



Milano



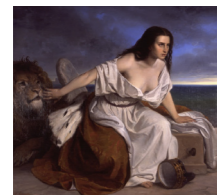
RACCOLTE STORICHE  
PALAZZO MORIGGIA  
MUSEO DEL RISORGIMENTO  
LABORATORIO DI STORIA MODERNA E CONTEMPORANEA

## PALAZZO MORIGGIA MUSEO DEL RISORGIMENTO

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY HISTORY LABORATORY  
CIVIC HISTORICAL COLLECTION

declared war on Austria, in alliance with the Papal States and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and attacked the weakened Austria in her Italian possessions. But Piedmontese Army was defeated by Radetzky; Charles Albert abdicated in favor of his son Victor Emmanuel, who signed the peace treaty on 6th August 1849. Austria reoccupied Northern Italy. Sardinia wasn't able to beat Austria alone, so it had to look for an alliance with European powers.

### Room 8



#### THE DECADE OF PREPARATION 1849-1859

The Decade of Preparation 1849-1859 (Decennio di Preparazione) took place during the last years of Risorgimento, ended in 1861 with the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy, guided by Vittorio Emanuele II. After 1848, the repression on Lombard-Venetian territory became stronger but it didn't stop patriots,

who carried on plotting against Austrian government. Meanwhile, in Piedmont there were several economic and political reforms thanks to Camillo Benso Count of Cavour, a leading figure in the movement toward Italian unification. He was the founder of the original Liberal Party and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia. He attempted to establish alliances with other European powers by Piedmont's participation at Crimean War (1853-56). During the peace conference in Paris Cavour brought attention on the cause of Italian unification. On the evening of 14th January 1858 Felice Orsini and his accomplices threw three bombs against the imperial carriage of Napoleon III. Cavour took advantage of this assassination attempt and convinced Napoleon to help Piedmont and prevent another violent revolution. After a covert meeting at Plombières, Napoleon III and Cavour signed a secret treaty of alliance against Austria: France would help Sardinia-Piedmont in case Austria would attack (Sardinia-Piedmont would then give Nice and Savoy to France in return).

### Room 9-10



#### THE SECOND ITALIAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

After the agreement of Plombières Cavour provoked Wien by a series of military manoeuvres close to the border; Austria issued an ultimatum on 23rd April 1859, demanding the complete demobilization of Sardinian army, but it was rejected and so Austria

declared war on Sardinia. On 4th July Franco-Sardinian allies defeated the Austrians at Magenta, Solferino and San Martino; later Napoleon III and Victor Emmanuel II arrived to Milan. Meanwhile, the "Cacciatori delle Alpi", a volunteer formation led by Garibaldi, fought in Northern Italy. The war was very bloody in so far Henri Dunant founded the International Red Cross in 1864. Despite the obtained victories, for fear that the Germans would come to Austria's assistance, Napoleon, to seek a way out of the war, signed an armistice with Austria at Villafranca. Most of Lombardy, with its capital Milan, was assigned to France, which immediately surrendered these territories to the Kingdom of Sardinia. Instead Veneto remained under Austrian domination. Shortly after the beginning of the war the rulers of Duchy of Parma, Duchy of Modena, Grand Duchy of Tuscany and the Papal States were expelled by revolutionaries and in 1860 these central states were annexed to the Kingdom of Sardinia by plebiscites.



### Room 11-12

#### THE EXPEDITION OF THE THOUSAND

The Expedition of The Thousand (Spedizione dei Mille) took place in 1860, when a corps of volunteers

embarked to Sicily to conquer the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, ruled by the Bourbons. Garibaldi gathered 1.089 volunteers: they were poorly armed with dated muskets and were dressed in a minimalist uniform consisting of red shirts and grey trousers. On 5th May they seized two steamships, which they renamed Il Piemonte and Il Lombardo, at Quarto, near Genoa. On 11th May they landed at Marsala, on the westernmost point of Sicily; on 15th they defeated Neapolitan troops at Calatafimi, than they conquered Palermo on the 29th, after three days of violent clashes. Following the victory at Milazzo (29th May) they were able to control all the island. The last battle took place on 1st October at Volturno, where twenty-one thousand Garibaldini defeated thirty thousand Bourbons soldiers. The feat was a success: Naples and Sicily were annexed to the Kingdom of Sardinia by a plebiscite.

### Room 13-14



#### THE KINGDOM OF ITALY AND THE THIRD ITALIAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

The Kingdom of Italy was founded on 17th March 1861, when King Victor Emmanuel II of Sardinia was

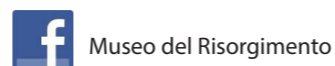
proclaimed King of Italy. But Italian unification was not complete: Veneto and Rome were still not included. The new government should have unified the various political, social, administrative, economic and cultural traditions of the different areas of the peninsula. In addition there was an urgent need to defeat poverty and illiteracy. Meanwhile, in 1862, Garibaldi gathered 1.200 volunteers to conquer Rome. But the King, for fear of an international reaction in defence of the Pope, sent the army, which stopped the volunteers at Aspromonte. Garibaldi was wounded and imprisoned. The increasing discord between Austria and Prussia over the German Question turned into open war in 1866, offering Italy an occasion to conquer Veneto. On 8th April Italian Government signed a military alliance with Prussia and the Third Italian War of Independence began. Italian Army was weak but Prussia's victory allowed Italy to annex Venice and Veneto. Lastly, on 20th September 1870 Italian troops entered Rome through an artillery-opened breach in the wall known as the "Porta Pia breach"; Lazio was annexed by a plebiscite and in the next year Rome, the Eternal City, became the new capital of the Kingdom of Italy.



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The Civic Raccolte Storiche (City's Historical Collections) of Milan are divided into the Museum of Italian Risorgimento (including the Library and the Archive) and Palazzo Morando - Costume Moda Immagine (Costume, Fashion and Image). Both the museums tell the urban and social change of the city thanks to their collections of paintings and clothing from 18th to 20th century.

In 1884 a municipal call asked the citizens of Milan to donate their mementoes and relics to a National Exhibition in Turin. Here the first pavilion about the age of Risorgimento was set up and inaugurated by the King Umberto I and his wife, Queen Margherita. In 1885 the mementoes came back to Milan and so the Museum of Italian Risorgimento was founded. In a first time it was placed in the Salone dei Giardini Pubblici (Hall of the Public Gardens) and then in Castello Sforzesco (Sforza Castle).

Since then, the museum has been holding a fundamental role in historical research thanks to Carlo Cattaneo, Agostino Bertani and other patriots' memories. In 1922 it acquired Achille Bertarelli's fund (consisting of 40.000 books, periodical press and first editions of newspapers) and then, in 1925, the Archivio della Guerra, where relics, photos, postcards and documents are kept nowadays. This is one of the most important archives on the First World War and on the following two decades.

In 1923, after St. Germain's Peace Treaty, the museum got the insignia with which Napoleon was crowned King of Italy on 26th May 1805 (coming from Hofburg Schatzkammer in Wien). Then, in 1935, Mussolini donated the flag of Legione Lombarda dei Cacciatori - the first Italian tricolor.

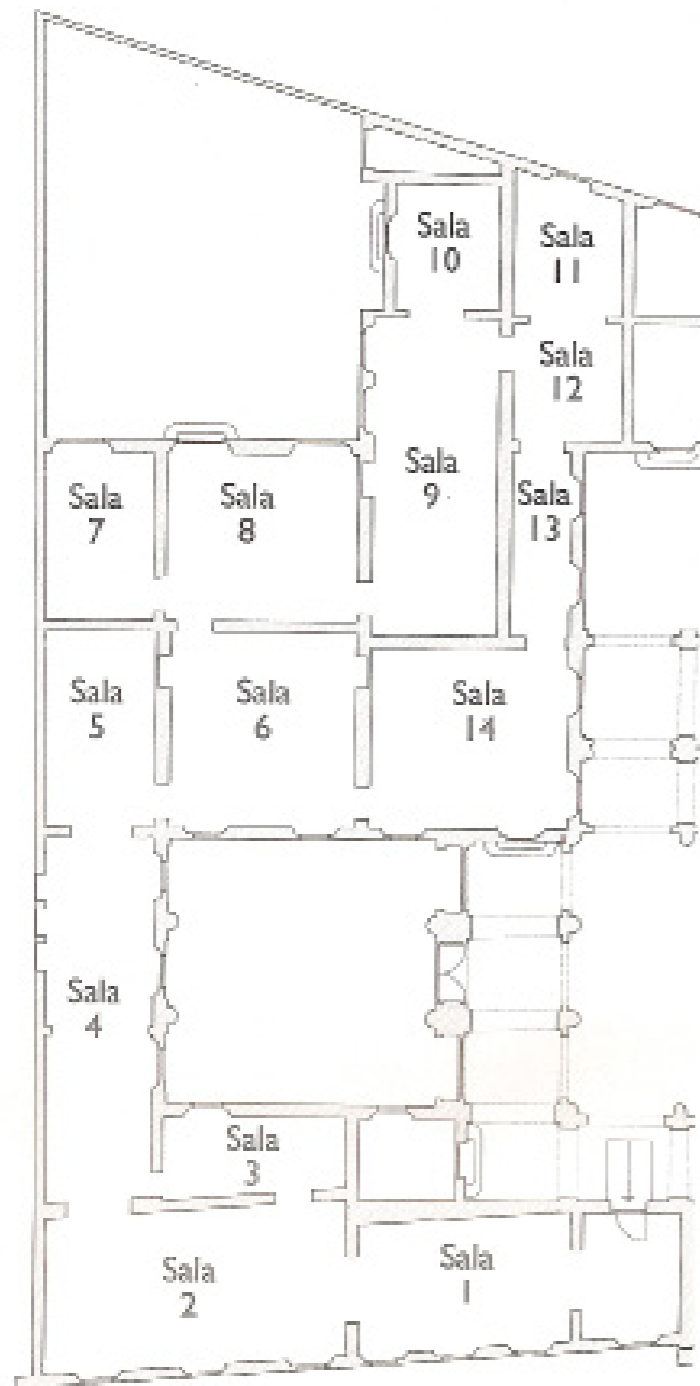
Due to the aerial bombardments in August 1943 several historical relics and documents belonged to patriots and fighters were lost or damaged; on 7th July 1951 the Civic Historical Collections were moved to Palazzo Moriggia, built by the architect Piermarini for the De Marchi family, who, afterwards, donated it to the Municipality of Milan.

Lastly the museum acquired the paintings portraying the battles happened in 1859, commissioned by the Savoy family to various painters.

Relics and paintings constitute an outstanding document of the Wars of Independence and of the building of a national identity. The collection cover the period from the reign of Napoleon, begun in 1796 to the conquest of Rome on 20th September 1870, when the city was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy.

Enjoy your visit!!!





### Room 1 – 2



#### THE FIRST ITALIAN TRICOLOUR

The only surviving flag of the Legione Lombarda dei Cacciatori a Cavallo (the Lombard Chivalry Hunters Legion) is one of the first Italian tricolour. It was given by Napoleon Bonaparte to Italian patriots, who joined the Armée d'Italie against Austria adopting green, white and red as national colours in the banner during the battle of Arcole on 16th November 1796.

The motto "vivere libero o morire" (live free or die) and the symbols of the first tricolour recall the revolutionary ideals, the fights against the absolute power, the claims to freedom and the rising of a National Identity. In the front of the flag is represented the red Phrygian cap, which, in Ancient Rome, distinguished the freed slaves, while in the back, Bruto and Cassio's daggers, which were used to kill Caesar in the conspiracy and the plumb rule, an instrument used to check the balance of a surface, symbolizing the French revolutionary value of Egalité.



#### THE RULE OF NAPOLEON

Italian Risorgimento started with the occupation by Napoleonic troops, which brought a political renewal and spread ideas of freedom and independence established during the French Revolution. On 7th January 1797 the Congress formed by representatives from the provinces of Modena, Bologna, Ferrara and Reggio Emilia, founded the Cispadane Republic under the protection of the French Army and chose the green, white and red tricolour as the symbol of the newborn government. In July 1797, due to the annexation of Lombardy, it changed the name to the Cisalpine Republic. In a second time, after Campoformio's Treaty on 17th October 1797, Bergamo, Brescia, Crema and Valtellina joined the Cisalpine Republic and Milan became the capital. The period from 1796 to 1799 was characterized by an active political life and several innovative actions in administrative and legal fields. In April 1799 French army was forced to withdraw from Lombardy by Austrian and Russian troops. After the victory in Marengo's battle on 14th June 1800, Napoleon reasserted control over Northern Italy and became the President of the Italian Republic, which consisted of the same areas that had formed the Cisalpine Republic. From 1802 to 1805, Italian patriots, together with French troops, formed the first national army. On 17th March 1805, following Bonaparte's assumption of the title of Emperor of the French, the Italian Republic was transformed into the Kingdom of Italy, with Napoleon as king and his stepson Eugène de Beauharnais as viceroy. Napoleon I was crowned in the Duomo of Milan on 26th May, with the Iron Crown of Lombardy. In 1923, after St. Germain's Peace Treaty, the Museum of Risorgimento got the Regalia of his consecration - the imperial crown, the green velvet real mantle with his monogram on the back, "The Hand of Justice" and the sceptre with San Marco's Lion - previously stolen by Austria in 1815. The government apparatus was modernised: Napoleon introduced a centralised bureaucratic machine based on prefects, which had large powers on departments. The chief Lombard town became a modern buzzing city, which was economically and culturally very active. But the Napoleonic regime became more and more despotic, then the middle-class citizens, whose expectations of freedom and unification were betrayed, and common people, tired of heavy taxes and military service, started to oppose to the French domination. When Napoleon abdicated in April 1814, there was a revolt in Milan during which the Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of Italy, Giuseppe Prina, was murdered. Austrians returned to government but the citizens of Milan were more aware of their own rights and a new national identity was arising.

### Room 3-4



#### THE RESTORATION

After the defeat of Napoleon there was the Congress of Vienna, a conference of ambassadors of European States chaired by the Austrian statesman Klemens Wenzel von Metternich, held from September 1814 to June 1815. The principal objective was to provide a long-term peace for Europe by settling critical issues arising from the French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic Wars. Austria returned to rule Lombardy and Veneto areas, where new ideas of independence and nationality were spreading despite a severe censorship and a strict police control. Following the closure of "Il Conciliatore" (1818-1819), a journal where Federico Confalonieri, Luigi Porro Lambertenghi, Silvio Pellico, Pietro Borsieri and Lodovico di Breme collaborated, several patriots founded secret societies, such as Federati and Carbonari. The heavy taxation, the compulsory military service and the protectionism aggravated the situation and exasperated the opposition against Austria. Many conspirators, among which Confalonieri, Maroncelli, Trivulzio and Pellico, were tortured and imprisoned in Spilberk Castle (Southern Moravia). Le Mie Prigioni (My Prisons) – the book written by Silvio Pellico - shows the inhuman condition of prisoners locked up in that fortress.



#### THE FATHERS OF ITALY GIUSEPPE MAZZINI

Giuseppe Mazzini was a politician and a journalist who played a crucial role for Risorgimento. He founded a new secret society called La Giovine Italia ("Young Italy") to promote the Italian unification. Mazzini believed that a popular uprising would create a unified Italy, and would touch

off a European-wide revolutionary movement. His motto was God and the People and his principle aim was the unification of the several states and kingdoms of the peninsula into a single republic as the only true foundation of Italian liberty. The new nation should have been "One, Independent and Free Republic". In 1833 Mazzini organized the first attempted insurrection, but the Government of Savoy discovered the plot and many revolutionaries were arrested; Mazzini was tried in absence and sentenced to death. Despite this setback he organized another uprising in the following year: a group of Italian exiles should enter Piedmont from Switzerland with the help of Giuseppe Garibaldi, who had recently joined the secret society founded by Mazzini, Young Italy. But Piedmontese army crushed easily the new attempt. Mazzini was a lifelong defender of liberty; for his devotion to the cause he is considered one of the founders of Italy.



#### GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI

Giuseppe Garibaldi was an Italian general and politician who played a large role in the history of Italy. He personally commanded and fought in many military campaigns that led to the formation of a unified Italy. He was appointed general by the provisional government of Milan in 1848, General of the Roman Republic in 1849 by the Minister of War, and led the Expedition of the Thousand on behalf and with the consent of Victor Emmanuel

II. He was called the "Hero of Two Worlds" because of his military enterprises in South America and in Europe. These earned him a considerable reputation in Italy and abroad. Garibaldi was exiled to Caprera in 1849, after the adventure of the Roman Republic, and there he went back in the last years of his life, building his own 'self-supporting' farm.

### Room 5-6-7



#### THE FIVE DAYS OF MILAN AND THE FIRST ITALIAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

In 1848 revolutionary riots broke out in numerous places in the peninsula, as well in many other parts of Europe. Charles Albert in Piedmont and Leopold II in the Grand-Duchy of Tuscany were forced to make concessions to democrats. Sicily, excepting Messina, expelled Bourbon armies; Charles II of Bourbon was compelled to leave the

Duchy of Parma. Also Milan and Venice, the capitals of the Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia under Austrian rule, revolted. On 18th March, after the uprising in Wien and the fall of Metternich, a rebellion arose in Milan. Austrian garrison was well equipped, commanded by an experienced general, Joseph Radetzky, who had no intention of yielding to the uprising. In spite of this, the whole city fought throughout the streets, raising barricades, firing from windows and roofs, and urging the rural population to join them. They formed a provisional government presided by the Podestà, Gabrio Casati, and a Council of War under Carlo Cattaneo. Radetzky understood the difficulty of resisting under siege in the city centre and on the evening of 22nd March he preferred to withdraw towards the "Quadrilatero" (the fortified zone made up of the four cities of Verona, Legnago, Mantova and Peschiera del Garda): the rest of Lombard and the Venice area was free. Also in Rome a revolt broke out in November 1848: the liberals demanded a democratic government, social reforms and a declaration of war against Empire of Austria. Pope Pius IX refused these requests and left room. The government of Papal States was temporarily replaced by the Roman Republic, declared on 9th February 1849 and led by Carlo Armellini, Giuseppe Mazzini and Aurelio Saffi, who formed a triumvirate. Its constitution was very open-handed: it was the first in the world to abolish capital punishment; reduced the taxation and declared freedom of worship. Giuseppe Garibaldi took command of the defence of Rome. Many patriots, like Luciano Manara, sacrificed themselves for freedom. But French Army entered Rome on 3rd July and reestablished the Holy See's temporal power. Garibaldi tried to reach Venice, which was still resisting Austrian siege. But during the march his wife Anita, who was carrying their fifth child, died. Meanwhile, the Kingdom of Sardinia decided to exploit the apparently favourable moment, and