

Field Notes – Enrico Ruperto

Date 12 May 2023

Nocera Terinese

Enrico is a former shepherd who works now as a farmer. He shows a great nostalgia towards his life as a shepherd. His worldview is still firmly bound to sheep farming. He tells me he remembers being in the fields with the animals, making miniature wooden ploughs and sounding objects like single or tubular reeds. He labels these activities as a "pastime".

Interestingly, in the way he words things, he seems to make no distinction between making miniature ploughs and sounding objects. He remembers playing with the single-reed of cane and wild oats (galatru) and making tubular reeds with cane and with the stalk of the pumpkin leaf. He makes a single reed with a wild oat stalk during our conversation. He makes technical considerations regarding the quality of the materials involved in making these sounding devices. He also talks about the relationship between the thickness of the lamella and the sound result.