The Trieste of UMBERTO SABA
ItinerarioSabaENG_Layout 1  13/09/13  11.16  Pagina 2

Umberto Saba was born Umberto Polo on 9 March 1883 in the old Jewish ghetto of Trieste. His father, Ugo Polo, was born in Trieste to his own parents, who were from Montecassele Valfrid in Friuli. Saba’s mother, Rachele Felicita Coen, was a Jew born in Trieste. Ugo Polo’s family ancestry led him to Italy for his involvement in the irredeemist movement seven months after the wedding, right before his son was born. Saba started writing poetry as an adolescent and his early production is found in the first part of the Canzoniere (Songbook) titled Poesie dell’adolescenza e giovanili (Poems of adolescence and youth), 1900-1907.After discontinuing his studies he was taken on by a small moneylender and was employed at the beauty salon of Pisa. It was around this time that the early symptoms of neurasthenia appeared - a condition that will lead him to contemplate suicide and for which he would be repeatedly hospitalized and treated throughout his life. Saba was born on Austrian soil but he was an Italian citizen. As such in 1907 he served in the army in Sellares, an experience that inspired his Versi Militari (Military Verses). After returning to Trieste in 1909 he married Carolina (Lina) Wölffer who, one year later gave birth to his only daughter Linuccia. In 1912 he moved to Bologna with his wife when they reconciled after serious marital problems. He collaborated with the daily “Il resto del Carlino” and wrote the collection of poems La serena disperazione (Serene Desperation). He then moved briefly to Milan, where he worked as secretary for a cabaret theater. During the First World War he worked behind the frontlines in several administrative posts, an experience that inspired his Nuovi versi militari (New War Poems). When he returned to his hometown, he took over a second-hand bookshop that he renamed “Liberia antica e moderna” (Ancient and Modern Bookshop) to which he would devote most of his life together with his cousin Linuccia. In that time self-published and a limited edition of the collection of his poetry and in 1921 the first version of his acclaimed Songbook appeared in print; it brought together his entire production and the collection would be further enriched throughout his life. The first, invaluable manuscript known as If Canzineri dated 1919 is preserved at the Civico Libreria di Trieste. Between 1938 and 1945 the anti-Jewish laws forced him to leave Trieste and to find shelter first in Paris and then in Rome (at Ungaretti's home), Florence (where he also lived at Montale's) and Milan (where he also lived at Ungaretti's home). Saba had always lived on a private income, but after the war, his aunt Regina, first in via degli Artisti 7 and in 1891 in piazzetta Piazzetta San Giacomo, first at number 3 and later at number 1, in 1926 Saba married Carolina (Lina) Wölffer (no longer in place, it opened on the corner between via di San Nicolò, 31 and via San Nicolò, 31). Saba met his future wife Carolina Wölffer who lived in via della Acque 18 (today via Ruggiero Timusius, 12), in 1904 when one of her cousins introduced her to him. They would not meet again until 1907-1908, after Saba completed his military service. At the time Carolina and her family lived in via Domenico Rossetti, 28 (today 24). When Saba moved to the street where she lived but not the exact number, was walking walk up and down via Rossetti in the hope of seeing her when she appeared at the window to water a vase of geraniums. Via del Monte is the street of devout sinners, but the street of joy and of love / removes Via Domenico Rossetti. Via del Monte is one of the most beautiful streets in Italy, but I could not stay there any longer. In 1926 Saba almost committed suicide because he could not stand knowing that he left his stepson to the care of his wife Carolina. In February 1919, at the end of the war Saba was discharged from the army and the return home was longer in place) facing via del Corso (today Corso Italia) and Via dell’adolescenza e giovanili (Poems of adolescence and youth), 1900-1907. The first house where Saba and his wife Lina lived was located in the countryside near Montebello in Strada di Flume, probably around number 45 and it was eventually decided not to replace it. It begins with a synagogue, and it ends at a cloister. Three streets (1910-12).

1. **JEWISH TEMPLE KNOWN AS SCUOLA VIVANTE**
   - Via delle Sante, 4
   - Via della Pace, 4

   Today, a step climb called Via del Monte. It was opened in 1891 and it ends at a cloister.

   - Old town (1910-12)

   - **HOUSE OF SABA FROM 1909 TO HIS DEATH**
     - Vicolo Zoppo, 5

   - Via della Pace, 4

   - Old town (1910-12)

   - Via delle Sante, 4

   - Via della Pace, 4

   - Old town (1910-12)

   - **HOUSE OF LINN**
     - Via Domenico Rossetti, 28 (today 24)

   - Via delle Sante, 4

   - Via della Pace, 4

   - Old town (1910-12)

   - **HOUSE OF SABA’S SECOND HOUSE**
     - Piazzetta San Giacomo, 1

   - Via delle Sante, 4

   - Via della Pace, 4

   - Old town (1910-12)

   - **SABA’S BIRTHPLACE**
     - Via di Ráborgo, 25 (no longer in place today)

   - Via di Ráborgo, 25 (no longer in place today)

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