

INAUGURATION OF FLORENCE'S BRIDGE ST. TRINITA

The history of the most famous bridge of Florence is very ancient. It was first built up in the year 1269 by Dominican friars. It was then reconstructed in 1346 by Taddeo Gaddi.

X In 1557 the bridge was burned down by a flood of the river Arno. Cosimo I of Medici encharged sculptors Ammannati and Michelangelo to rebuild it up, and in 1569 the work was over. In addition to it, Cosimo I of Medici had some statues drawn at public park and set over the balustrade of the bridge: the most famous of these statues was "The Springtime" by sculptor Caccini.

X After 387 years, on August 3rd 1944 Florence's bridge St. Trinita blew up by mines laid by Nazi units on their retreat to prevent Allies from crossing the Arno.

After the war, Engineer Brizzi and Architect Ghisdulich were encharged to re-build the bridge exactly like it was before. At this point a warm polemic raised among the Florentines: the "Springtime" had been recovered from the river, but not its head, so that the statue has been replaced over the bridge thus mutilated. Florentines are thereafter divided into two parties: one is inclined for leaving the statue as it is now, and another for having a new head like the one lost made over; this latter is the majority, as architects and Florence's authorities lean for the first party.

Anyway yesterday the new bridge, rebuilt after the original, was inaugurated at the presence of Premier Zoli, of Minister of Public Works, and of many politics and art officials. This work cost 300 million lire of which a fifth has been offered by Florence's citizens.

The coverage shows:

- 1st reel - Various views of the bridge with the words by Architect GHISDULICH
- C.U. of the architect
- 2nd reel - Various shots - People staring in the statue of "Springtime"
- A photo of the statue like it appeared before the war
- Polemic wording found at the feet of the statue
- A photo of the ruined bridge after the blow
- The bridge reconstructed: an air view
- Dissenting people fail to applaud, and the ceremony results pretty sad/