Ettore Schmitz rests in the tomb of the Veneziani family in Italy, and his work became widely appreciated. In March 1898, Svevo met with fellow painters Carlo Wostry and Isidoro Grünth, worked in a studio next door, and became good friends. The three artists, who shared a passion for German impressionism, were the protagonists of one of the finest seasons for painting in Trieste at the end of the 19th century and they were also ardently supported by the Tieste Art Circle starting in 1884.

One evening he had arranged to meet Angiolina punctually at eight o’clock, but half an hour before the appointed time he had a message from Balli to say that he would be waiting for him at a café in Via Chiozza at that hour. Fortunately my money sufficed to buy an excuse would be found. The storm continued throughout the night and even the next morning, such a long way from our part of the town? Could it have been that she was being unfaithful to her sick husband? It would have been an excuse rather than a reason to stay. If it was true that she had been less than faithful, how could I have resented it? Moreover, I do not recall ever having done it. I remember only that I was with her, and that I was in love with her. But perhaps she did not even care for me, and I had only been there for the time being. It was a mere coincidence that I had come there, and it was not on purpose.

By good luck I found a lighted entrance still open in the Corsa Stadion and took shelter there in time. Immediately afterwards the deluge came. The downpour of rain was lashed by a furious wind which seemed to bring the thunder along with it. I was almost above one’s head, I shuddered to think how compromising it would be for me to stand exposed at that hour in the Corsa Stadion. Fortunately my wife knew that I was a man of strange tastes who might even take it into his head to walk as far as that at night, so probably an excuse would be found.

– Zeno’s Conscience –

CHIOZZA PORTICIES

The Chioggia porticies take their name from the archway who sheltered the writer. In the Trieste time there were two arcades, but only one remained after the building was restored. Svevo would come here to sit at the café by the same name, to meet locals and other artists and intellectuals, and to meet his friend the painter Umberto Veruda, who inspired the character of Stefano Balli in Senzatitoli (As a man grows older). Veruda, together with fellow painters Carlo Wostry and Isidoro Grünth, worked in a studio next door, and were ardently supported by the Tieste Art Circle starting in 1884.

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UNION BANK - BRANCH 12

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DE TOMMASINI PUBLIC GARDEN

The bronze bust of Italo Svevo by the sculptor Giovanni Mayer was unveiled in the public garden in a ceremony attended by local authorities on 26 April 1931. On 8 September 1939 the bust was knocked down and defaced and the following morning the news appeared in the fascist papers. Il Popolo d’Italia stated 27 April announced “A useless bust is gone” and Rome’s “La Tribuna” wrote “Last night the bronze bust of Italo Svevo was removed from its pedestal. Being Jew was the writer’s only crime that made him the object of the hatred of the famous artists and other local figures that are found in the garden also include Livia Svevo and James Joyce. I had hardly got outside the Giordano Pubblico before I found myself face to face with my mother-in-law. A curious suspicion arose in my mind. What was she doing there so early in the morning such a long way from our part of the town? Could it be that she was being unfaithful to her sick husband?

– Zeno’s Conscience –

MUSEO SVEVIANO

The Itinerary is also based on: Italo Svevo: Ironia in Trieste: Italo Svevo’s Treasures by Renzo S. Crivelli and Cristina Benussi; introduction by Claudio Matis; MGS press, Trieste 2006.