

The Etruscans

Erodoto in the well-known Tales describes that in the XIII B.C. Atys, son of Manes, because of a serious famine in Lidia, in the Minor Asia, divided the population in two groups entrusting one with Tirreno in order that he could take them to a new fruitful land.

Once they arrived in the north of Tiber these people took the name of Tirreni (as per the name of the Prince that had took them there).

Besides Elianico, a Greek historian of Mitilene was convinced that the Lidi together with the nomad people of Pelasgi, were the settlers of the Etruria. Dionigi from Alicarnasso a Greek historian arrived in Rome was not in agreement with this opinion differently from Virgilio, as according to him the inhabitants of the Tuscia were a population of native origin said of the Rasenna.

According to recent studies we know that in Etruria there were people coming from the Middle East as well as from the central Europe, dating from IX century B.C. with the development of what has been called the civilization Villanoviana.

The land, that was settled between the VII and the VI century B.C., was the corner included between the two most important rivers of Central Italy, Arno and Tevere which was limited in the North by Liguri, and in the East by Umbri and Sabini and in the South by Latini.

During this time called “Oriental time”, the exchange between Orient and Greece became rather substantial as besides of the goods there were also the handicrafts men coming with the new techniques like the lathe for the working of metals.

During the VII century the Etruscans developed a new warlike strategy as it can be seen in the Vase of Aristonothon and in other earthenware items foreseeing the use of warriors (opliti) as a phalanx shape.

From the VII century the social structure became aristocratic – monarchic with an agreement that linked the Luchmon with the peasants and merchants giving the possibility to cultivate the land as well as a part of the incomes gained.

During the VI century and early in the V century B.C., the old time, the Etruscan civilization developed a time of great richness.

The fertility of the land and the mild climate were suitable for the farming of corn, of the vine, of the olive tree, of the wood useful for the building of houses and ships, but in a special way the subsoil full of mineral ores of iron and silver in the mainland as well as in the Island of Elba. From the exploitation of the farming and mining resources the Etruscans developed trading activities linked with the sea establishing on the Western Mediterranean a real thalattocracy. These trading activities were very often in conflict with the Greek, Phoenician and Carthaginian fleets (but dating from the V century B.C., after the sea defeat by Syracuse of the dictator Gerone at Cuma, this supremacy finished).

The coastline towns became the centre of the industrial production; Roselle was the town of trades, Vetulonia of mines, Populonia with the foundries (exploited until the first world war) and the mines was the most important productive centre.

Veio, at the border with Lazio, played the role of the trading-centre and sentry of the Etruria. Bologna, Marzabotto, Monterenzio and Spina were the connection between the South of Etruria, the Celtics in the North. On the other hand Tarquinia was the holy town, as it was considered the town mother of the Etruscans. Besides, Caere and Vulci were the main places for the production of wine, ceramics, and therefore they were highly important for the exchange trades.

The early Etruscans settlements were built with huts in a squared shape, rectangular or round with the sloping roof (usually of straw or clay). The towns were established tracing two perpendicular axes, called thistle (North-South) and decuman (West – East), and then surrounded by thick walls with doors arch shaped.

During the ancient period there is the birth of housing places steady, of which we can see a trace in the towns of Kainua at Marzabotto and of Gonfienti at Prato. Usually in the Etruscans Poleis there were in high position the Acropolis, the seat of the temple, and the Necropolis at the border of the town. Since the origins were built the sanctuaries for the collective worship. While the Greeks built them in stone, the Etruscan temples were made with wood, bricks and earthenware and for this reason there is not a complete witness remained. Our knowledge of the

structure is based on the description by Vitruvius concerning the ruins of basements, and on the models that depict the shape in earthenware and on polychrome bas-reliefs as a decoration for the heads of beams, while some acroterion statues were sometimes placed on the top of the roof of the temple.

Through the years these Poleis became real towns-state, and when they were not in alliance for mutual interests, were very often in conflict. According to Tito Livio the alliance of the twelve Etruscan towns was composed by Caere, Tarquinia, Vulci, Roselle, Vetulonia, Veio (Populonia) Volsini, Chiusi, Perugia, Cortona, Arezzo, Volterra. According to some historians the twelve Etruscan towns met with Fanum Voltumnae, near Volsini, including also Vipsi and Orvieto.

As to the religious beliefs, the Etruscans thought that the will of Gods, worshipped in the temples, was expressed in the happenings of the world of nature and that the priests were able to guess the future searching into the innards of the animals sacrificed to the Gods, the lightnings and also the flight of birds according to the holy rite of the books *Hauruspicini* and *Fulgurales*. Early the tombs were plainly graves and later tholos and then burial mounds that could gather the components of a whole family with different belongings.

Sometimes the dead were depicted with whole statues superimposed on the sarcophagus as the famous one of Cerveteri (529 B.C.) or with wall paintings with scenes of hunting and fishing as they are in Tarquinia (520 B.C.) which seem to represent life beyond death.

We can say that the Etruscan art does not show an uniform development but it has different features connected with the autonomy of the various centres of making and with the contacts with the other cultures of the East and of Greece. Anyway all these influences were followed according to the local taste.

The Etruscan portraits were very important especially in the heads of the statues of bronze, this was the anticipation of an art that many centuries later would become the excellence in the Tuscany of the XV-XVI century. Besides the technique of melting and the art working of the metals, silver and gold was valuable and nowadays it is still present in the city of Arezzo with Etruscan origins.

Besides the pleasure for food and for game, the Etruscans were also very careful about their physical well-being through what the Romans called *Salus per Aquam*. In Castelnuovo Val di Cecina, in a land full of natural sources, the centre of Sasso Pisano is equipped with a rectangular plant and it is the only example of Etruscan Baths in a region, as Tuscany, which has nowadays 27 baths. Those Baths remained active until the III century B.C. as it is confirmed by the 64 coins in bronze of that time that were found in one of the basins.

In origin the Etruscan towns were ruled by kings, dating from the V century B.C. there were several establishments of aristocratic kind. There were a lot of inscriptions with the mentions of these magistratures, *purthi*, *zilath*, *maru*, which were corresponding to the building workers, the praetors and the quaestors of Rome.

Many of the coats of arms of the Etruscan King were then taken by the Roman State to point out the power of the upper magistrates, the consuls and the praetors: the gold crown, the ivory throne, the sceptre decorated with an eagle, the tunic and the purple cloak with gold threads, at the end the lictors, originally the body guards always accompanying the king taking on the shoulder the sign of his power to punish, that is the bundle of rods with the hatchet, and from this the name of lictor.

Every one of the twelve kings of the Etruscan league had one, and in Rome the consuls would have been headed, everyone of them, by twelve lictors. The king established his power on an aristocratic class of wealthy landlords, and their lands were farmed by hundreds of slaves, practically without any political right.

In 650 B.C. Damarato arrived from Corinzio to Tarquinia, father of the next king of Rome Tarquinio Prisco that dating from 616 B.C. started an Etruscan rule in the land of Rome becoming in 607 B.C. the first Etruscan king. From 578 B.C., the king of Rome was the Etruscan Servio Tullio who kept going on the building of the walls of the city, called "serviane", he decided to build the Temple of "Mater Matuta" and the Temple of the "Dea Fortuna", both situated at the Foro Boario. From 535 B.C. Tarquinio il Superbo was the VII last King of Rome with the building of the Temple of "Giove Capitolino" and the "Cloaca Massima", besides he ordered to reclaim the area of the ancient Foro Romano so that it was possible the birth of a very old village at the feet of the Colle

Palatino called Vicus Tuscus as in the origin was inhabited by Etruscan merchants.

In 509 B.C. the last Etruscan king was chased, then the birth of the Roman Republic that in two centuries became the main protagonist in the West Mediterranean, with a dominance on the Tyrrhenian sea and in most of the lands of the Italian peninsula. Following this quick settlement Rome received several cultural inheritances among which: the technique for the wall building of the arch, found out by the Etruscans in the III century B.C. and realized with squared stones wedge shaped with a key of the vault placed in the centre to ensure the required stability; the architectural style called "tuscanico", "i giochi gladiatorii"; the cult for the Triade Capitolina, the use of the "aruspici" in the predictions; the techniques of the art in the working of iron, silver and ceramic.

2. Tuscany under the Roman rule

The Etruscans were unable to defend a large territory from Val Padana to Campania as they did not have a unitary army among their Towns-State, after the chasing of the Tarquini from Rome (509 B.C.), the Etruscans suffered a slow decline but unstoppable which continued for thousand of years until the complete Roman settlement that happened in 275 B.C.

The first step was the loss of the supremacy of the sea as well as in trading in the west Mediterranean following the defeat suffered by Syracuse in the sea battle of Cuma (474 B.C.) which

marked the end of the thalassocracy and the Etruscan towns in the south were weakened so that in 423 B.C. there was the loss of the out post of Capua by the Sanniti. In 406 B.C. Rome sieged the town of Veio that ten years later would have been conquered and destroyed by the powerful army of the Consul Marco Furio Camillo. Therefore the land conquered doubled what Rome had until that moment. In the following decades the raids of the Galli, started from 390 B.C. in the Etruscan lands of Val Padana reached Central Etruria and later arrived in Rome (which was plundered and set to fire) after in 351 B.C. they settled in Felsina and Marzabotto.

The Etruscans had to face several defensive wars but in spite of this they were defeated at Arezzo and Cortona (310 B.C.) and then the occupation of Roselle in 302 B.C. took place.

Besides the Etruscans participated together with the Umbri to the Italian League against Rome in 295 B.C. but they were defeated early at Sentinum (Sentino) and then in 283 B.C., definitely defeated at Vadimonius lacus (Lake Vadimone) with the following fall of Vetulonia and Populonia. The following seizures of land effected by Rome were extended also to Cere, Vulsci and Tarquinia, in the Argentario area (Tuscany) to the sea settlements of San Severo and Santa Marinella (Castrum novum).

The new towns conquered and placed under the authority of a Prefect appointed by Rome were recognized only with a “civitas sine suffragio”. In 280 B.C. Rome agreed a treaty of alliance with the Etruscan Confederation of Arezzo, Perugia, Volsini, Vulci, Roselle, Populonia and Vetulonia called the federated Etruria,

roman Prefecture at Statonia. A new urban setting was established for the Etruscan families living there and also a new rearrangement of the property of the land according to a project of economic development. In the Municipales under the Roman ruling the Etruscan citizens were not entitled with the active and passive vote until the time of the Consulship of Julius Caesar when the law that forced the patricians not to hold, also in the Etruscan lands, more than fifty juger of ager publicus, was promulgated.

In the following century the extent of the dominion established the Roman settlements at Saturnia and Pisa (183 – 180 B.C.) at Luni and Lucca (177 B.C.); then the main making of Via Cassia and a progressive emancipation of farmers and lands in Southern Etruria. On the other hand Etruria and Umbria did not join in 91 B.C. the “social wars” (as partners, allied without the Roman citizenship, but heavily encumbered with taxes of the “dominus soli” and of the army service) and for this reason were rewarded with their introduction with the ten new “tribus” in a position to vote, after the thirty five of the....., without being in contrast with the verdict expressed by the same. Two years later, in 89 B.C., the roman citizenship was given to the Etruscans and the Etruscan towns became Municipi of the roman Italy. This was the way in which they were subjected to the dominion of Rome that was the arbiter of the whole peninsula from the Appennines to the straits of Messina. As to Etruria we find news in occasion of the plot of Catilina, that took shelter in 63 B.C. in Fiesole and was defeated near Pistoia by the army sent by the consul Cicerone, and after of the town of Lucca that in 56 B.C. was the seat of the convention during which was renewed the triumvirate of Cesare,

Pompeo and Crasso. Rome did not recognize any autonomy to the defeated people and impose on them to be the subjects of a unitary State ruled by Judges and Prefects to apply laws and protected by an army of legionaries following a strict discipline.

During the time of Ottaviano, with the “pax romana”, there were not annexations of land anymore to the Empire. The artistic and literary culture with Ovidio, Virgilio and Orazio made the magnificence of Rome. The economy developed and there was a flourishing of trades for a long time that kept going on also during the next emperors. As to the administrative aspect it was called the VII Region of the Empire (7 B.C.) and during this time many important public works were effected and also new consular roads which, differently from the etruscan way of transversal penetration towards the inland (from Pisa to Arezzo, from Roselle to Cortona, with the exception of Populonia and Fiesole and so on), were made with longitudinal lines like the via Aurelia, the Clodia and the Cassia.

The ancient Etruria, the VII among the regions of Italy at the time of Augusto included Tuscany, western Umbria up to the Tiber, the northern Lazio up to Rome and the lands of Liguria in the south of the river Magra. Inside this wide territory there were many important towns that the historian Plinio the old describes in the *Naturalis Historia* at the time of the emperor Vespasiano.

Arretium (Arezzo); Caere (Cerveteri); Cortona; Faesulae (Fiesole); Falerii (Civita Castellana); Florentia (Firenze) alongside the Arno; Luna (Luni), famous for its large port (at present La Spezia); Luca (Lucca); Perusia (Perugia); Pisae (Pisa), Pistorium or Pistoria or

Pistoriae (Pistoia); Populonia, at that time the only Etruscan town on a high hill facing the sea with a port at the feet of the hill and two docks, the best embarkment point from Italy to the Isle of Elba, Sardinia and Corsica; Rusellae (Roselle), Saena Iulia (Siena), a Roman settlement at the time of Gaio Giulio Cesare; Veio, Vetulonia; Vitentium (near the lake of Bolsena); Volaterrae (Volterra), on a high hill; Volsinii (Bolsena); Vulci (in the municipality of Montalto di Castro).

The main economic resources were represented by the mines of iron of Aithalia (Isle of Elba); the quarries of marble in the Apuane for the supply of monolithic plates and columns for the main monuments of Rome conveyed through the ways of water of the Tyrrhenian and of the Tiber; from the woods of the mountains of the Tirrenia with the supply of wooden axes used for the building of ships and smart dwellings.

3° Barbarian Kingdoms and Marca di Tuscia until the year one thousand.

Under the rule of the emperor Diocleziano the region of Tuscany together with Umbria received the name of Tuscia and Florence was appointed “corrector Tusciae”. “Tuscia and Umbria”, were considered as a part of southern Italy, under the guide of the Vicar of Rome.

After the dominion of the Longobard only, at the end of the VI century (after Christ), with the change from the ownership of the land to the rural Municipality, Tuscany will be considered central Italy. While the western side of the Empire is going to the end, the wealthy region of Tuscia appears for the birth of new towns, among which Florentia in 59 B.C. The first town was established in a different place from which the Etruscans of Faesulae (Fiesole) had settled the foundations between, the Arno and the river Africo, of their "Florentia". Some other archaeological traces of an old village on the Arno in the age "Villanoviana" would have been found under a layer of sand of the river. The florentine castrum founded by Romans at the meeting of the Mugnone with the Arno, as it is mentioned in the Liber Coloniarum, was assigned in 59 B.C. " according to the law Giulia to a century of Caesars, for two hundred iugeri", in order that at the end of the war, as foreseen by the farming law, they would become farmers.

Other sources mention the birth of Florence as a Roman settlement at the time of Silla after having destroyed the previous Etruscan Florence. Later on only, at the time of Augusto in our region as elsewhere the main signs of Rome would appear well marked.

The uniformity of the places and the people subjected was found in the new towns with the Forum and the arcades, the baths and the aqueducts of the roads which were equipped very often with fortresses with flourishing trades by land and by sea; there are also towns and lands in which, including the Tuscia, it was compulsory the use of the latin expressed by a Roman State

divided in Diocese, protected by a strong army and under the rule of regional Prefectures with a system of taxes in a censual way according to which the sharing of lands as per the number of settlers was obtained with the unity of the land for each caput.

At the time of Diocleziano, the repression of christians was very high, but at the same time the religion oppressed had a widespread until the Emperor Costantino with the edict of Milan, year 313, the christian Church was recognized by the State.

Although the Tuscia had still a deep link with the heathen religion, first Etruscan then Roman, there was actually a zealous christian faith and in the year 440 the greatest of the christian ancient pontiffs: Leone I was elected at the threshold of St. Peter, he was born in Volterra, and became a hard difensor fidei against the heresies of the manichaeian and of Pelagio.

Tuscia became a centre of spreading of Christianity starting from Lucca that dating from the VI century was the bishop seat of main importance so that it became the centre of the whole region called Duchy of Tuscany. Saint Ambrogio dating from 403 for more than a year, kept in preaching in Florence, he stimulated the local Church against the lasting heathenism and delivered it duly renewed in the hands of Saint Zanobi.

The barbarian invasions, after that Romolo Augustolo, the last Roman emperor, was dismissed, invaded also Tuscany.

Starting from 475, when the general of Sciri Odoacre got the power the history of the Western roman empire would have become the history of the barbarian states ready to settle in the

main cities. For example Florence, during the siege of the Ostrogoths of Radagasio, was helped by Stilicone, a brave general at the service of Rome coming down from Fiesole to fight the Goths, killing hundreds of them, including the terrible king that was beheaded at the gates of the city, and also several prisoners that were sold like slaves.

Then it was the turn of Teodorico to invade the country trying to unify latins and arians, that is catholics and heathens, but he did not succeed in this achievement. After the kingdom of Teodorico Tuscany, from 568 to 774, passed under the rule of the Lombards for which the region was of basic importance as they had to guarantee, with the other side of central Italy under the byzantine ruling, the ways of communication between their capital, Pavia, and the far duchies of Spoleto and Benevento.

In Tuscany as well as in the other parts of Italy under their unbending rule they imposed the right of the strong, the talion law and the justice of the feud. During those years along with the massacres by the invaders, several natural disasters, from plague to small pox, to the floods destroyed Tuscany and the countryside were empty and the survivors were more poor and hungry.

The political and administrative government imposed by the Lombards was entrusted with dukes and land owners and in the beginning was maintained by the Franks of Carlo Magno.

The emperor reached Florence in 780, and he visited together with the wife Ildegarda the mons fiorentinus to honour the tomb of the martyr Miniato.

He was back six years later together with the son Pipino, that was king of Lombards, to fire the last duke Guidibrando at the power of the city. The “Margraviato” or Marquisate of Tuscany was a nice contribution for the cultural consideration of the region, which was disappeared under the ruling of Lombards, therefore Florence was among the eight Italian cities in which were established Schools of upper level for the study of the Seven Spiritual Arts and of the Seven Liberal Arts which were distinguished between Trivium and Quadrivium. The authoritativeness of the marquis was highly considered so that Ugo arrived in Lucca in the year 853 then moved to Florence giving the city a new and high prestige.

The carolingian renaissance with the Schola Platina pointed out a new cultural élite religious as well as secular and a set of laws common to the different countries of the last Western empire that was the father of the European union that would be done thousand years later. After the conquest by the Franks of the Kingdom of Lombards, the Duchy of Tuscia was arranged and in 781 was placed together with the other lands of the lombards in the Regnum Italiae entrusted with Pipino, under the guide of the father Carlo.

4° The Mark of Tuscany and the High Middle Age

The historical progress of the land after the carolingian age was completed around the year one thousand with the establishment of the Margravate of Tuscany. In Tuscany too the resolution of the carolingian empire starting from 814 suffered the consequences of the fight of the dynasty for the kingdom of Italy.

During the period after the carolingian age (843 – 1001) the land properties, the counties and the dioceses of Tuscia, out of the conflicts for heritage, went under the control of the Duchy of Lucca, whose leaders were Adalberto II and Berta di Lotaringia.

When she became widow tried to support the appointment to become emperor of his first born Ugo di Provenza achieving an alliance with powerful lords against Berengario I crowned as emperor by the Pope Giovanni X and defeated at Fiorenzuola d'Arda and then betrayed and killed. Ugo di Provenza became King of Italy in 926 and dwelled in his royal court in Lucca and here he engaged himself with a deep reform of constitution appointing in the cities of Pisa, Florence and Siena subjected to his power lords and officers not representing the marquisate but the royal court.

This policy of enlargement was continued by his son Uberto Margravio of Tuscia and Duke of Spoleto and dating from 936 he was also appointed count by the emperor Ottone I so that his powers were extended also to Siena, Arezzo and Città di Castello.

Tuscia represented not only the land, but it was also an administrative institution composed with "comitatus" (shares of the "regnum Italie" already established during the carolingian time) which were under the military and judicial ruling of the count of Lucca. In their turn were composed with "comites", "vicecomites", land owners, judges and "missi marchionis".

The organization as committee of Tuscia dating from the last quarter of the IX century appears early in Pistoia, Florence,

Fiesole and Volterra, then there is a substantial presence in the lands of the north to the steady power of the “comes” of Lucca and in the south to the family of Aldobrandeschi. Later on the reference of the “comitatus” was step by step replaced by the word “iudicaria” as mentioned in the act transferring the castles of the Appennines in the south of Bologna, on request of the marquis of Tuscia Adalberto II, from the jurisdiction of Modena to the mark of Toscanello. The successor of Uberto in the rule of the Marquisate from 970 up to 1001 was his son Ugo, called the Great, who started the ecclesiastic reform for which he supported the building of seven imperial abbeys.

Following the prestige obtained with this great project which he was unable to finish as he died in Pistoia in 1001, the marquis Ugo succeeded to strengthen the rule in the whole Tuscia for which Tuscany could be named as a land a real marquisate with detailed borders and the political and cultural centre was moved from Lucca to Florence.

Nowadays in the Badia Fiorentina, where there are the remains of the marquis Ugo in the sepulchral monument by Mino da Fiesole, every year, on December 21st the date of death, a public ceremony is celebrated in his remembrance as he is considered the real founder of the Marquisate of Tuscany. As to the Canossa the assignment of the title “marchio Tuscie”, which originally, in October of ‘900, refers to “dux et comes” of Lucca Adalberto, became an usual privilege starting from an administrative document, made out in Fiesole in 1032, in which for the first time it is mentioned to Bonifacio the ancestor of the Countess

Matilde. The dynasty of the Canossa started with Bonifacio IV and continued until the arrival of Matilda (1076 – 1115). In 1076 the Granduchess of Tuscany became the owner of a very large land that had its centre in Canossa in the Appennino reggiano and included Tuscany, a part of the Lombard lands, the Emilia and Romagna. Between 6 and 11 May 1111 she was crowned with the title of imperial Vicar- Vice Queen of Italy by the emperor Enrico V, at the Castle of Bianello.

When she remained widow of Goffredo il Gobbo was faithful to the Pope Gregorio VII during the well-known conflict of the investments with the Emperor Enrico IV. Due to her faith in the Church of that time she received the admiration and the deep love of all her subjects. When the Pope prevented the bishops from receiving the investments by the Emperor, Enrico IV ordered the German bishops faithful to him to declare the decay of the Roman Pontiff, and at this point the Emperor was excommunicated. In the castle of Canossa the Countess Matilda was the protagonist of the famous historic meeting during which she acted to achieve the peace between the Pope and the Emperor that was forced to reach Canossa as a penitent to obtain the forgiveness of the Pope and the cancellation of the excommunication.

5° Tuscany: the rise of Municipalities up to the XIV century.

The first idea of a Tuscany as a political body with its own sovereignty was born in 1197 as Societas Tisciae, it had a short life. This body was established, under the League of Tuscany, by an agreement among the Municipalities of Lucca, Florence, Siena, Volterra, San Miniato, Prato and Arezzo. Since the League declared to be against the Empire, Pisa and Pistoia refused to take part. However the influence of the new political body reached most of Tuscany, therefore under its rule there were the Municipalities of the Guidi and of the Aldobrandeschi (although they received the imperial appointment of “Counts of Tuscia” respectively in 1154 and 1185), of the Pannocchieschi at the borders of Siena and Arezzo, of the Alberti, of the Gherardeschi, of the Cadolinghi in the area of Lucca, of the Pannocchieschi, of the Ardengheschi, of the Scialenghi and of the Berardenghi.

This early idea of a tuscan federation disappears in a few years because of the endless ambitions of belonging of lands by the major Municipalities as Florence and Lucca, Siena and Arezzo towards the minor centres; these ambitions provoked the fight among the Municipalities, as it happened in 1203 between Siena and Florence. After the end of the League there was still the will to establish one body for the recognition of a mutual identity of Tuscany. Going through the following centuries this identity was shaped with the birth of the medicean duchy of Tuscany.

Florence succeeded in overcoming the struggles among the major Municipalities due to belongings of the Empire and of the Papacy, and by the growth or loss of the economic and military power of the other Municipalities ruling the other regional areas.

Pisa at the beginning of the thirteenth century was still the first city in Tuscany for the number of inhabitants and wealthness due to the imperial privileges. A century later, after the loss in 1284 of Corsica by Genoa and then in 1297 Sardinia by the Aragonesi, it goes to the third place with no more than 40.000 inhabitants. Lucca was not anymore the capital of the old Tuscia, with 30.000 inhabitants but it kept for the whole XIV century a high level, even if in decreasing in comparison with the rise of Siena up to 50.000 inhabitants. At the end Florence was the new capital of Tuscany with a rise step by step, until the plague of 1348, like Paris with 100.000 inhabitants.

During the first half of the XIV century it goes to the end in the main municipalities of Tuscany the long and bloody fight between Guelfi and Ghibellini, respectively supporters of the Papacy and of the Empire.

In the second half of the XIII century in the struggle between the two parties there was the victory of the Ghibellini by Manfredi (Monteaperti, 1260) allied with Pisa and Siena against the Guelfi of Florence, Lucca, Prato, Pistoia, Poggibonsi, San Gimignano, San Miniato and Colle Val d'Elsa.

After the death of Manfredi in the battle of Benevento (1266) by the Guelfi of Carlo d'Angiò, Florence was the winner again against the Ghibellini of Arezzo at Campaldino (1289) so that in various places in Tuscany the Guelfi were the winners first in Pistoia with the Cancellieri and then in Florence between between the Cerchi and the Donati, divided in Blacks and Whites. Early in the fourteenth century in Siena, where the power of the Guelfi was

recovered, the government of Nine up to 1355, supported by the people and merchants, the economic power of the city grew as well as the inhabitants.

The decay of Pisa started with the destroy of the fleet in the battle of the Meloria, marked the end of the supremacy by sea, and the decline will continue furtherly due to the conflicts among producers, in competition with Florence, and the merchants who agreed with Florence for the transit of the goods in the port.

The Ghibellini were the winners and then with the beginning of the government by Uguccione della Faggiuola, with the conquest of Lucca and the defeat of the Guelfi and the war to Florence, in alliance with Filippo d'Angiò, the defeat in the battle of Montecatini (1315) Pisa survived and succeeded in strengthening the dominion of the land. Lucca became a fortress of the Ghibellini under the government of Castruccio Castracani degli Antelminelli, appointed imperial Vicar and Duc of Lucca, Pisa, Luni, Volterra and Pistoia by Ludovico il Bavaro, with a very serious threat for the supremacy of Florence in Tuscany with sieges after various defeats at Serravalle (1323), at Altopascio (1325) and at Fucecchio (1328).

After the death of Castracani in 1328 and the end of the hard siege of the city of Pisa, Florence was in a position to resume the policy of enlargement with the conquest year by year of Pistoia (1331), Cortona (1332), Arezzo (1337) and Colle Val d'Elsa (1338).

The municipalities of Massa Marittima, Montalcino, San Miniato and San Gimignano, Volterra, the lands in the south of Grosseto and in the north of the Lunigiana still had their autonomy.

Tuscany between the XIV and the XV century, due to the growing enlargement of the City of Florence in the east-west towards the coast from Pisa to Piombino, and in the north-south towards Arezzo and Montepulciano, is marked in three areas: in the north-west Lucca, in the centre that with the great enlargement with Florence and in the south Siena.

TUSCANY FROM NAPOLEONE TO LEOPOLDO II OF LORENA

On the 27th June 1796 an army led by Napoleone Bonaparte, after the successful military results in the North of Italy against Austria, occupied Leghorn as the port had been blocked by the English ships, and just a few days after reached Portoferraio to get hold of Isola d'Elba. Napoleone was received with all honours at Palazzo Pitti by the Grand Duke Ferdinando III who confirmed the neutrality of Tuscany as to the conflict in course between the republican France and Austria. However after the establishment in 1797 of the Repubblica Cisalpina and the occupation of Lucca at the end of 1798, on the 17th March 1799 Napoleone forced Ferdinando III to go into exile advising him not to make any resistance to the French occupation of the whole Tuscany. In fact against the republican government there were several riots and on the 6th of March 1799 took place the occupation of Arezzo.

Here citizens and people of the countryside rebelled with the cry "Viva Maria", and the French army abandoned the city. There was a Supreme Deputy established by the clergy and the local aristocrats. With the military support of Austria the Deputy extended the control also on the communities of the Valdichiana, Valdarno and Casentino until they were appointed as the provisional Government of Tuscany in the name of Ferdinando III. On the 17th of June the French were defeated at the river Trebbia, the Austria army and the rebels entered in Florence while also Leghorn, Volterra and the Maremma were back to the Grand Duke. Afterwards the victory of Napoleone at Marengo against Austrians and the treaty of peace of Luneville in 1801, the Lorena gave up the Grand Duchy, so Tuscany followed a new political establishment including the Stato dei Presidi (Orbetello, Port'Ercole, Porto Santo Stefano, Talamone, Ansedonia and part of the isola d'Elba) and also the Principality of Piombino, but Pisa and Leghorn remained under the military rule of the French. The Grand duchy by will of Napoleone was transformed in Kingdom of Etruria. Therefore Tuscany was assigned to Ludovico Bordone of Spain who governed from 1801 till his sudden death in 1803. At this point the throne, in name and for account of the son Carlo Ludovico, was ruled by the widow Maria Luisa but also her government was very short. In fact Napoleone after the crowning as Emperor of France became King of Italy, in June 1805 appointed the sister Elisa Bonaparte princess of Lucca, Piombino and Massa Carrara, assigning the government of these lands to the husband Felice Baciocchi. In December 1807 Napoleone wrote to the queen Maria Luisa that the Kingdom of Etruria did

not exist anymore and therefore she had to leave Florence together with the two sons and the court.

From the 24th of May 1808 Tuscany along with Parma and Piacenza was annexed to France and divided in three departments - "Arno" with the city of Florence, "Ombrone" with the city of Siena and "Mediterraneo" with the city of Leghorn, under the ruling of prefects of Oltralpe – the central government was given by Napoleone to the sister Elisa as Granduchess. The juridical and administrative system was renewed according to the code of Napoleone and as chiefs of the Municipalities were appointed as Maires, citizens of Tuscany that gave their collaboration with France. The military service was introduced and then the abolition of the Senate of Florence as the deputies elected in Tuscany referred directly to the Parliament in Paris. When Napoleone, defeated in Lipsia by the coalition against France, was forced to dismiss and to go into exile to the island of Elba (7th May 1814), Tuscany for some months was under the control of the troops by Gioacchino Murat, awaiting the return of Ferdinando III on the 17th September of that same year on the throne of Tuscany. The Borbone of Spain were satisfied with the granting of Lucca transformed in duchy and given to Maria Luisa of Borbone, former queen of Etruria. In order to draw near the political border of the State of Tuscany with the geographical border of the region, the Congress of Vienna decided that the Grand Duchy received the State of the Presidi, the principality of Piombino with its lands except the island of Elba. At the death of Maria Luisa, wife of Napoleone I, also the duchy of Lucca was

annexed with Tuscany, with the exception of Lucca and of the Elba the whole Tuscany was finally reunited in the Grand Duchy.

Napoleone, after 11 months of exile in the island of Elba, reached France and made again war against the coalition England-Austria and in June 1815 was defeated at Waterloo. The Elba was back to the Grand Duchy. The Lunigiana, along with Massa and Carrara was established as an autonomous duchy. The whole land of the grand duchy was divided in four departments leading to Florence, Pisa, Siena and Grosseto. The government as soon as restored introduced back the political settings before the French occupation with the appointments of the Gonfalonieri and half of the Bishops by the sovereign. The religious corporations were reestablished. On the other hand some novelties of the government by Napoleone remained as the Code for trade, the mortgage system, the advertisement of judgements and the civil state. The new Grand Duke of the Lorena, Leopoldo II finished the reclaim of the Val di Chiana and of the Maremma, he improved the customs and taxes service; he enlarged the free port of Leghorn; he opened main roads of connection and connected Pisa and Florence with the building of the first railway in Tuscany, known as Leopolda.

In 1848 the Italians looking forward to freedom received great hope by the army of Piedmont in the First war of independence with the victory against the Austrian troops at Goito and Peschiera and thanks to the heroic fighting of the volunteers from Tuscany at Curtatone and Montanara. On the contrary in 1849

there were a lot of disappointments when Carlo Alberto of Savoia made war but he was totally defeated at Novara, therefore he dismissed with the end of this great adventure, but not in the hope of the unity of Italy. In Florence and in Tuscany following the results of the First War of Independence Mazzini arrived at Leghorn where a democratic revolt happened but for a short time. Some new riots for a Constitution in the respect of the rights of citizens of Tuscany happened then in Pisa, here Francesco Domenico Guerrazzi established a deputation of the government that the minister Ridolfi cancelled in a very short time.

The highest point as to the attempts of reformations takes place in Florence with the presence of Gian Pietro Vieusseux, Gino Capponi and Raffaello Lambruschini, together with Vincenzo Salvagnoli and Bettino Ricasoli, dealing with the newspaper "La Patria" they acted for the civil and social renewal of Tuscany. As to the political level the different parties did not succeed in finding a common outlook of the future of Tuscany. During the period of the provisional government several different opinions appeared between the moderates of the Gonfaloniere Peruzzi and the republicans of Domenico Guerrazzi so that everything failed. On 17th February 1848 the Grand Duke Leopoldo II was back to Florence, he granted the Constitution anticipating even the Statute by Carlo Alberto granted on the 4th of March of the same year and became the basic law of the Kingdom of Italy until 1948. The introduction to the Statute of Tuscany wrote by Gino Capponi, was considered as the beginning of "a new age" for the whole country. A Senate appointed by the sovereign was

established and a general Council with 86 deputies elected in the various areas supporting the government by Cosimo Ridolfi. The chief of the Municipality of Florence, arriving from a diplomatic mission with Carlo Alberto, was the Gonfaloniere Bettino Ricasoli who at once succeeded in giving to the people of Tuscany feelings of solidarity towards the Piedmont leading to the Union of Italy. In order to retain the continuous action by Ricasoli and to keep quiet the public opinion that influenced the population in support of Carlo Alberto, the Grand Duke Leopoldo II decided to send from Tuscany some troops to help the army of Piedmont placed on the Mincio awaiting to face the Austrian army. The command was given to the General D'Arco Ferrari, the Tuscan troops of six thousand men, including the university troop of 250 students, was aligned between Curtatone and Montanara with a front of several kilometers against the army of Radetzky with 50.000 soldiers.

The heroic resistance of the volunteers of Tuscany at Montanara allowed to the army of Piedmont, after three days, the conquest of Goito and Peschiera, a victory that also the Grand Duke of Tuscany mentioned as "the magnificent splendour of Italy". But after the defeat at Custoza and the armistice, in Tuscany the uproars resumed, and the minister Ridolfi dismissed. Then the marquis Gino Capponi was appointed but he dismissed too due to serious disorders. In Leghorn the population rebelled and put into prison the army, Giuseppe Montanelli was appointed chief of the government of citizens, Francesco Guerrazzi was appointed Governor. He decided to achieve very soon the making of an Italian constituent, while the Grand Duke on the 7th of February

'49, secretly, decided to leave from Porto Santo Stefano to reach Gaeta where already PiolX was staying. In Florence the population was extremely happy for the leaving of the Grand Duke and a government was established by Giuseppe Montanelli, Giuseppe Mazzoni and Francesco Guerrazzi who acted with powers of dictator. With the opening of the legislative assembly and the birth of the Constituent of Tuscany the decay of the kingdom of the Grand Duke was declared, but the defeat of Carlo Alberto in Novara marked the end of the Government Guerrazzi.

In Tuscany there was the arrival of a part of the Austrian Army that occupied Lucca, Pisa and Leghorn. Guerrazzi and Montanelli were put into jail, then the general D'Aspre entered into Florence, the Civic Guard was dismissed and the state of siege announced. The Grand Duke Leopoldo II came back and issued strict measures for the press and the death penalty came into force again after that the Grand Duke of Tuscany Leopoldo I had abolished it the first state in Europe. In the Spring of 1859 due to the increasing request for the Unity of Italy especially in Tuscany with the beginning of the Second war of independence, Leopoldo II left Florence and on the 21st of July abdicated in favour of the son Ferdinando IV that was not enthroned, therefore after the armistice of Villafranca, Tuscany had a provisional Government by the baron Bettino Ricasoli. On the 11th of March 1860 the majority of Tuscans decided the annexe to the Kingdom of Sardinia starting from the 15th of March. The Unity with the Kingdom of Italy took place on the 9th of October 1871 with the decree n. 274. The city of Florence from 1865 up to 1871 will be the Capital of Italy.

The cultural identity of Tuscany (until the XIV century)

From the origins to the year 1000. As far as we know the Etruscans were a peaceful and religious people, they worshipped, among the others, the gods Uni, Tinia and Menvra; they were frightened by death, but they believed in a happy life ; they were experts in the extractive industry, hydraulic system, in the art of jewellery, of ceramicware, painting and sculpture. Through their traditions they civilized people near them and also the Romans were deeply influenced by their culture and art. The Roman civilization marked deeply this age with the foundation of new cities like Siena, Florence, Pistoia, Pisa and Lucca, with the construction of new consular roads which opened our region to Europe. The Roman civilization introduced the first basic rules of a social and political organization rather developed if compared with the previous ones and it would be remaining like this far beyond the barbarian invasions, until the Middle Age and the Marca of Tuscany. From the end of the Western Roman Empire (476 a.C) until the thirteenth century the running of the cultural heritage was managed by the new Universities in which there was the teaching of theology , right, medicine and liberal arts, and also in the monasteries which became real centres of education, in fact here they provided to the transcriptions and translations of the old codes. Besides the imperial Courts, starting from Federico II, widespread the philosophy and literature among the intellectual classes, while for the education of people the spread of culture, especially in Tuscany, was done in the streets, in the squares and in the markets in which the jesters played the chivalrous songs and the preachers their precepts.

Thirteenth and Fourteenth century. After the death of Federico II, the inheritance of the Sicilian school passed on to the Tuscan Municipalities and in this new social and political circle, entirely different from the Sicilian Court, the gentle lyric changed basically its contents. As a matter of fact the poet was not anymore a courtier but a citizen involved in the events of his city dealing with religious, political and civil topics in his poetry. The most well-known poetry of the age was the “Dolce Stil Novo”, mentioned by Dante Alighieri, a kind of poetry different from the lyric Sicilian-Provençal as the style was simple and flowing, with a new sensibility concerning the topic of the gentle love. Here woman is considered as an angel, the inspiration of moral and spiritual perfection, which was not represented in the previous lyric of love. The “Dolce Stil Novo” was known also for the intellectual influence towards the knowledge of science as well as of philosophy as mentioned in the sonnets by Guido Guinizelli in his “Al cor gentile ripara sempre amore” which is considered the actual representation of the poetry called stilnovista. On the other hand in the “Canzoniere” by Guido Cavalcanti songs, sonnets and ballads show feeling of love but in an upset way, which is closer to the sensual passion than to the outlook of the spiritual woman.

The prose. In the second half of the thirteenth century was widespread the common prose with anecdotes, apologues, sayings and events worth while to be announced, which were attributed to protagonists of the classic world as well as of the recent age. The most well-known collection was the “Novellino” by an anonymous Florentine. Besides we remember Franco

Sacchetti the author of Trecento Novelle, in which he describes spontaneously the Florentine society, so far away from the smart and refined style by Boccaccio, in fact he likes better the joke, the absurd and strange situations in which typical personages of the Florentine middle class are involved. Between the thirteenth and fourteenth century in Tuscany was widespread the translation from the old language into the common language of the French romance as to the happenings of "Arthur and the knights of the Round Table". In the field of the religious literature according to the teaching by St. Francis and St. Domenico, the action of St. Catherine (Benincasa) from Siena of the Dominican order of the Mantellate, was well-known especially in the religious and social field for the solution of the most important political aspects of that age, for instance the return of the Pope from Avignone for which she wrote a famous "Epistolary" and a suggestive "Dialogue of the Divine Providence".

The Art. From the year 1000 there was in Tuscany the great flourishing of the Romanic style which then was widespread throughout the European territory and step by step with regional features. In Tuscany there are two main styles the Roman from Pisa and the Roman from Florence. The last one had a development between the XI and the XII century with geometrical patterns in a classic style realized in white stone and green marble from Prato as it is possible to see in the Church of San Miniato al Monte and in the Baptistry of San Giovanni in Florence. The Roman of Pisa had a development in Pisa from the second half of the XI century up to the first half of the XIII century and then it was exported in the territories controlled by the

powerful Marine Republic, that is the northern side of Tuscany from Lucca to Pistoia, but also in Corsica and Sardinia. Furthermore there are the roman churches of Sant'Antimo at Castelnuovo dell'Abate, San Gimignano, Volterra and the Collegiata at San Quirico d'Orcia, while as to the civil housing the high tower-homes of San Gimignano, Florence, Volterra and Pisa. The gothic sculpture in Tuscany shines in the pulpits by Nicola and Giovanni Pisano, in the statues by Arnolfo di Cambio and in the funeral monuments by Tino da Camaino. During the XII century the Orders of the Beggars of the Franciscans and Dominicans, in order to have a closer contact with the people, established in Siena the churches of San Francesco and San Domenico, in Florence Santa Maria Novella and Santa Croce. In gothic style there are also the Camposanto and the church of Santa Maria della Spina in Pisa, the Palazzo della Signoria in Florence and the Palazzo Pubblico in Siena. Through the XII century in Tuscany there was a development of a special kind of great cross painted with the image of the Crucifix with in the sides the Virgin or St. John: the Christus Triumphans. The artists followed this line until in the thirteenth century, in a Crucifix of Pisa, today at the Museo Nazionale di San Matteo, an anonymous painter started to effect a slight bend of the body of Christ: this is the birth of Christus Patiens. From that moment on Cimabue Giotto and Duccio di Buoninsegna, Simone Martini, Pietro and Ambrogio Lorenzetti together with several artists of the Florentine giotteschi and the sienese painters, worked new outlooks of a mysticism that will mark the following ways of evolution of the figurative art in Italy and in Europe.

The Fifteenth century. The beginner of the new way of learning known as Humane Litterae was Francesco Petrarca, followed in Florence by Coluccio Salutati and Leonardo Bruni. This new culture came out from the monasteries and the universities of the Middle Age, and it was well accepted with the Signorie, after the decay of the Papacy and of the Empire, with the establishment of new Accademies and schools. Early in the fifteenth century Florence played a main role in the widespread of culture as the Medici welcomed at their court several personages of the literature as Pulci and Poliziano and also artists as Michelozzo, Paolo Uccello, Beato Angelico, Filippo Lippi and Andrea del Castagno, with a great prestige and magnificence for the city that was highly appreciated in the whole Europe.

Early Renaissance. The early Renaissance, thanks to Brunelleschi, Donatello and Masaccio was the age of the great experiments. With respect to the traditional work in the “botteghe” in which the tasks were shared among masters, assistants and beginners, the main artists started to work on their own in full freedom in order to show all their creativeness. Humanism and Florentine Renaissance were featured by the recall of the philosophy by Platone. Marsilio Ficino established the Florentine Academy in order to arrange for the philosophy by Platone and the Christianity. By the way, Pico della Mirandola, in the famous mention De Hominis dignitate, explained the original concept of human freedom as a self performance ability to determine themselves. The Humanism gives Man back to himself

placing him in the centre of the Universe, celebrating the freedom of action and playing the role of his own fate.

The sixteenth century. In the sixteenth century the national language was identified with the Florentine. This matter was dealt by Pietro Bembo with the identification of the common language by Petrarca and by Boccaccio that is the basic details on which it was possible to shape the suitable Italian literary language in a different way by Francesco Salviati, the founder of the Accademia della Crusca, according to him the Italian was to be found with the language of all the literary people of Florence in the fourteenth century. Florence early in the century was still wavering between Republic and Principality, here there was the inspiration of the new political thought by Niccolò Machiavelli. In his main works, "Il Principe" and "Discorsi sopra la prima deca di Tito Livio", we find the introduction of the concept that until that time had not been conceived in the history of the western thought, of politics as science in the way that was not depending on the Christian ethics or by the common moral, on the other hand it must be achieved to reach the good aim for citizens with all the required means. Francesco Guicciardini was the author of the "Storia d'Italia", the first great example of an accurate analysis of the historical sources, he is considered as the beginner of the birth of the modern historiography as science. In the second half of the sixteenth century we find a new cultural phenomenon called

“Manierismo”, (in the meaning of “good manner” , according to Vasari as a style). Drawing near to the seventeenth century with the new modern State in Europe and of the medicean Grand Duchy of Tuscany, the culture had a deep transformation passing through the previous theological and philosophical feature to that of the technique and science more suitable with the new requirements of trade and economy. The birth of the “Nuova Scienza” had in Tuscany the mark of origin with Galileo Galilei, who overcame the naturalism of the Renaissance and the banishment of the Church of the Counter reformation in order to take part of the Copernican cosmology, he gave a universal rule based on the way of observation, of the hypothesis and of the experiment, in this way a perfect synthesis between mathematics and real experience. The Tuscan intellectual of the Seventeenth century after having decided to reject the subjection to the medicean Court as well as to the power of the Church, worked with secular Academies, as the Crusca, the Lincei, the Affidati at San Miniato, the Oscuri at Lucca, the Rinnovati at Massa, the Forzati at Arezzo. There was a great celebration of the baroque style of the “poetica della meraviglia” well known by the lyrics of Giambattista Marino, who wanted to achieve a triumph of pictures and descriptions concerning a social, refined and luxury reality, according to various literary models.

The Seventeenth century.

The Baroque in the art, that is the no respect of the proportions and of the whim of the artist in the composition, had not a great influence in Tuscany neither according to the sensual and decorative roman way, nor to the verism by Caravaggio. The genius of the century, the sculptor and architect Gian Lorenzo Bernini was born by Tuscan father, and in the workshop at Sesto Fiorentino he was fond of the works of old and renaissance sculpture then he worked for the Papal court in Rome. The Baroque style by Pietro da Cortona, called "Cortonismo", a painting way in the description of scenes, can be seen in the frescoes with allegorical and mythology pictures at Palazzo Pitti in Florence. The late manner style of the Florentine Seventeenth century, not very close to the Baroque, had great artists as Matteo Rosselli, Francesco Furini, Giovanni da San Giovanni, Lorenzo Lippi and Carlo Dolci, of which we can admire various works at Palazzo Pitti and at the Gallerie degli Uffizi. Pompeo Batoni from Lucca in Rome together with Mengs and Winckelmann, reacted against the baroque painting, with the introduction of the Neoclassicism. Besides the theatre was one of the main artistic ways loved by the baroque civilization as the world was seen as a gorgeous performance of charm and astonishment by the audience.

The Eighteenth century. The aim of this time in Tuscany was to defeat the ignorance and to deep the knowledge of the Reason about the art, the history, the literature, the politics according to

what was mentioned in the “Encyclopedia of Sciences, Arts and Professions” by Diderot and d’Alambert. Besides Milan and Naples the region in which the Enlightenment, in the second half of the eighteenth century, had a great influence was the Grand Duchy of Tuscany under the ruling of Pietro Leopoldo d’Asburgo-Lorena who made significant legislative reforms, he was the first to abolish the death penalty in Europe and to widespread the meaning of equality among people without any cultural and political difference. In the eighteenth century in many debates, public meetings and literary rooms there were discussions concerning the aspects of society of equality and also about the running of economics. Among the protagonists of this new culture we find Vittorio Alfieri with the tragedies for freedom and Ugo Foscolo with the poems and the “Lettere di Jacopo Ortis” about the independence and the national unity.

The Nineteenth century. From 1792 for Alfieri and from 1812-13 for Foscolo, Florence was the suitable place in which they lived and gave their cultural influence with a great civil fondness. Throughout the nineteenth century Tuscany was the right place for the representatives of the political and literary renewal as Leopardi, Manzoni, Stendhal, Goethe, Byron, Ruskin. Other followers of the enlightenment were Lambruschini, Guasti, Capponi that in 1821 founded the magazine “L’Antologia” together with Vieusseux with the participation of well-known personages as D’Azeglio, Cattaneo, Tommaseo and Mazzini. In the second half of the century three great protagonists as Carducci, Pascoli and D’Annunzio took in Tuscany a new progress of a real classicism, that is a symbolist poetry and also a great

renewal in the language as well as in the style which influenced for a long time Italian literature. In the field of art, the team of the Macchiaioli as Fattori, Lega, Signorini that was established in Florence in 1855 at the Caffé Michelangelo, advancing the French impressionists, marked an anti-academical painting, inspired to the reality and realized with quick nuances of colour.

The Twentieth century. There were several literary magazines marking this time among these: “Il Marzocco” influenced by D’Annunzio, “Il Regno” anti-socialist founded by Corradini; “Il Leonardo” by Papini and Prezzolini”; “La Voce” with different collaborators as Salvemini, Amendola, Croce, Gentile and Einaudi; “Lacerba” founded by Papini and Soffici to support the widespread of Futurism that in Florence had as main protagonists Aldo Palazzeschi and Primo Conti through the years in which Dino Campana, the poet from Marradi, arranged in 1914 the “Canti Orfici”. Through the two wars, Florence was still the protagonist with other literary magazines “Solaria” by Alberto Carocci, with different collaborators as Svevo, Montale and Vittorini; “Il Frontespizio”, for the catholic culture, founded by Piero Bargellini. The romance was introduced by the works of Vasco Pratolini inspired in the beginning by autobiographical happenings and afterwards by the fascist events in the districts of Florence. In the years after the first world war in the culture of Tuscany there was the awareness of a right opposition, among the middle class, the peasants and workers, to the fascist government, especially in the catholic and socialist people,

among the protagonists we remember Carlo Rosselli, Pietro Calamandrei, Ernesto Rossi, Gaetano Salvemini that were the leaders of the struggle for freedom. Then in the years of the renaissance and of the economical development Florence was again the protagonist of culture in Italy and in the world by the mayor Giorgio La Pira, who was the promoter of various “Councils of the Nations for peace and catholic civilization” that, in 1955-65 welcomed in the City of the Lily the most important representatives of the international institutions. The presence at this time of Don Lorenzo Milani and then Padre Ernesto Balducci was actually a stimulation for a deep renewal of the Church of Rome. A further strengthening for the role of Florence and of Tuscany as centre of an international culture was in 1961 the opening of the European University on the hills of Florence. A very important event, that confirmed the perception of Florence as heritage of the world, was the world solidarity after the dramatic flood in 1966 when the mayor of the city was Piero Bargellini and thousands of “angels of the mud” came to Florence to witness their help and support to save manuscripts and works of art of unlimited cultural value as the “Crucifix by Cimabue” seriously damaged in the Church of Santa Croce.

Economic resources and work in Tuscany.

After the second world war the productive system of Tuscany changed step by step from agricultural economy, which remained

of an excellent quality in the field of food, to an economy of industry and services. In the land we find many high resources, from north to south with the birth of many productions of high quality. These resources make reference to the ten industrial districts according to the various kinds of working of products of high specialization and quality highly appreciated all over the world. These areas of excellency of the Tuscan industry are: for engineering in Pontedera, Pisa, Florence, Pistoia and Siena; for the petrochemistry in Leghorn, for the metallurgic in Orbetello and Scarlino; for chemistry in Rosignano Solvay; for glassware in Pisa; for the spinning, carding and weaving in Prato and Lucca; for clothing in Arezzo; for pharmacies in Pisa; for the marble in Carrara; for shipbuilding in Viareggio and Leghorn; for footwear in Valdarno and Valdinievole; for furniture in Quarrata and Pontedera; for fashion in Florence; for ceramicware in Sesto Fiorentino and for alabaster in Volterra.

The marble quarries of the Alpi Apuane, dating back to the roman age are very important for several industries specialized in the extraction of plates for houses and also works of sculpture as well as the working of stone and granite for civil use. The “magistri marmoris” of Carrara, Seravezza and Pietrasanta from the fourteenth century started the co-operation for the marble decoration of works as the Cathedral of Florence, of Carrara and the Piazza dei Miracoli in Pisa. They worked closely with the most important sculptors of any time as Michelangelo Buonarroti, Mitoraj and so on.

The production of paper goes from Pescia to Lucca with the main centre in Capannori, it represents about the 80% of the production of paper. Along with the companies producing paper there are also several firms in the field of mechanical, electrical and electronic production. The footwear district has its centre at Monsummano Terme inclusive of that of leatherwear in the area from Pontedera to Florence and up to Arezzo and Siena. There are a lot of companies leading with the great marks of fashion as Prada, Gucci and Ferragamo, and also international brands as Fendi, Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Dior, Céline. Another main district is situated around Empoli with the production of raincoats, jackets and coats, leatherwear, shearlings and furcoats. Then there is the main district of Prato well-known for textiles all over the world with the production of fabrics, wool clothes, knitwear. As to textile and clothing there is the area of Casentino and Val Tiberina in the province of Arezzo with several small companies producing on behalf of national and international groups. Another main field is in the working of wood at Quarrata and Poggibonsi reaching the areas of Mugello, Val di Chiana and Casentino for the manufacture of furniture. Last but not least the goldsmith district of Arezzo, with a substantial development from the seventies on, with a great specialization in high jewellery with modern and old style as well as refined goldsmith.

As to the craftsmanship in Tuscany we have a real excellence with several small firms situated in the various areas of the region. This tradition of the craftsmanship dates back to the Etruscan age and then continued as a noble art by the masters of the marble of Carrara, of the porcelain of Doccia and of the goldsmith of Arezzo

who respectively worked close to Michelangelo, Della Robbia and Cellini. At present several companies and workers are fully engaged in the areas of Florence, Arezzo and Cortona in the working of these precious handicrafts. In Montelupo Fiorentino, since the fifteenth century, the working of the majolica polychrome with decorations had a great development reaching the excellence with the glazed earthenware by Luca della Robbia that we can see in the Cathedral, in the Chapel of the Pazzi in Santa Croce in Florence. The “cotto” of the Impruneta (brickwork), of which Brunelleschi exploited for the building of the Dome of the Cathedral of Florence, is still today a product of high quality for decorations, highly appreciated also in the North of Europe for its high quality of remarkable lasting with the low temperatures. Then the artistic manufacture of alabaster from the quarries of Volterra widespread in many workshops of this land and with a tradition dating back to the Etruscan age too, which has kept going on for the decoration of various monuments as we can see in the Abbey of Montalcino or in the windows of San Miniato al Monte. Furthermore, there is also a long tradition in the artistic working of wood, for example the sculptures by Donatello, the art furniture which we can admire at Palazzo Pitti and at Bargello. We find some other important art workings in the districts of Santa Croce and San Frediano in Florence, as to the working of straw hats and of the wrought-iron as in the way of the lanterns of Palazzo Strozzi; wrought-irons in Scarperia and of the papier-maché in Viareggio as well as of gypsum in Lucca and Garfagnana. As to the glassware working we can find some important manufactures in the Etruscan museum

of Casale at Colle Val d'Elsa, a tradition developed from craftsmanship to industrial production with an extension in the area of Empoli, Pisa and Montelupo.

As to farming there are three different kinds concerning the property: around the hills of the centre-north several little farming activities; in the southern of the region the large landed property, on the other side the state property in Casentino and on the coast Leghorn-Grosseto.

Through the time there has been a change in the farming of lands, that is from arable wheat and forage to mixed cultivations with specialization as nurseries in Pistoia, flower growing in Pescia, fruits and vegetables in Pisa, Lucca and Florence, the cultivation of tobacco in Valdarno and Mugello, winery in the area of Chianti, the breeding of animals in the same area and in Maremma.

The schedule of farming development of the Region of Tuscany, supporting the agricultural field as well as the agricultural and food industry and forests too, has been addressed giving most of resources in the provinces of Siena, Grosseto, Arezzo, Florence and Pisa.

Tuscany with more than 4000 farming tourist companies is the leader in Italy with a high percentage of foreigners.

Therefore Tourism represents one of the main resources in Tuscany a region in which we can visit the most important cities of art well-known world wide as Florence, Pisa, Siena, Lucca,

Pistoia, Arezzo, Grosseto, but also little towns as San Gimignano and Pienza and so on. Besides the coast of Tuscany offers several and lovely sea side resorts in Versilia and also in the coast of Leghorn, Grosseto, the Elba island, and also the thermal bathing tourism in Chianciano, Montecatini, Casciana, winter sports in the Appennino and Amiata.

The tourism reception in Tuscany is very high and qualified with more than 14000 hotels and guest-houses, villages and farms widespread through the whole region. Furthermore there is also a great offer of restaurants, travel agencies, means of transport, theatres, fair fashion trades, craftsmanship shows, great art exhibitions, music events and performances.

The Region of Tuscany is highly engaged in the promotion of tourism and art, as well as in the improvement of natural and professional resources in order to give very good services to citizens and visitors and to achieve the goals scheduled.

Landscape and urban architecture in Tuscany. The different kinds of landscape in Tuscany are streets, old and modern houses, vineyards, churches and monasteries, walls, doors and castles, the great farms at the time of the Medici. The progress of welfare and economics happened in the territory from the age of the Etruscans came out with a real harmony in the landscape by the care of the work and shrewdness of people living there. The first kind of landscape of the plain goes from the Maremma through a set of valleys: Casentino, Valle dell'Arno, Mugello, Val

di Nievole, Val d'Elsa and Val di Chiana. Here we find different economic activities from farming to the traditions of handicraftmanship, industrial production, working of marble, of textiles, of wood, manufacture of glassware and alabaster and also of the precious stones.

A second kind of landscape is represented by the hills which is typical and widespread in the whole region with its vineyards, olive groves along with woods and gardens. Furthermore there are nice farming houses and villas everywhere, and we find various names of the places as "mountain", "hill", "bathing house", "parish" and so on helping us to understand the physical features of the environment and its meaning.

A third kind of landscape is the mountain with the high peaks of the Apuane, the rocks of the Falterona and of the Pratomagno, Passo della Cisa and Abetone, Bocca Trabaria, Libro Aperto, Monti Pisani and Amiata. The beauty and magnificence of nature is a great attraction for tourists and visitors and a substantial contribution and support for people living there.

As to the ways of communication and transport already at the time of the Etruscans the main ways of communication linked the cities of the coastline as Pisa, Populonia, Talamone and Orbetello with the hinterland cities as Roselle, Vetulonia, Volterra, Vejo, Cortona, Arezzo and Fiesole. During the years of the roman ruling the construction of the via Aurelia was effected, the new steps for the via Faentina and Senese, the extension of the via Cassia and via Clodia. Another main modification took place during the ruling of the Longobardi and the advent of the Franchi,

there was an absolute priority given to the new path of the via Francigena, which coming from Canterbury, after passing through France crossed Tuscany from the pass of the Cisa to Radicofani towards Rome which was the destination of Kings, Princes and noble landowners, but also of pilgrims and beggars. This flowing of people through Tuscany improved the life of cities situated along this path, as Lucca with the Blessed Face, Altopascio with the knights of Tau and Siena, and also little towns as San Gimignano, on the other hand there was a decay of Florence and Arezzo. In the second half of the eighteenth century following the great reforms by Pietro Leopoldo of Asburgo Lorena, Grand Duke of Tuscany, after the reclamations of marshes, the optimization of rivers, the whole regional territory had new ways of communication. By the opening of the route of the Appennines from Bologna to Florence, Siena, Rome, Tuscany, until that time neglected by the Medici, became again the best destination of the European travelers as to the main itineraries of the Grand Tour.

At present the network of roads, state roads, province roads, municipality roads, goes through Tuscany for about 20.000 km. Two great highways cross it going north-south: via Aurelia, which from Liguria to Leghorn has also a highway, and the highway of the sun connecting Bologna with Rome going through Florence and Arezzo, besides there are also the highway Firenze-Mare, Pontedera-Empoli and Firenze-Pisa-Livorno.

As to the railway network in Tuscany, besides the way Leopolda between Leghorn, Pisa, Florence – which in 1848 was the first

Italian railway at long distance – then other ways were built as the Porrettana between Pistoia and Bologna, and recently the Florence-Lucca-Viareggio, La Spezia-Grosseto up to the speed railway Florence-Rome in 1970.

In the sea ways besides the ports of Leghorn, Piombino and Avenza, there are also some little ports from Carrara to Orbetello, as Viareggio, Vada, Talamone, Porto Ercole, Porto Santo Stefano and, in the Elba island, Portoferraio. The airports of Tuscany, further to those for military service of Pisa and Grosseto, we have: the Galileo Galilei of Pisa and the Amerigo Vespucci of Florence. Vespucci reminds the name of the brave explorer of the New World that gave the name to America. For this reason in Florence, his native city, there is the Museum of the sailors of Tuscany and the School of the Military Navy and as a confirmation of a navy tradition in Tuscany, the city of Leghorn is the seat of the Accademia Navale Italiana.

The urban architecture in Tuscany. The Etruscans were the early people to settle between the Arno and the Tevere, their settlements went far beyond the present Tuscany, afterwards due to the powerful extension in these lands by the Romans in the early decades of the III century B.C., they retired and became under the name of Tuscia, the VII region of the Empire. After the dominion by the Longobardi defeated by Carlo Magno, around the VII and the IX century a.c., the early government of the Tuscan land set up with Marca Tusciae. In the year 1000 it included the lands of Luni, Lucca, Pisa, Pistoia and Florence. The

Grand Duchy of Lucca was the leading land in the central northern Tuscany also in the next centuries when Siena and Arezzo came out as the early municipalities. Afterwards there were lasting and terrible fights between the Guelfi and the Ghibellini in Florence, Lucca, Pisa. Siena and Arezzo for the political ruling as well as of the trades and military of the region. After the fall of Siena in 1569 the Medici established the Grand Duchy of Tuscany. Between 1765 and 1790 the Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo of Asburgo Lorena began a great and enlightened reformation and Tuscany set up with a modern and juridical administration. Then between 1799 and 1814 there was a new setting due to the dominion by Napoleone, close to the republic and very progressive against the church. Tuscany was deeply involved in the fights of the Risorgimento and after the referendum in 1859 was ready to join with the unity of Italy and became between 1865 up to 1871 the capital. The present setting of Tuscany was determined with the Unity of Italy with the annexe, in 1871, of Massa Carrara, and the following modifications of the lands in 1923 towards the provinces of La Spezia and Forlì and two years later, the recovering of Capraia to the islands of Tuscany.

For the corporations of merchants as Datini and also for the bankers as the Medici and the Strozzi the decorative richness of the buildings, of the monuments and of the great works of art were the leading symbol of their power in the society also by the point of view of economics, therefore in these years we find the creativeness and the genius of the most important artists at that time as Leonardo, Michelangelo and Brunelleschi.

Therefore there is the research of the “suitable style”, in Florence as in other places in Tuscany, an endless set of monuments, villas, buildings, parishes, cathedrals also in the centres of towns (for instance S. Maria Novella, the Cathedral and Santa Croce in Florence), sometimes by the inspiration of a pontiff new towns are founded in the frame of a “ perfect architectural beauty”, like Pienza but also military architecture in Ripafratta or Montecarlo near Lucca.

The research of a perfection in the smartness of shapes in San Miniato al Monte or at the Badia Fiesolana, as well as the link of chromatism and colours of buildings and squares: the red of bricks in Lucca, Pisa and Siena; the grey of stones in Florence, Arezzo, Pistoia and Volterra. In Tuscany there are several works of great architectural beauty devoted for religious purposes, as the Piazza dei Miracoli in Pisa, and also for the civic life, as Piazza del Campo in Siena, and also Piazza del Comune, of the Baptistry and of the Court House in Pistoia.

At the time of the Renaissance the dominion of the two main cities Florence and Siena, then the establishment of the Grandduchy of Tuscany. Early the Medici and afterwards the Lorena improved the contacts and links between the two capitals and the other towns of the regions. At the time of “Florence capital” there was a “Florentine renaissance” thanks to the power and the enrichment of the state government, of the handicraftmanship of quality and of the cultural tourism.

A supremacy of culture and art which represents still nowadays the real identity of Tuscany with the beauty of the lands, a unique

landscape throughout the region, in the countryside as well as in the historic centres. Therefore the identity of Tuscany is a matching harmoniously put together of nature art and culture due to the work of the people through the centuries, and for this reason Tuscany is admired worldwide for the importance of the cities of art, the green valleys and for the very special places as the historic centre of Florence, piazza del Duomo in Pisa, the towers of San Gimignano, Pienza, Val d'Orcia and the fourteen Medicean Florentine villas which have been appointed "heritage of the world".

Traduzione a cura di Roberto Cantini