

# **ARCHIVIO APERTO**

***Archivio Aperto is a series of lectures, workshops and meetings with the aim of opening the doors of our archives and showing the daily work that hides behind the curtains. Among its purposes, exposing the dynamic nature of archives and allowing them to inspire new and unexpected visions.***

**8 February 2025**

## ***La manifattura lionese e il fondo Chavent Père & Fils***

### **PROGRAMME**

9:00 – Welcome coffee

9:30 – Fondazione Antonio Ratti  
*Introduction to the study day*

10:00 – Margherita Rosina  
*Chavent Père & Fils and Maison Worth: Silks for the Gilded Age*

11:00 - Open Care Servizi per l'arte  
*Restoring to enhance*  
Dott.ssa Isabella Villafranca Soissons  
Dott.ssa Enrica Cagianca

12:00 -Visit to the restored sample books

**Fondazione Antonio Ratti**  
***Introduction to the study day***

*Abstract*

FAR Textile Collection preserves a part of the Lyonnais factory Chavent Père & Fils archive. This bequest hosts sample books and proofs on paper from the second half of XIX century. The volumes contain textile and nuance samples. A section of the collection is made up of loose material, such as drawings and proofs on paper. Set up like this, the Chavent Père & Fils fund could tell an organic history by showing a diverse variety of textile techniques and technologies being so emblematic of XIX century Lyonnais industrial district and, conversely, of its wider context.

FAR started a three-years long process that foresaw the preservation, the reorganization and the study of this important fund. 70 sample books and about 2000 proofs on paper have been restored, digitized and indexed. This archival work allowed not only to have access to unreleased material, but also to study and connect individual samples among them, tracing a more articulated narration.

***Chavent Père & Fils and Maison Worth: Silks for the Gilded Age***

Margherita Rosina

*Abstract*

The research started many years ago studying the Chavant Père & Fils fund, in which many textile samples used by Charles Frederick Worth (1825-1895), considered to be the inventor of haute couture, and by his son Jean Philippe (1856-1926) have been identified. The survey continued with Matteo Augello, analyzing the Worth fund preserved at Victoria & Albert Museum of London, the archives of the Musée des Tissus of Lyon and those of the main museums in the world, to identify correspondences between Chavent textiles and the Parisian Maison's gowns. Starting from the opulent silks with monumental designs, many dresses have been realized, destined to be bought by European aristocracy and by the rich American ladies who came yearly to Europe to renew their wardrobe: the "Chavent style" in textile designs contributed to the great success of Maison Worth's evening gowns.

**Open Care Servizi per l'arte**

***Restoring to enhance***

Dr Isabella Villa Franca Soissons

Dr Enrica Cabianca

*Abstract*

The exciting project involving many laboratories at Open Care aimed to the enhance of archival material tracing the history of Lyonnais manufacture Chavent Père & Fils through a hundred years, starting from the second half of the XIX century. The activity foresaw the restoration, the maintenance and the preservation of loose material made up of proofs on paper (drawings, sketches, colour tests), and of sample books of textiles and nuances.

The collection's restoration has been completed by a team of professionals specialized on different types of material, at the point that it can be considered a polymateric restoration.

The operations, which have provided for interventions on supports made of paper, parchment, leather, different types of textiles, were aimed to restore the best possible conditions to digitize securely the archival materials and preserve it over time.