

# Historical Garage Municipal Warehouses of Montecchio Maggiore

## Presentation

The "Historical Garage Municipal Warehouses of Montecchio Maggiore" was created with the goal of preserving vehicles, equipment and tools of the most representative of those used in the last 50 years by the Services "Garbage Collection", "Water and gas", "Maintenance streets - Public illumination" and "Maintenance" of the Municipality properties.



Avoiding the demolition of vehicles and other tools, preserving them protected in a suitable structure sheltered from adverse weather conditions, represents a proper recognition to men who in recent decades have used them during the course of their service as employees in the Municipality. The section documenting "Historical Garage" also collects photographs and images that portray the employees engaged in work phases or immortalized in moments of conviviality.

Vehicles and people with daily work in the territory, asphaltting a road or repairing the heating system of a school, have become something instantly recognizable

and familiar for the citizens.

A proper memory, therefore, to preserve and grow over time which also an educational function, particularly for students visiting the "Historical Garage" along with the modern city warehouses. It is an opportunity to learn how the activities of the Municipality were organized comparing them with the methods and modern equipment available today.

The restoration of the vehicles, the preparation of the site and the collection of documentation, have been made by some employees of the technical and municipal warehouses.

## Inauguration

The inauguration of the "Historical Garage" was held Saturday, May 11, 2013 at the headquarters of the Municipal warehouses.

For the occasion, several employees who worked at the headquarters stores from the 60's to date were invited to the ceremony. All vehicles and equipment currently used were also on display in the courtyard.

To emphasize also the educational aspect of the initiative, a delegation of students from local schools attended the ceremony: pupils of Class IV A of the "San Francesco" school and the class V A from "Don Milani" school.

## Vehicles and documentation

Currently the "Historical Garage" is the home of 5 vehicles, representing many different categories of use, with

features and dimensions therefore also very different; in any case they are vehicles that play a significant role in the history of transportation in Italy in the second half of the last century.

## 1 - Truck FIAT 170NC35 (1977)

Three-axle trucks of 24 tons of total weight, with dump. This is 'the last heavy truck marked "FIAT" and, simultaneously, the first "IVECO" big truck; during the '70s is the "flagship" model of the Turin brand, by virtue not only of the weight and size, but also by the powerful 8-cylinder engine and spacious cabin that it equips.



## 2 - Mobil 2TE3 Sweeper (1974)

Street sweeper with four wheels, with two rotating brushes and bonneted cab with double driving controls. The Mobil is considered by industry insiders the best home of sweepers in the United States of America and some models were imported in Italy. Without doubt the most unique and interesting from the "Historical Garage", as well as the only product not in Italy.

### 3 - Truck OM 70OM10 (1981)

Trucks with two axles from 7 tons of total weight, with dump. It belongs to a series of medium-duty trucks branded FIAT-IVECO-OM and OM before then, that since 1970 has been a "best seller" for more than twenty years. The historic brand OM has disappeared from the scene since the mid-eighties.

### 4 - Car FIAT Panda 45 (1984)

Small utilitarian car, which now belongs to the category of so-called "city car". It was one of the best selling models in the history of FIAT: over 4.5 million exemplaries during the long career that began in 1980 and ended in 2003. Thanks to its practicality and versatility, it has always proved a valuable means work.

### 5 - Three-wheeled van Piaggio Ape MP (1975)

Small three-wheeler with an open body. The Italian vehicle among the most popular and well known in the world. Derived from the Vespa scooter to be dedicated for the carriage of goods, from more than 60 years a commercial success, thanks to its compact, low running costs and ease of use.



Each vehicle exposed is accompanied by a descriptive

panel that briefly explains the history of the manufacturer, the features of the model and the use by the municipality.

Among other equipment present, stands a small road roller Ursus-Peroni "S1RT" model dated 1968, as well as old items no longer usable for decades, such as signalling fuel lanterns.

The documentary section relative to stored vehicles includes numerous technical and historical information, as well as the administrative records and other papers relating to them.

Finally, the "Historical Garage" exposes the documentation illustrating the activities carried out by the Municipality in the past, in part today outsourced, such as garbage collection, management of water, gas and sewer networks, all accompanied by historical photos portraying municipal employees in carrying out their work.

### Restoring vehicles

All the 5 vehicles preserved in the "Historical Garage" are now operational and were so at the beginning of the restoration project, which dates back to autumn 2011.

Despite being unused for several years, for some vehicles in good conditions, such as the OM 70 truck and the FIAT Panda car, it was sufficient a thorough cleaning of the interior and exterior, while others needed major repairs, made however, by the staff of the municipal warehouse.

In particular, the sweeper Mobil and the three-wheeler Ape were repainted and small repairs were made to bodywork, while the FIAT 170 truck has been recovered and the original grille was restored. The roller Ursus-Pe-

roni, remained outside for many years, and so exposed to bad weather, has undergone instead, a heavy intervention of recovery, including complete sandblasting and repainting, in addition to resurfacing of the seat.



### Didactics and shows

The "Historical Garage" is regularly visited by schools, with guided tours, both during the school year and the Summer Centers. In the summer months, theater, music and dance events take place in the original choreography of the "Historical Garage".

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The Municipality of Montecchio M. is a member of the "Associazione Italiana Trasporti d'Epoca" (AITE). The FIAT 170, the OM 70 and the Ape Piaggio have obtained the certificate of "Vehicle of Historic Interest" and the "Historical and Collective Importance Certificate" issued by the "Automotoclub Storico Italiano" (ASI).

The "Historical Garage" has been included among the museums selected by ASI in the "ASI Museum Project".

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Paginated with "Scribus open source desktop publishing" - October 2017