

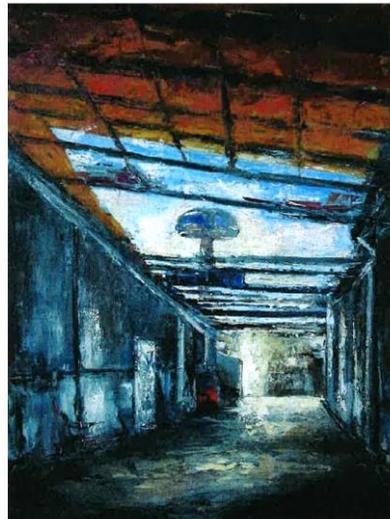
Museum of Industry and Labour of Saronno (MILS)



The Museum preserves objects, machinery and documents related to the period of time that goes from the industrialization of the late 1800s to the "economic boom" of the 1960s. Over this period some of the most significant episodes of the Lombardy's production history developed in the district of Saronno. The exhibited material comes from the collection of local companies and of individual citizens.

Saronno is located in Northern Italy no far from the Malpensa Airport (30 Km) and well connected with Milano (20 min. by train)

History and mission



In 1996 a group of entrepreneurs and employees formed an Association aiming at the creation of a Museum of Industry and Labour of the Saronno's territory (MILS). In 1998 the Ferrovie Nord Milano, a regional railway company, made available a former workshop used in the past to repair steam engines. The Museum was opened on 25th of October of the same year. The location highlights the major contribution the birth in 1879 of the first railway line of the Ferrovie Nord connecting Milan and Saronno gave to the development of Saronno and its district.

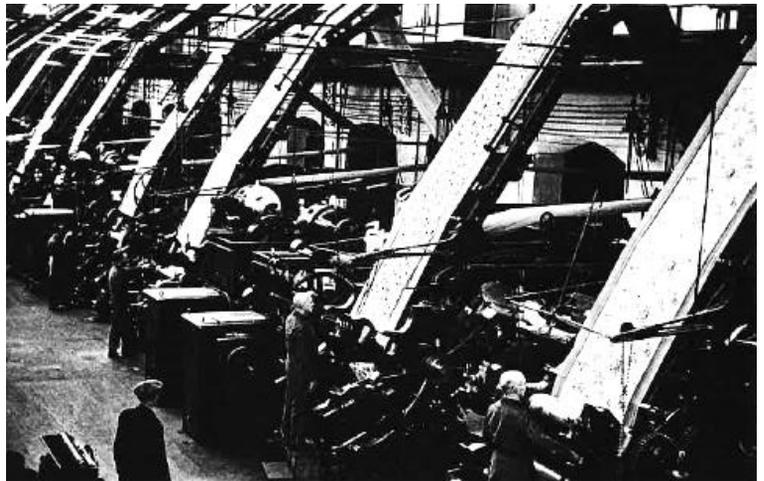
The Museum is a private, non-profit-making institution and intends to preserve, enhance and raise awareness of the historical heritage of the industries located in Saronno and its surroundings.

The Museum is focused on the period that goes from the 2nd half of 19th century to 1960; in this period Saronno was involved in a shift away from an economy based on agriculture and commerce to an economy progressively more industrial up to a full development made possible by a strong presence of industrial activities. In 1960 Saronno received the honorary title of "city" with a Presidential decree.

The Museum mission goes beyond the testimony of a mere economic aspect and intends to create a bridge between past and present and to promote education as well.

The represented sectors include mechanical industries, transport, electronics, textile and food industries.

In 2004 MILS was recognized as "Museum collection of the Lombardy Region" and in 2018 as "cultural entity of regional relevance".



Fabric printing machines at the De Angeli Frua plant in Saronno; on the left: paintings of the artist Angelo Ariti representing the railway and the interiors of two old factories.

THE MUSEUM EXHIBITION AREAS

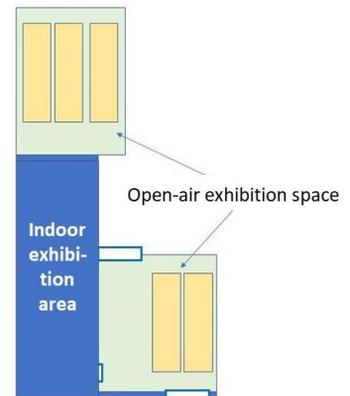
The exposition area of the Museum is structured into an open-air space 1400 sq. mt. large and an indoor area of 800 sq. mt.

The open-air exhibition

It is devoted to the railways and preserves old railway carriages, locomotives and freight cars of the Ferrovie Nord Milano (FNM).

Adjacent to the Museum entrance there are a train carriage of 1st and 2nd class (type 1513) dated 1929, one of the first electric locomotives (1929) and a freight car (type X065).

In a separate area there are other interesting items such as



- the electrical locomotive type 700.09 (period 1929-40) together with a driving coach type 810.08 that formed one of the first “bidirectional trains” used by FNM;
- a railway wagon with crane (type X0093) used for the maintenance of the railway lines and for loading and unloading big and particularly heavy goods;
- A service vehicle type X011 with two axes used by technicians and workers for the inspection of the electric overhead lines powering the trains.



1 – Interior of a railway carriage of 1st class – type 1513; 2 – railway carriage type 1513; 3 - railway wagon with crane (type X0093); 4 - driving coach type 810.08 of Ferrovie Nord Milano

The indoor area



An old Art Nouveaux canopy welcomes visitors; originally it was located at the entrance of the Saronno railway station.

The indoor area of the Museum preserves a large collection of industrial machines, products, documentation, advertising related to the vast complex of industrial plants active in Saronno.

The Reception

At the reception a large map shows where the plants of the main Saronno industries were located. In addition two interesting items are exhibited:

- a. An electrical printer for train tickets used in the period 1942-1989;
- b. A control system used to synchronize the clocks of the railway station of Milano Cadorna.



The Room of the Memory

The visit continues with the Room of the Memory where – depicted on the walls – the visitor can see the portraits of 32 entrepreneurs who contributed to the local industrial development. In this room the Museum Library is located too.



The first exhibition hall

It preserves a large variety of equipment and work tools related to the transport sector; they belonged to Ferrovie Nord Milano (FNM).

Very interesting is the Max Judel equipment which maneuvered the railway switches with its levers and cables at the FNM Milano Cadorna station for about 100 years starting from 1895. A twin system was in operation also at the Saronno railway station.

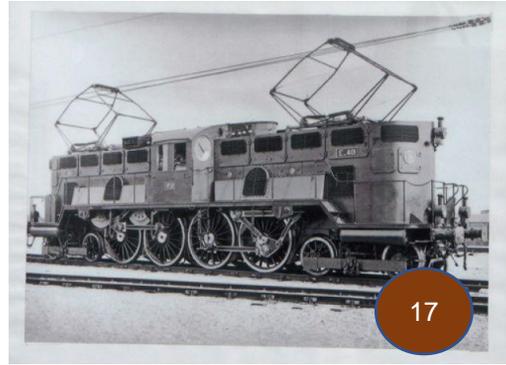
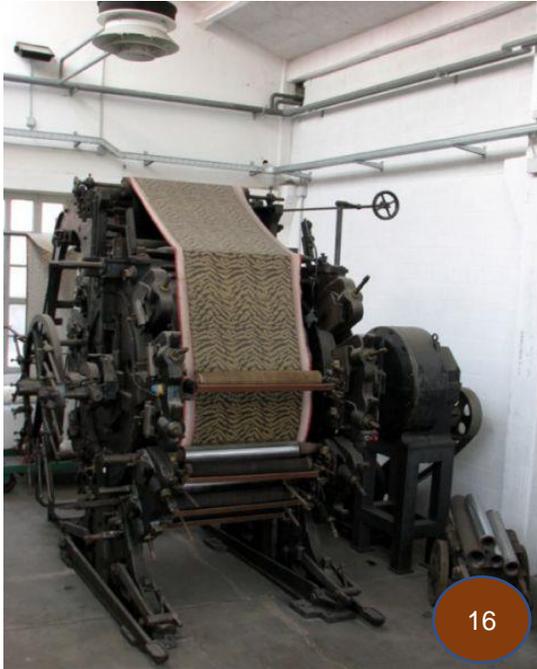
In the same hall:

- The first coal and kerosene stoves manufactured by FOS – Fonderia Officine di Saronno and commercialized with the Warm Morning brand;
- the rims of cattle cars and the wheels of motorcycles, cars and three-wheelers manufactured by Gianetti;
- the Parma safes for offices and banks and an armoured encasement which protected the golden altarpiece of St. Ambrogio in Milano for about 100 years since 1881;
- the train and marine engines produced by Isotta Fraschini and a restored tank which was used in the battle of El Alamein in Africa (1942).



9 –stove manufactured by FOS; 10 and 11 – wheels manufactured by Gianetti; 12 and 14 – engines of Isotta Fraschini; 13 - encasement of the golden altarpiece of St. Ambrogio in Milano; 15 - tank used in the battle of El Alamein in Africa

The second exhibition hall



In this hall the visitors can see historical relics of various companies:

- objects and photos of CEMSA, one of the historic companies of Saronno initially established as a subsidiary of a German company (the Maschinenfabrik Esslingen) and initially devoted to the construction of locomotives;
- the printing equipment of the typography of the Padre Monti Institute including an “Intertype machine” still partially functioning;
- a large equipment used by De Angeli Frua for printing fabrics with twelve different colours;
- a selection of LUS ballpoint pens and fountain pens with their nibs;
- furniture locks produced by Borsani and tin containers and metalwork by Ebi Butti;
- the delicate Torley laces, the Poss towels and a Fusi stocking making machine;
- Early radios, gramophones, recorders and small appliances manufactured by Lesa, Wundercart and Incis;



- a cart full of sacks bearing the name of the Molitoria Canti, who together with Biffi and Carrozzi supplied finely ground flour.



The Phonola room

The Phonola room houses antique radios, gramophones and TV sets manufactured by FIMI and commercialized with the Phonola brand. The collection includes a TV set (*“the turnable TV”*) whose twins are exhibited at the Guggenheim Museum in New York and at the Triennial Exposition of Milano.



Recently (2018) the vintage radios collection available at the Museum was enlarged thanks to a donation made by the son of a collector. It is a collection of more than 100 radios manufactured in Italy and abroad (Europe and North America) in the period from 1925 to early '60 i.e. from the first crystal radio to the models with electronic tubes and then with transistors.

The new “Cutrupi collection” found a suggestive location inside a railway carriage and a freight wagon both positioned in the area immediately adjacent to the MILS entrance.



22 – Radio Phonola mod. 651; 23 – Phonola radiophonograph; 24 – “Turnable” TV set – Phonola; 25 and 26 - Some of the ancient radios of the “Cutrupi collection”

The Lazzaroni exhibition hall

The last section of the Museum is fully devoted to the D. Lazzaroni & C., a firm manufacturing pastries, cookies and the famous “*amaretti di Saronno*”; here the visitor can see a large set of equipment used to manufacture the Lazzaroni products; a large part of these machines were designed and manufactured in Great Britain. The entire production cycle is represented, from the processing of the raw materials to the ovens used for baking, including an ancient coal-fed one dated 1888. Everything is surrounded by antique cupboards with glass doors housing a historical collection of cartons and tin cans with serigraphs of famous designers used as containers for cookies, amaretti and pastries.

Lazzaroni was the first Italian company to industrialize the production of biscuits and sell them with the homonymous brand. Its products were exported all over the world.



27 – Biscuit printer made in UK and used by Lazzaroni; 28 – Tin cans used as containers for cookies ; 29 – Mixer machine for biscuits; 30 - One of the oldest ovens used at Lazzaroni

How to reach us



MUSEO DELLE INDUSTRIE E DEL LAVORO DEL SARONNESE (MILS)

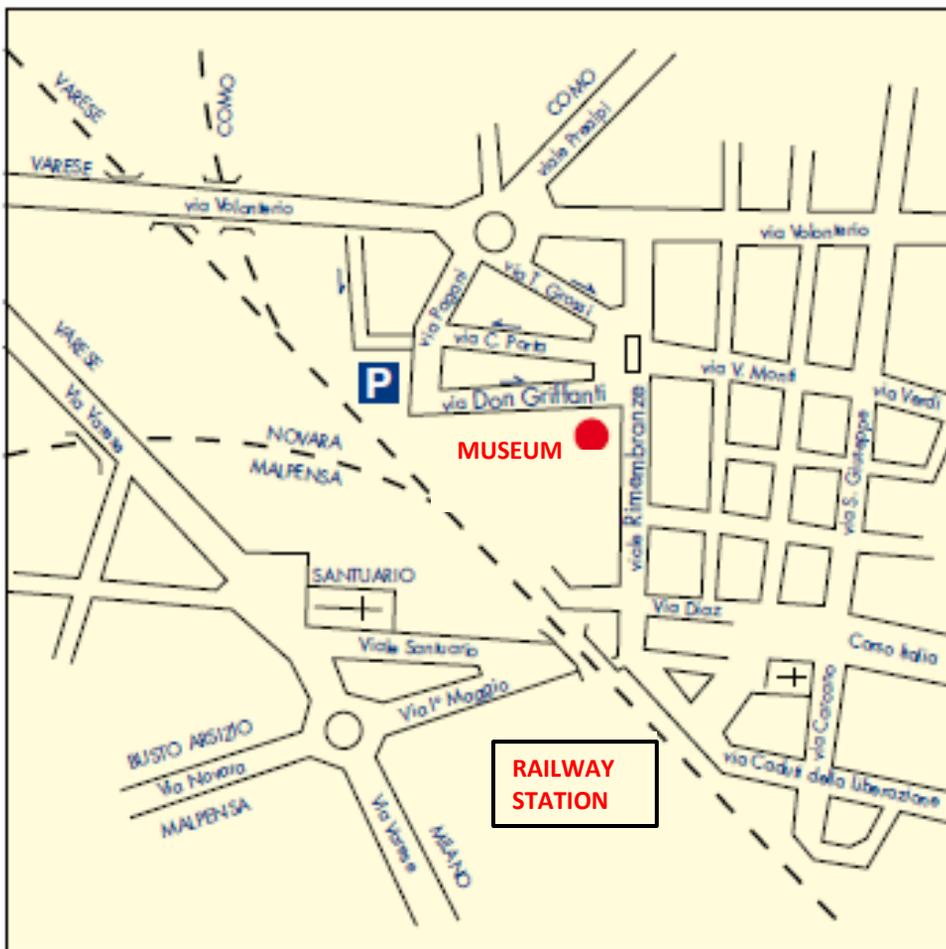
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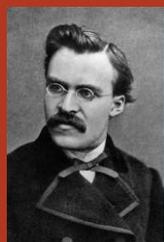
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The Museum of Industry and Labour of Saronno is no far from the Railway Station (6 min walking distance).

Saronno can be reached easily by the train lines connecting it to Milano, Malpensa Airport, Como, Varese /Laveno and Novara.



“The future influences the present just as much as the past.”

Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

 <p>ASSOCIAZIONE MUSEO INDUSTRIE LAVORO SARONNESE</p>	 <p>Raccolta Museale</p> <hr/> <p>Soggetto di rilevanza regionale</p>  <p>Regione Lombardia</p>
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