

Guide to the L'Italiano in America Records CMS.020

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Migration Studies

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	4
<u>Arrangement note</u>	5
<u>Administrative Information</u>	5
<u>Related Materials</u>	5
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	6
<u>Other Finding Aids note</u>	6
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	7

Summary Information

Repository Center for Migration Studies

Creator L'Italiano in America.

Title *L'Italiano in America* Records

Date [inclusive] 1916-1929

Extent 0.25 Linear feet in one document box.

Language English

Language of Materials note The collection is in Italian.

Abstract *L'Italiano in America* was an Italian language Catholic newspaper launched in New York in 1894, At the time of its inception it had the moral and financial backing of the Diocesan Council for Italian Affairs. Between 1916 and 1920, the newspaper's office was at 81 Centre Street. The editor in chief was Mario De Biasi and the treasurer Reverend Antonio Demo. The newspaper referred to itself at this time as "the largest Italian Catholic newspaper in the United States. Its circulation in 1917 was 5,200, however, it seems to have been plagued by recurrent deficits. This small collection consists of weekly salary statements, records of receipts, and disbursements, and some correspondence, documenting the business aspect of the publication process.

Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Italiano in America Records (CMS 020); Box; Folder.

Biographical/Historical note

L'Italiano in America began in 1894 as a project of the Archdiocese of New York's Diocesan Council for Italian Affairs. An Italian-American Roman Catholic newspaper, it occupied out of various offices: by 1916, its headquarters were at 81 Centre Street; in 1918 it moved to 265 Broadway. By 1916, the editor in chief was Mario De Biasi, a lay man and one of the three De Biasi brothers who had emigrated from Italy and found work in New York's Italian-American print journalism field. By 1920, the editor was the Italian clergyman, Giuseppe L. Grivetti. The treasurer in this period was Father Antonio Demo, long-time pastor of Our Lady of Pompei Church in Greenwich Village in New York City. The newspaper referred to itself as "the largest Italian Catholic newspaper in the United States." The largest circulation achieved was 5,200 in 1917.

Scope and Contents note

CMS.020 documents, by financial statements, bills, receipts, payrolls and correspondence, the administration of an Italian-American Roman Catholic newspaper. The newspaper *L'Italiano in America* operated between 1894 and 1920; this collection documents the years 1916 and 1920.

The collection allows researchers to see connections between clergy and laity, religious and secular life, and between Italians and Italian Americans. L'Italiano in America was founded in 1894 as a project of the Archdiocese of New York's Diocesan Council for Italian Affairs. The position as editor swung between laity and clergy, and between people based in New York and people who were in New York but who were based in Italy. In 1916, L'Italiano in America's editor was Mario Di Biasi, a member of a family of Italian immigrants who had found work in print journalism in New York, but by 1918 the editorship had gone to an Italian clergyman who was in New York, Giuseppe L. Grivetti. These particular records were saved because *L'Italiano in America's* treasurer at the time was the formidable record-keeper Father Antonio Demo, pastor of Our Lad of Pompei; the records, though, are the only evidence of a connection between Demo and New York's leading Italian-American journalism family.

The papers also support a chronology of assimilation. Even in the early twentieth century the Italian-American community could not support multiple newspapers. *L'Italiano in America* struggled with both circulation and finances, and ceased publication in the 1920s, to be succeeded by publications such as the Brooklyn-based Italian-American Roman Catholic newspaper *Il Crociato*, published by Mario De Biasi's brother Carlo.

Arrangement note

CMS.020 consists of seven folders, each containing a different kind of financial records, arranged alphabetically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies

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

CMS.020 was transferred to the Center for Migration Studies from Our Lady of Pompei Catholic Church, 25 Carmine Street, New York, New York.

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.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Italiano in America's editor Mario De Biasi is represented in CMS.011, De Biasi Family Papers. Treasurer Father Antonio Demo is represented in CMS.037, Our Lady of Pompei Records. CMS also has a collection documenting a second New York (in this case Brooklyn) Italian-American Roman Catholic newspaper edited by a member of the De Biasi family, Mario's brother Carlo; the Crociato Records are in CMS.018.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Italian American newspapers
-

Other Finding Aids note

The original inventory is available in print upon request.

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Bills: Empire State Engraving Co. 1916-1919	1	1
Bills: Polyglot Publishign Co. 1916-1919	1	2
Financial Records 1 November 1916 - December 1917	1	3
Financial Records 2 January 1918 - May 1919	1	4
Miscellandous Correspondence, Bills, and Receipts 1916-1920	1	5
Payment Receipts from Il progresso Italo-Americano for "cuts" 1916-1917	1	6
Weekly Salary Statements and Reimbursement Receipts 1916-1920	1	7