

S. Eugene Scalia Collection

CMS.082

Finding aid prepared by Madeline De Santis

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Migration Studies
April 1988

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Migration Studies
Creator	S. Eugene (Samuel Eugene), Scalia, 1903-
Title	S. Eugene Scalia Collection
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1907-1947
Date [inclusive]	1907-1947
Extent	0.25 Linear feet
Language	English
Language of Materials note	The publications are in a combination of standard Italian, Italian dialect, and a language that includes English words and English syntax, reflecting the English-speaking world in which Italian-American immigrants lived.
Abstract	The S. Eugene Scalia (1900-1986) Collection is a fragmentary collection of advertisements, catalogs, lyrics and music sheets generated by the Italian Book Company of 145-147 Mulberry Street, New York, New York, between 1907 and 1944. The material documents many facets of Italian-American cultural life during this period. The combination of standard Italian, dialect and English speaks to the immigrants' linguistic abilities. Books of songs celebrating the Italian military document an ongoing interest in the home country. Topical songs about U.S. issues offer a window into how Italians viewed the new world about them, and their degree of assimilation to it.

Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; S. Eugene Scalia Collection (CMS 082); Box; Folder.

Biographical/Historical note

S. Eugene Scalia was born in Sicily about 1900. He emigrated to the United States prior to embarking on his higher education. He attended the the School of Music of the University of Rochester, Saint Joseph's College, Rutgers College, Columbia University, where he received a doctorate, and the University of Florence, which he attended on an Eleanor Duse Fellowship from the International Institute of Education. He married Catherine Panaro, herself the daughter of Italian immigrants and an elementary schoolteacher. They had one son, born March 11, 1936: Antonin Scalia, who on September 26, 1986, became an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. (Antonin Scalia had nine children, one of whom he named Eugene.) Dr. Scalia spent most of his career at Brooklyn College, from which he retired in 1969. He died in Trenton, New Jersey, January 4, 1986. It is unclear how he came into possession of the items he transmitted to the Center for Migration Studies.

Scope and Contents note

This collection is a fragmentary collection of advertisements, catalogs, lyrics and music sheets generated by the Italian Book Company of 145-147 Mulberry Street, New York, New York, between 1907 and 1944. The company was founded by Antonio De Martino early in the twentieth century. In 1912, L.A. Sheinart, owner of 145-147 Mulberry Street, renovated the building to house the Italian Book Company, and that was the company's headquarters for many years. Mr. De Martino died in Naples October 20, 1956, leaving behind his wife Rosa and daughters Sadie Russo, Lyvia De Martino and Sylvia Tudisco.

The material in the collection documents many facets of Italian-American cultural life during the first half of the twentieth century. The combination of standard Italian, dialect and English speaks to the immigrants' linguistic abilities. Books of songs celebrating the Italian military document an ongoing interest in the home country. Topical songs about U.S. issues offer a window into how Italians viewed the new world about them, and their degree of assimilation to it.

What the material does not provide any information about is the donor, who came to the United States as an adolescent, taught Italian at Brooklyn College, and counted among his close relatives his wife's family in Trenton, New Jersey. How he came into possession of catalogs and song sheets from the Italian Book Company is not clear.

Arrangement note

CMS 082 is housed in one half-size document box consisting of two archival folders, one for book-size objects and the other for individual advertising and song sheets.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies April 1988

Revision Description

Mary Elizabeth Brown revised the finding aid using the software program Archivists' Toolkit and the standards found in DACS (Describing Archives: A Content Standard). Nicole Greenhouse checked the work. November 1, 2013

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

S. Eugene Scalia, Ph.D., of Trenton, New Jersey, gave these items to the Center for Migration Studies some time between 1969, when he retired from Brooklyn College, and 1988, when they were processed.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

CMS 015, Eduardo ("Farfariello") Migliaccio Papers, contains music sheets published by the Italian Book Company.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Italian Book Company.

Subject(s)

- Italian Americans |x Music
- Italian Americans |z New York (State) |z New York.

Other Finding Aids note

The original inventory is available in print upon request.

Bibliography

"30 Awards Made for Study Abroad," New York Times, July 23, 1934. "Antonin Scalia," Bio. True Story, <http://www.biography.com/people/antonin-scalia-9473091> (November 1, 2013) "Antonin Scalia," Oyez: U.S. Supreme Court Media http://www.oyez.org/justices/antonin_scalia (November 1, 2013). Carielli, Dominick, "Director's Statement," Sotto Voce [The Official Newsletter of the Italian American Studies Center at Brooklyn College] 3:1 (Fall 2009), p. 1. "Dr. S. Eugene Scalia," [obituary] New York Times, January 7, 1986. "The Building Department," New York Times, August 16, 1912. Obituary of ANtonio De Martino, New York Times, October 23, 1956.

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Italian Book Company Publications 1911-1947 (Bulk, 1911-1947)	1	1
Song Advertisements and Lyrics 1907-1942 (Bulk, 1907-1942)	1	2