

HISTORICAL REFERENCES CONCERNING THE CAR
"LANCIA ASTURA TORPEDO GRAND SPORT
CASTAGNA 1933"

At the presentation of ASTURA, LANCIA prepared and distributed a Port-Folio containing the projects of luxury car Bodyworks that could be provided for the new chassis.

Among these was outstanding, signed by MARIO REVELLI DE BEAUMONT, and very elegant, the "TORPEDO SPORT" presented as Bodywork VIOTTI; in fact, the body work Viotti had to alter the proportions of the design of Revelli to adapt it to wheelbase of the 230, that is 3.177 mm.

What it has not dared to make Viotti, was done with great skill by CASTAGNA, that obtained a special chassis, LOWERED, wheelbase of mm. 3.400, in armony with the proportions of the sketch Revelli.

The car provided in 1933, with the latest improvements offered by LANCIA, in this same year participated in september 1933, to the 5° CONCORSO DI ELEGANZA at VILLA D'ESTE (Como - Italy) the Concorso at this time was entitled to H.R.H. La Principessa di Piemonte and the car was driven personally by CASTAGNA.

On that occasion the ASTURA won the Coppa d'Oro (First Prize) and his great success reached also the U.S.A.

Mr. CASTAGNA had a big Show Room in NEW YORK (together with ISOTTA MOTORS) managed by the engineer VENIERO D'ANNUNZIO, son of the great italian Poet. Mr. D'ANNUNZIO Managed to sell the extraordinary automobile to a famous, well known heiress.

With this outstanding outcome, a colored picture was inserted in the CASTAGNA'S 1934 famous catalogue with a GABRIELE D'ANNUNZIO personal dedication.

In 1935 the ASTURA was certainly in WASHINGTON D.C., then has been seen also in NEW YORK, driven by the same driver in livery, with a couple of V.I.P. seated in the rear passenger's compartment. On that occasion the car colour still was the original one: AVORIO LANCIA/BAMBOLINA BLEU.

During w.w. II° was seen in WASHINGTON, always driven by the same driver of the heiress (someone suggested that it had received in inherits).

In 1944 appeared in a motion picture acting LESLIE HOWARD. The car was disguised as a MERCEDES, to adapt it to a scene in which the protagonist set free from a nazi concentration camp, a very important jewish personality.

Certainly the car was later acquired by Mr. E.N. BRANDT, owner and publisher of "Saturday Evening Post", that has sold, through the Speedcraft Enterprises, EXTON, PA. To Dr. THOMAS CECIL BUTT, ORLANDO, FLORIDA, well-known surgeon with a prestigious collection of antique cars; during the stay in the collection the ASTURA won in 1960, the first prize at the motor show of SEBRING, where he had the opportunity to be admired in television and in multiple exhibitions.

Later, after a paint job, in Italian red, the car was sold by ~~Dr~~ BUTT to Mr. VOJTA MASHEK, THREE OAKS, MICHIGAN, after waiting and seeking for a long time.

Mr. MASHEK, very important collector, submitted the car to a restoration and put it with his other 57 antique cars, among the most prestigious in the world, in one of its special garages: Villas with characteristics different from each other and in the various European styles.

In 1962 L. SCOTT BAYLEY, publisher of the famous magazine car, "AUTOMOBILE QUARTERLY", manages to buy the car from the MASHEK collection and paints the ASTURA with the colors he thought were the originals (you can see the car published on "AUTOMOBILE QUARTERLY" Volume 12, 2 Pages central, N.A. 1974) and preserved as a treasure using it very little until 1983.

In that year the ASTURA was sold to Conte VITTORIO ZANON di Valgiurata, that brings it back finally in Italy, thanks to the friendship with Dr. VENIERO MOLARI.

Immediately resume the original colors (no one hand never lifted completely the old paints). For the restoration of the interiors, the CONNOLLY supplied again the special skin of which there were still original fragment _____ in the top receptacle seat.

In that time were spent more than 15.000 USD to restore the wheels with rays chrome-plated: Work carried out by the company BORRANI and the company BERTOLA.

The ASTURA gain the victory in 1991 at the CONCORSO del CASTELLO di MIRAMARE, TRIESTE - ITALY, wins for the second time the first prize in its category at the CONCORSO D'ELEGANZA di VILLA D'ESTE.

On that occasion the ASTURA is sold by Conte ZANON to Mr. GUIDO LAMPERTI which still is the lucky and proud owner.

Since then, in the hands of Mr. GUIDO LAMPERTI the ASTURA has obtained other victories among which, the important "BEST ON SHOW" in the CONCORSO D'ELEGANZA, promulgated by the H.R.H: Queen of HOLLAND at the ROYAL PALACE in APPLIEDORN, until, after 71 year, again at VILLA D'ESTE to the magnificent results on April 24/25.2004 obtaining the second COPPA D'ORO, the silver plate first prize of the category and finally the trophy BMW-ITALY: The sole automobile Winnig twice in the world the COPPA D'ORO VILLA D'ESTE!!!

The Last very important AWARD OBTAINED by The ASTURA CASTAGNA was in 2008 CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE FIRST IN CLASS in PEBBLE BEACH - CALIFORNIA - USA!!



Registro Storico Lancia

Il Conservatore
Guido Lamperti