

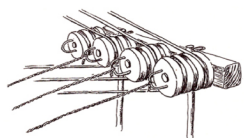
ROPE MAKER'S TOOLS



CROXE (CROCE)



SGRANFIO/CHIJA
PETTINE DA CANEVO



BOTESELE



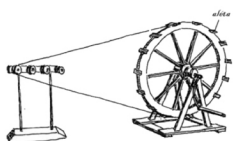
CAO



ARBUIO/ANSIN



SMAJA



MOLA

the drawings are taken from the book
LA SAPIENZA DEI NOSTRI PADRI
HISTORICAL TECHNICAL VOCABULARY
OF THE VICENZA DIALECT
edited by Gruppo di Ricerca della Civiltà Rurale
Edizioni Accademia Olimpica - Vicenza

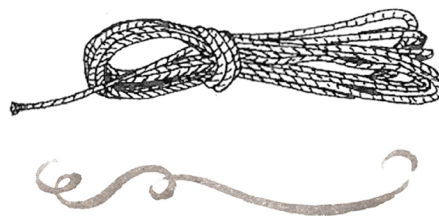
A VISIT TO THE ANCIENT ROPE FACTORY OF THE VERONA FAMILY

A tradition and manual work
that we have been carrying on with love
and care since the 18th century,
a spinning workshop and museum
with a centuries-old story to tell
where all the work is still done
delicately by hand today.

Come and discover a string factory unique in
the world, perfectly preserved and active.

A leap into the past
to relive and touch history...

ANTICA CORDERIA
FAMIGLIA VERONA:
Via San Camillo de Lellis, 33
36016 - Thiene (Vicenza)

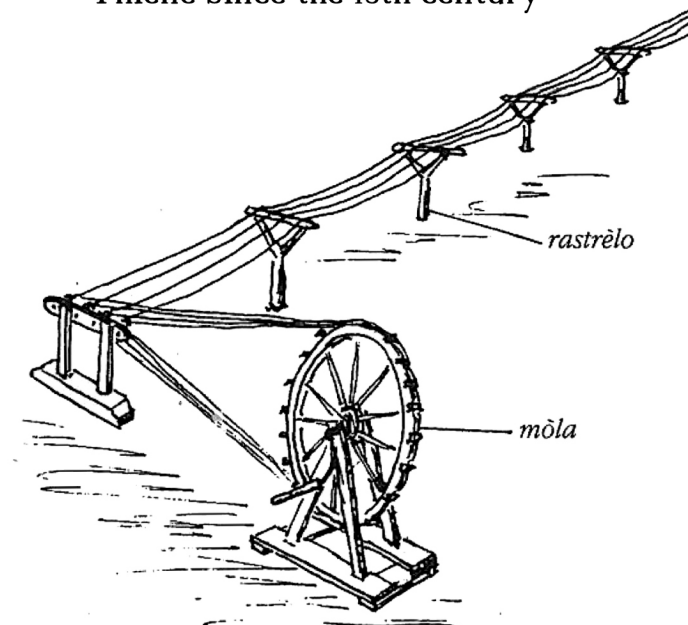


Contact Us:
www.anticacorderiaverona.org
anticacorderiaverona@gmail.com
+39 340 39 59 743

Le soghe di Thiene

THE ROPE FACTORY OF THE VERONA FAMILY

The story of an ancient art:
the process of manufacturing hemp
ropes that has been widespread in
Thiene since the 18th century



àndìo

Le Soghe di Thiene

The Rope Factory of the Verona family

In Thiene, near Vicenza, in the ancient Capovilla district, now Via San Camillo de Lellis, in front of the Aedicula with the Madonna on the throne between Saints Joseph and Antonio almost close to the ancient church of San Vincenzo, the Hemp processing laboratory owned by the Verona family in Thiene.

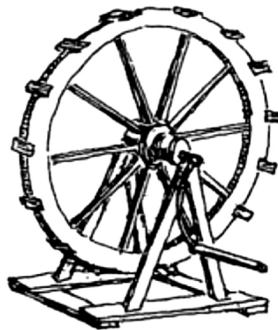
The only existing example, testifying to an artisan activity that has now disappeared, this workshop was able, until a few years ago, to completely perform its functions. Francesco Verona (1894-1990) known as **Bàrba Sogàro**, not for the beard he never had, but for having inherited the nickname from his uncle as well as the laboratory (Bàrba in Venetian dialect means uncle, Sogàro means rope maker), he walked up and down a long passage shaded by age-old mulberries with the skein of hemp, reducing it into twine and then into a large rope.

This corner of Thiene still retains its medieval appearance, almost intact, perhaps thanks to Bàrba himself, who had never wanted to adapt to the times. Born in 1894 (worked until 1985) he had never wanted to modernize the laboratory. Even the electric light had been excluded from this exercise suspended in time and completely careless of the industrialization processes. When it began to get dark, we would go home or go to some neighbor's barn to repair work tools.

The raw hemp arrived from Ferrara in bales of about 100 kg each, which were unraveled and divided into two parts: the more woody part was used to obtain the raw thread for the larger strings, with the other, the heart, a superior quality yarn, which was used for thin ropes or for weaving canvas.

To crack the hemp a sturdy wooden pole was used,

ANTICO LABORATORIO
DI FILATURA DELLA CANAPA
DAL **BÀRBA SOGARÒ**



FROM 1778
CONTRA CAPOVILLA, SAN VINCENZO
THIENE (VI)

planted on the ground, called the “**Croce**”, crossed, at about 180 cm from the ground, by an iron where the Bàrba or his family beat the hemp stalks vigorously until they were reduced to many filaments. Then he proceeded to pull the hemp, split, over a “**Sgránfio**” so that the thinner part remained in the hands of the Bàrba. The final part of the work, namely combing, consisted of passing the hemp many times over the thin rods of a hemp comb until a first choice fiber came out, with which thin ropes were obtained for various uses.

Francesco Verona, also known as Bàrba Sogàro, took a large bundle of hemp under his arm, attached the ends of the thread on cylinders of different sizes according to the size of the “**Botesèle**” rope and started spinning. The route, in general, was sixty meters long, as it was along the “**Andio**”, the path belonging to the laboratory. Depending on the thickness of the rope, three or four threads were joined by means of an “**Arbùio**”, which were then immersed in a stone water tank, to soften them and make them more suitable for processing.

A daughter of Bàrba, Maria or Valentina, held and managed the “**Cào**”, which kept the sections of the strings still separate from the “**Bote[é]le**” side, and from the “**Arbùio**” side the section of the rope already formed. The one who progressively made the Cào slide towards the Bote[é]le gave the right compactness to the weave, knowing how to adjust the movement.

The finished rope was scraped with a “**Smàja**” metal mesh to make it less bristly to the touch. A large wheel called “**Mòla**” was the driving motor: it was made to turn slowly by hand in order to set in motion the cylinders that made the hemp threads twist.

The ropes of various sizes were loaded on the wooden cart or on the bicycle handlebar and finally sold on the Monday market in Thiene, in other nearby markets, or directly in the laboratory. The Bàrba served the whole district, from the plateau to the merchants of Vicenza. Those who supplied themselves for the first time asked about the Bàrba and everyone knew how to show the way, he was so well known. Correspondence also arrived without an address, sometimes it was enough to write:

Bàrba Sogaro, Thiene...

... and the mail arrived regularly.

Bàrba died in 1990, but the laboratory with all its tools, jealously guarded by his daughter and grandson, continues today to bear witness to an ancient art thanks to the recovery and passion for a job that has now disappeared.

*Luisella Verona
Thiene, Vicenza*

