



Abstract: "The City of L'Aquila existed and does not exist (anymore): houses are melted in a mound of stones": the testimony (1703) of the Vicario Aid Coordinator unfortunately still today sounds fully topical, giving evidence of the pluri-secular experience which should be acquired in this domain. The paper by **Stefano Gizzi**, scholar from L'Aquila and currently Superintendent in Napoli, offers an incisive summary comparing data with the previous earthquakes of 1315, 1461 and the chronicle of the 1703 earthquake (based on archival documentary sources), enlightening how the previous catastrophes have been immediately followed by "reconstructive ferments" in which, unlike today, the habitants, remaining in the town, have been the main protagonists. Hence, he criticizes the slowness and delays of the current reconstruction process and the incumbent risks to transform the city "in a huge empty mausoleum", which would reduce L'Aquila to a new undesired Pompei. It points out how it is a mistake to keep blocked the historical centre, invaded by a dense swarm of scaffoldings, and how the new constructed belt of houses, although built with innovative earthquake-proof precautions, has anomalous pre-Alps features, implying the risk of saturation and distortion of the relationship between the historic centre and the territory, indicating the priority to intervene in the urban area in favour of conservation and respect of the stratifications, accompanied by the contemporary testimony. **Giorgio Piccinato**, stressing the high quality of the urban structure of the historic area, although presently abandoned by the habitants, notes the opportunity for a new palyngogenesis, criticizing the construction projects CASE (Complessi Antisismici Sostenibili Ecocompatibili) and MAP (Moduli Abitativi Provvisori), following the sole logic of the urgency, far from the historic centre and deprived of services, recommending that habitants will be soon back to the centre as in has been the case, in the aftermaths of the second war world, of London and Berlin, as well as in the establishment of a normal status of governance which may afford concretely the adoption of a new urban plan. **Rosalia Vittorini**, president of DOCOMOMO Italy, alerts on the modern architectural culture of L'Aquila, built after the 1915 earthquake. A modern architectural heritage, represented mainly by emerging public buildings (banks, cinemas, insurance institutions) and services (schools, hospital, court) realized by local professionals and valuable architects (Bazzani, Gorio, Vittorini e Portoghesi) which is suffering consistent damages and which requires the urgent set up of effective safeguarding guidelines. **Maria Margarita Segarra Lagunes** passionately praising the bucolic landscape, brings the attention on cultural identity values of many historic centres settled around L'Aquila, damaged by the earthquake, appealing for an intervention which shall not produce a false touristic an picturesque scenography.

L'Aquila, il centro storico negli anni Sessanta del Novecento, con al centro la Piazza del Mercato e il Duomo dei SS. Massimo e Giorgio (Foto Archivio Fausto Rosati, L'Aquila)