RESOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF ITALIAN EMIGRATION:
A Directory of Libraries and Archives in Rome and Florence

Prepared by
Ralph Della Cava
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IN ROME AND FLORENCE

Occasional Paper # 2

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The Center for Migration Studies
of New York, Inc.
209 Flagg Place
Staten Island, New York 10304
ISBN 0-913256-29-3
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This directory is unpretentious, but necessary. For the first time, it brings together in a single volume eminently practical information about selected Italian archives and libraries; born of a personal research need it aims to be useful and time-saving to all scholars and students of the Italian emigration.**

For convenience, data is arranged under each entry according to the following letter-code:

a) address of the institution and, in parentheses, suitable public transportation within its vicinity.
b) telephone.
c) working hours.
d) vacation and holiday schedules.
e) requirements for access.
f) personnel.
g) a brief description of holdings.
h) special remarks.

At this time, the directory can be considered neither exhaustive nor complete; inaccuracies too may have escaped careful editorial review. Since constant revision will enhance the timeliness and utility of this directory, users are cordially invited to remit their suggestions to the author or publisher for inclusion in subsequent editions.

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** The data in this directory were originally collected in the summer of 1975 during the compiler's sojourn in Italy as a Fulbright-Hays Advanced Research Scholar. Several colleagues generously aided in the task, but are not responsible for any errors or omissions: Anna Bujatti, RA, Rome Italy; Professors John Cammett of John Jay College, CUNY, Franco Cerase of the University of Rome and Gian Fausto Roselli of the Centro Studi Emigrazione, Rome. Ms. Cipirana Scelba, Directress of the Commissione per gli Scambi Culturali Fra l'Italia e gli Stati Uniti, generously supported this undertaking.
ROME

Archives:

1. Archivio Centrale dello Stato (ACS)
   a) Piazza degli Archivi (in EUR: Marconi exit on Subway).
   b) 59 60 71.
   d) 0900 — 1730 hrs., except Wed. & Sat. until 1330 hrs.
   d) Closed August.
   e) Forms are provided for scholar to complete; permission is granted immediately; a letter of identification and research purpose from a university or foundation is useful (but not required). Bring passport.
   f) Dr. Paola Carucci is well versed in ACS holdings.
   g) All ministries (except Foreign Affairs) and Council of Ministers; the Casellario Politico (police file) contains biographical data on noted "political emigrants"; for the Fascist period the Ministero della Cultura Popolare contains information on organizations of immigrants and their descendents in most countries of immigration.
   h) The ACS maintains an index of all scholars who have conducted research in its archives with a complete listing of documents consulted.

2. Archivio Storico Diplomatico del Ministero degli Affari Esteri (ASD)
   a) Via Farnesina, 1 (Buses 67/ or 32).
   b) 38 71.
   c) 0900 — 1300 hrs.; closed Saturday
   d) Closed August (in 1975, closed from late June because of budget cuts). It is advisable to check on vacation schedule each year around April or May.
   e) Access is by permission of Foreign Minister. Scholar must complete a form provided by ASD, must submit a letter of affidavit regarding his nationality, scholarly affiliation and research interest from the U.S. Consulate (readily obtainable from Consul on a same-day or one-day basis), and should submit a letter of credential from his university and/or foundation.
   f) Professor Edoardo Del Vecchio is ASD Assistant Director.
   g) Extensive holdings of consular reports from all major cities to which Italian immigrants went. Much or most materials uncatalogued. Probably still true is the "limited help" of current indici (indexes) to the historical and political series from 1888 to 1918.
   Legally, a fifty-year "rule" governs accessibility; however, special permission to use materials within this period can be requested. Materials for the Fascist era are reportedly accessible.
   The ASD Library (access to which is automatic if permission to Archive is granted) contains a complete collection of the Bollettino dell'Emigrazione and other pertinent collections.
   h) On scholar's first visit to ASD, he should go first to the Office of "Passi" (opened only between 1000 and 1200 hours weekdays) and request a pass for the ASD. Guards on duty will offer directions. Passport is advisable for identification purposes.

3. Centro Studi Emigrazione (CSER)
   a) Via Calandrelli, 11 (Buses 44 or 75 from Largo Argentina).
   b) 58 27 41.
c) 0800 — 1600 hrs., weekdays only.
d) Closed August.
e) Access readily available to legitimate scholars upon presentation of a letter of credential
f) Fr. Gian Fausto-Rosoli, Acting Director, is also a practicing sociologist whose own
   writings on immigration to the U.S. and Brazil are instructive. He is also knowledgeable
   about current research.
g) Extensive archival holdings of the Congregation of Saint Charles (more popularly
   known as the Scalabrini Order) whose specific function has been to work with Italian
   immigrants. Extensive letters and "missionary reports" from all major immigrant cities
   in Western Europe and the New World.
h) Of special note is the extensive published holdings in the CSER library from Argentina,
   Brazil, the U.S. and western European countries since 1870 as well as on current
   migration problems. Also houses a fine and up-to-date collection of periodicals.

The finest research and library center on Italian emigration in Rome.

4. Società Nazionale “Dante Alighieri”
   a) Piazza Firenze, 27.
   b) 679 5649.
   c) mornings only.
   d) closed August.
   e) access to archives is by permission of director only.
   f) Prof. N. Casarotto, secretary to director.
   g) Since 1889, the “Dante” has been a semi-public institution engaged in the promotion of
      Italian language and literature at home and abroad. Its foreign operations, especially
      until the post World War II era, are a vital part of the history of Italians abroad.
      The private archives of the “Dante” are not open to the public and are not at all
      readily accessible. (During the Fascist period, scholars can consult the Archivio Centrale
      dello Stato, Fondo Ministero Cultura Popolare, busta 133, fascicolo “Società Nazionale
      ‘Dante Alighieri' ” for annual reports (extremely summarized) from 1935 to 1938.)
   h) It is important for scholars in emigration history to study the Dante’s important work
      abroad especially in the period prior to WWI. Some published reports and printed
      publications are available.

Libraries:

1. Biblioteca di Storia Moderna e Contemporanea
   a) Via Michelangelo Caetani, 32 (within walking distance of the Largo Argentina or Piazza
      Venezia).
   b) 654 06 24 and 656 54 79.
   c) 0900 — 1330 and 1600 — 2000, except Saturdays until 1330 only.
   d) Closed two weeks during August.
   e) Permission to read at the library granted upon presentation of passport.
   f) —
   g) Holdings on emigration weak. Good Italian serials and newspaper collections for period
      of emigration.
   h) Pleasant surroundings for reading.

2. Istituto Gramsci (IS)
   a) Via Zoccolette, 30 (within walking distance of the Largo Argentina and Piazza Sonnino,
      one block in and parallel to the Tiber on the Largo Argentina bank).
   b) 654 15 27 or 65 54 05 or 65 416 28.
   c) 0830 — 2030, except Saturdays to 1400; books, however, may be requested only
4. Biblioteca del Ministero Degli Affari Esteri
a) Via Farnesina 1 (Bus no. 67 from Piazza del Popolo).
  b) 38 71.
  c) 0930 — 1330, including Saturdays.
  d) Closed August, except in 1975 when budget crisis forced closing on 30 June.
  e) A special request for access must be made to Director of Library; letters of credential
     stating the project and expected period for which request is made are useful. Passport
     necessary for initial visit.
     Special borrowing privileges are understood to be available.
  f) Acting Director is Professor Luigi Serra; a permanent director is expected to be named.
  g) The library's most important holdings pertinent to emigration are the printed consular
     reports (Bollettino), the Scuole Italiane all’Estero (for the Italian educational system
     overseas) and the Stati di Servizio del Personale aggiornati al… (brief biographical
     sketches of foreign ministry personnel brought up to date and published at sporadic
     intervals).
  h) The best description of this library might be that of an “in-house”, up-to-date circulating
     library. It is strongest in current, Italian and foreign publications with an historical bent.
FLORENCE

Libraries

1. Istituto degli Studi Americani (Università del Magistero)
   a) Via San Gallo 10 (Library is currently and temporarily housed in Via San Gallo, 25a
due to restoration at permanent headquarters above. It is within a fifteen minute walk
of the Piazza del Duomo and a continuation of Borgo San Lorenzo).
b) No phone; however, for messages and information call the Istituto di Storia at first
address: 26 26 73.
c) 0900 — 1330.
d) Closed August (sometimes July) for two to four weeks. Check in advance.
e) Permission granted on proper identification. Visiting scholars are welcome and should
write in advance if they expect to spend an extensive period at the library.
f) Dr. Pietro Russo, Director and well-known student of American affairs and emigration
questions.
g) Excellent Library holdings as well as archival collections of the Carlo Tresca papers and
others pertinent to the anti-fascist movement among Italian emigrants, especially
political emigrants (esuli e fuorusciti) in the U.S. Also U.S. Italian-language newspapers.
Unfortunately, there is no published listing of holdings.
h) One of the finest collections with much material available in no other depository.

2. Centro Ricerca America Latina (CRAL)
   a) Via Ghibellina, 88 (several buses from the Piazza del Duomo stop near or in the Piazza
Santa Croce which is within a two-minute walk of the CRAL).
b) 23 94 3.
c) mornings and afternoons; it is best to telephone in advance.
d) usually closed in August unless one or more researchers on CRAL staff remains to
complete work in progress.
e) Permission should be obtained from director in advance since CRAL is not quite yet a
public facility.
f) Dr. Mario Sabbatini, Director: Mr. Alberto Gallo, Permanent Staff Researcher.
g) The library contains holdings on Argentina, Cuba and Brazil in descending order of size
and suitability for research. Stateside collections are generally superior.
   CRAL has amassed highly specialized archival materials: tax records of several Italo-Brazilian
towns in the State of Rio Grande do Sul as well as records of land grants made
to Italian colonists between 1870 and 1914.
   Use of archival materials requires permission of the Director.
h) CRAL is about to publish a detailed set of historical maps on the Italian colonization of
Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, and a volume of analyses on the transition from agrarian to
industrial society of the Italian-Brazilian towns in southern Brazil.

3. Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale
   a) Piazza Cavalleggeri (same bus routes as to CRAL)
b) —
c) 0900 — 1900, except Saturdays to 1300
d) Closed August
e) Permission granted on proper identification. Passport is required for permission to
obtain access to the “Sale Riservate di Studio” which houses extensive history and
manuscript divisions and which also provides a suitable place for reading, research and
writing.
Access to general holdings and “sale” must be separately obtained.

f) —

g) Holdings on emigration are very thin except for some printed sources from the Fascist period. In contrast, serials are well represented and good runs are available of such journals as L'Italia Coloniale, L'Italia all'Estero, Italia-Argentina, Nuova Antologia and Il Legionario (for the Fascist period). (Also Bollettino dei fasci italiani all'estero.)

h) —