The Carabinieri for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (TPC)

Captain Salvatore Rapicavoli
Deputy Commander of the Data Processing Unit
OVERVIEW:

- Historical background, structure and functions
- Training
- Mission and tasks
- National and International legislation
- Threats
  - Illegal excavations
  - Thefts
  - Illegal exportations
  - Counterfeiting
- “Leonardo” the Stolen Work of Art Database
- Website
- Conclusions
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Historical background and functions

ARMY

NAVY

AIR FORCE

CARABINIERI
ESTABLISHMENT:
In 1969, one year before the Paris 1970 UNESCO Convention

STRUCTURE:
A specialized unit of the Carabinieri within the Italian Ministry of Culture in direct collaboration with the Minister

RESPONSABILITIES:
Mandate by law to oversee all Cultural property investigations within the Italian Law Enforcement Community as well as to deconflict and process incoming information from International Organizations and foreign law enforcement agencies.
Arma dei Carabinieri, a National Law Enforcement agency

**MILITARY POLICE**
- Internal Security
- Specialized Investigations

**CIVIL POLICE**

**TPC**
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Structure – Central and field offices

Headquarters and Database

Operational Department

- MONZA
- VENEZIA
- FIRENZE
- BOLOGNA
- NAPOLI
- BARI
- PALERMO
- GENOVA
- PERUGIA
- ANCONA
- ROMA
- UDINE
- TORINO
- SIRACUSA
- COSENZA
- CAGLIARI
- TORINO
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Structure – Operational Department

Operational Department

- Antiquities
- Archaeological
- Contemporary Art & Counterfeiting
Mission and tasks

PREVENTIVE ACTIVITIES

- Surveillance of archaeological sites
- Monitoring the art markets
- Enforce museum’s to follow standard security measures

SPECIALIZED SUPPORT

- Training foreign law enforcement agencies and Customs Officers
- Peace-keeping operations (i.e. Iraq 2003-2006)
- Technical projects

INVESTIGATIONS

- Recovery stolen cultural properties
- Support to Italian Ministry of Culture
ILLEGAL EXCAVATIONS
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Threats: illegal excavations

➢ FORTUITOUS FINDINGS

➢ ORGANISED LOOTERS

   Grave robbers

   Middleman receivers

   Dealers
Lower number of discovered excavations, although high level of the area monitoring.
Main threats

- ILLEGAL EXCAVATIONS
- THEFTS
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Threats: thefts

- **SPECIALIZED THIEVIES AND RECEIVING MIDDLEMAN**

- **OFTEN COMMITTED BY ORGANISED CRIMINAL GROUPS**

- **MOST AFFECTED – PLACES OF WORSHIP**
Number of thefts decreased during the last years
Churchs places with the higher number of thefts and stolen objects
Main threats

- ILLEGAL EXCAVATIONS
- THEFTS
- ILLICIT EXPORTATIONS
Object seized by the custom

Giovanni Francesco Barbieri called “Guercino” (1591-1666), attr. / school of The incredulity of Saint Thomas

Stolen in Bologna, Italy, in 1992
Recovered in Bologna in 1998
Main threats

- ILLEGAL EXCAVATIONS
- THEFTS
- ILLICIT EXPORTATIONS
- COUNTERFEITING
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Threats: counterfeiting

COUNTERFEITING

Contemporary and modern art

High profits

STATUE FALSELY ATTRIBUTED TO
Alberto Giacometti (1901 - 1966)
Women walking
Bronzeh. 130 cm

THE VALUE OF THE AUTHENTIC OBJECT OF ART IS
60.000.000 €
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Threats: counterfeiting

![Bar chart showing data for Antiquities, Archeological, and Contemporary categories in 2014 and 2015.](chart.png)

![Images of artifacts.](images.png)
Main threats

- ILLEGAL EXCAVATIONS
- THEFTS
- ILLICIT EXPORTATIONS
- COUNTERFEITING
- DAMAGES AND LANDSCAPE CRIMES
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Threats: damages and landscape crimes

Turtle fountain
- Villa Borghese, Rome -

Pieces of Fountain
Seized areas and properties:

- 2015: 45
- 2014: 18

People reported for crimes against landscape conservation:

- 2015: 326
- 2014: 307
## Carabinieri TPC Department

### Threats: the market on the internet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTS RECOVERED Through internet monitoring</th>
<th>2013-2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANCIENT COINS</td>
<td>7,548</td>
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<tr>
<td>STOLEN ARTWORKS</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HERITAGE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVAL</td>
<td>6,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHEOLOGIC ITEMS</td>
<td>703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTERFEITED OBJECTS</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>12,841</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Carabinieri TPC Department

Threats: the market on the internet

Seized items per typology

- Books and archive items: 72.61%
- Archeological finds: 21.63%
- Pittoric arts: 2.39%
- Numismatics: 2.81%
- Others: 0.56%

- 712 items seized through internet monitoring.
From 1970 to 2015*

- **760.387** Cultural items recovered  
  (21.509 in 2015)

- **1.099.107** Archaeological objects recovered  
  (11.696 in 2015)

- **270.751** Counterfeited artworks seized  
  (1.601 in 2014)

Almost **83.516.100 €**  
the economical value  
of the recovered/seized objects in 2015

* Updated 31st dec 2015
During the first years of activity there was a paper archive.
In the 1980s, with the first computer it was possible to use something similar to a Database.

Only text stored into local TPC pc - no telematic flow
From **1990 to 2006**, there were several telematic evolutions of the Database, following the increasing technological offer.

- Transferred on Servers, to be accessible from any point of the TPC sites;
- It is possible to store images and textual information.
In **2015** the newest version of the DB is finally developed.

The innovation is the addition of new investigative modules.
The informatic system is made up by modules:

- **standard**, dedicated to the main processes:
  - Data entry;
  - Searches of information stored in the DB;
  - statistics.
The informatic system is made up by modules:

- **investigative**, for:
  - The semi-automatic images comparison of stolen WOA;
  - Geo-localization of the events;
  - Graphical presentation of the links between people, events, places.
“LEONARDO”: THE STOLEN WORKS OF ART DATABASE

Stored Information (*):

173,893 EVENTS - 1,216,379 STOLEN OBJECTS DESCRIBED - 599,529 IMAGES

6,038,165 TOTAL OBJECTS DESCRIBED

* Updated at 31.05.2016
Receives information by submission of a specific **TPC EVENT FORM**
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- Stolen cultural items
- Exportation denies
- Photo controls
- Illegal excavations
- Seizures of counterfeit works
- Surveillance of Archaelogical sites
- Controls of security measures in Museums
- Crimes against the landscape
Search activity

- Territorial commands of Carabinieri (Stazioni, ecc.)
- Other national Police Forces
- Ministry Export Offices
- Interpol
- Citizens

- Auction House catalogues
- Catalogues of art exhibitions
- Works of art published on internet
Anonimous XVII century
“Madonna del Rosario”
Painting, oil on canvas, cm 50 x 50
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Examples

Information of the objects to query

“Type of Object” selection

“Type of Title/Subject” selection
### Examples

#### DIPINTO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATERIALE</th>
<th>TELA</th>
<th>MATERIALE</th>
<th>TELA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOME</td>
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<td>TECNICA</td>
<td>ESEC.</td>
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#### SCHEDA SOGGETTO

**MADONNA BAMBINO ANGELI SANTI**

1. **Elenco Attributi Base**
   - ROSSO
   - AURORA
   - LIBRO
   - CORONA DI FIORI
   - ANGELI
   - GESU
   - MARIA
   - SAN DOMENICO
   - SANTA CATHERINA DA SFORA
   - PIO V

#### ALTRE INFO

**IMPORTANTE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENTO</th>
<th>CODICE PRATICA</th>
<th>TIPO EVENTO</th>
<th>DATA EVENTO (INIZIO)</th>
<th>DATA EVENTO (FINE)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23541</td>
<td>OFFRE DA RICERCARE</td>
<td>03/06/1967</td>
<td>03/06/1967</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LUGOLO EVENTO**: CHIESA

**DENOMINAZIONE**

**CODICE CARABINIERI**

**DATA RICUPERO**: 23/03/1993
Anonimous XVII century – “Madonna del Rosario”
Painting, oil on canvas, cm 240 x 130
*stolen* in 1987 from the Church of Sternatia (LE) and *recovered* in 1993 in Lecce (LE)
XVIII century
“Madonna col Bambino e Santi”, Oil on canvas, cm 300 x 200
Stolen in 2004 from the Church of Santi Ginesio and Giovanni in Boveglio (LU)
Recovered in 2008 in Montecatini Terme (PT)
Giovanni Domenico Ferretti (1692 - 1768)
“San Francesco Saverio predica nelle Indie”, Oil on canvas, cm 330 x 210
Stolen from the Church of San Giusto di Volterra (PI) in 2000
Recovered in Cinisello Balsamo (MI) in 2003

Painting under scrutiny:
Painting, Oil on canvas, cm 200 x 205
Antonio Canal detto *Canaletto* (1697 – 1768), attr. «La Chiesa della Salute»
Oil on canvas, cm 92 x 56
Stolen 1984 (private residence) ; Recovered 16/03/1989 in Milan
He has the sheath, but where is the sword?
Search on the internet... technology is not enough...
Search on the internet... technology is not enough.
Stolen at Bersaglieri barracks in Pordenone during the 2nd global conflict
Search on the internet… technology is not enough…
iTPC

- Developed for the main mobile OS
- Available for both Smartphone and Tablets

GOALS:
- To let the citizens know about the TPC activities
- To share information concerning the major stolen w.o.a
- To provide a basic tool for the images comparison
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Object ID</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DOCUMENTO DELL'OPERA D'ARTE - OBJECT ID**

**Fotografia dell'oggetto**
La fotografia di un oggetto d'arte rappresenta una fase fondamentale nel processo di identificazione e di restituzione di oggetti d'arte rubati. Le immagini e i dati forniti dall'oggetto, in primo piano, descrivono, oggetti particolari e tracce di danni o riparazioni. In conseguenza, si potrebbero, di inclusione, un indicatore metrico a un oggetto di dimensioni significative.

**Tipo di oggetto**
**PAINTING**

**Materiali e Tecniche**
*Olio su tela*

**Dimensioni**
*cm. 47 x 65*

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**REST DURING EGYPT ESCAPE**

**Soggetto**
Quello è un soggetto rappresentato in un'opera di G. Domenico Tiepolo, databile alla Fine del XVIII secolo.

**HOLY FAMILY**

**GIOVANNI DOMENICO TIEPOLO**

**DESCRIPTIVE NOTES**

**UNA VOLTA COMPILATA
CONSERVARE QUESTA SCHEDA AL SICURO**
Carabinieri TPC Department

www.carabinieri.it  tpc@carabinieri.it

Thank You