

PONTE DELLE TAVOLE STORIES ON WATER

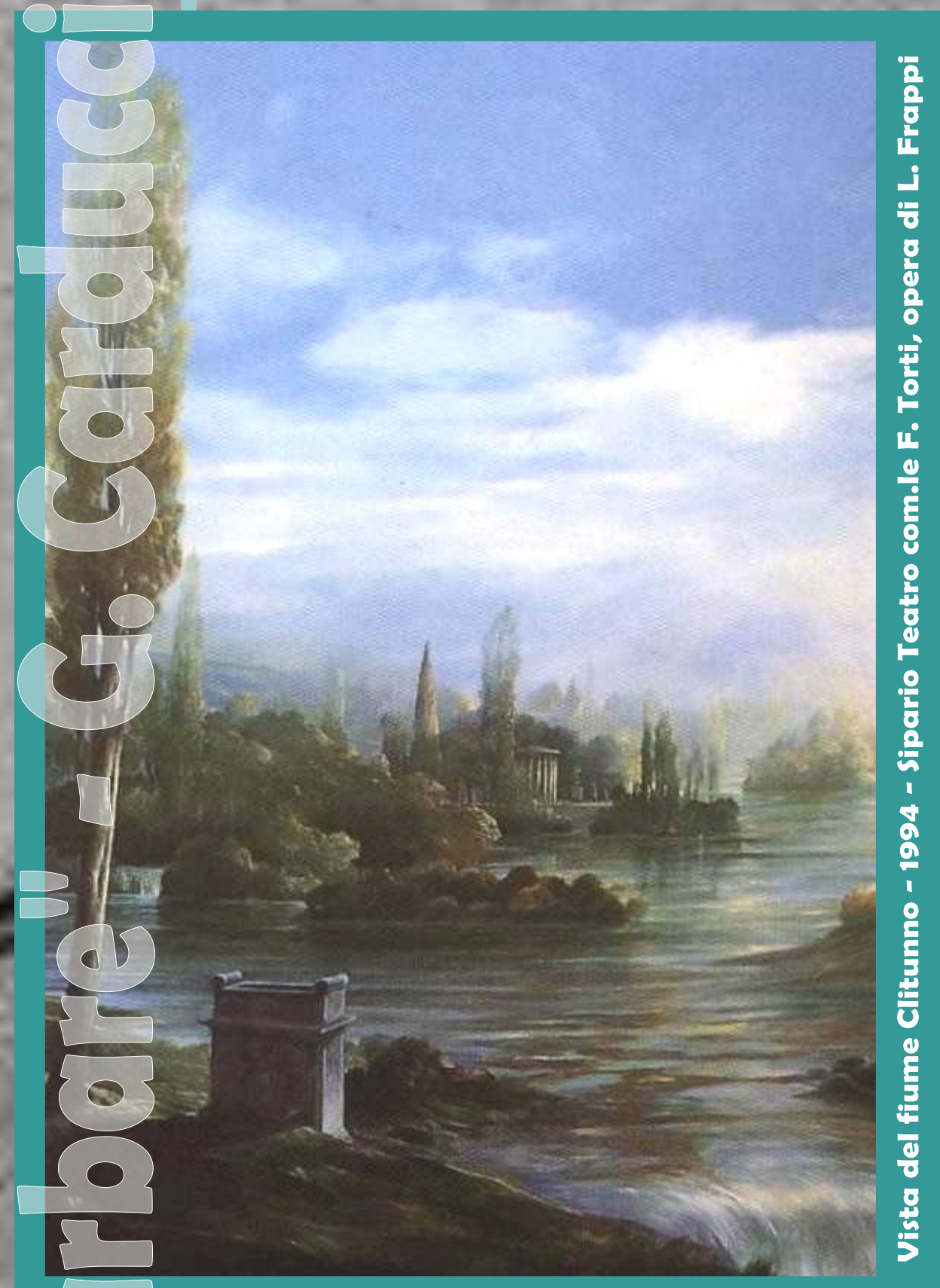
Bridge - and bridges - on the rivers of Bevagna
(13th-20th century)

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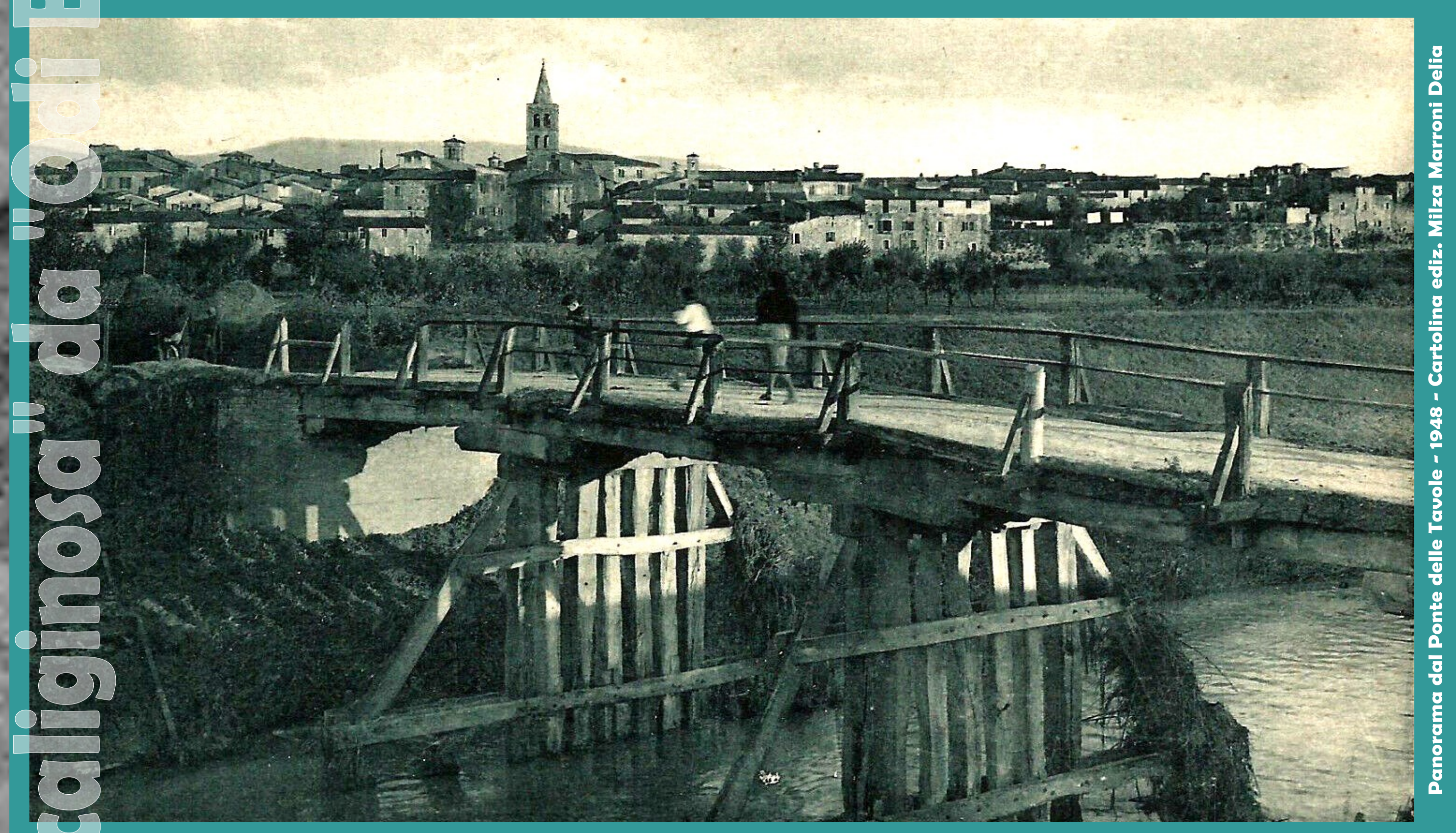


A city built between water and land is inevitably also a city of bridges, custodians of one - or many - stories, drawn as stretched lines that unite and bring together opposite banks and distant embankments. They thus go beyond mere metaphors of welcome and freedom: values that the community of Bevagna has always defended and made its own.

A walk along the riverbanks (starting from the Clitunno-Meandro or the Teverone-Marroggia, and continuing alongside the Timia), including the exclusive route of the Spoleto-Assisi cycle path, presents a unique opportunity to appreciate the development of the city, nowadays still framed by its Roman-Medieval walls. In this way, one can enjoy unprecedented views towards the gentle contours of the surrounding cultivated countryside, revealing, along with placid and life-giving gurglings, the intimate and millenary relationship between Bevagna and its waters, a unique landscape that stands out among all of the neighbouring towns built on hills and ridges.



Vista del fiume Clitunno - 1994 - Sipario Teatro com.le F. Tosti, opera di L. Frappi



Panorama del Ponte delle Tavole - 1948 - Cartolina ediz. Milza Marroni Delia



Ponte di Sant'Agostino - 1926 - Cartolina ediz. F.lli Trardardi

Sources chronicle the city's bridges since Roman and later Medieval Age, but this historical continuity was erased by the devastation wreaked upon them by the retreating German troops, at the end of World War II, when almost all the bridges were mined and blown up to prevent the imminent advance of the allied troops, who were set to descend from the Monti Martani just beyond the sanctuary of the Madonna delle Grazie. As a result, the bridges over Teverone, Clitunno (Accolta), Timia (Sant'Agostino, dell'Isola) and Attone were destroyed. A series of 18 postcards published in 1948 - on the initiative of the Milza Marroni Delia haberdashery shop - depict the 1945 reconstruction of a few among them.

Emerging unscathed from the planned fire was the Ponte delle Tavole - made of wood - which was not expected to withstand the passage of troops, and that, instead, would provide passage for British tanks as they entered the city. A note by A. Lanari reads: "I still remember as a child, with my eyes tightly shut, not heeding of the view from the bridge, that I would face the passage clinging tightly to my father as he announced the start of the precarious crossing.

I was too young to tell myself that tanks had also crossed that bridge and that that structure, standing for more than a century, had withstood many floods, as the pylons in the photo covered by numerous debris demonstrate".



2° Reggimento Bersaglieri - Campo di Bevagna - Agosto 1926
Esercitazione per il passaggio sul fiume Timia a mezzo di una fune tesa tra le sponde

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RIFERIMENTI BIBLIOGRAFICI

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