd card #28 "Genoa and Liguria in the Mediterranean - settlements and urban cultures." Op. Cit.
- 18- Anadolu Kavak Vd card #4 in "Genoa and Liguria in the Mediterranean - settlements and urban cultures." Op. Cit.
- 19- Akcakoca - Vd Report by Mario Marcenaro "Notes on the rediscovery of some medieval Genoese colony" in - "Mediterranean Genovese" - Proceedings of the International Conference of Studies in collaboration with Gabriella Airaldi. Ed ecig Genoa 1994
- 20- Eregli - Vd card #15 "Genoa and Liguria in the Mediterranean - settlements and urban cultures." Op. Cit.
- 21- Amasra - Vd card #28 "Genoa and Liguria in the Mediterranean - settlements and urban cultures." Op. Cit.
- 22- Cide - There is evidence of fortified architecture perhaps due to presence of the Genoese and, in particular, to mining activities that refer to it.
- 23- Inebolu, port and settlement, refers to the Genoese presence in the Middle Ages because it was linked to mining for the extraction and marketing of copper. Remain important testimonies of three fortifications attributable to that period.
- 24- Kastamonu Kure - mining region of great historical prestige and commercial note for the extraction and processing of copper may already have been active and frequented by Genoese merchants in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.
- 25- Sinop - Vd card #33 "Genoa and Liguria in the Mediterranean - settlements and urban cultures." Op. Cit.
- 26- Samsun - Vd card #30 "Genoa and Liguria in the Mediterranean - settlements and urban cultures." Op. Cit.
- 27- Giresun - Vd card #16 "Genoa and Liguria in the Mediterranean - settlements and urban cultures." Op. Cit.
- 28- Sebinkarahissar - Vd card #22 "Genoa and Liguria in the Mediterranean - settlements and urban cultures." Op. Cit.
- 29- Trabzon - (Vd?) card #41 "Genoa and Liguria in the Mediterranean - settlements and urban cultures." Op. Cit.
- 30- Michel Balard "The Romanie genoise" in Proceedings of the Society of National History Ligure Genoa - 1978