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### **Bridge Real Ferdinando**

Bourbon bridge across Garigliano river is the first suspension bridge on iron chains of Continental Europe, built from 1828 to 1832 by Luigi Giura; example of the modernity of the Bourbon administration in engineering, architectural, artistic field (with egyptianising columns and Sphinxes, testimony of egittomania related to the first excavations in Egypt), and a masterpiece of industrial politics of the Two Sicilies Kingdom.

The work was also named by Byron "Fairies bridge" and took as symbol from many foreign artists. The bridge- modern work that replaces the old scafa - is built to ensure the direct crossing of the river along the Appia way, and reuniting with the site of the Roman Minturnae where the Bourbons had just started important archaeological excavations.

April 6, 1850, Pope Pius IX crossed the Garigliano on this bridge, accompanied by King Ferdinand II, and here the people of Traetto (today Minturno) welcomed him, with the Statue of Our Lady, asking the Pope to entrust the city to the protection of the Virgin of Grace. The repeated celebration every year is an intangible heritage of this land.

The bridge as road work is also the mute witness the last act of the unification under the new Kingdom of Savoy, before the siege of Gaeta (1861), and hard battles along the Gustav line at the end of the Second World war.

The destruction of the deck in 1943, was already in force the law of protection of 1939, is a testimony of how the bridge was regarded not as a Cultural asset subject to protection, but strategic objective.

Restored in 1998, and protected by the State, it can be considered as a "case study" of the problems of at-risk cultural property during armed conflicts.