



1958: Piero Vidoli e Renato Bialetti

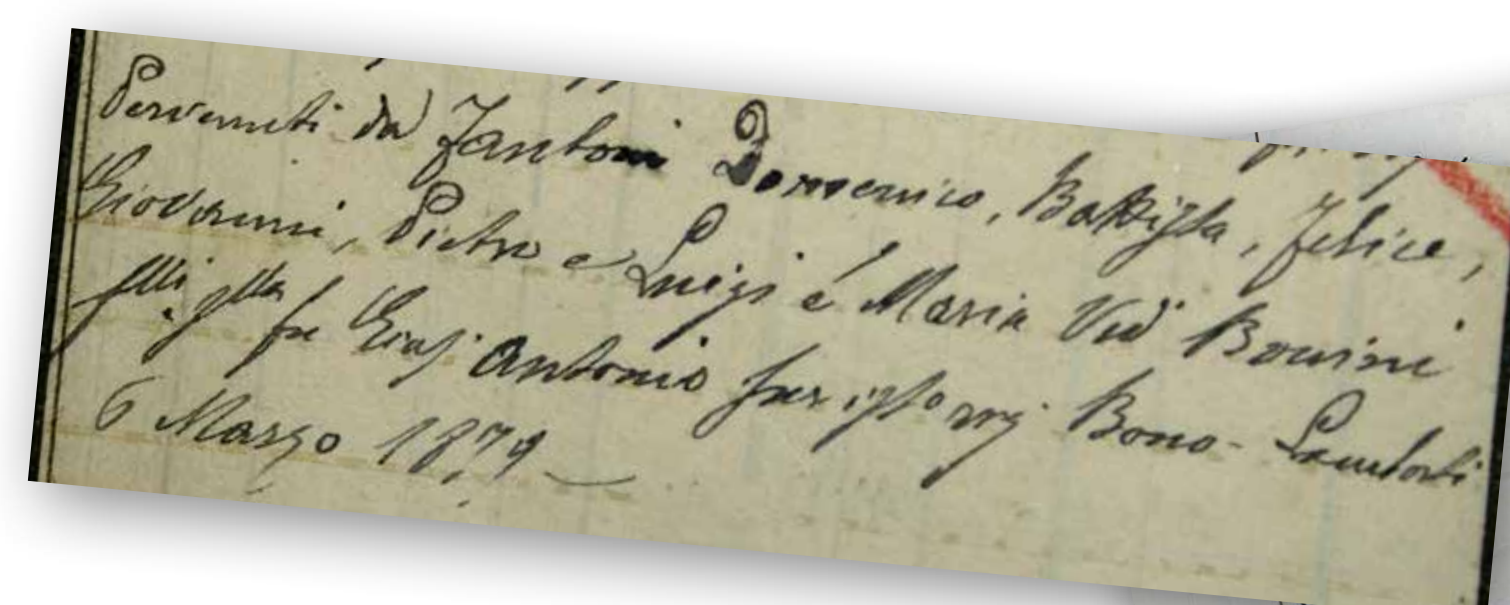
Fantoni - Taroni - Vidoli: on the crest of the wave

Two shipyards are documented in Stresa, shortly after the mid-nineteenth century, founded by boat "builders" from Como and developed at the same time as the spread of nautical sports and recreation on the water on the Verbano.

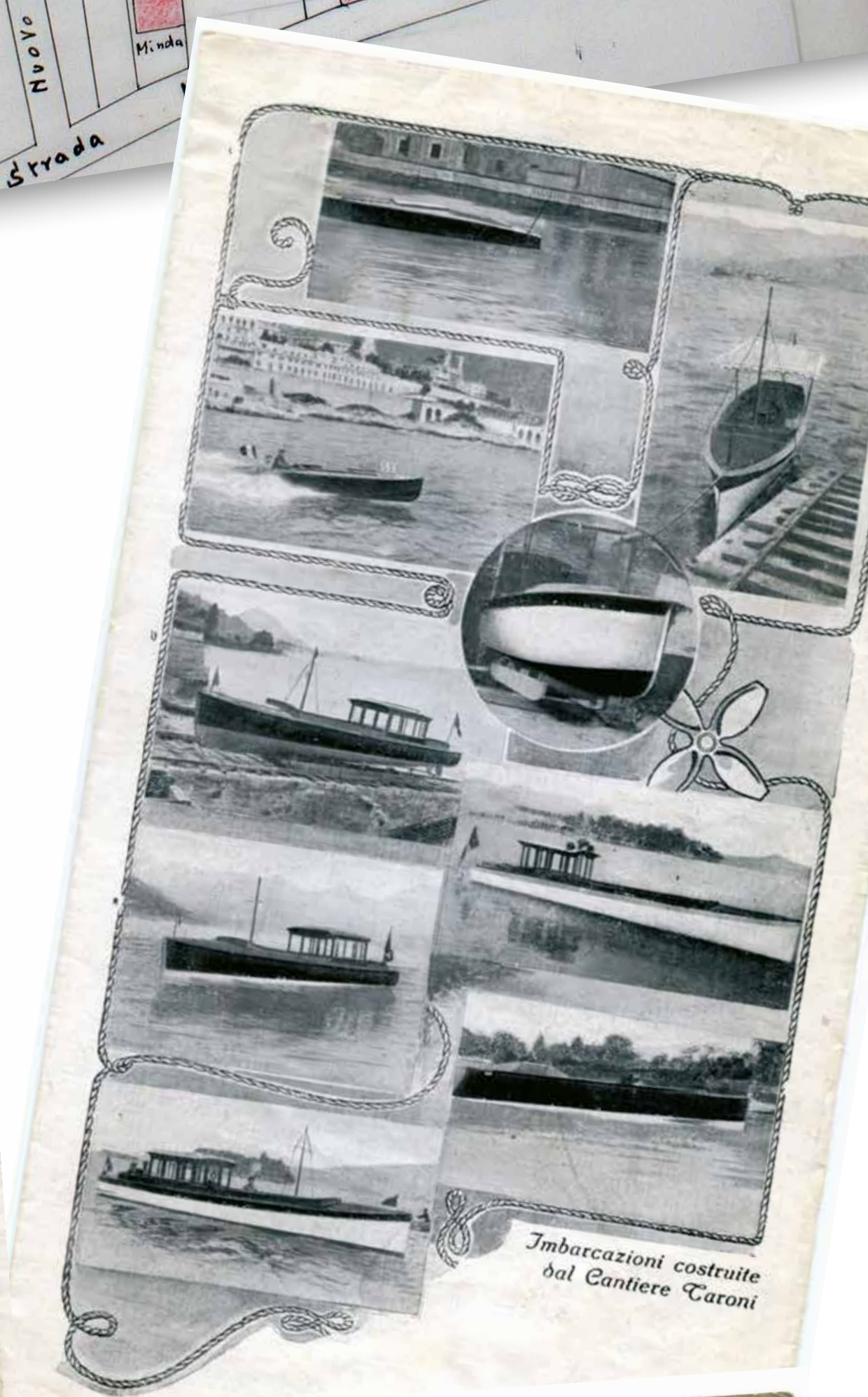
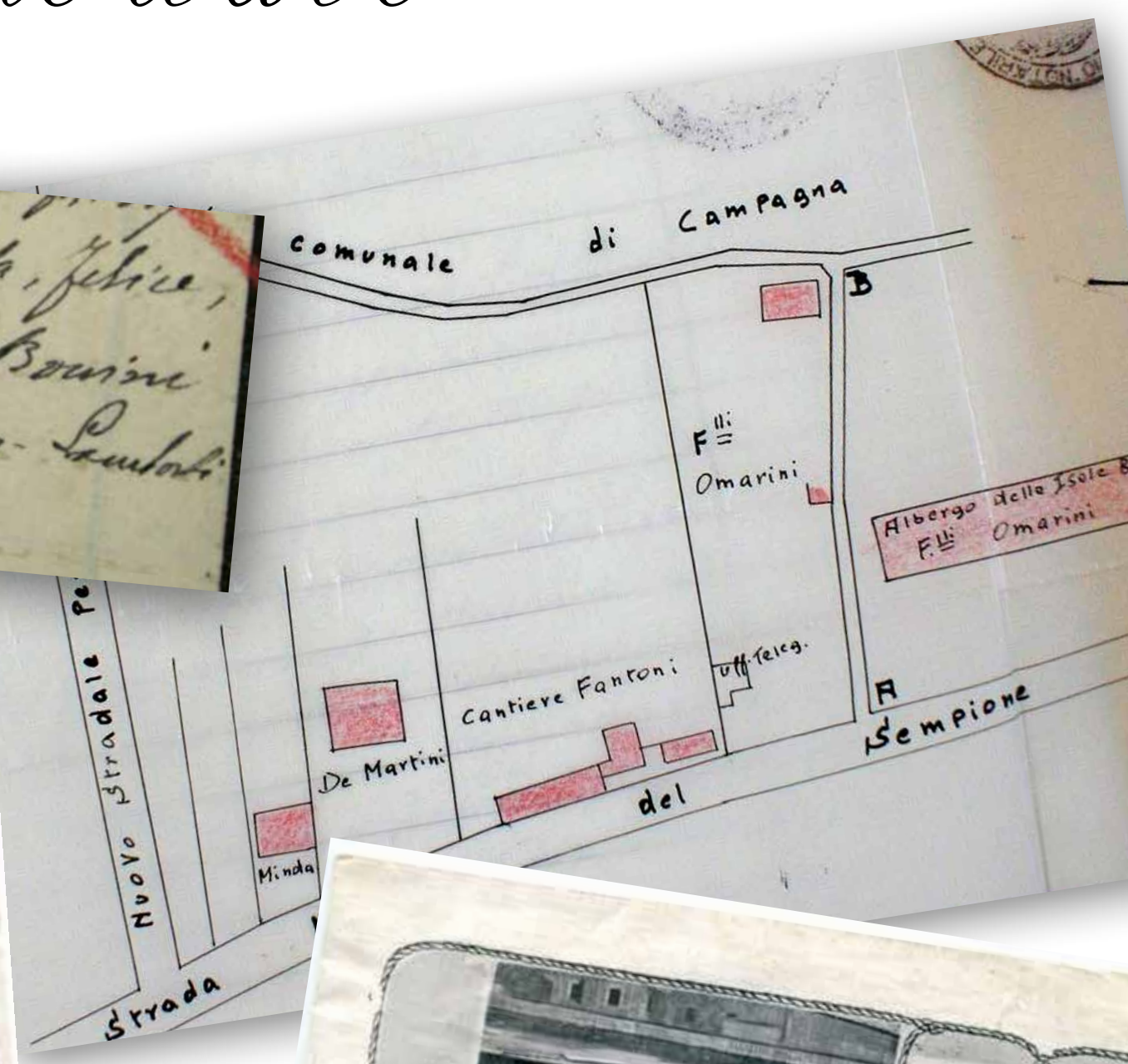
Historical sources date the start of the two construction sites, one by Giacomo Fantoni and the other by Giorgio Taroni, capable, courageous, and far-sighted entrepreneurs, to 1858.

Of the former we know that "in addition to boats of all shapes and sizes, he also built boats" victorious in the years 1874, 1875 and 1876, in competitions promoted by the Lake Maggiore Regatta Society of Belgirate. His were also the first bathing equipment. Very rare archival documents show the location of the shipyards near the Omarini Brothers' Hotel (the Grand Hôtel des Iles Borromées) and the 1879 date of cessation of business. Impressive, however, are the testimonies to the long life of Cantieri Taroni, counted among the pioneers of Italian power-boating. The historic headquarters can be seen on the shore of Carciano Bay, opposite Isola Bella: here, for decades, cutting-edge prototypes were designed and racing motorboats were manufactured that "flew" on the water in national and international competitions, and, in the days of Art Nouveau, the first luxurious tourist boats for high-society vacationers were born. Added to this were the construction of a wide range of motorboats and war boats, participation in boat shows, and versatile workshop activities. In the early twentieth century, on the wave of a well-established Stresa tradition, production began at Cantieri Vidoli, founded by Enrico, "builder and pilot", still located in La Sacca. Famous in Italy and abroad, for generations they have dedicated themselves to making pleasure boats, especially the classic spears, and racing motorboats, as well as restoring and repairing boats. Followed by the press since their appearance, the shipyards are cited for

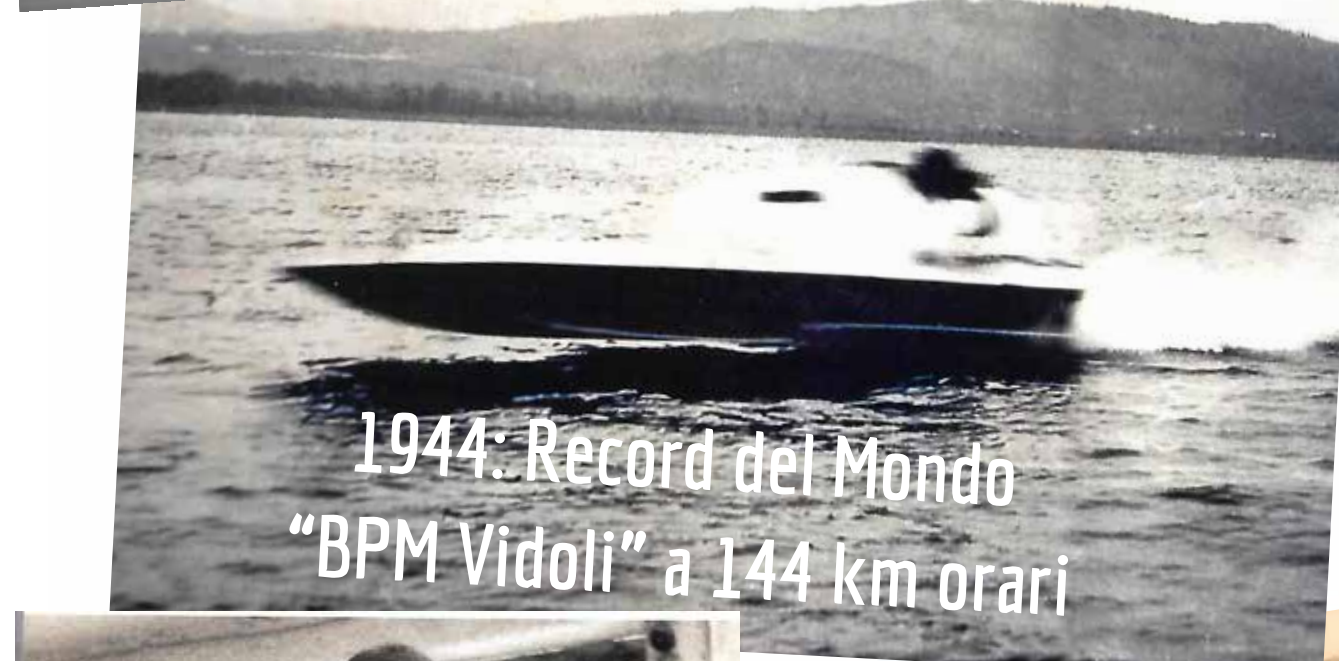
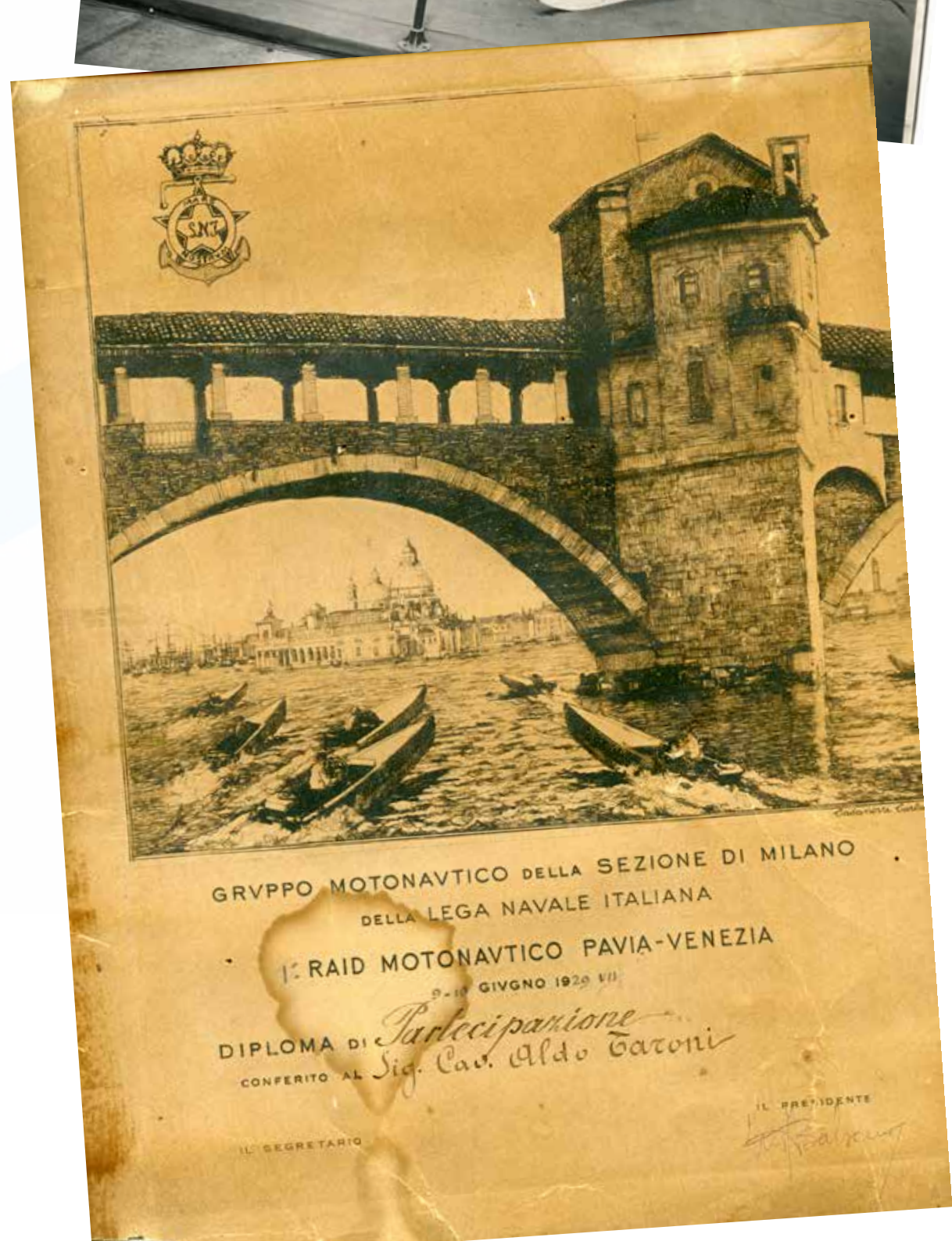
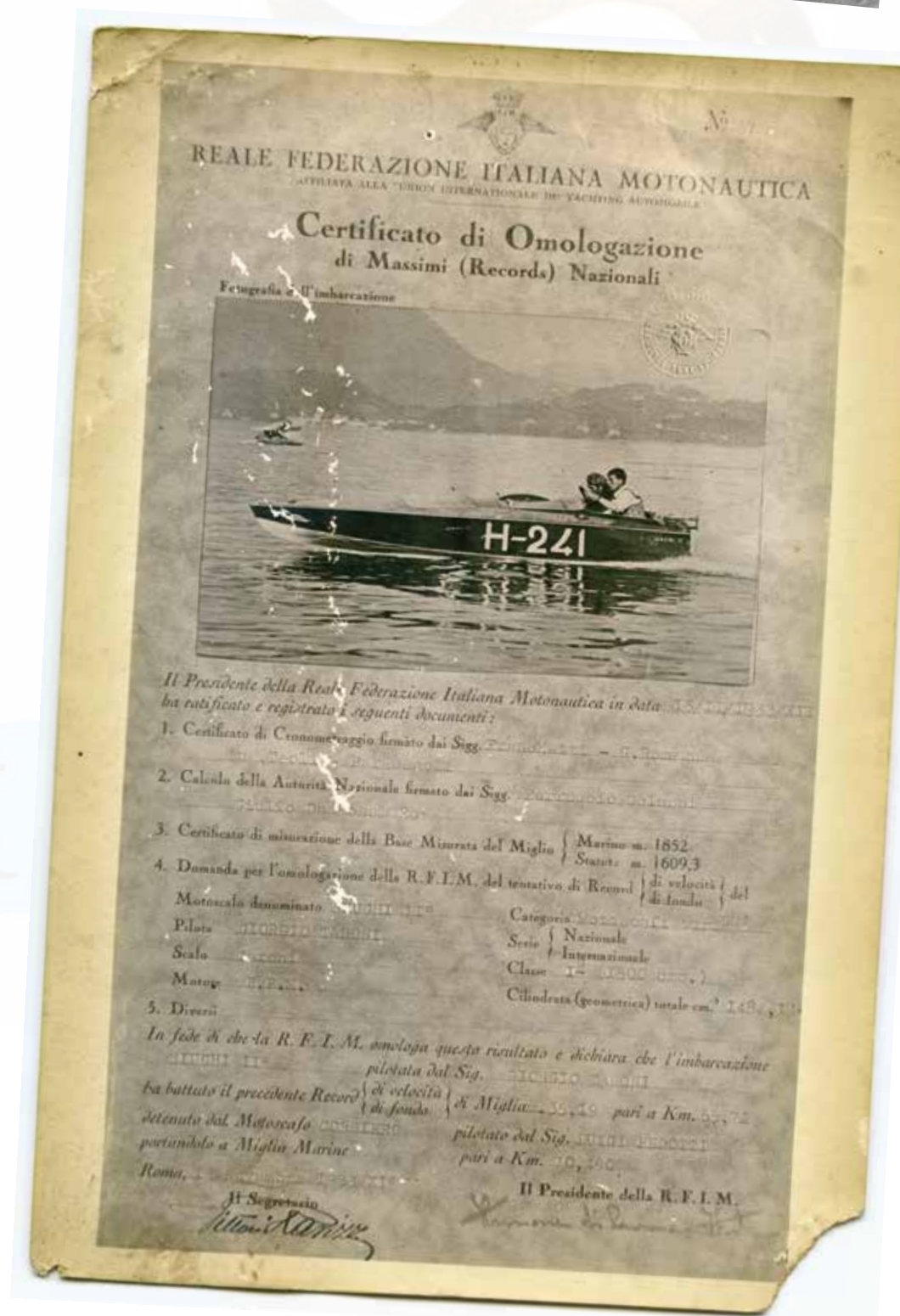
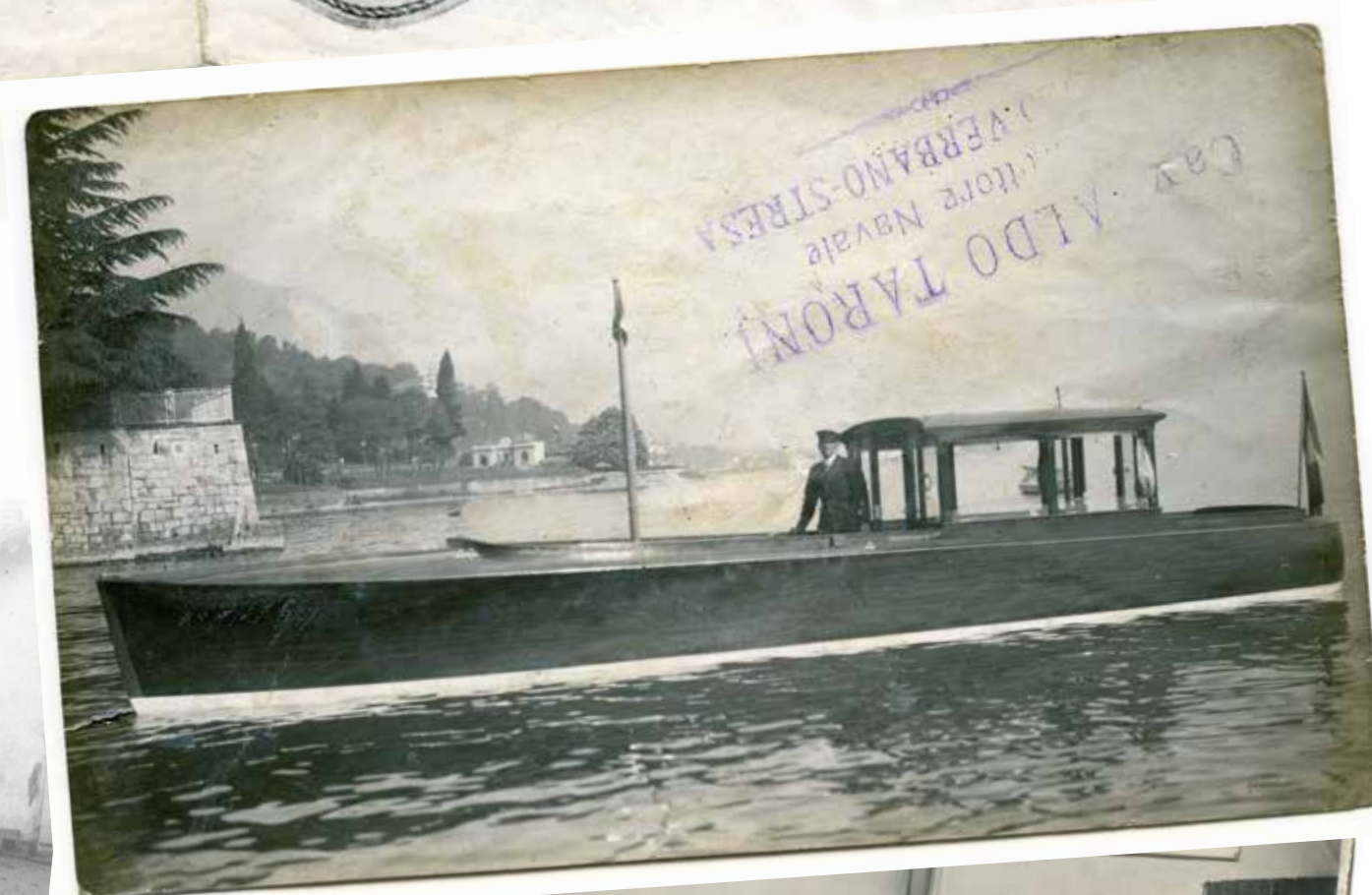
the elegance, originality of lines and accuracy of the manufacture of their boats and, last but not least, for the victories and speed records achieved in important races, where the Vidoli's have also been pilots.



Cantieri Fantoni: planimetria e documento d'archivio del 1879



Cantieri Taroni: fusoliera in assemblaggio



Anni '80: il campione di motonautica "Chicco" Vidoli alla 24 Ore di Rouen

1948: Piero Vidoli con un cliente al collaudo

