

THE STORY OF TARANTO IS A REVOLVING BRIDGE



SOLITO SIMONE

A FAMOUS ITALIAN POET DEDICATED A POEM TO OUR CITY



“.....Non balena sul mar Grande né
tuona
ma sul ferrato cardine il tuo Ponte
gira, e del ferro il tuo Canal s'introna.
Passan così le belle navi pronte,
per entrare nella darsena sicura
volta la poppa al ionico orizzonte.”

Gabriele D'Annunzio

An engineering symbol of iron and steel, the gateway to the navigable canal and ideally to the city of Taranto, The swing bridge spans the Mar Grande and links the Old Town with the new. The opening of the bridge allows military ships to reach the Naval Base in the Mar Piccolo..



Also known as Brige «San Francesco di Paola» , the original bridge was built by an industrial company of Naples (project by Giuseppe Messina) and opened to the public on **22 May 1887**. The first structure composed of a large wood and metal arch, was divided into two arms that could rotate indipendently of one another around a vertical pin.

The operation took place thanks to hydraulic turbines fed by a reservoir located at the Castello Aragonese.



The structure was revised between 1957 and 1958: the turbines were replaced by an electrical system according to a project of the Società Nazionale Officine di Savigliano and the bridge was made entirely of metal.

The new bridge measured about 90m of length and 9,3m of width.



The Bridge was inaugurated on March 10th 1958 by the President of the Italian Republic Giovanni Gronchi .

It is a very unusual type as it consists of two spans that separate at the bridge's center and pivot sideways from the bridge's outer ends.

it takes about 20 minutes to complete the two-arm opening procedure to allow the transit of military ships. Now the bridge is rarely opened only when large ships have to pass by Small Sea and the Large Sea and in honor of the Patron Saint.

Ponte girevole in action <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgETKGkuXk4>

