

Guide to the American Italian Historical Association Addendum CMS.008B

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Summary Information

Repository Center for Migration Studies

Creator American Italian Historical Association.

Title American Italian Historical Association Addendum

Date [inclusive] 1960s-1990s

Extent 8.25 Linear feet in 16 boxes.

Language 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 addendum to CMS 008 document the records of Frank Cavaoli, George Pozzetta, and Jerry Krase, Presidents of the AIHA, publications, audiovisual materials, and other materials. The records cover the 1960s to the 1990s.

Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; American Italian Historical Association Addendum (CMS 008B); 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 American Italian Historical Association (AIHA) has entrusted its historical records to the Center for Migration Studies since the 1970s. AIHA Presidents Frank Cavaoli, George Pozzetta and Jerry Krase made the deposits that resulted in the creation of this addendum. It represents their service and that of AIHA officers through the 1990s.

Arrangement note

Arranged into three series:

Series I: Papers

Series II: Publications

Series III: Audiotapes and Videotapes

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies February 1, 2005

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 in the early 2000s.

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.

Appraisal note

AIHA Curator Anthony Trippicchio revisited the deposits to remove duplicates of previous deposits and items not of permanent value, and to sort the material into series by genre.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

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

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: Papers

Collection Inventory

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Annual Report 1966-1967	1	1
Addresses and Stationery undated	1	2
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Ballots 1991	1	5
Ballots 1:2 1992	1	6
Ballots 2:2 1992	1	7
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