**Le parc de la Poudrerie**

**Saint-Chamas / Miramas**

**1690- 1974**

There are places full of history, sites that carry the memory of a whole city.

a whole town.

In the landscape of Saint-Chamas, the Poudrerie Royale seemed to be eternal.

From the 2.5 hectares of its beginnings, it grew to 135 hectares, most of which were reclaimed

reclaimed from the water by successive dykes.

After 300 years of existence, its doors closed and each family has perpetuated its epic

and each family has carried on its epic story of suffering and good memories.

The installations were dismantled and scattered to other production sites

leaving nature to take over. It is nature that offers itself to our eyes, it is nature

that releases the memory of the place in a wild spectacle of a life that has not stopped.

life that has not stopped.

Today, if the memory of human activity remains frozen in commemorative windows

the work of nature appears as the true eternity.

"There are places full of history that never die.

CREATION OF THE POUDRERIE

By deed of 20 March 1690, the overflow of the waters of the Canal des Moulins

(currently the powder factory canal) was sold to the King... to be used for the work

of the gunpowder hammer that His Majesty is having built at the said place of Saint-Chamas.

This is the only indication we have of the origin of the powder factory.

Moreover, from its creation until the 19th century, no document relating to the existence of the

of the Poudrerie exists in the archives.

It was at the Abba mill that in 1670 the waters of the Craponne canal and the Touloubre were diverted to

Touloubre were diverted to come to activate with Saint-Chamas the wheels of various

wheat mills.

The canal was started in 1672 and was in operation by 1683.

\* Distance from the commune of Cornillon to the big valve 850 m, slope 0.007p/m.

\* Length of the canal from the big gate to the sharing basin with the wheat mill in the interior.

Length of the canal from the big gate to the sharing basin with the wheat mill in the interior of the powder factory, 3680 m.

\*The width of the canal including the banks according to the land purchase deeds, 18

The width of the canal including the banks, according to the land purchase deeds, is 18 sides (10 for the canal and 8 for the banks), i.e. 4.50 m.

It was not until 1823 that the State became the owner of all the waters of the Touloubre

Touloubre, and the canal changed its name (canal de la Poudrerie instead of canal

des Moulins).

HISTORY OF ITS CREATION

While the canal was being built, along the Huveaune river, numerous

many gunpowder hammers were spread out over the territory of Aubagne and all were

used for the manufacture of gunpowder which the King's armies, both land and naval

the King's armies, whether on land or at sea, used a great deal of gunpowder at the time.

Now, the waters of the Huveaune were not very abundant, and, when the peasants of the

watered their fields, it was to the detriment of the swifts whose operation was interrupted.

the functioning of the swifts was interrupted.

At the request of Monsieur DE ROUVE, Intendant of the Navy, the Lieutenant

General, Count of GRIGNAN had taken an ordinance which, in fact, prohibited the

Aubagnais the use of the water of watering during all the week and authorized the use of it

use only on Sundays, to the despair of those concerned who could no longer use this water

to the despair of those concerned who could no longer use this water so necessary to the crops.

Also, Mr. J.A. DEYDIER, large owner and consul (Mayor) of Aubagne,

with the support of his constituents, went to see the lieutenant general and pleaded with him

and pleaded his own cause with him, along with that of his fellow citizens. The lieutenant general

the value of the arguments presented to him; but he could not modify his order without referring

his order without referring to Monsieur DE ROUVRE. He was unable to obtain anything

He was unable to obtain anything from the latter, whose need for powder was becoming more and more important.

Tenacious, Mr DEYDIER often made the trip from Toulon to get information from Mr DE ROUVRE.

Mr DE ROUVRE about the date when the water would be delivered to the people of Aubagne.

Aubagnais.

But one day, when he had to be more pressing, Mr DE ROUVRE ,

and asked him to indicate a way to get more water from the river or else to

the river or to find him some place where there was a greater quantity of water, access

water, with easy access, where the swifts could be transferred so that they would no longer bother anyone.

so that they would no longer bother anyone.

As it was not necessary to think of increasing the flow of the Huveaune, it remained to find

a place to transfer the swifts.

Mr DEYDIER knew Provence well and he used his means to prove that there was

that there was a most favourable site at Saint-Chamas, that one could go there by sea

could go there by sea to make all the necessary transports, that there was a canal where there was

that there was a canal where there was much more water than in that of Aubagne, water which flowed

that one could also build wheat mills to make the king's flour.

to make the king's flour. The swifts would be built at the edge of the pond and would not inconvenience

the waters being calm, the embarkations would be easy.

The intendant DE ROUVRE made a visit to the place; it was confirmed to him that the statements

Mr DEYDIER's statements were correct. Proposals were made to transfer them to Versailles.

to Versailles, the project was carried out and this is how the POUDRERIE DE SAINT-CHAMAS was created.

SAINT-CHAMAS