

**American Committee on Italian  
Migration Records Addendum  
CMS.001B  
CMS.001B**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

March 31, 2017

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Migration Studies  
17 March 2017  
307 E. 60th Street  
New York, New York 10022

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Migration Studies
<b>Title</b>	American Committee on Italian Migration, Second Addendum
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1950-2004
<b>Extent</b>	4.0 document boxes
<b>Location note</b>	CMS.001B is housed at the Center for Migration Studies, 307 East 60th Street, Third Floor, New York, New York 10022.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials note</b>	Materials in CMS.001B are in English with some Italian.

**Abstract** CMS.001B, the third and final deposit from the American Committee on Italian Migration (ACIM), documents the final break-up of ACIM, which was organized in February 1952 to press for reform of U.S. immigration laws and to assist Italian immigrants with immigration and other government paperwork, and which ended its work in 2005. The collection contains a box of ephemeral literature gathered when cleaning the office, three boxes of photographs, most of them 7x10" black-and-white glossies, documenting ACIM's fundraising and lobbying activities from 1955 to 1985, and a metal stamp of the organization's seal.

### Preferred Citation note

The preferred citation is Center for Migration Studies of New York; American Committee on Italian Migration (CMS 001B); Box; Folder.

## Biographical/Historical note

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The American Committee on Italian Migration (ACIM) was organized in February 1952 as a member agency of the National Catholic Resettlement Council, which later formed part of the National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC). From its inception, ACIM's chief objective was the liberalization of the United States immigration policy, which delineated in the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952, rested upon a restrictive "national origins" quota. ACIM undertook a wide range of activities, from raising funds to sponsoring new Italian immigrants into the United States and promoting new immigration legislation by Congress. With the passage in 1965 of the Kennedy-Johnson Bill abolishing the "national origins" quota, ACIM turned to aiding immigrants in migration and adapting to their new surroundings.

In 1952-1953, ACIM organized local chapters in about 100 United States cities and coordinated lobbying efforts in support of emergency immigration legislation. The passage by Congress of the Refugee Relief Act in 1953 permitted some 60,000 Italian refugees to enter the United States over the 5,645 Italian quota established by the McCarran-Walter Act. Throughout 1954 and 1955, ACIM was engaged in finding American sponsors for many of these prospective immigrants and then in 1956 upon their arrival in the United States in finding them homes and jobs. The following year ACIM chapters successfully pressured Congress to pass special legislation, the "Family Reunion Law," which allowed some 25,000 wives and minor children of Italian immigrants, to join their spouses in the United States. In 1958, ACIM mounted a campaign urging Congress to allow "Fourth preference cases" (i.e. sons and daughters over 21 and brothers and sisters of Italian immigrants) to rejoin their families in America. Stop gap measures passed by Congress in 1959, 1961, and 1962 hardly corresponded to the large number of applicants, which had accumulated over the decade. In 1963, ACIM figured prominently in the campaign for the adoption of the Kennedy-Johnson Immigration Bill, which abolished the "national origins" quota system.

The fulfillment of this long-standing ACIM objective did not resolve the large backlog of Italian immigration applications. After 1965, ACIM dedicated itself to the backlog and continued to lobby before Congress; provide immigration information to United States relatives of prospective immigrants; and it directly assisted the immigrants both in Italy where ACIM opened a branch office and after their arrival in the United States.

Judge Juvenal Marchisio, a prominent figure during the immediate post World War II period in "American Relief for Italy" and in "Boys Town" served as ACIM's National Chairman from its inception in 1952-1968; he died in 1973. he was succeeded by Auxiliary Bishop of New York Ernest Edwin Swanstrom, who retired in 1973. Reverend Caesar Donanzan, P.S.S.C. served as Executive National Secretary from 1952-1966 and was succeeded by Reverend Joseph A. Cogo P.S.S.C., who served until 2005, and Father Walter Tonelotto, c.s., who closed down ACIM in 2009.

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## Scope and Contents note

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CMS.001B is one of four collectons documenting the activities of the American Committee on Italian Migration (ACIM), which was founded in Februry 1952 in the wake of the passage of the Immigration and Nationality (McCarren-Walter) Act of that year, which had continued 1920s limitation on Italian migration.

ACIM's leadership came from three sources. It was a mission of the Saint Charles Province of the Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians, a congregation of male religous founded in 1887 to minister to migrants, beginning with their Italian compatriots but later exptending to all migrants and refugess. Father Caesar Donanzan served as Executive Director from 1952 to 1966, and Father Joseph Cogo from 1966 to 2005; Fathr Walter Tonelotto served as Executive Director during the years when ACIM's activities were brought to a close. ACIM also drew its strength from lay leadership, especially Judge Juvenal Marchisio, who served as National Chair from 1952 to 1968. Judge Marchisio had taken a leave of absence from the bench of Brooklyn's Family Court to assist with Italian relief efforts at the end of World War II. That experience taught him that migration was important to individuals, and to society as a whole; he was also noted for arguing that welcoming migrants was an important aspect of the Cold War. Finally, stability through the years was provided by Miss Yolanda Coda, officially Secretary of ACIM's Women's Division, from its inception to its closing. Father Donanzan and Father Cogo are well represented in photographs in CMS.001B

ACIM took a threefold approach to its work. It provided hands-on care to Italian immigrants, which is best documented in CMS.001A. It lobbied Congress for reforms in U.S. immigration law, which is best documented in CMS.001. It raised funds to carry on its activities, and while there is fundraising material in CMS.001 and CMS.001A, CMS.001B contains most of the visual evidence of these events.

CMS.001B consists of one box of ephemeral publications and clippings that were found during the final cleaning of ACIM's offices, and four boxes of photographs. The photographs consist mostly of professionally made 7x10" black-and-white glossies taken at ACIM events between 1955 and 1985. The events divide into two types. The bulk of the photographs are of the organizaiton's main fundraiser, an annual dinner held at one of New York City's prominent hotels. There are also photographs from ACIM's annual symposia. ACIM had over one hundred "chapters" across the United States; each summer these chapters sent delegates to a symposium, a word chosen to indicate a meeting of equals for an exchange of ideas and an agreement on future plans. The site of the symposia usually altrnated between Rome, Italy, and Washington, D.C. When in Washington, delegates met with government officials on aspects of migration; a high point n ACIM's history came June 11, 1963, when delegates formed an audience for President John F. Kennedy's announcement that he was sending an immigration reform bill to Congress. When in Italy, delegates usually went to Rome to hear from officials there. They also restored their connection to their ancestral land by touring national and religious landmarks. Some years, they actively assisated Italians, victims of floods in Venice in 1967 and of earthquakes in Southern Italy in 1982.

The photographs of the annual dinners document the changing fashions of the times. All the photographs in some way document the activities of Italian Americans and immigration activists.

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## Arrangement note

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CMS.001B is arranged into three Series:

Publications

Photographs

American Committee on Italian Migration Seal

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Center for Migration Studies 17 March 2017

### **Conditions Governing Access note**

CMS.001B is 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.001B was transferred from ACIM's National Office, 9 East 35th Street, New York City in 1973.

### **Processing Information note**

During Spring 2017 Asma'u Dasuki, a volunteer from Marymount Manhattan College, organized the photographs, weeded excessive duplicates and unclear images, numbered the photographs, organized them into photo sleeves, folders and boxes, and commenced scanning them. She and Saint John's University Master of Library and Information Science student Area Kaleta prepared a finding aid in Archivists' Toolkit using the prescriptions in Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

The original deposit is CMS.001. Two later added addenda to this collection exist, CMS 001A and CMS 027. More material on ACIM may also be found in CMS.078B and CMS.078C, Province of Saint Charles, Society of Saint Charles-Scalabrinians Records

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Genre(s)

- Photographs

### Personal Name(s)

- Cogo, Joseph, c.s., (Rev.)
- Donazan, Caesar, c.s., (Rev.), 1920-1993
- Marchisio, Juvenal P., (ca. 1903-1973)

### Subject(s)

- American Committee on Italian Migration
- United States Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments 1965
- United States. Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986
- United States. Simpson-Rodino Immigration Law of 1986

## Publications

## Collection Inventory

<b>Publications</b>			
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
Apostolic Blessing 12 May 1965	1	A	
Brochures 1950-1990, undated	1	B	
Clippings, Magazine 1980-1988, undated	1	C	
Clippings, Newsprint 1980-1983, undated	1	D	
Clippings, Newsprint 1986-1988	1	E	
Clippings, Photocopies 1966-1987, undated	1	F	
Programs 1970-1989	1	G	
Programs, San Remo 1961-1994	1	H	
Programs, San Remo 1995-2004	2	I	
<b>Photographs</b>			
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Photograph</b>

## Photographs

C.Colombo Dinner 8 January 1955	2	1	1-30
Annual Dinner 5 December 1955	2	2	1-43
Italian Dinner Dance June 1956	2	3	1-12
Annual Dinner 8 December 1956	2	4	1-34
Turecamo Dinner 10 June 1957	2	5	1-26
Scelba Luncheon 1 December 1958	2A	6	1-51
Annual Dinner 20 December 1958	2A	7	1-19
Annual Dinner 12 December 1959	2A	8	1-11
Annual Dinner Dance Committee 5 October 1960	2A	9	1-2
Annual Dinner Dance 10 December 1960	2A	10	1-12
M.S. Italia Dinner 9 December 1961	2A	11	1
Third National Symposium on Migration (Washington) 10-11 June 1963	2A	12	1-32
Brooklyn Chapter Luncheon 1964, undated	2A	13	1-2

## Photographs

Night in Venice Ball 20 November 1964	2A	14	1-13
Dinner Hotel Commodore (H.E. Storchi) 4 December 1964	2A	15	1-2
ACIM Michelangelo Ball 12 December 1964	2A	16	1-4
Nassau ACIM Chapter 1964	2A	17	1-4
Albany Diocese ACIM Chapter December 1964	2A	18	1
Washington D.C. ACIM Symposium 16-18 May 1965	2A	19	1-33
Westchester Women's Dinner 1965	2A	20	1-2
Italy Flood Relief - City of Florence Flood July 1967	2A	21	1-16
Youngstown Chapter 1967	2A	22	1
Sicily Legislator February 1968	2A	23	1-2
Stock Exchange Meeting 19 April 1967	2A	24	1
ACIM Annual Dinner 20 April 1968	2A	25	1-7
Philadelphia ACIM Chapter Dinner 1 February 1969	2A	26	1
Agrigento May 1970	3	1	1-60

## Photographs

Capri 12 May 1970	3	2	1-14
ACIM Italian Rendez-Vous 1970	3	3	1-26
ACIM San Remo Holiday Ball 1970	3	4	1-3
Washington Symposium 1971	3	5	1-11
Rome Symposium - Embassy June 1976	3	6	1-39
Rome Symposium - Touring 1976	3	6A	1-48
Cortese Reception 29 October 1976	3	7	1-4
Washington Symposium "Silver Jubilee Symposium" 22-24 May 1977	3	8	1-18
Italian Community of Queens Chapter 24 September 1978	3	9	1-2
Rome Symposium 1982	3	10	1-6
Battapaglia, Campagna, Sordina, Vietri, New York Italian Heritage Month 5-6 May 1982, undated	3	11a-11c	1-7, 1-10, 1-19
San Remo Ball 1985	3	12	1
Philadelphia Chapter 22 January 1971	3	13	1-4
			<b>Box</b>

## Photographs

Andriano, S. undated		4
Barshay, (Judge) Hyman undated		4
Bonomo, Richard V. undated		4
Brooklyn Women's Divison 1990		4
Bushemi, Sam undated		4
Barbone, Frank J. undated		4
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Photograph</b>
Carter, James 1980	4	1-5
Celebrezze, Anthony J. 1 February 1962	4	1-2
		<b>Box</b>
Cogo, (Father) Giuseppe 1976		4
Cogo, (Father) Giuseppe 1978		4
Cogo, (Father) Giuseppe 1985		4
Cogo, (Father) Giuseppe undated		4
Cogo, (Father) Giuseppe; D'amato, (Senator) Alfonse M.; Valero, (Bishop) Rene A.; Romagnolo, Joseph 1986		4

## Photographs

Cogo, (Father) Giuseppe; Colombo, (Minister) Emilio 1989	4
Cogo, (Father) Giuseppe; Garganico Albert D. undated	4
Cogo, (Father) Giuseppe; Mestice, (Reverend) Anthony; Molisani, Edward M undated	4
Cogo, (Father) Giuseppe; Reclino undated	4
Columbus Day 1969	4
D'amico, (Mrs) John B. undated	4
Deleo, (Hon.) Michael; Donanzan, (Father) Cesear; Notte, (Senator) John A.; Ricci (Hon.) Hugo 1961	4
Dirksen, (Senator) Everett M. undated	4
Eisenohwer, Dwight D. 1953	4
Eisenhower, Dwight D. 1964	4
Ferrari, Louis undated	4
Frignone, Marie undated	4
Gagliardo, Angelo J. 25 June 1962	4

**Photographs**

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Greenwich Village 1990	4
Hart, (Senator) Philip A. undated	4
Ives, (Senator) Irving M. undated	4
Keating, (Senator) Kenneth B. undated	4
L'Episcopi, (Mrs.) Charles undated	4
Maloney, Andrew P. undated	4
Marchisio, (Judge) Juvenal undated	4
Marfuggi, Philip H. undated	4
Monaco, (Father) Vincent undated	4
New Haven 1972	4
Nixon, Richard 1971	4
Notte, (Senator) John A. 1961	4
Ossola, Betty V. undated	4
Pastore, (Senator) John O. undated	4

## Photographs

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Photograph</b>
Paul VI 1976	4	1-3
		<b>Box</b>
Pittoni, Mario undated		4
Rapone, James V. undated		4
Pinaldi, Dominic undated		4
Rome 1961		4
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Photograph</b>
Rome 1982	4	1-3
		<b>Box</b>
San Remo 1986		4
Symington, (Senator) Stuart undated		4
Ventura, (Reverend) Gennaro J. 28 August 1962		4
Venza, (Dr.) J.R. undated		4
Volpe, (Governor) John A.; Donazan, (Father) Cesar undated		4
Walter, (Representative) Francis E. undated		4
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Photograph</b>

**American Committee on Italian Migration seal.**

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Washington 1980	4	1-2
		<b>Box</b>
Women's Division 1972		4

**American Committee on Italian Migration seal.**