

Guide to the American Italian Historical Association Records CMS.008

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Migration Studies

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Migration Studies
Creator	American Italian Historical Association.
Title	American Italian Historical Association Records
Date [inclusive]	1963-1975
Extent	6.0 Linear feet in 12 document cases.
Language	English

Language of Materials note The collection is mostly in English.

Abstract The American Italian Historical Association was founded in 1966 by Frank Cordasco, Dr. Rudolph Vecoli, and Dr. Leonard Covello. The organization's goal was to foster "the collection, preservation, publication and popularization of materials having reference to the settlement and history of the Italians in the U.S. and Canada." The materials in the collection document the founding of the American Italian Historical Association and chronicle the first eight years of its activities from 1966-1975.

Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; American Italian Historical Association Records (CMS 008); Box; Folder.

Biographical/Historical note

The concept of an Italian American Historical society was discussed as early as 1966 by Dr. Frank Cordasco of Montclair State College, Dr. Rudolph Vecoli of Rutgers University and Dr. Leonard Covello, former principal of Benjamin Franklin High School in New York City, over the course of several meetings at the latter's home in Westwood, New Jersey. Vecoli subsequently undertook the task of writing "A Proposal for an Italian American Historical Society", in which he formulated both the need for and the objectives of such an organization.

It was, moreover, upon his suggestion that small group of historians, sociologists, educators, and concerned laymen interested in promoting scholarly study of the Italo-American experience attended a series of meetings in the fall and winter of 1966 which culminated in the founding of the American Italian Historical Association on December 27, 1966 at La Guardia Memorial House in New York's East Harlem. The founding group included: John Cammett, Frank Cordasco, Leonard Covello, William De Mayo, Francis Femminella, Luciano Iorizzo, Virginia McLaughlin, Isidore Meyer, Salvatore LaGumina, Salvatore Mondello, Albert Nofi, Louis Romano, Jean Scarpaci, Luis Silveri, Silvano M. Tomasi, and Rudolph Vecoli (first president of the Association followed by LaGumina in 1971 and Iorizzo in 1974).

At a subsequent meeting on December 29, 1966, during the annual meeting of the Association in New York, an Executive Council was elected and the Constitution and By-Laws were drafted. The purpose of the new organization was stated as, "the collection, preservation, publication and popularization of materials having reference to the settlement and history of the Italians in the U.S. and Canada."

Among the first activities of the organization were formation of a subcommittee to handle administrative matters and the development of standing committees to take charge of such items as membership, publicity, the publication of a quarterly newsletter, and the implementation of an archival collections program. A seminar was established to provide students with a forum for intellectual exchange. These activities were carried on from the Association's headquarters at 319 East 116th Street, then serving also as the offices of Covello.

An early plan to affiliate with Casa Italiana at Columbia University did not materialize, so in the summer of 1968 the Association moved its headquarters to the premises at the Center of Migration Studies in Staten Island. Simultaneously, the Association embarked upon an ambitious annual conference program, which included the regular publication of the conference proceedings. An early notion to expand membership by broadening the geographical base of the Association became, in time a reality as regional and local chapters were formed in the Far West, Midwest, South and North East. Membership in 1975 reached 600. The granting of the \$200 Covello Award (as of 1973) for the best unpublished article on any aspect of the Italian-American experience, and the co-sponsorship of meetings, film, and book symposiums, and in-service courses for teachers has served, in line with the Association's original objectives, to both stimulate research in the Italian immigrant experience and share the fruit of that research with the community at large.

Scope and Contents note

The materials in the collection document the founding of the American Italian Historical Association and chronicle the first eight years of its activities. The collection mostly contains correspondence with Covello, materials from conferences, membership and election records for the organization, financial documents, materials publicizing the organization, agendas and meeting minutes, photographs, and other materials.

Arrangement note

The collection is arranged into eleven series:

Series I: American Italian Historical Association Newsletters

Series II: Agenda and Minutes

Series III: Annual Reports

Series IV: Membership Campaign Materials

Series V: Election Materials

Series VI: Publicity and Administrative Records

Series VII: Financial Records

Series VIII: Materials Pertaining to American Italian Historical Association's Annual Conferences

Series IX: Bibliography and Correspondence Relating to Proposed Studies

Series X: Archival Materials

Series XI: Correspondence

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies October 15, 1976

Revision Description

Description adapted by Taylor Smith, Converted into EAD by Nicole Greenhouse November 2014

Conditions Governing Access note

Open to researchers by appointment.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright is owned by the Center for Migration Studies. Permission to publish materials must be requested before use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Transferred from the American Italian Historical Association office in 1976.

Processing Information note

In 2014, this collection was entered into the Archivists' Toolkit in compliance with DACS and folder descriptions were simplified from the original print finding aid. (The original finding aid is available in print upon request). Folder titles in the container list online may vary from the the physical folder titles.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Italian Americans |x Intellectual life |y 20th century.

Other Finding Aids note

The original inventory is available in print upon request.

Series I: American Italian Historical Association Newsletter

Collection Inventory

Series I: American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 1966-1976	
	Box
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 1:1 Spring 1967	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 1:2 Summer 1967	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 1:4, typescript only Winter 1967-1968	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 2:1, transcript only 1968	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 2:2-3 1968	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 3:1 1969	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 3:2-3 Summer/Fall 1969	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 4:1 Spring 1970	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 4:2, notes Winter 1970-1971	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 4:3 Spring 1971	1

Series I: American Italian Historical Association Newsletter

American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 4:5 Fall 1971	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 5:3 Spring 1972	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 5:5, December Elections Special Edition Winter 1972	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 8:1 1973	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 8:2 1973	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 8:3 1973	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 9:3 1974	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 10:1 1975	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 10:2 1975	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 10:3 1975	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 10:4 1975	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter, Washington Maryland Chapter 1:2 Feb 1975	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 11:1 May 1976	1

Series II: Agenda and Minutes

Series II: Agenda and Minutes 1966-1975	
	Box
Agenda and Minutes: Notes 12 Nov 1966	1
Agenda and Minutes: Exploratory Session 27 Dec 1966	1
Agenda and Minutes: Organizational Meeting 04 Mar 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: with representatives of American Italian Anti-Defamation League Subcommittee 08 Apr 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: with representatives of American Italian Anti-Defamation League Subcommittee 15 Apr 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: with representatives of American Italian Anti-Defamation League Subcommittee 22 Apr 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: with representatives of American Italian Anti-Defamation League Subcommittee 29 Apr 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: notes of discussion Subcommittee 06 May 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: notes of discussion Subcommittee 13 May 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: notes of discussion Subcommittee 27 May 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: notes of discussion Subcommittee 08 Jun 1967	1

Series II: Agenda and Minutes

Agenda and Minutes: notes of discussion Subcommittee 24 Jun 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: notes of discussion Subcommittee 01 Jul 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: notes of discussion Subcommittee 05 Jul 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: notes of discussion Subcommittee 11 Jun 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: notes of discussion Subcommittee 12 Aug 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: notes of discussion Subcommittee 15 Aug 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council 30 Sep 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council 28 Oct 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council and Staff 11 Nov 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council and Staff 09 Dec 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council and Staff 29 Dec 1967	1
Agenda and Minutes: Announcement of Meeting 13 Jan 1968	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council and Staff 10 Feb 1968	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council and Staff 16 Mar 1968	1

Series II: Agenda and Minutes

Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council and Staff 17 Apr 1968	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council and Staff 04 May 1968	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council and Staff 05 Jun 1968	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council and Staff 28 Sept 1968	1
Agenda and Minutes: Administrative Meeting 25 Oct 1968	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council and Staff 26 Oct 1968	1
Agenda and Minutes: General Membership 27 Dec 1968	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council 06 Feb 1969	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council 14 Feb 1969	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council 19 Aug 1969	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council 20 Aug 1969	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council 25 Oct 1969	1
Agenda and Minutes: Membership Meeting (Business Meeting Minutes) 28 Dec 1969	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council 06 Feb 1970	1

Series III: Annual Reports

Agenda and Minutes: Officers Meeting 01 May 1970	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council 23 Oct 1970	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council 29 Dec 1970	1
Agenda and Minutes: Administrative Meeting 19 Mar 1971	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council 17 Jun 1971	1
Agenda and Minutes: Officers Meeting 22 Oct 1971	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council 23 Oct 1971	1
Agenda and Minutes: Membership Meeting 29 Dec 1971	1
Agenda and Minutes: Executive Council 22 Mar 1975	1

Series III: Annual Reports 1966-1968**Box**

Annual Reports, outline 1966-1968	1
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Series IV: Membership Campaign Materials 1967-1975**Scope and Contents note**

Series IV: Membership Campaign Materials

This series contains membership campaign materials in the form of correspondence, lists and completed membership application forms.

	Box
American Italian Historical Association Campaign-misc. undated	2
American Italian Historical Association People Contacted 1967-1968	2
Appeal Letters undated	2
American Italian Historical Association Membership Letter of Thanks 1967	2
American Italian Historical Association Members 1968	2
Correspondence, New Members 1969	2
Correspondence, Renewal Membership 1969	2
Correspondence, New Members 1970	2
American Italian Historical Association, Renewal Membership 1970	2
American Italian Historical Association, New Members 1971	2
American Italian Historical Association, Renewal Membership 1971	2
New Members 1972-1973	2

Series V: Election Materials

Life Members undated	2
Membership Lists. 1967-1975	2
Membership Volunteer Committees undated	2
American Italian Historical Association Returns 1970	2
Membership Directory undated	2
Packet of Index Cards undated	2
Completed Membership Forms, Renewals 1968-1969	3
Completed Membership Forms, New and Renewals 1969-1970	3
Completed Membership Forms, New and Renewals 1969-1970	3
Completed Membership Forms, New and Renewals 1972-1973	3
Records of Due Payments 1967-1970	3
Series V: Election Materials 1970-1974	
Scope and Contents note	
This series contains mostly returned ballots.	

Box

Series VI: Publicity and Administrative Records

Ballots - Officers and Executive Council Election 1970	4
Returned Ballots 1970-1971	4
Ballots - Officers and Executive Council Election undated	4
Official Ballots, Returns - Officers and Executive Council Election undated	4
Nominating Committee 1968-1974	4
Series VI: Publicity and Administrative Records 1966-1967	
Scope and Contents note	
This series contains materials related to the publicity of the Association, including photographs, clippings, press releases, and brochures. The latter, comprised of official signature seals, sample letterheads, the Association Constitution, and related materials, miscellaneous proposals and position papers.	
	Box
American Italian Historical Association Publicity 1967-1968	5
American Italian Historical Association Articles, Fra Noi 1967-1972	5
American Italian Historical Association Press Releases undated	5
American Italian Historical Association Publicity Letters undated	5

Series VII: Financial Records

American Italian Historical Association Publicity Brochure undated	5
American Italian Historical Association Administrative Constitution 1967	5
American Italian Historical Association Administrative Organization 1966-1967	5
American Italian Historical Association Letterheads undated	5
Two Signature Stamps undated	5
Series VII: Financial Records 1967-1974	
Scope and Contents note	
This series contains financial reports, bank statements, checkbook stubs, cancelled checks, paid bills, and membership dues.	
	Box
American Italian Historical Association Finances 1967-1969	6
American Italian Historical Association Finances 1967-1975	6
Bills Paid 1969-1972	6
American Italian Historical Association Finances 1973	6
Income Tax Forms 1970-1972	6

Series VIII: Materials Pertaining to American Italian Historical Associati...

American Italian Historical Association Endowment undated	6
American Italian Historical Association Finances 1967-1970, 1974	6
American Italian Historical Association Finances 1967-1969	6
American Italian Historical Association Finances 1970-1973	6
Membership Dues received 1967	6

Series VIII: Materials Pertaining to American Italian Historical Association's Annual Conferences 1968-1975

Scope and Contents note

This series contains printed proceedings of the Associations's conferences, including announcements, programs, correspondence, reports and resolutions, speeches, bibliographies, memos, vita of participants, galley proofs of proceedings, completed registration forms, lists of prospective participants, and materials presented. Proceedings presented are: "The Italian American Novel," John M. Cammett editor; "An Inquiry into Organized Crime," Luciano J. Iorizzo editor; "Power and Class, The Italian American Experience Today," Francis X Femminella, editor; "Italian-American Radicalism, Old World Origins New World Developments," Rudolph J. Vecoli, editor; "The Religious Experience of Italian Americans," Silvano M. Tomasi, editor and "The Interaction of Italians and Jews in America," Jean A. Scarpaci, editor.

Box

"Postwar Italian Immigration to Canada" Conference 29 Dec 1967	7
"Ethnicity in American Political Life: The Italian Experience" Conference 26 Oct 1968	7

Series VIII: Materials Pertaining to American Italian Historical Associati...

Symposium, Institute of American Studies, Florence, Italy 27-29 May 1969	7
"The Italian American Novel" 25 Oct 1969	7
"Inquiry into Organized Crime" 24 Oct 1970	7
"Power and Class, the Italian-American Experience Today" 23 Oct 1971	7
"Italian-American Radicalism, Old World Origins and New World Developments" 11 Nov 1972	7
"Piety and Power: The Religious Experience of Italian Americans" 17 Nov 1973	7
"The Interaction of Italians and Jews in America" 14-15 Nov 1974	7
"The Urban Experience of Italian-Americans" 14-15 Nov 1975	7
Proceedings of the above Annual Conferences: 2nd 1969	7
Proceedings of the above Annual Conferences: 3rd 1970	7
Proceedings of the above Annual Conferences: 4th 1971	7
Proceedings of the above Annual Conferences: 5th 1972	7
Proceedings of the above Annual Conference: 6th 1973	7

Series IX: Bibliography and Correspondence Relating to Proposed Studies

Proceedings of the above Annual Conference: 7th 1974

7

Series IX: Bibliography and Correspondence Relating to Proposed Studies 1964-1968

Scope and Contents note

This series contains materials related to proposed studies on the subject of the Italian experience in the United States, often including outlines or copies of finished studies.

Box

Italian American, Bibliography 1964

8

American Italian Historical Association Studies: Abbey undated

8

Mrs. Berio, Language Project 1967

8

American Italian Historical Association Studies: concistre-bibliogrpahical citation of Ph.D. Dissertation 1943

8

American Italian Historical Association Studies: Fiordalisi 1967

8

American Italian Historical Association Studies: Galatioto 1967

8

American Italian Historical Association Studies: Gallo 1968

8

American Italian Historical Association Studies: Gurzau 1964-1967

8

American Italian Historical Association Studies: Kaner 1964-1967

8

Series X: Archival Materials

American Italian Historical Association Studies: LaGumina 1965	8
American Italian Historical Association Studies: McLaughlin 1966	8
American Italian Historical Association Studies: Mondello 1966-1967	8
American Italian Historical Association Studies: Nofi 1966	8
Cassidy Outline undated	8
American Italian Historical Association Studies: Wilhelm and Bloom 1967	8
American Italian Historical Association Studies: Topics and Outlines undated	8
Cardona Project 1967	8
American Italian Historical Association: Italo-American Personnel Board of Education undated	8

Series X: Archival Materials 1916-1969**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains clippings, pamphlets, programs, bulletins, agenda, minutes, reports, speeches, proposals, and interviews dealing with immigration in particular.

Box

Materials of Historical Preservation undated	8
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Series XI: Correspondence

Immigration Materials 1933-1968

8

Series XI: Correspondence 1963-1975**Scope and Contents note**

Correspondence from 1963-1966 relates to the evolution of the concept of the Association, while the few materials that pre-date this period most likely come from the files of Covello and do not pertain directly to the Association or its founding. Due to Covello's interest in East Harlem, there are some materials related to the Black and Puerto Rican organizations in that community.

Arrangement note

Arranged alphabetically, by individual then by organization.

Box

Miscellaneous Italian and Italian-American Materials (3 folders) 1933-1969

9

Dante Celebration 1921-1964

9

Dolci, Danilo 1965

9

Italian Historical Society 1929-1939

9

Musmanno: "Story of Italians in America" undated

9

Covello Materials 1916-1954

9

American Italian Historical Association Archives: LaGumina 1958-1968

9

Series XI: Correspondence

Group Photo 1931	9
General Correspondence 1967-1969	10
General Correspondence 1970-1971	10
General Correspondence 1972-1973	10
General Correspondence 1974-1975	10
Updated Correspondence undated	10
Anfuso, Victor L. Jr. 1967	11
Asciolla, Rev. Paul J. 1967	11
Cammett, Dr. John 1967-1968	11
Corsi, Edward 1967	11
Covello, Dr. Leonard 1969	11
Crescenzi, Gene 1966-1967	11
DeBellis, Dr. Hannibal 1967	11
De Rosa undated	11

Series XI: Correspondence

Faggi, John 1968	11
Falbo, Ernest 1967	11
Fucilla, Joseph 1966-1967	11
Galatioto 1967	11
Gallo, Patrick J. 1970-1971	11
Iorizzo, Luciano 1967-1970	11
Kroll, Jane Reilly 1967	11
LaGumina, Sal 1970-1973	11
LaGumina, Sal 1974-1975	11
Lo Monaco, John 1966-1967	11
Maniscalco 1967	11
Meyer, Dr. Isidore, (American Jewish Historical Society) 1967-1969	11
Messer, Helaine 1965-1967	11
Mondello, Salvatore 1967-1967	11

Series XI: Correspondence

Nelli, Humbert S. 1970	11
Nofi, Albert A. 1966-1968	11
Pellegrino, Joanne 1973-1974	11
Riccio, Dr. Peter 1965-1967	11
Russo, Thomas 1967	11
Sbarboro, Gerald 1968	11
Scarpaci, Jean 1967-1969	11
Schiavo, Giovanni 1955-1956; 1962-1967	11
Silveri, Louis 1966	11
Sorvillo, Anthony undated	11
Tomasi, Silvano M. 1966-1969	11
Vecoli, Rudolph 1963-1969	12
Americans of Italian Decent, Inc. (AID) later, American-Italian Anti-Defamation League 1967-1968	12

Series XI: Correspondence

American Historical Association undated	12
Brooklyn College Center (for Migration Studies) 1965-1967	12
Casa Italiana Research Program 1963	12
CIAO (Congress of Italian-American Organizations, Inc.) 1966-1968	12
Columbia Immigration History Group 1965-1966	12
Consolidated Italo-Americans 1966	12
Corsi Labor Management Institute 1967	12
East Harlem Committee of 19; East Harlem Community Corp., 1967	12
Hall of Fame 1966-1967	12
Italian Historical Society 1966	12
Minnesota Immigration Center 1965-1968	12
National Italian-American League to Combat Defamation Inc. 1967	12
Passantino Printing Co. 1970	12
Queens College, Program of Italian Studies 1967	12

Series XI: Correspondence

Scarlino Press 1967

12

Universita deli Studi di Firenze (Prof. G. Barbieri) 1967

12