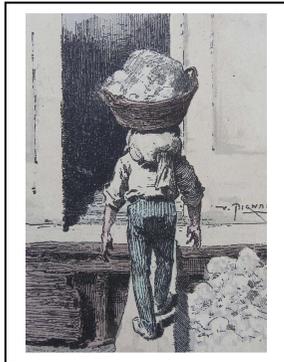


To transform the limestone into lime inside the furnace a temperature of 800/900°C is needed. It was an extremely important activity for the economy of the town, which involved many persons in various activities: fagots gatherers, transportation of the same even with sleds towed by oxen, miners to dig the limestone, mule drivers for transporting the same, specialized workers for the construction of the vault of the furnaces and the positioning of the limestone, workers for maintaining the furnaces fired for the eight days period (intermittent fire furnaces), workers for the distribution of the lime who also had the duty of “purging” it from the raw, scale workers, longshoremen for loading the boats for shipping the product, sailors and captains of the boats to deliver along the coast but also to faraway places.

Women were also employed in these activities and had an age comprised between 10 and 30 years, while relating to sea transportation and sailing, document attest that at the beginning of the XIX century the youngest sailor embarked to sail along the coast, was only 9 years old. Effectively an entire town at the service of this production activity.



8 Worker carrying lime



9 The beach of Cogoleto with the boats used for transporting lime (XIX century painting)



COMUNE DI COGOLETO  
Assessorato alla Cultura



# Cogoleto

*“The Lime Town”*  
*The Bianchi Furnace*



The visitors, during the visit to the industrial archeology site of the Bianchi furnace, are accompanied by the volunteers of the Association, to which the Municipality has temporarily assigned the management.

Days and visiting hours: first Saturday and third Sunday of each month – Autumn/Winter from 15 to 17 – Spring/Summer from 17 to 19. **Variations are possible in the opening days in case of particular events and/or holidays – upon request, eventual special opening on dates and hours to be agreed in advance.**

For information contact: Settore Sviluppo Territoriale - Culture Office of the Cogoleto Municipality – phone 0039 010 917 0232 - 0039 010 917 0222.

[www.comune.cogoleto.ge.it](http://www.comune.cogoleto.ge.it)

e-mail: [turisport@comune.cogoleto.ge.it](mailto:turisport@comune.cogoleto.ge.it) [cultura@comune.cogoleto.ge.it](mailto:cultura@comune.cogoleto.ge.it)

Associazione Fornace Bianchi Cogoleto - e-mail [fornacecogoleto@gmail.com](mailto:fornacecogoleto@gmail.com)

## THE BIANCHI FURNACE in the Donegaro area

The refurbishment of the furnace was carried out following preventive diagnostic and structural monitoring investigations started in 2008, which supplied the necessary indications for the consolidation and restoration projects of the structure with the consequent valorization and use of the same.

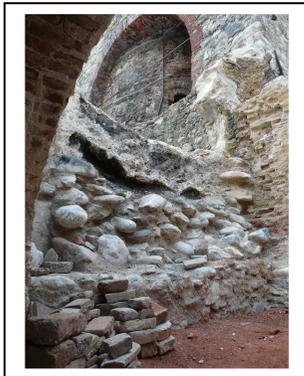
The diagnostic and monitoring campaigns were carried out by DICAT (Dipartimento di Ingegneria delle costruzioni, dell'Ambiente e del Territorio – Engineering Department for Construction, Environment and Territory) while the cognitive and survey investigations were carried out by the Architecture Science Department of the University of Genoa.

The restoration project was carried out under the supervision of Doctor Daniela Pittaluga who also coordinated all the involved institutions: Design office ing. Patrone, Pesce civil construction, Cogoleto Municipality, Departments of Architecture and Engineering.

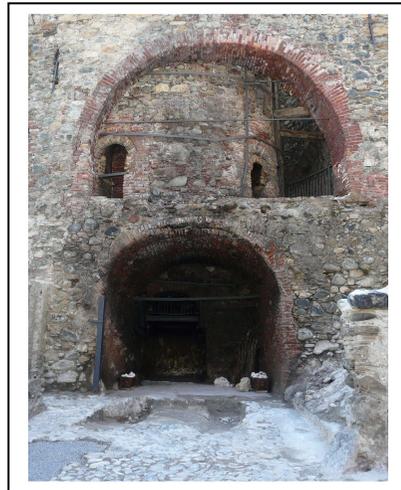
Also important was the work of many architecture and engineering students of the Architecture and Engineering Departments of the Genoa University and volunteers who worked freely inside the construction yard contributing to bring out the structure and the old pebble floor of the furnace.



1



3



2

1 – 3 Deposits of the furnace for lime and earthenware (coccio pesto).

2 Unloading bay of the oldest furnace with pebble floor

## MAIN HISTORICAL INFORMATION

According to local traditions, the inhabitants of Cogoleto, since Roman times, used the territory's resources (the surface presence of limestone) for the production of lime.

In effect this production activity, fundamental for the economy of the town, is very old and confirmed by various documents preserved in public archives.

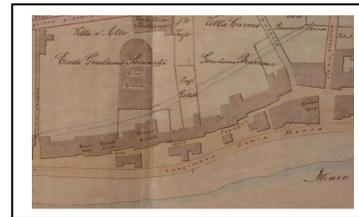
The commerce of lime is flourishing in Cogoleto already in the XV century as reported in the first document, found until now, relative to said activity. In this document, Giovanni Colombo of Cogoleto signs a mortgage with a certain Simone from Sestri Levante which would be closed by the delivery of a certain quantity of lime.

The preparation of lime, particularly important for the economy of the town, needed a great quantity of fuel (fagots for firing the furnaces) which were gathered in the woods of the township and imported from neighboring towns.

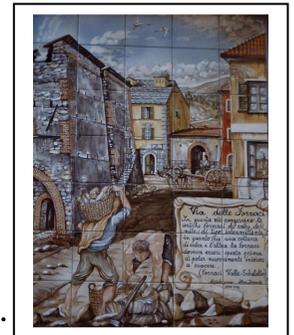
To have a further confirmation of the effective and important presence of this industrial activity in the Cogoleto territory reference can be made to the Giustiniani annals. In the first edition published in 1537 can be found that in Cogoleto there are "cento venticinque foghi" (there are onehundredtwentyfive fire places i.e. families) "et gran numero di fornaci" (and great number of furnaces).

The number of lime furnaces present in Cogoleto varies according to the period, from a minimum of six to a maximum of twelve. The oldest, defined as intermittent fire furnaces, are found right in the town center, among the houses and near the beach, where the boats were grounded for loading, as evidenced from a plan of Cogoleto in which is indicated the position of some of these furnaces.

The definition of intermittent fire furnace is due to the fact that the cooking system, between a surplice of lime and the next one, required the furnace to be extinguished to allow emptying. At the end of these operations a new surplice could be started.



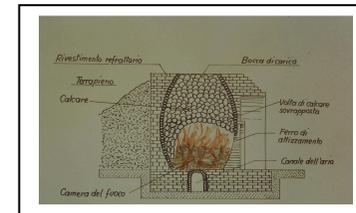
4 Plan of the town, the old Via delle Fornaci is now Via C. Colombo.



5

Lime Route  
Some ceramic panels placed in remembrance of said activity.

6 Continuous fire furnace



7 Intermittent fire furnace