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Geschichte der Erdwissenschaften und Bodenschätze in der Berglandschaft des Aostatales und der Lombardei

Das Ziel dieses Papiers ist die Bedeutung der Forschung in historischen Unterlagen zu zeigen, um die Kenntnis der Umweltbedingungen von Alpen und Alpenrand zu verbessern. Schwerpunkt des Interesses waren die Eisenlagerstätten im Aosta Tal und Bergbaue im Seenland der Lombardei.

Es werden die Möglichkeiten der geschichtlichen und wissenschaftlichen Erforschung der Naturressourcen im Laufe der Menschheitsgeschichte erörtert. Zahlreiche geologische und mineralogische Schriften, Reisejournale von Naturforschern, vor allem aus dem 18. und 19. Jahrhundert, wurden herangezogen, um alte Bergbaue zu lokalisieren.

Die notwendigen Informationen fanden sich in staatlichen und regionalen Archiven, naturkundlichen Museen und schon lange existierenden Institutionen wie den Akademien der Wissenschaft. Sie sind primäre Quellen, um alte Minerallagerstätten der Alpen zu identifizieren. Auch amtliche Dokumente, wie die historische Kartographie, Berichte über verschiedene Verhüttungsmethoden, Bergrechtsvergaben und über die lokale Gewinnung von Holz für die Zimmerung wurden zu Rate gezogen

History of Earth Sciences and Natural Resources in Mountain Landscape: Aosta Valley and Lombardy

The aim of this paper is to explain the importance of historical studies in order to improve environmental conditions in the Alps and “*foothills of the Alps*”, through some case studies such as iron deposits of Aosta Valley and mines of the “*lakes land*” in Lombardy. Moreover the potentialities of historical and scientific researches to analyse the management of natural resources during the human history will be presented.

Several books and manuscripts related to the history of geology and mineralogy have been mostly consulted to locate the place of old mines exploited in the past, for example the travel journals of 18th and 19th centuries; in fact, during this period, the renewed interest about mining activity and natural resources persuaded many naturalists to set out on several excursions, mainly at regional level. Documentary materials kept into Archives (State and Regional Archives), Natural History Museums and well-known Institutions, such as Academies of Science, are primary sources to identify the ancient mineral sills of the Alps. Several official texts, such as historical cartography, reports about different processing of metal working, documents related to purchase of mining concessions and to local production of wood, are significant to mark out the boundaries of charcoal piles and exploitations mining of the past. These documents are employed to ascertain which was the extension of woods and coppice in the late history of the Alps. However, historiographical studies could be taken into consideration by geoarchaeological analysis to reconstruct the evolution of mountain landscape during the history of humankind. So it could be stand out a field of research founded on multidisciplinary studies; and the history of Earth Sciences, related to a close examination of different kind of sources (published or not), might support field investigations and naturalistic surveys. We can spread out our observations to the exploitation of other natural resources of the Alps and foothills of the Alps, for example: peat bogs or all fossil fuels. The paper will try to show the possibility to increase environmental conditions with this research typology, through mining parks and naturalistic or historical routes.

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