

Mineralogical Museum

Brosso

The closure of the mines in 1964 led to the end of a production and socio-economic cycle which has lasted for twenty centuries. A museum is born to meet the need of transmitting to future generations this great cultural heritage. The spontaneous donation of documents, photos, equipments and minerals has induced the city of Brosso site to find a suitable location for their permanent exhibition.

Findings particularly significant are: the pay records of a century of work, work booklets, books belonging to the company of Mutuo Soccorso and the original Statute of the company dated 1894; a collection of tools for the extraction of mineral, such as lanterns, iron mines, maces and hammers, trolley for transporting the material, a wide range of minerals, a rich photographic documentation and a set of floor plans of projects of cultivation of mine. All findings were classified and catalogued by volunteers.

Currently the museum is located in the halls of Town Hall waiting for the restructuring of its final site, the seventeenth-century chapel of San Rocco.

There will be set up five exhibition areas:

- the location (maps and photographs)
- man (pictures)
- history (documents)
- matter (minerals)
- the equipment (working tools of various periods)

What is of particular interest is the visit to the metal sites located along the left bank of the river Assa where you can see the evidence of the technology of the "low fire", known by the term "like Brossasco".

We can see many of roasting furnaces, washing lakes, forges and mechanic pestles that allowed to obtain iron with the particular process, without passing by the melting of cast iron. Finally, the guided school or group tours allow you to take a teaching trail with a space-time value, following the same route taken, for centuries, by local miners and iron master, going down in a reality which remains unchanged over time.

