

Giancarlo Paba, 18 Aprile 2010

Cari colleghi,

alla fine della riunione - eravamo in pochi - si parlava del nome del nostro nuovo organismo, e ho proposto Società dei Territorialisti (invece di associazione), perché mi ricorda la *Le Play Society*, con la quale ha collaborato Patrick Geddes, e che svolgeva esplorazioni multidisciplinari sul campo (e vi partecipavano anche le donne, come nei gruppi di lavoro di Geddes, cosa non frequente: "his or her own point of view", distingue il testo allegato, già allora), una delle quali anche in Sardegna (io sono sardo). Sono riuscito - erano anni che li cercavo - a trovare i *Sardinian Studies, by members of the Le Play Society, edited by W.G. Walker* nel 1938 (quasi gli stessi anni degli studi di Le Lannou sulla Sardegna, che restano inarrivabili, naturalmente). Nel volumetto c'è una auto-presentazione della *Society*, che vi riporto qui sotto e in allegato, perché lo spirito mi sembra simile al nostro, anche nella valorizzazione degli aspetti conviviali, nella considerazione della *Education* (e degli *Students*), nello stile di analisi di territori concreti, nella valorizzazione di una "comunità di interpreti" di diverse discipline, nella ricerca di innovazione nelle modalità di rappresentazione e divulgazione delle idee, nella stessa inquietudine delle parole finali nei confronti della condizione del mondo,

cari saluti

Giancarlo Paba

*The Le Play Society* takes its name from the great French Sociologist, Frédéric Le Play, who lived in the 19th century. He saw the social world as dependent upon the interaction of people and place through the medium of work. The study of these - Place, Work, Folk - and their interaction, by means of direct observation and the systematic study of the social and economic life of any area selected, has developed into a movement of importance in Education. These studies of environment embrace geology, geography, geomorphology, biology, primary occupations, archaeology, history, folklore and the general culture.

*The Le Play Society* work upon this basis. It has the cooperation of a large group of geographers, historians and sociologists who have wide experience of work by these observational methods throughout Great Britain, Europe and other parts of the world. Under such leadership its visits at home and abroad are organized. The people joining in these visits meet in residential colleges, hotels or schools; and Student's camps are organized by the Student's Committee. These occasions give opportunity for people to study, each from his or her own point of view, various aspects of the same region, with the guidance of the leaders; and at the same time delightful holiday experience are enjoyed, with the stimulus of fresh social and international contacts. Surveys produced at such meetings are afterwards available for Exhibitions. Lantern slides are made, and these and other material collected can be borrowed for lecture and demonstration purpose by members of the *Le Play Society*. At the office there is a small reference library for the use of members;

and the Society publishes original survey work from time to time. In these attempts to understand the community and its habitat and their inter-relations, members can hope also to make some small contribution at least - through getting to know individuals of other nations and learning to appreciate their points of view in study and social life - towards setting to right the social and economic chaos of the present world conditions.