

GIUSEPPE Fabani

Born from Luigi Fabani and Rosa Nessi on May 18th 1861, Giuseppe Fabani attended "Liceo Beccaria" in Milan where he matured the inclination and passion towards Natural History. In 1880 once enrolled in Medicine and Surgery University in Pavia, he moved to the Military Service in Palermo (Sicily), where he successfully obtained the University degree in 1889. The following year he came back to Como, becoming General Practitioner in Cernobbio, but in 1909 he suddenly resigned due to personal matters. Giuseppe Fabani devoted the remaining years of his life to plants and flowers sample collection to adorn his Herbarium, starting from those he came across on his walks home, to those collected on the way to Mount Spluga, Lake Ritom (Canton Ticino, Switzerland), and those found in Val Brembana. He died in Valduce Hospital in Como on June 16th 1939 and was buried at the Monumental Cemetery in Como.

FABANI Herbarium

Giuseppe Fabani collected most of the plant and flower samples for his Herbarium between 1907 and 1938 in the surrounding of Como, Valtellina and Switzerland. The Herbarium is made of 3000 beige light scroll sheets with a blue margin (32,7 x 21,7 cm); they are kept in 25 boxes provided with an handwritten summary. It's astonishing the care and attention Fabani put in displaying the samples which are renowned for their aesthetical value. Each specimen has the handwritten description of the sample's Family, species, identifier, date and place of the collection (with soil characteristics), the blooming time and eventually its use in medicine. The Herbarium has a "vascolo", a metal box engraved with Giuseppe Fabani's initials, which was used to collect the flowers. At Expo 2015 Fabani Herbarium was completely digitalized.



FLOWERS AND WILD PLANTS OF THE Fabani Herbarium

From the passion of a man who lived a century ago an instrument to know and love the wood and its plants. The Fabani Herbarium shows the extraordinary love for the natural environment and the dedication to collecting samples, enhanced by the beauty and quality of the specimens. It's here at the show as an invitation to access the wood, a place which provided vital resources to our ancestors and today may help us find sense and meaning to our frenetic lives. Through the Herbarium specimens we can immerse in the atmosphere of this environment, we can discover species living in the bush at its edge and border, but also the herbs and plants we may come across in the Lake Como area.

INFO September 16th 2017 - November 5th 2017
Opening time:
September 16th 2017 - October 1st: 9.00 a.m. -06.30 p.m.
October 2nd 2017- November 5th: 9.30 a.m.-05.00 p.m.

VILLA CARLOTTA
Via Regina 2 – 22016 Tremezzina
Loc. Tremezzo (CO)
Phone: +39 0344 40405
segreteria@villacarlotta.it - www.villacarlotta.it

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Centro Rusca: we take care of the memory of our land

WHERE AND WHO *we are*

If you drive from Milan to Como, you will certainly notice a large building surrounded by a park overlooking the landscape. People living in Como know it is the Diocesan Seminary, but few of them may know it is also the seat of the Fondazione - Centro Studi "Nicolò Rusca" – an hidden and precious seed of tradition and prophecy.

The Fondazione was officially established in 2003, actually rooting in a millennial history. It was created from the cooperation between the Diocese of Como and many institutional and active economic entities operating in the territory and very sensitive to the historical roots of society. The Present must be fed by the Past – just like by a nourishing food – in order to become Future; therefore the Past must be tasted in digestible and savoury portions. That's way in our storages – well equipped with the necessary security, preservation and consultation systems – we do not only keep the memory, but even the source of the our identity.

A THOUSAND YEAR OLD *archive*

We are handling twenty centuries of history and half of them have been carefully recorded in the documents kept in the Historic Archive of the Diocese of Como. Here you can find more than 1200 parchments (the oldest one is about the Sant'Abbondio Abbey and dates back to 1013), approximately 800 manuscripts, 2500 boxes from 11th to 20th century. There are documents about churches, hospitals, care and educational buildings – which are essential to reconstruct the social-cultural-economic history – as well as peculiar archives such as the one of the Durini family (owner of the famous Villa Balbiano and Villa Balbianello), the correspondence of the only Pope born in Como, Benedetto Odescalchi (Pope Innocenzo XI), or a collection of local noble families coat of arm.

AN UPDATED *library*

In the Diocesan Seminary Library of Como there are approximately 50000 printed volumes (19th-20th century), 358 journals, and a consistent ancient collection. The ancient collection includes 18 parchment codices coming from the *scriptorium* of the Benedictine Morimondo Abbey (and sometimes made in); 26 incunabula; approximately 900 editions from the 16th-17th century; more than 4500 editions from the 18th century. A comfortable Reading Room is also available for consultation: it's generally used by Seminary and local students as well as by scholars who take shelter here for a few hours of proficient study.

CULTURAL *heritage*

The purpose of the Ecclesiastical Cultural Heritage Inventory Office of the Diocese of Como – the third part composing the Centro Rusca – is to provide knowledge of, protect and assist with the utilization of the artistic heritage of the diocesan parishes, in order to protect the so called "extended museum" ("museo diffuso") belonging to a lot of small and big churches within the large diocesan territory of Como.

INFO

Fondazione – Centro studi "Nicolò Rusca" onlus
Via Baserga, 81 - 22100 Como
Tel.+39 031 506130 (from Tuesday to Thursday)
biblioteca@centrorusca.it
archivio@centrorusca.it
www.centrorusca.it
Follow us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/centrorusca

Opening hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 05:30 p.m.