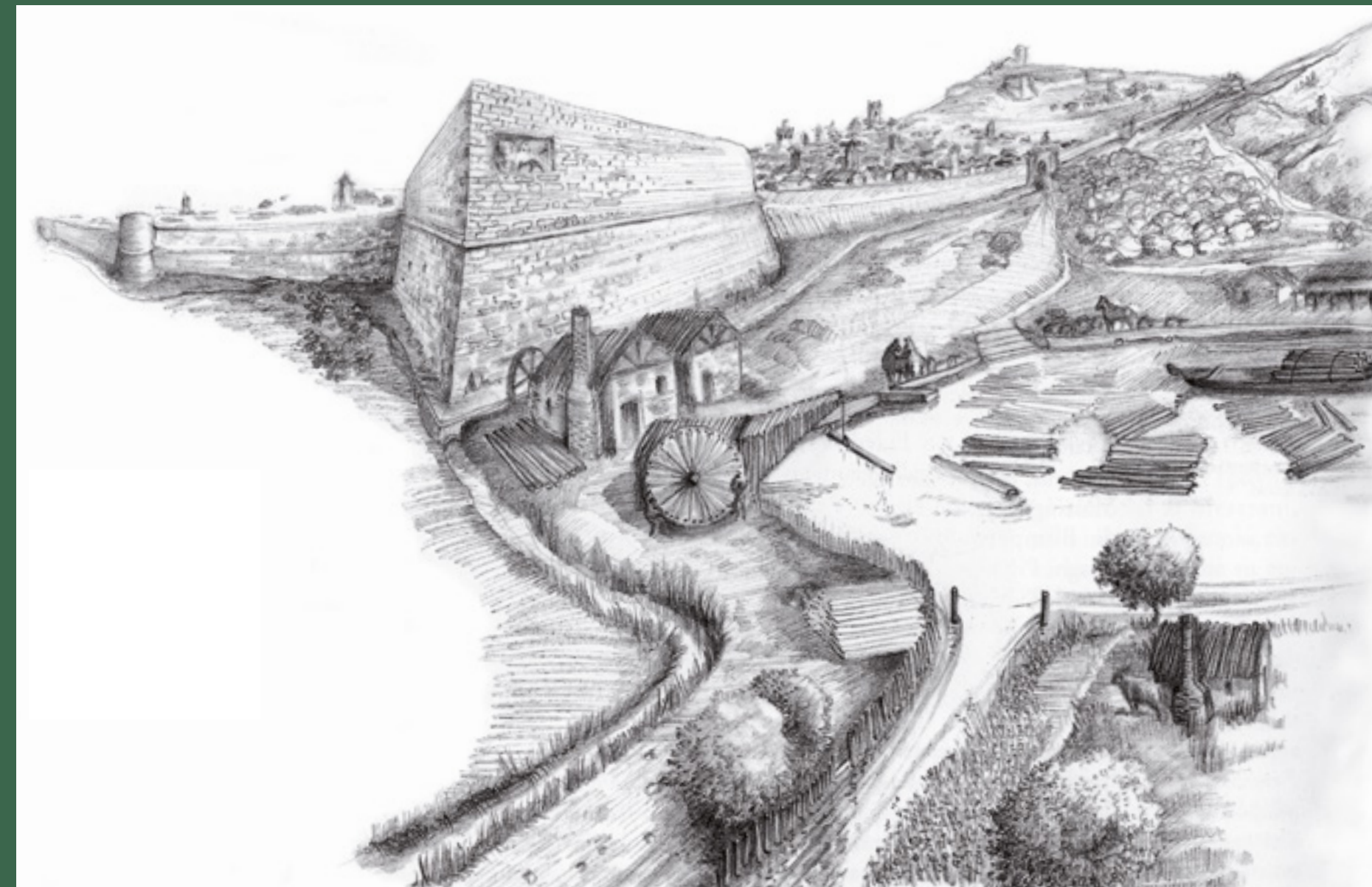


PARCO DELL'ACQUA: AN ANCIENT HISTORY

San Matteo Port sul Naviglio, near Canton Mombello*



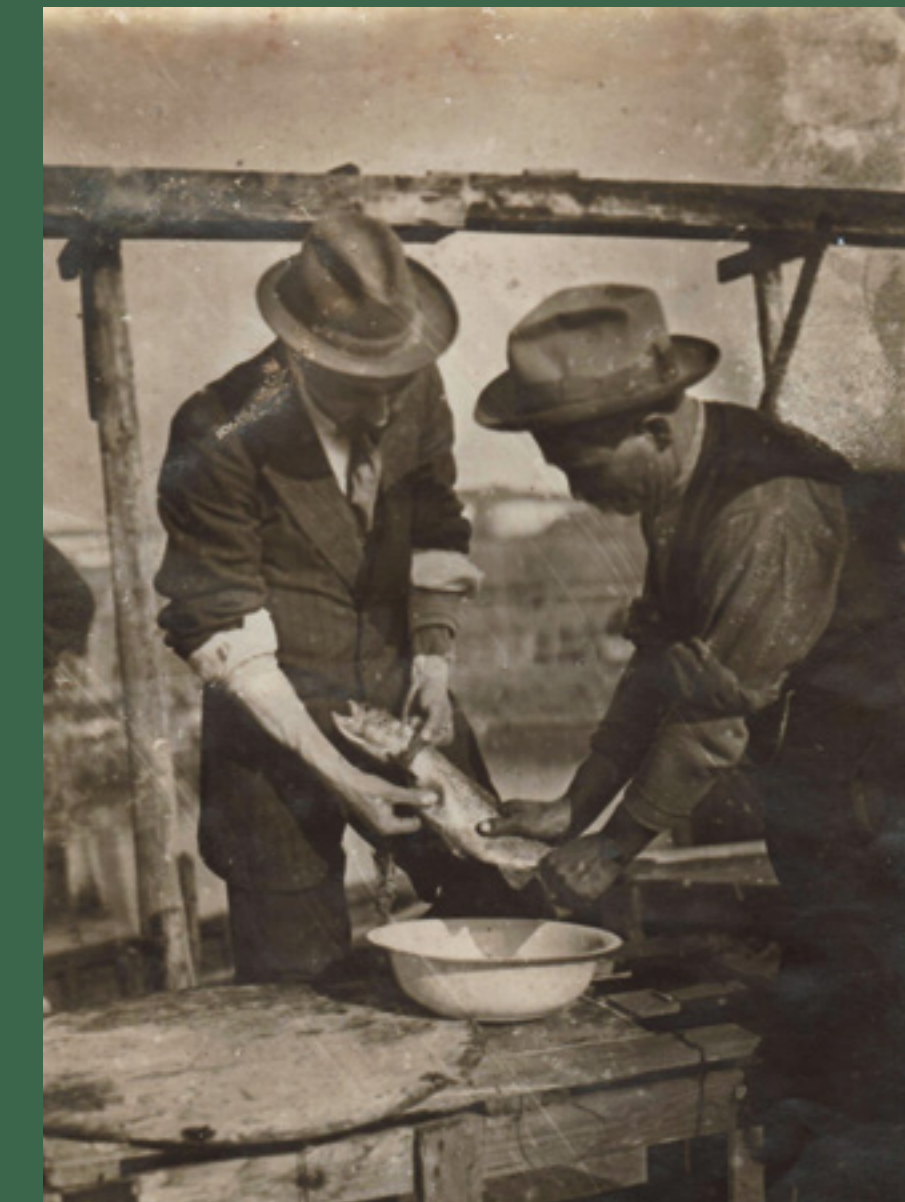
The Royal Piscicoltura Station at the beginning of the 20th century



Workers posing, in the twenties



Egg squeezing



The former «Ichthyologic» before and during the recovery intervention



Parco dell'Acqua and AmbienteParco



II Century a.C.

San Matteo sul Naviglio Port

The harbour dates back to the early Middle Age: it was a stone quay, built re-using Roman sculptured marbles, of a funeral type. Those alleys were used mainly for the landing of rafts or simply of scattered trunks that were made descend by water, along the Naviglio, transport route from the many sawmills of S. Eufemia and S. Polo.

Since 1237

The Venetian walls, a work of military engineering in continuous development

The urbanist Alberigo da Gambara defines the perimeter of the "Great City" from south-east to the intersection of the nowadays via Spalti San Marco and via Lechi. In 1546 the military planners Agostino da Castello and Giangirolamo San Micheli oversaw the construction of the bastion and pincer of Canton Mombello. In 1548 the pit was dug between Canton Mombello and Largo Torrelunga, the current Parco dell'acqua.

1892

The "Royal Piscicoltura Station" was born

Conceived by the ichthyologist **Eugenio Bettoni**, it is the first national research center of Northern Italy for the repopulation of lakes and rivers. The aim was carrying out experiments in relation to the wateriness of the water and provide education in ichthyology and pisciculture. Located in the pit of the urban walls of Brescia, it was 12,000 square meters wide, rich in water thanks to the flow of the Canevrella canal. 12 tanks, laboratories, analysis cabinets, scientific library and conference room.

1904

Piscicoltura in fresh water

It's the name of the thematic section that is realized here for the "Big Exposition" in Brescia.

1921

It switches name to "Ichthyologic Facility"

The Plant begins to gain importance, also thanks to the efficient co-working with other facilities, such as one in Peschiera del Garda and more others displaced in other Italian provinces.

POST-WAR

The fall begins

In the 50s the Ichthyologic Facility begins to lose importance, due to pollution of the Canevrella brook and the crisis of professional fishing.

1978-1985

Looking for a future

With the birth of the regions, Brescia's plant switches under the competence of Lombardy.

In 1985 the great snowfall provokes the collapse of some roofs of the buildings.

1996 -2008

The Brescia Municipality takes over the park and ASM renovates the area

In 1996 the area, taken over by the Municipality, was addressed to "services of public interest". A new story begins for Parco dell'Acqua.

The restructuring, begun in 2002 with the aim of remembering the old "Ichthyologic Facility", ends in 2008. The result is a big historical tank of great value, realized by the at-the-time ASM - Azienda dei Servizi Municipalizzati di Brescia.

2009

AmbienteParco was born

The no-profit organization AmbienteParco takes over the management of the buildings displaced in the park, with the task of planning, realizing and manage educational projects focused on environmental sustainability addressed to schools and to citizens.

Museum exhibits, laboratories and gaming activities dedicated to water, sustainable living, food, renewable energy, two playgrounds equipped for kids, one bio-lake with eleven underwater windows and the MondoLiquido restaurant contribute to the success of this reclaimed historical reality.

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