

**Guide to the American Italian  
Historical Association Addendum  
CMS.008A**

**Finding aid prepared by Richard Del Giudice**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Center for Migration Studies  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Migration Studies
<b>Creator</b>	American Italian Historical Association.
<b>Title</b>	American Italian Historical Association Addendum
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1966-1986
<b>Extent</b>	4.0 Linear feet in eight document boxes.
<b>Language</b>	English

**Language of Materials note** Mostly in English with some Italian.

**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 is an addendum to CMS 008, and documents the organization from 1966-1986.

### Preferred Citation note

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

## Biographical/Historical note

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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

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These records are an addenda to the processed Collection #008 of the American Italian Historical Association (AIHA). The first description of AIHA records included twelve Series; the material in this addenda, dated from 1966 to 1986, includes the same number of Series and follows the same order of arrangement. 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, materials from conferences, membership and election records for the organization, financial documents, materials publicizing the organization, agendas and meeting minutes, photographs, and other materials.

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## Arrangement note

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Arranged into 12 series:

- Series I: Newsletters
  - Series II: Agenda and Minutes
  - Series III: Annual Report
  - Series IV: Membership Campaign
  - Series V: Election Material
  - Series VI: Publicity and Administration Records
  - Series VII: Financial Records
  - Series VIII: Annual Conferences
  - Series IX: Studies on Italian American
  - Series X: Archival Material
  - Series XI: Correspondence
  - Series XII: Local Chapters
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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies October 1987

## Revision Description

Description adapted by Taylor Smith, Converted into EAD by Nicole Greenhouse December 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

Donated by the American Italian Historical Association, likely in 1986.

## 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.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials note

American Italian Historical Association Records (CMS 008)  
American Italian Historical Association Addendum (CMS 008B)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Subject(s)

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

## **Other Finding Aids note**

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The original inventory is available in print upon request.

## Series I: Newsletters

## Collection Inventory

<b>Series I: Newsletters 1974-1983</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 9:1,2 1974	1	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 11:2 1976	1	1
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 11:3,4 1977	1	2
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 12:1,2 1977	1	2
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 12:3,4 1978	1	3
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 12:1,5 1979	1	4
American Italian Historical Association American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 13:1-3 1980	1	5
American Italian Historical Association Newsletter 14:1-3 1981	1	6
Long Island Regional Chapter Newsletter 1:1,2 1977	1	7
Long Island Regional Chapter Newsletter 2:1 1978	1	7



## Series I: Newsletters

Long Island Regional Chapter Newsletter 3:1 1979	1	7
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Upper Midwest Chapter Newsletter (Stella Del Nord) 2:2 1979	1	9
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**Series II: Agenda and Minutes**

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**Series IV: Membership Campaign**

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**Series IV: Membership Campaign 1967-1984**

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