



INFORMATIONS

Via Fratelli Cervi 9
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The Museum is open to visitors all the year:

From March to October

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 09.00-13.00
Friday, Saturday, Sunday: 10.00-13.00/15.00-19.00

From November to February

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10.00-12.30
Saturday and Sunday 10.00-12.30/15.00-18.00

Closing days: all working Mondays, the 24th, 25th and 31st of December, 1st January. The Museum can be visited on closing days with previous reservation.

Services:

- Guided tour upon booking for groups and pupils (educational workshops are available)
- Bookshop
- Lift for disabled persons
- Rest stop
- Equipped didactic hall
- Conference hall

'Emilio Sereni' Library - Archive

biblioteca-archivio@emiliosereni.it

The Library - Archive is open according to this timetable:

morning: Tuesday and Thursday 9.00 - 12.00
afternoon: Wednesday - Friday 15.00 - 19.00

The Library can be visited on other days and times by appointment.

Services:

- Guide to media consultation
- Poststations with computers
- Conference hall
- Access and lift for disabled persons
- Rest stop
- Equipped didactic hall

How to get there

At Highway: Terre di Canossa-Campegine exit. At the rotunda, follow the Museo Cervi signboard (1,5 Km).

From Reggio Emilia: on the via Emilia (SS9), in direction of Parma, follow Campegine- Gattatico-Poviglio signboards.

From Parma: on the via Emilia (SS9), in direction of Reggio Emilia, follow S. Ilario Enza-Gattatico-Poviglio signboards.



BIBLIOTECA
SERENI
15/03
2008

ALCIDE CERVI'S INSTITUTE

"Alcide Cervi" Institute, dedicated to the father of the seven brothers shot from the fascists in 1943 on the dawn of partisan fight, was found the 24 april 1972 in Reggio Emilia for initiative of the National Alley of Farmers (today Italian Farmers Confederation), of the National Association Italian Partisans, of the Province of Reggio Emilia and of the Gattatico Municipality.

The Institute originate with the purpose to promote and realize scientific and cultural activities in range of studies and elaborations of the matters that interesting agricultural and rural world, researched under an historical, economic, social, legal, literary and artistic profile.

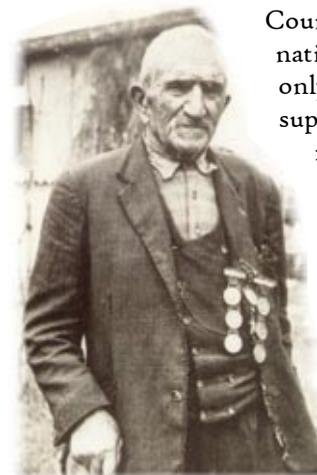
In particular, the Institute promote researches, studies and initiatives in relation to demands of civil and social development in the country, to popular movements for the improvement of ploughmen and "still" in relation to farmers participation to anti-fascist struggle and Resistance.

Handing over the extraordinary heritage of values represented by the person of Alcide Cervi, together with the memory of his seven sons, the Institute, from the emilian's countryside experience, begins to work with coherence and dedication for the preservation of all the values at the base of Republican Constitution.

The symbolic and historical value of Cervi house, with the name of this extraordinary family, emblem of much more humble and generous events of the Italian democratical resurgence, enabled that a big community of citizens and Institutions rally around the Institute, keeper of this memory.

As Alcide's house was, in the Post-war, a point of reference for a lot of italians, at the same way the Institution that brings his name, raise adhesions over all the Italian territory: big Cities, small villages, Provinces, Regional Councils that desire to be part of this national memory legacy, being not only the social base, but also the ideal support. The Alcide Cervi Institute manage the Cervi Museum, operative core of its own activities, and the Emilio Sereni Library - Archive that give hospitality to the private Library of this notable thinker who the structure is dedicated to, and the national historical Archive of Italians farmers' movements. A documentary, library and archivist heritage of

inestimable value for agricultural, rural society and Italian, European and non-European's farmers movements' history.



THE PARK OF CERVI MUSEUM



Il Parco agro ambientale del Museo Cervi
locato da Cervi e adiacente
al Museo Cervi e al Museo Emilio Sereni

The Alcide Cervi Institute, in collaboration with Gattatico Municipality, Manodori Foundation and Reggio Emilia Province, had inaugurated in 2005 the **Cervi Museum Agro-environmental Park**. The Park is in a part of the farm annexed to the house where Cervi family lived and worked, and represent an itinerary into the natural and cultural environment of the middle Po valley, since it keeps and recreates, in the area of agricultural land, natural spaces supporting agricultural practices more respectful of the environment, aiding to preserve in the territory elements of local agricultural landscape like, for example, the "piantata reggiana", now at the limit of its definitive disappearance. So the Park continues the historical narrative of the Cervi Museum and enriches it, putting it into a context, with the study of evolution about the relationship between man and territory, focusing on the changes apported to the environment during the history.

These changes determined transformation that enabled the development of one of the more flourishing agricultural economy of our country, and that left tracks in the Roman centuriation even now perfectly clear in the grid of streets and waterways that surround the Cervi Museum, in the imposing drainage works of marshy land, in the rivers regimations and in the buildings and channeling for irrigation that are typical of the current environmental and landscape order.

The topic key of the Park, entrusted to a permanent modular exhibition, is the analysis of the environmental features of middle Po valley through historical evolution of human settlement, connexed in particular to the agricultural utilization of the territory.

The Agro-environmental Park is a space conceive for a large audience: passionates and specialists of the field, pupils and simple curioses.

The Park is open from March to October 9.00-12.00/15.00-19.00.
Guided tours upon booking.





The Cervi Museum is located in the “reggiana” low plain and it is set in the house where Cervi family lived from 1934, a wide farmhouse located at “Campirossi”, a farm with an extension of 53 “biolche reggiane” (about 16 hectares) on the borderline between the village of Gattatico and Campegine. The Cervi Museum originate like development of the collection of objects that the family of the seven brothers preserved since the years of the war and those donated them afterwards (printing materials and manuscripts, honours and official decorations, albums, relics, works of art). This material found a first settlement, during the sixties of the last century, with the enlargement of the building and the creation of a proper little room. Just in 1975, when the province of Reggio Emilia bought the building and its land, it has been possible to start a work of consolidation of the structure, that finished in 2001 thanks to a funding of the Department for Cultural Heritage. With the requalification of the building, all the way to visit the museum has been set again according to a new itinerary, that starting from the extraordinary living, work, and fight experience of the Cervi family witnesses the complex cultural, political and social texture typical of the farmland of Emilia in the first half of the XXth century. The new itinerary develops itself focusing, on Cervi's history and Emilia's history during the XXth century, some fundamental phases: the work in the country, the Anti-fascism and the Resistance, the construction of Cervi's memory in the Post-war. At the end of the historical presentation it is possible to visit the rooms in which the family lived. A narrative and an historical itinerary entwine: they speak through the words of poets, writers, historians, people who took part into the facts and the video recordings of the witnesses of the Resistance. Besides the available objects and documents linked to the family's Anti-fascist and partisan activities before and after the Liberation, it is possible to find in-dephts about the different topics with the help of maps, graphics, sets of images and pictures, video recordings and documentary resources.

1 First “porta morta” (porch) - Entrance

The “porta morta” is traditionally the point of admittance to the living and work spaces in the farmer's house. The visit to the Cervi Museum starts here – from the tractor bought in 1939 on top of which stands the famous “globe”, and from the tale of the Cervi family together with the stories of the peasant families who lived in this area at the beginning of the XXth century.

At the end of the “porta morta” is a scale model which represents the house as it was during the war, after the extension made by the family, and it deepens the knowledge of the rural construction in the countryside of Reggio Emilia and Emilia Romagna as whole.

2 First cowshed - The agricultural labour

The “first cowshed” is dedicated to the history of the Cervi as an agricultural labourer family and to the transformation of the rural-agricultural world of Emilia Romagna during the first half of the Twentieth century. It highlights the Cervi's will to improve the productivity of the farm and to strengthen the cowshed, but also the complexity of the work, the life of the agricultural labourer family and the role of women in it. The objects are subdivided according to thematic areas: the working of the land (in the cowshed's central row three plough used by the Cervi are shown), the cowshed and the production of milk, the other activities connected to agricultural work, the hemp cycle from its growing to spinning and weaving. In the display cases, documents proving the Cervi's activity are shown together with the books they used to study the most advanced techniques (at the time) on cattle breeding and land labouring.

3 Second “porta morta”

In the second “porta morta”, a passageway between the two cowsheds and also the access to the conference and temporary exhibition hall, a typical old four-wheel agricultural truck is shown. It was used, at the time, for all kind of transport.

4 Second cowshed - Anti-fascism and Resistance

This section of the second cowshed is dedicated to the activity of the Cervi family during the fascist regime and the subsequent Resistance period. It opens with an overview on the political and social traditions of the Reggio area, to come to the description of the Anti-fascist fight and the role that the Cervi brothers performed in it. The Cervi's tale on their participation to the Resistance and

that of Resistance in the Reggio area is enriched with maps, graphs and thematic in-dephts. The objects preserved from the fascist retaliation stored in the display cases stand side by side with the video recordings testimony of the people who met the seven brothers.

5 Second cowshed - The slaughter of Cervi brothers

More than telling a story this little hall wants to call for the sense of emptiness caused by the shooting of the seven brothers. For this purpose, significant testimonies are used such as Salvatore Quasimodo and Piero Calamandrei's and some passages of the letters written by the seven brothers imprisoned in Reggio Emilia jail before being shot.

6 The little cowshed - A family in the memory of the Post-war Italy

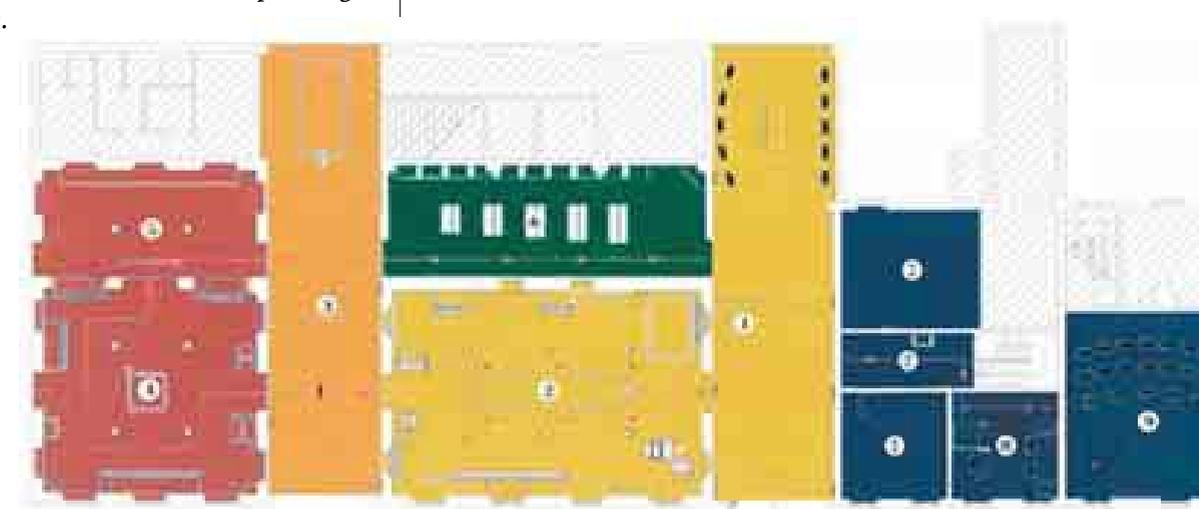
This section of the museum is dedicated to the building of the Cervi's memory in Post-war Italy: first of all the seven brothers', then Papà Cervi's. The latter is told through a selection of the objects donated by the visitors to the Museum during the last fifty years, and subdivided according to different categories: the Resistance, politics and work, internationalism and peace, the Pioneers. It is possible to listen to some testimonies on Papà Cervi in this hall as well.

7 The Cervi's rooms

This section of the Museum remained unaltered, except for some little interventions that tend to make some objects on display more visible. The kitchen and the cellar, where it is possible to know the wine cycle more thoroughly, and on the upper floor Alcide Cervi and Genoeffa Cocconi's, Gelindo Cervi and Iolanda Bigi's bedrooms can be visited. On the first floor Alcide's trilby and cloak (tabard) and a chart explaining Cervi's family tree are on display.

Coming up the stairs between the bedrooms' front doors there is the first

barn of Cervi house where it has been hosted the “Quadrisfera”, an innovative multimedial installation thought expressly to involve the visitor into a 360° experience of images and sounds. The quadrisfera's experience wants to be above all emotional, give a new way to conceive the interactivity between technology,



historical narrative and human being, catapulting the spectator in a world made of images endlessly multiplied, thanks to a sistem of mirrors and lights.



The short film has a duration of 7 minutes and recount the parable of the farmers– with a particular attention to Cervi family's events – from the first half of the XXth century to Liberation.

8 Reading hall - The Cervi Museum and its history

This room, originally the second kitchen of the house, hosts the medals that Alcide Cervi and his sons have been awarded with. Reference documents, miscellaneous publications and pictures on the Cervi family can be consulted here for in-dephts on the history of the Museum in the Post-war period.

9 Projection room - Papà Cervi: a life tale

At the beginning of the sixties, thanks to the contribution of Reggio Emilia Communist Federation, the living spaces of the house are broadened: this allows the realization of a room to collect all the objects that were donated to the family, and to give Alcide Cervi the possibility to meet groups of visitors. It is here that Alcide Cervi tells the story of his sons, and it is here that the first nucleus of future museum is set up. This meeting is still possible nowadays, thaks to the projecton of Alcide Cervi's interviews and documentary film of his life.