

# Hypogea2023

**Proceedings of IV International Congress of Speleology in Artificial Cavities  
Italy, Genoa, September 29th / October 1st**



**EDITORS**

**Stefano Saj, Carla Galeazzi**

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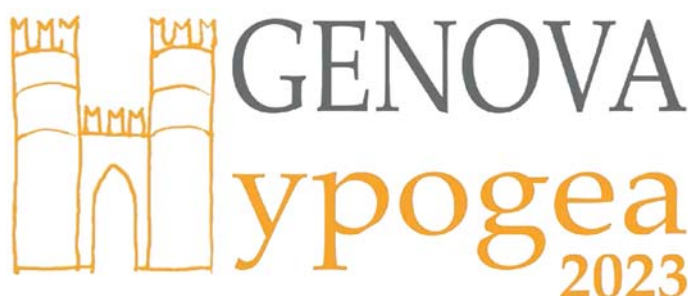


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**HYPOGEA2023**

SEPTEMBER 29th / OCTOBER 1st  
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Piazza Matteotti 9, Genova



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# HYPOGEA2023

PALAZZO DUCALE, SALA MINOR CONSIGLIO  
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# FOREWARD

Mario Parise<sup>1,2</sup>



The Doge's Palace view from Piazza Giacomo Matteotti (photo G. Cavalieri)

It is with huge pleasure that I am writing these lines, in order to present the congress *Hypogea2023*, and to introduce this piece of work, the 2023 proceedings that represent the new-born member of the Hypogea family, adding to those produced at the previous meetings in Rome (Italy), Cappadocia (Turkey) and Dobrich (Bulgaria). As President of the Commission on Artificial Cavities of the International Union of Speleology (UIS), I am very proud of this work, that continues the road started 8 years ago when we realized the need of organizing an international congress dedicated to

artificial cavities. The idea, unanimously approved by the Commission, resulted in a success well above our initial expectations, and as such has been in the following years.

After the first edition of Hypogea, held in 2015 in Rome, we are back in Italy, this time being hosted in Genoa, a beautiful town in the north-western Italian coasts of Liguria, characterized by a long history and a wide use of the underground: as many other towns in Italy, the underground of Genoa presents a great variety of sites of interest, but have been many times,

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during the last decades, also places that in some ways played a role on the occasion of the main flood events affecting the town. As elsewhere, the human actions in the underground environment have resulted in locally exacerbating the negative effects of natural hazards, and their impacts on society.

In the attempt to put together cavers and scientists from very different disciplines, the issue of artificial cavities is particularly suitable for merging different expertise: within artificial cavities many professionals and scholars actually work and make research activities, from geologists, to archaeologists, historians, architects, engineers, hydrologists, biologists, just to mention some disciplines. Artificial cavities are the perfect place for multi-disciplinary works, and this is widely documented in these proceedings, where many contributions put together scholars coming from quite diverse experience and background.

50 articles included in the proceedings (out of the 52 presented at the congress), counting 150 authors from 8 countries worldwide, and dealing with case studies from artificial cavities in 10 countries, is a great result! Of course, countries as Italy (the hosting nation) and Turkey are the most represented, and in particular the Italian contributions cover not less than 15 regions in the country, thus testifying the variety of underground sites, and of their typologies as well, in Italy. Beside the geographical distribution, the works are also extremely varied in terms of topics, ranging from archaeology and history, to geology, hydrogeology and geotechnics, to survey techniques, geotourism, and mitigation of natural hazards. At the same

time, practically all the categories of artificial cavities in the UIS classification (Parise et al., 2013) are dealt with, with great emphasis on worship sites, hydraulic works, civilian settlements, military works, but also with regard to quarries and mines and dovecots as well. Worth to be mentioned are also the several works about inventory of caves or deriving from projects that had artificial cavities as the main object of their study. This testifies, once again, the growing interest for the underground world created by man, and the importance to know as much as we can of what is present beneath our inhabited areas. In the case of artificial cavities, knowledge goes necessarily through the collection of data, possibly organized by means of inventories or catalogues, a very difficult work that, once started, can really make the difference for the complete knowledge of any territory.

When preparing these lines of preface to the *Hypogea2023* proceedings, I went back to the preface authored by Carla Galeazzi and myself in Rome, in 2015: there, we presented our auspice that this congress “*might have in the future a cyclic nature, in order to allow a constant discussion on the issues regarding artificial cavities*” (Galeazzi and Parise, 2015, p. 7). Today, I am extremely happy to confirm that Hypogea, at its fourth edition, has become a fundamental occasion of meeting for all scholars dealing with artificial cavities, notwithstanding the great difficulties posed in the last years by the pandemic. Thus, I am sure that the congress will keep going, and look forward to visiting other countries in the next future, on the occasion of the Hypogea to come.

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