

## **The Reasons of the Initiative**

*By Luigi Giraldi*

In the strategic and organizational redefining of the Ansaldo Foundation, initiated by Finmeccanica towards the end of 2007, the archival activities of preservation and valorization were reasserted as a central and distinctive element of the mission and identity of the Foundation.

This position is confirmed with the publication, by Fondazione Ansaldo Editore, of the Finmare, Gerolamo Gaslini and Francesco Manzitti inventories, in the past declared to be of high historical interest by the Liguria Archival Superintendence Office.

This initiative, achieved with the scientific cooperation of the Studies and Research Service of the General Management for the Archives<sup>1</sup> will continue with the publication of new inventories; in 2010 the publication of the inventory of the extensive Perrone archives<sup>2</sup> is planned and the collection will also be able to gather archival inventories compiled by other institutions.

Lastly, we would like to highlight the role of the General Management for the Archives. There has been a clear contribution of knowledge and know-how that is currently difficult to find in Italy, but the accomplishment of the inventories is a further confirmation of both the cultural prospects of the Foundation and the DGA, and of the new, and long-awaited role of direction and scientific control of the Ministry in the field of economic and business archives.

---

<sup>1</sup> DGA's contribution is based on a formal premise of the cooperation agreement for the safeguard and the valorization of economic and business archives signed in 2005 with the Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> Notified in March 1982, Perrone Archives comprises 2.430 envelopes covering the years 1843-1945 and collects records regarding the entrepreneurial activities of Ferdinando, Pio and Mario Perrone, owners of the company Gio. Ansaldo & C and of many other companies. The archives includes technical drawings, antiques and 5 thousand original pictures.