

ACCOLTA ON THE RIVER CLITUNNO

Intake works on the Clitunno river
(15th-19th century)

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The “Accolta” is an artificial reservoir, built on the Clitunno river (also known as Meandro in its final stretch), which served as an intake for the water that, conveyed by gravity, drove the blades of the adjacent grain mill.

The emissary of the reservoir, which still runs alongside the city walls, fed an extensive network of mills and olive oil mills in the past; these were distributed in an area between the city gate known as the Porta dei Molini (Mills Gate) and the confluence of the canal with the Timia river.

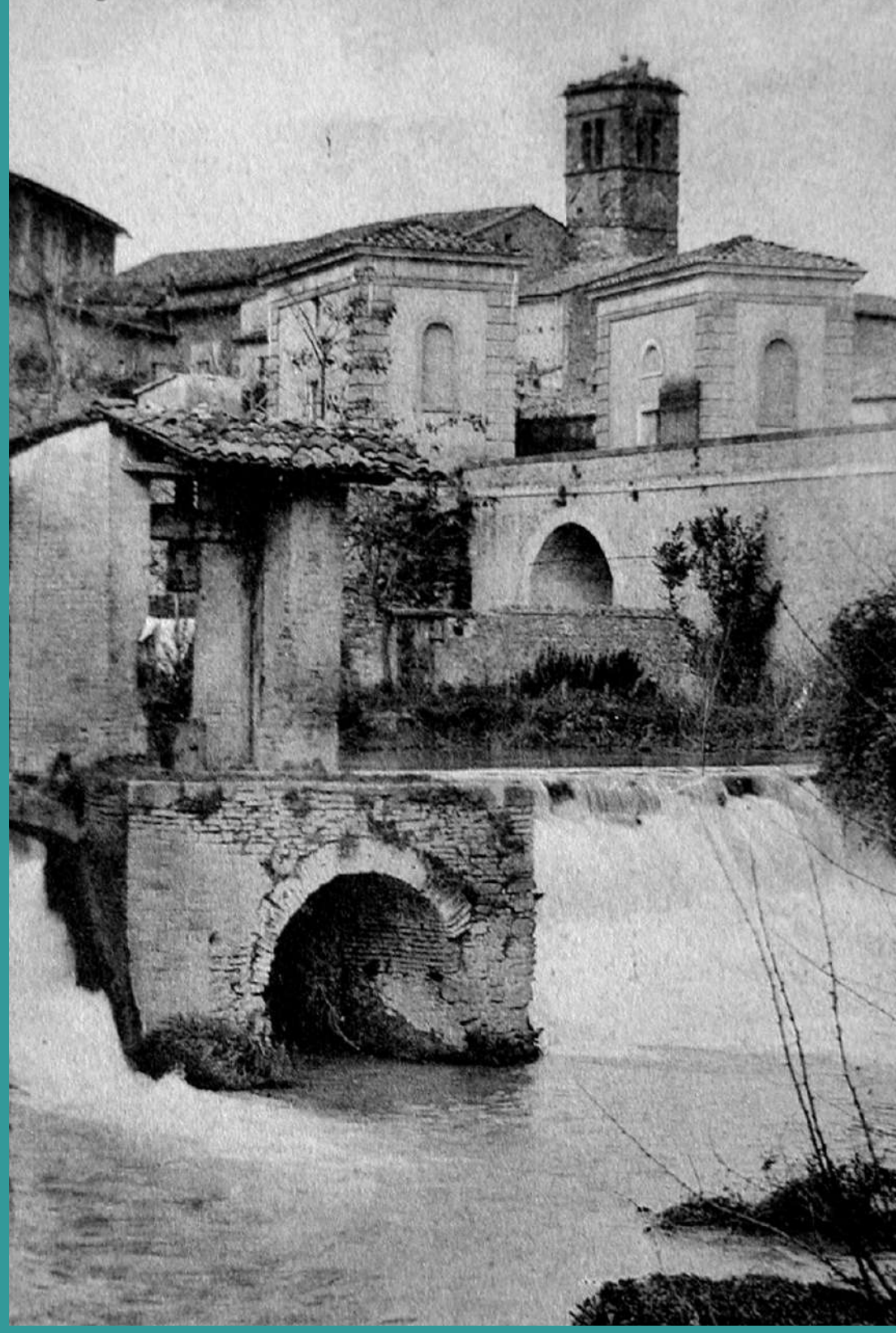
Archival sources also mention the first “archaturae” - archaic regimenting water sources - as early as the beginning of the 15th century, but the present layout of the area is the result of 19th and 20th century transformations: from the bridge over the Clitunno river - built to allow access to the new hanging square - to the customs towers (1881-1896), to the covering of the public wash houses (1924), and up to the more recent post-war reconstructions involving the mill and the hydroelectric power station.



Complesso ex mulino e lavatoi sul Clitunno - 2023 - Foto M. Berzetta



Lavatoi e ponte sul Clitunno - 2023 - Foto M. Berzetta



Catastrato sul Clitunno - 1909 - Cartolina Tipografia del Risorgimento

“E tu, Clitunno,
Di tue chiare linfe
Nei gelidi cristalli
Offri specchio e lavacro
Alle candide Ninfe.
Tu pei bianchi torelli
Cresci coll'onde trasparenti e schiette
Sulle tue sponde le virenti erbetto” (*)

“Clitumne, Clitumnus fluvius est in Mevania, quae pars est Umbria,
partis Tusciae, ubi optimi boves nascuntur. Clitumnus in Umbria deus,
quo nomine ibi et fluvius est in Tiberim fluvies ad quem nunc loquitur” (**)
[serv. ad Verg. Georg. II, 146] (**)

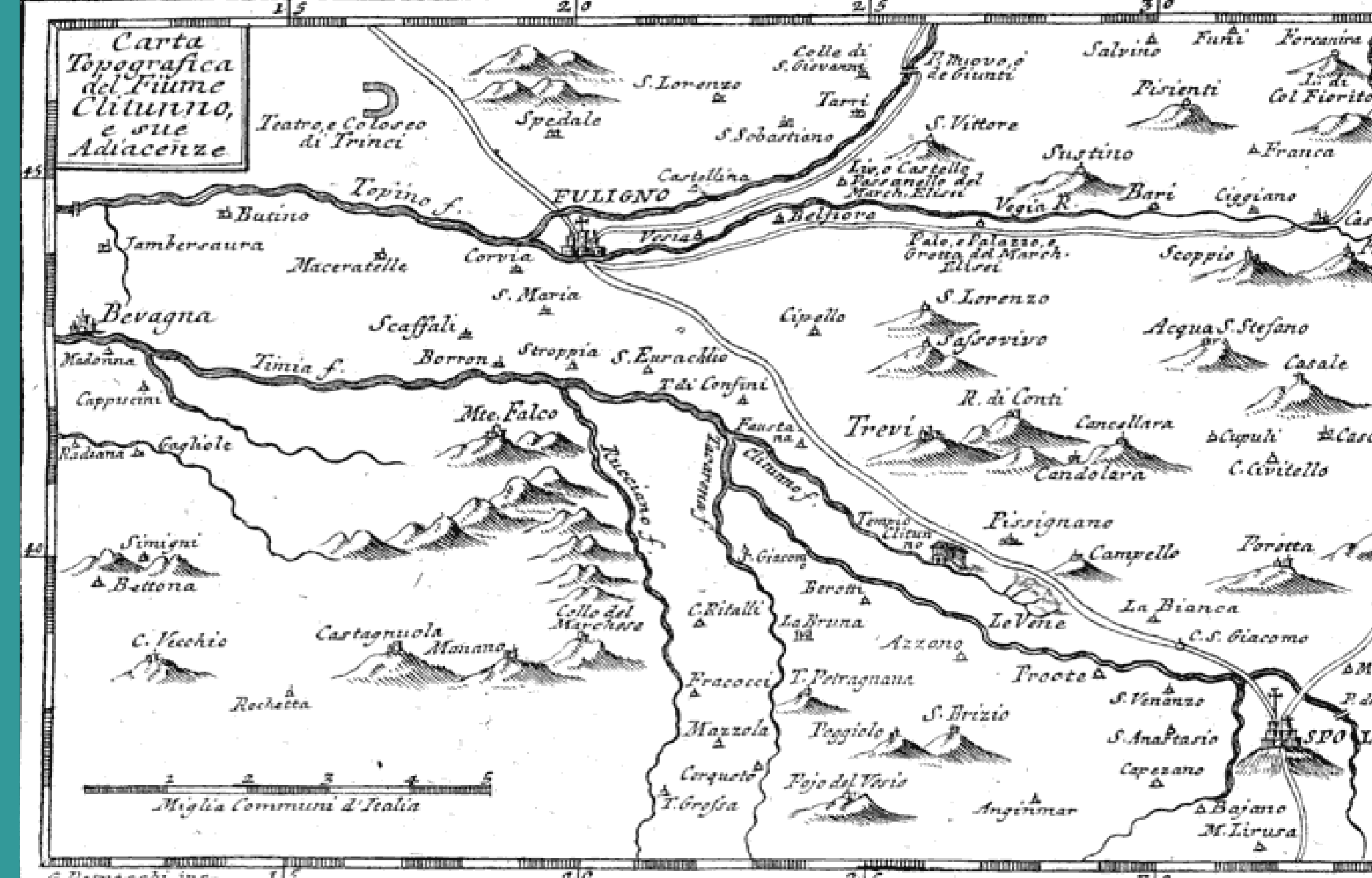
(*) in BONACCI BRUNAMONTI, M. ALINDA, *Versi - Il Clitunno* (con citazioni da G. G. Lord Byron), Firenze, Le Monnier, 1875

(**) in PIETRANGELI, CARLO, *Mevania (Bevagna) Regio VI - Umbria*, Roma, Istituto Studi Romani editore, 1953

The project for the construction of the Accolta is part of a more articulated network of hydraulic works, aimed at the control and management of a particularly rich and delicate catchment area, a feature typical of the entire Spoleto valley, but which takes on unique characteristics in the area of the historic centre of Bevagna.

In addition to the system of ditches that drain farmed land, a dense network of important rivers, streams and canals (Timia, Teverone, Clitunno-Meandro) reaches as far as the city walls.

Water regulation and management strategies in the area have always addressed the challenges of flooding and swamping; consequently, land reclamation has taken place continuously since the Roman Age, from the major hydraulic projects of the 16th and 18th centuries - diversion of the course of the Topino river, installation of the “Sportone” (shutter) on the Meandro - associated with renowned architects and engineers such as Jacobilli and Maderno, to the definitive design of the network, which was completed during the second half of the 19th century by the “sacra Congregazione delle Acque” initially and by the Consorzi di Bonifica later.



Mapa del Clitunno
in VENUTI, RIDOLFINO, *Osservazioni sopra il fiume Clitunno*, Roma, Bernabo e Lazzarini stampatori, 1753

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