



ITINERARIO LIBERTY



Leto Chini

The last son of Pietro Alessio, born in 1843, we find him for the first time next to his father and brothers, Tito and Dario, in the decoration of the Giotto Theatre in Borgo San Lorenzo (1871 - 1872). During the years 1875 - 1876 he managed the restorations in the parish church of San Lorenzo, and in 1882 he left Borgo. It appears that a ceiling painted by him in a barber's shop in Scarperia was noted by Giovanni Piancastelli, the Bolognese painter and architect, who wanted Leto with him in the restoration work of the villa of Cafaggiolo, commissioned by the new owner, Prince Marcantonio Borghese, in 1886 - 1887.

Here, together with his brother Dario, he carried out the decorations in fifteenth-century style of some rooms on the ground floor. They were heraldic patterns which still decorate the ceilings today. Later he also worked for the Borghesi in Rome, and generally speaking he was occupied more outside Mugello than inside: in Pisa, Florence, and in Castello di Serra in Gubbio.

In 1904 he went back to work in the church of St. Felicità in Faltona and in the convent of the Capuchins of St. Carlo with his nephew Dino, whilst he was helped by Evaristo Calamai of Barberino in the decoration of the church of St. Jacopo and Maria in Cavallina. In the same year, he proposed the institution of an artistic commission to watch over the work carried out in the parish churches.

His position was not, however, to be interpreted as a tendency towards modern preserving restoration, but more probably confirmed the choice of even supplementary interventions, as long as they emerged as aesthetically coherent with the environment. Then, in 1909 he worked in the church of Santa Maria in Acone, where ceramics of the San Lorenzo Furnaces are still preserved.

In the same year, he began the decoration of the castle of the Malaspinas and Fosdinovos in Lunigiana, interrupted by his death in 1910.