

Pipes

ARTISANS AND TRADEMARKS

José Manuel Lopes

with a foreword by Ben Rapaport
and an introductory text by Gregory Pease



almost all made by Tom Spanu, with whom he perfected his art.

In 1970, with André Paul Bastien, editor of the *Revue du Tabac*, he founded the Académie Internationale de la Pipe, based in the museum itself, and ran the *La Pipa* magazine. A wonderful story teller and in love with life, Paronelli's creativity includes painting, sculpture and ceramics (terracotta). In 1999, he designed a model for the special series, Grandi Designer della Pipa by Brebbia, but his motto is: "When you smoke a pipe, it is not the brand that matters, but the tobacco you put inside it."

♦ Contacts (house-museum): Via del Chiostro 1-5, 21026 Gavirate (Varese), Italy; tel. +39.0332743334.

See www.pipesantobaccos.com, www.progavirate.com/arte/museo/dellapipa.htm and www.sottovoce.it/Milanopipa/gavirate.htm.

¹ The Museo Italiano della Pipa is in an early 20th century house, annexed to Paronelli's home, ordered built by the Gavirate Town Hall. Officially opened in 1990, the museum houses 35 thousand pipes, a dozen 19th century French lathes (and, notably, a completely wooden pedal lathe), various machines, thousands of bowls, stems and accessories for smokers and repairing pipes, drawings and sketches of shapes, prototypes of brands from around the world, diverse paraphernalia related to the subject and even an international library of around 3000 volumes and magazines on the pipe and tobacco. One of the museum's most valuable assets is in the Sala dei Campioni: the Rossi collection, with every model (about 6000) produced by this historic Italian brand. The museum is free, but you must book in advance, and receives close to 2000 visitors a year. It is open from early spring until the end of October.

Albertson – old Belgian brand, made at the Hilson factory.

Alco – North American brand created at the beginning of the 20th century, which belonged to M. Linkman Co. (see [Linkman Pipes](#)). It also produced pipes with changeable bowls and aluminium shanks.

Aldo Velani – Italian brand produced in Livorno by Cesare Barontini for export, mainly to USA. Classic shapes with an Italian touch and the use of ornamental accessories; medium and large sizes catering for the taste of the North American market. Its finishings (colours) had the names of Italian wines: Soave, Novello, Barolo, Refosco. Symbol: circle – half golden, half silver.

See Ambassador.org; www.jack-tompkins.com/Pipes/Aldos/Aldos.html.

Alexander – Greek pipe brand by Alexandros Zavvos (b. 1939). The artisan became interested in this business in 1962, when he met Libero G. Albanese, who produced pipes in Calabria (Italy), starting his own production two years later. Over four decades, Alexander – with Greek briar easily available – claims to have supplied bowls, half-finished and finished pipes, but without the stamped logotype, to well-known foreign brands and companies, such as Charatan, Dunhill, Tilshead, Orlik, Stanwell, Nording, Georg Jensen, Peterson, Savinelli, Dr. Grabow and Albert-John.

♦ Contacts: 167 Mesoghion Street, Maroussi 15125, Greece; tel. +30.16107500/1; fax +30.16107415; info@briar-pipes.com; www.briar-pipes.com.



Aldo Velani rustic



Alexander Natural A (above, flou stem with silver accessory)



Alfonso Vera smooths (fantasy brands)

Alexander – North American brand by David D. Alexander, from Galena, Missouri.

Alfonso Vera – Spanish artisan and business man, who runs the Compañía Española de Bruck, SL, which produces bowls for various important English, French, Italian and Danish brands, among others.¹ Alfonso – "to keep his hand in", he told us – also makes some 'completes', which appear on the market with fantasy brandnames.

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