

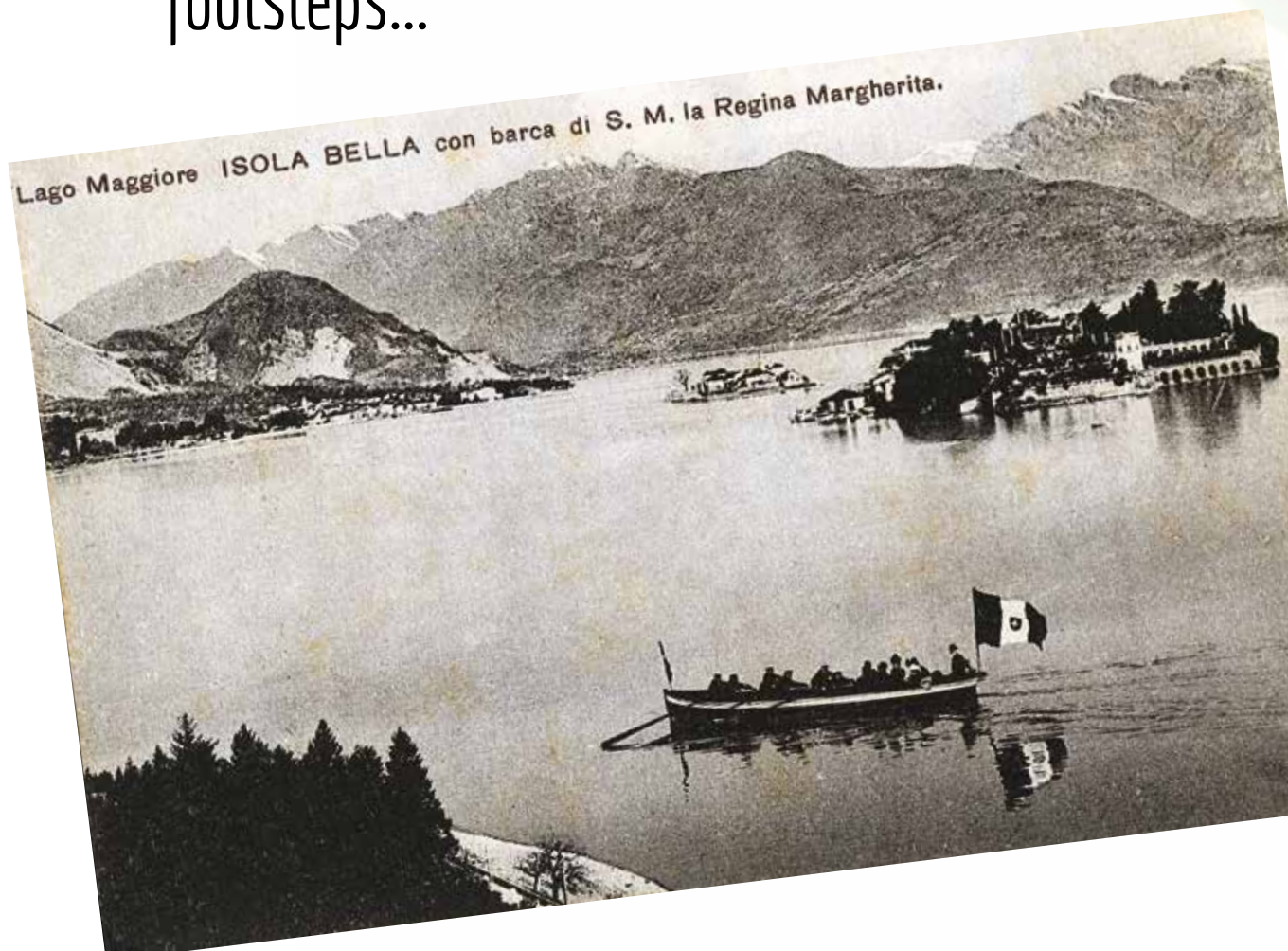


## On the Water for Work & Fun

*D*uring the Belle Époque, tradition and modernity coexisted on the lake.

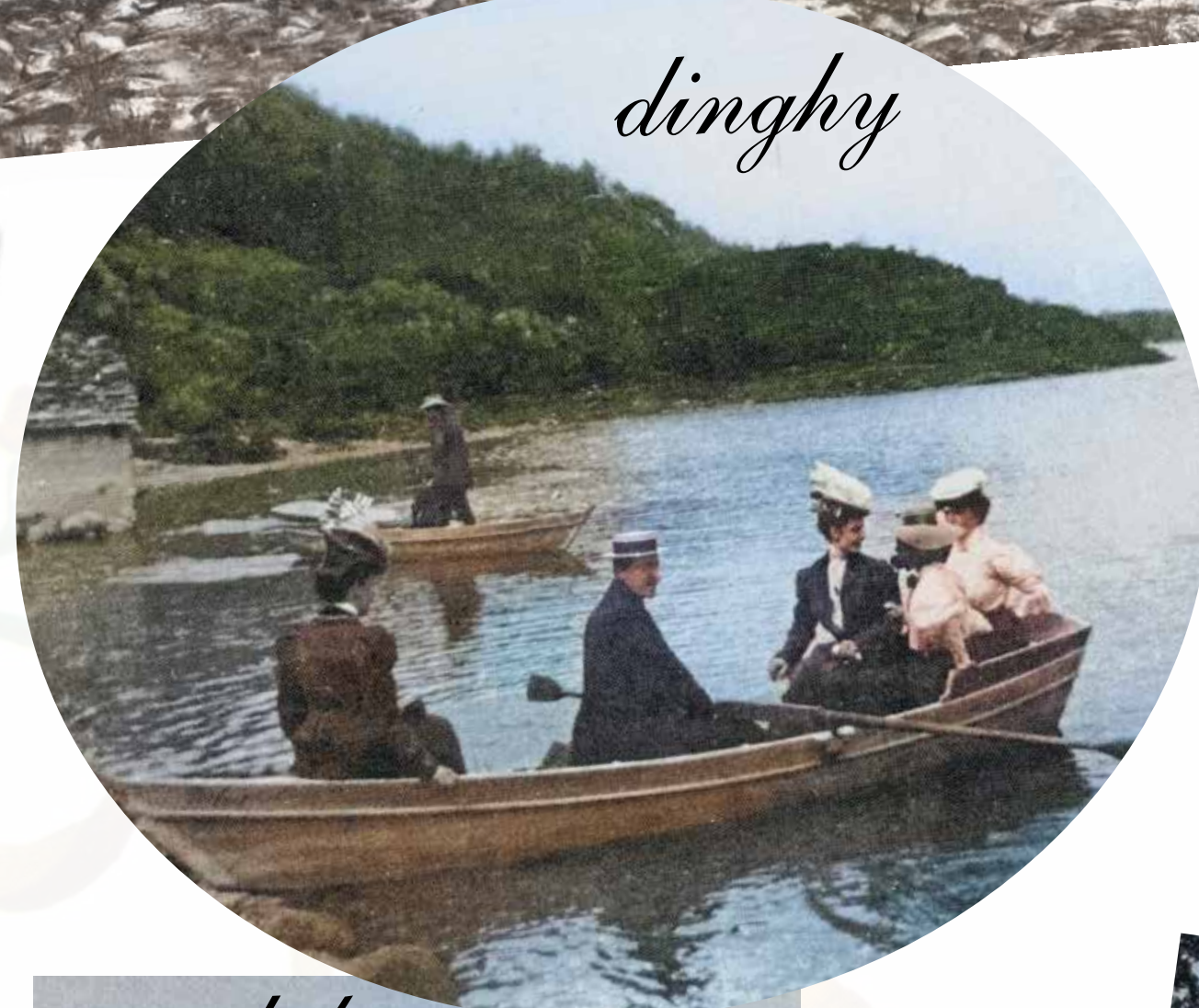
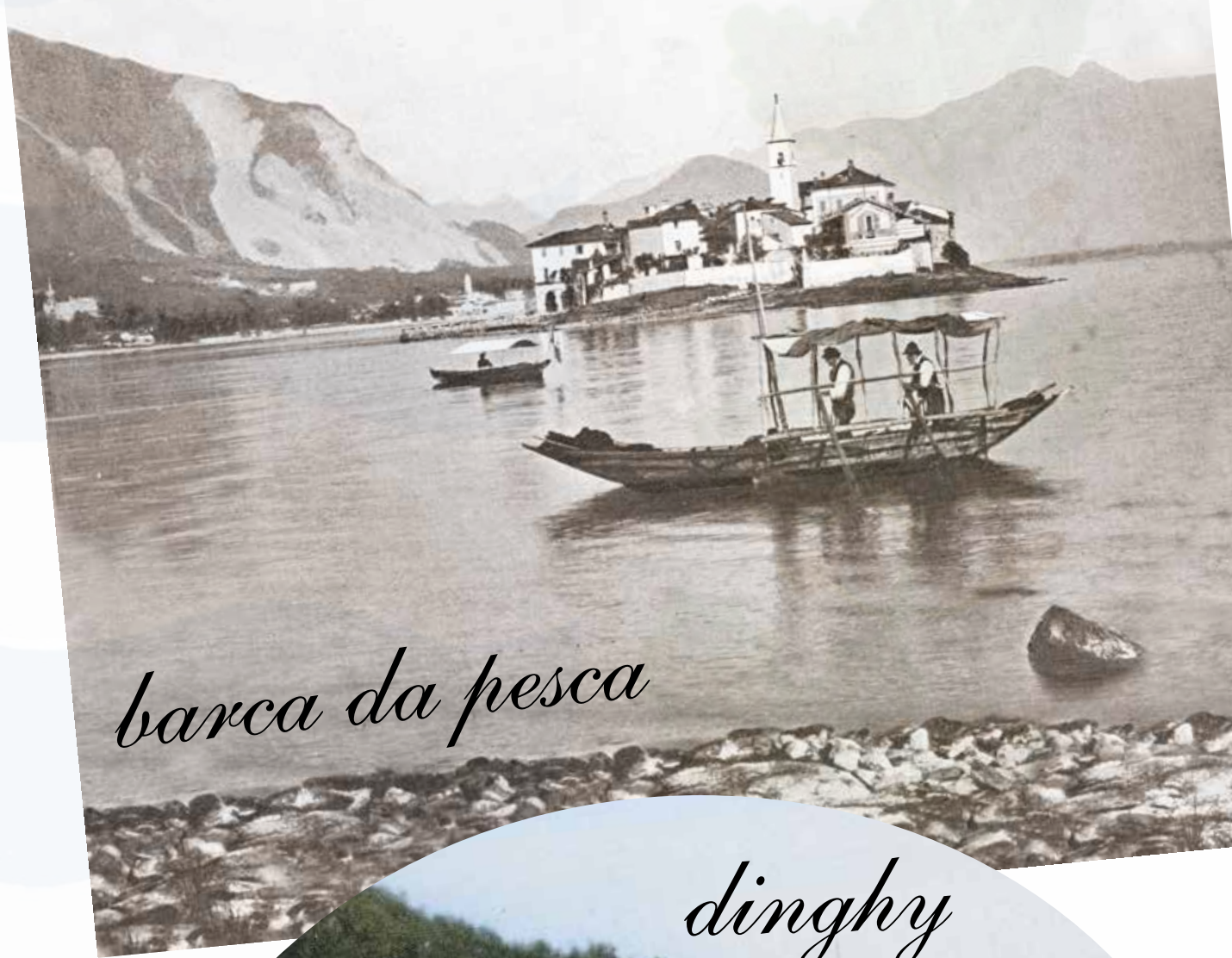
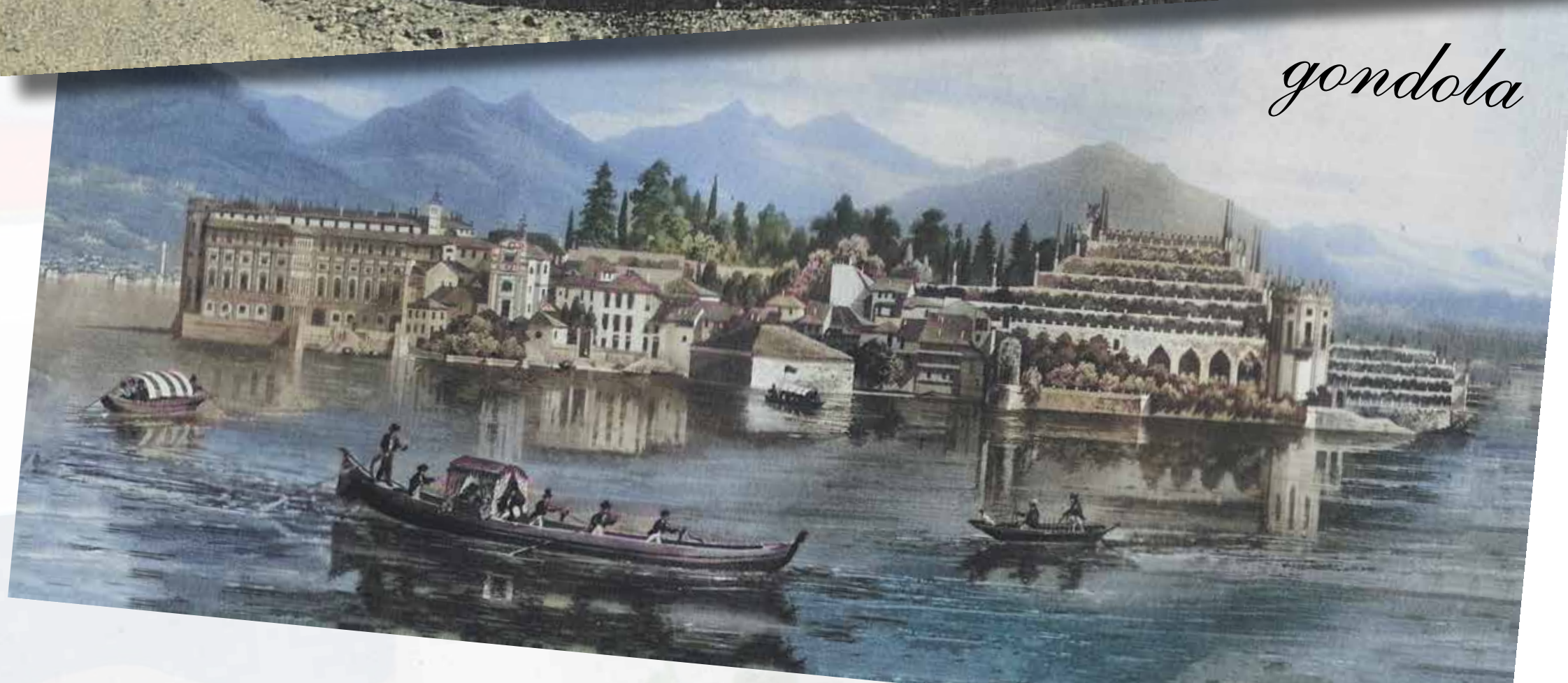
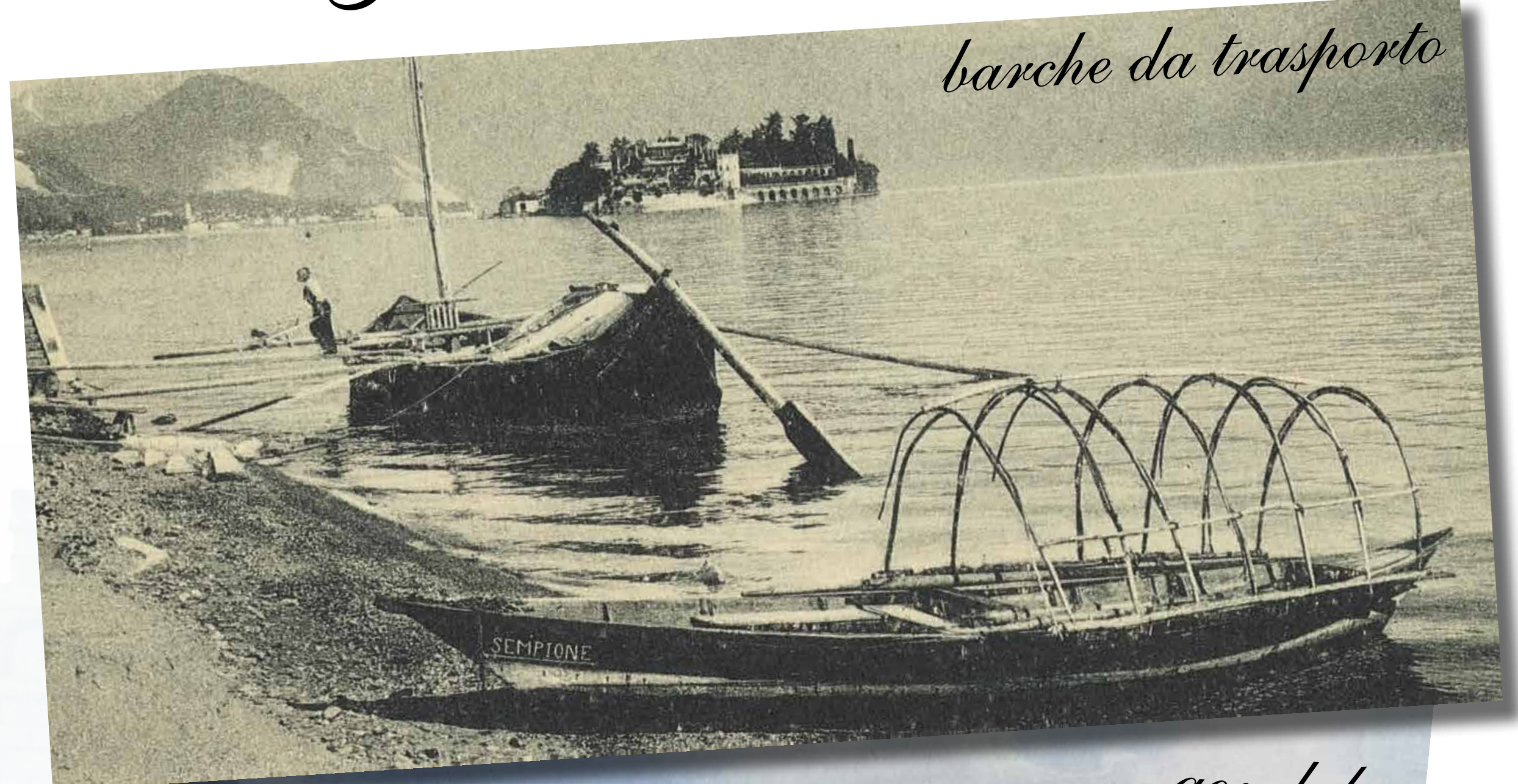
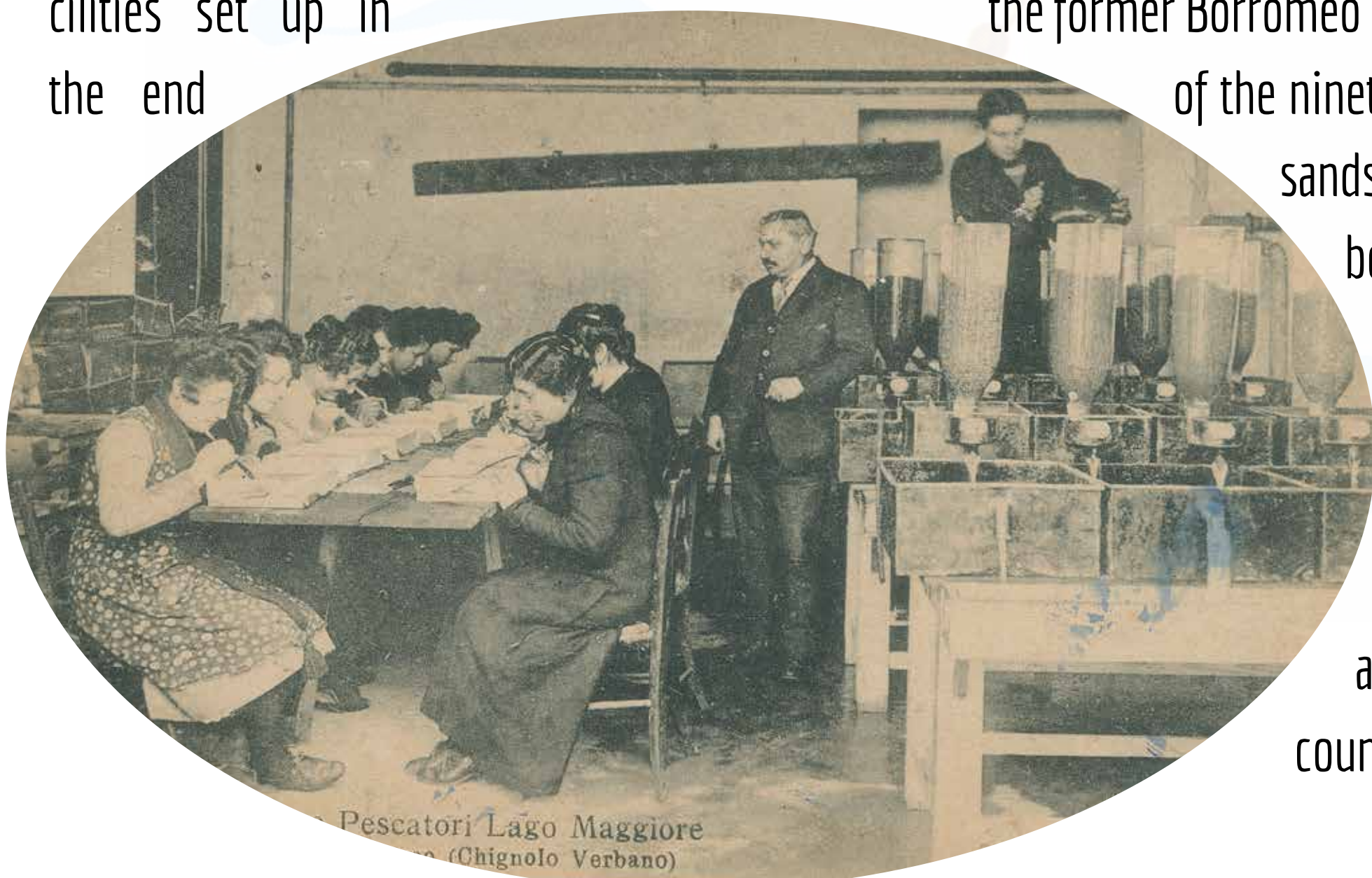
A source of livelihood for the local populations and a waterway connecting the Alps and the Po Valley, for centuries Verbania has been sailed by heavy boats of various shapes and sizes, pushed forward by standing rowers and used for fishing and carrying goods and people. Since the second half of the nineteenth century, boats suitable for sports and trips became increasingly frequent on the lake – they were light, elegant and with oars to row backwards. The noble and upper-class holidaymakers would put them away in their private docks, while tourists would rent them when needed. As per tradition, in addition to rafts, large and wide cargo boats were used for transports, equipped with square sails and also with canopies, arch covers and sheets that were used in the smallest boats for light goods and people. Sumptuous gondolas, on the other hand, would bring families to their worldly visits and events in their historic villas. The fishermen boats were modest and composed of few, heavy boards, but they were also different in shape and size according to the type of fishing. A symbol of tradition is “Isola dei Pescatori” (Fishermen Island), a “siren” bewitching artists and tourists, which in the Liberty period was unfortunately threatened by the appearance of modern, yet unsightly billboards (“Verbania”, 1912). A positive effect of the progress was, on the other hand, the appearance of new sports and leisure boats, as a result of the growing presence on the lake of the English upper class, used to rowing and making trips on the Thames. Consisting of partially overlapping boards according to new techniques, the boats had rounded sides and seats for rowers and travellers. The local construction sites produced various types of boats: the speed boat was very common for trips, whereas the yole, the small dinghy and the sandolo with paddle oar were more suitable for sport activities. There was also no shortage of bizarre boats, such as “nautical bicycles”.

A famous presence on the lake was the great speed boat of Queen Margaret of Savoy who, according to the press of the time, loved to row in her yole or sandolo in the pond of Villa Reale of Monza. And the world has always taken inspiration from royal costumes and followed in their footsteps...



### Scienze and Fisheries

In the atmosphere of scientific innovations of the time, fish hatcheries arose, where juvenile fish was bred to be then released in lakes and rivers to increase their fish stock. From the facilities set up in the end of the nineteenth century, thousands of juvenile fish have been released in the lake every year with a religious ceremony involving the local parish priest, city authorities, Borromean counts and fishermen.



### “La Vedetta” - 1896

**Bicicletta nautica** — Da qualche giorno naviga sul nostro lago un canotto mosso coi piedi come una bicicletta, giacché il meccanismo è identico, solo vi ha l'aggiunta di un volano ad asse verticale nascosto sotto la poltrona di chi sta a dar forza ai meccanismi. Vi sono apposite leve per la manovra della macchina in avanti o indietro, e per l'arresto istantaneo dell'asse della piccola elica, di forma identica a quella delle navi, che muove il battello. La velocità della bicicletta nautica è di circa 4 miglia all'ora con pieno carico, cioè sette persone; è di solida e bella costruzione ed ha lo scafo della lunghezza di cinque metri tutto di mogano lucido.

Il Volo, così si chiama questo canotto, è stato costruito a Parigi pel sig. Carmine Lorenzo di Cannobio.

### I diritti dell'Isola Pescatori e i doveri della pubblicità

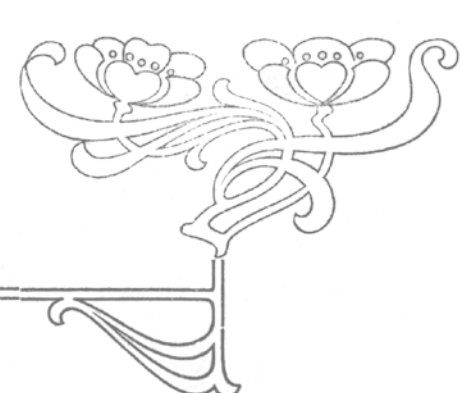
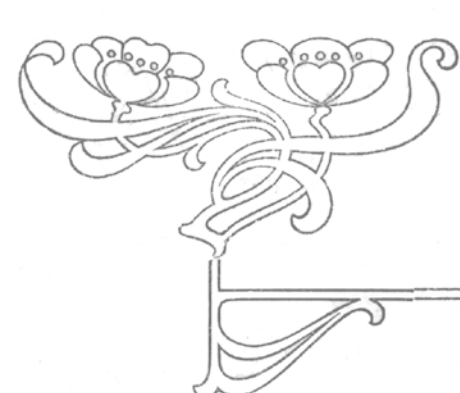
PUBBLICITÀ INVADENTE



Il Golfo Borromeo dalla Ferrovia del Mottarone (istanza di A. Massara)

Ma il caso dell'Isola Pescatori è per noi tipico e quasi (passato il primo fremito di disgusto) siamo obbligati a chi ci ha dato modo di sfruttarlo a tutto nostro vantaggio. Perché noi non avremmo mai creduto che si potesse giungere al punto di mettere dei cartelloni di pubblicità sulle case dell'Isola Pescatori: ci sarebbe parso assurdo!

(1) Già nel numero di luglio anch'io denunciavo l'incon-sulla e balorda réclame all'Isola Pescatori, scrivendo pure fino da allora al Sindaco di Chignolo Verbano una protesta a nome della Sala Storica Intrese. erbebi



English

