

De : Thomas Hirschhorn

A: yraymond; kkivland

Sujet : debrief "Casa Gramsci"

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dear yasmil, dear kelly,

I very much hope you are doing - both - very well, this is a short debrief from my trip yesterday and the day before - to ghilarza (sardegna):

I visited the "Casa Gramsci", it is the house of his mother's family, where antonio gramsci spent his youth-time, it is in the town-center (ghilarza) - the town he went to primary-scool, (gramsci was born in another town in sardegna, in ales),

alessandra marchi, who is the young and brilliant (anthropologist, EHESS, paris) 'secretary' of "Casa Gramsci" - especially - opened the house for me and she explained and showed me the importance of the building for the life and the work of Antonio Gramsci, the "Casa Gramsci" is a townhouse, it's a well and solid - with vulcano-stones - constructed building in good shape (except some water-infiltrations), its not a house of a "poor family" (so for exemple the house has a little garden in the courtyard, there is a room for cookong the bread in the courtyard and there is a waterfountain in the room where the kitchen was situated), "Casa Gramsci" is a museum and a information-place about the life and the work of Gramsci, the house has several high and clear (white painted) rooms with the typical sardegna straw roof, the house has two floors, it was very helpful to me to be physically in this nice house, there is a kind of spirit of concentration and clarity inside - including the small but beautiful garden, to be in this walls was - to me - the most impressive.

The museum is well documented, it's made with the aim of simplicity, most of the exhibited documents are not originals, also I did already saw them published in books or publications, but there are exhibited - and I was happy to see a few surprising and unseen everyday personal belongings and objects of Gramsci (as the glasses - unfortunately broken, the prison-spoons etc.),

alessandra indicated me that there are more personal objects in the archives of "Casa Gramsci" (kept by family-members) and she told me that maybe it's not impossible to ask for lending a few of them, I am OF COURSE - VERY INTERESTED IN HAVING SOME OF THIS PERSONAL EVERYDAY OBJECTS EXHIBITED in the "Gramsci-Monument", I think the best is that together (you, Dia and me) we will write a letter to alessandra in ghilerza and we ask - not for a specific object - BUT FOR ALL KIND OF OBJECT RELATED TO HIM (we must provide an insurance for them) - and perhaps documented with a photograph (expl: gramsci's suitcase and a photo of him with this suitcase), then the Casa Gramsci can decide themselves what they can - or what they want - to lend us.

I think my trip to ghilerza was trully insightful and when I can get some personal belongings as one of the "concrete outcomes" of my trip I will be more then happy, I also already proposed to make a link on my website to their website (as well I want to propose this to the 'Fundazione Archivio Antonio Gramsci' in rome - where I went in september, take care, yasmil and see you soon, take care, kelly and see you soon!

thomas