

Federico Amoroso Papers

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Migration Studies
3 August 2018
307 E. 60th Street
New York, New York 10022

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Migration Studies
Title	Federico Amoroso Papers
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1903-1907
Date [inclusive]	1903-1997
Extent	0.25 Linear feet in one half-size document box
Location note	CMS.124 is housed at the Center for Migration Studies, 307 East 60th Street, Third Floor, New York, New York 10022.
Language	Italian
Language of Materials note	The authors of the letters in CMS.124 use Italian and Sicilian dialect, sometimes mixing the two together.
Abstract	<p>CMS.124 consists of fifty-three letters written between 1903 and 1911 by a group of friends and relatives originating from the town of Girgenti (Agrigento) in Sicily who had immigrated to various places in the United States, finding work in the agricultural, manufacturing and railways sectors. The addressee is their padrone in Italy, Federico Amoroso, who suggested useful contacts, intervened on behalf of individual townspeople and served as a banker in charge of remittances. Amoroso's position as a shop owner back home rather than a fellow immigrant based in the United States marks a significant departure from the usual set-up of the early twentieth-century padrone system. The collection, which is of social, economic and linguistic interest, contains letters from about twenty individuals, many of them including money orders for distribution among the home community.</p>

Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Federico Amoroso Papers (CMS.124); Box 1, Folder.

Scope and Contents note

This collection contains fifty-three letters written in the period from 1903 to 1911 by about twenty ex-residents of Girgenti (modern-day Agrigento) in Sicily who had immigrated to various parts of the United States and wrote home to Federico Amoroso. Amoroso, a local shop-owner, evidently functioned as a "padrone" helping his former community members secure jobs in America (the kinds of employment mentioned are seasonal agricultural, industrial and railways work), facilitated the sending of letters and money to Italy and occasionally wielded his influence to resolve problems related to individuals trying to emigrate. The collection demonstrates the continuing links between Italy and the United States as well as the little-studied phenomenon of the "reverse padrone" network, in which the labor broker resides in Italy rather than being an immigrant or first-generation Italian settled in America. Most of the letters deal with money issues and the remittance of checks back home--several contain actual checks. Folder 3 contains a chain of letters documenting Amoroso's efforts on behalf of a minor barred by law from entering the United States with his family due to his contagious conjunctivitis; the person in question was eventually admitted as an immigrant after the Commissariat on Emigration in Italy, lobbied by Amoroso, successfully argued that a minor should be allowed to reunite with his family rather than remain alone in his home country. The primary concern throughout the letters, besides maintaining links with relatives in Italy, is financial--the obtaining of credit, the economic situation in both countries as well as the practicalities of transferring remittance money from the United States to Italy. The correspondents' affairs are conveyed in a mix of Italian, Sicilian and slang, which makes this collection remarkable from a linguistic point of view. The sum of letters presents a window into the workings of a network of contacts in which one key person represented the link between members employed and settled in the United States and their lives back home in Sicily.

Arrangement note

CMS.124 is organized chronologically by the most legible date on the letter.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies 3 August 2018

Conditions Governing Access note

Open to researchers by appointment.

Conditions Governing Use note

The documents in CMS.124 are in the public domain.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

In 1996, Italian-American businessman Domenick Scaglione brought the letters that make up CMS.124 to the attention of CMS Executive Director Ldyio F. Tomasi, c.s. Mr. Scaglione delivered the letters to Father Tomasi, who had them photocopied and then returned them to the owner, Sra. Giovanna Garofalo Cassina of Palermo, Sicily, via Mr. Scaglione.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Agrigento (Italy)
- Girgenti (Italy)

Subject(s)

- Emigration and immigration |z United States
- Italian American families
- Italian Americans |x Economic conditions.
- Italian Americans |x History.
- Italian Americans |z Missouri
- Italian Americans.
- Italy |x Emigration and immigration

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Calogero Russo to Federico Amoroso, Brooklyn. 6 gennaio 1903	1	1
A. Seguita to Federico Amoroso, New York. 23 gennaio 1903	1	1
Giuseppe Principato to Anna Alogi, Boston. 1 febbraio 1903	1	1
Giuseppe Principato to Federico Amoroso, Boston. 31 marzo 1903	1	1
Pietro Molida [possibly with another person] to Federico Amoroso, New York. 22 agosto 1903	1	1
Gentile Calogero to Federico Amoroso, Brelinali [?] 14 novembre 1904	1	2
Giuseppe Principato to Federico Amoroso, Kincaid, West Virginia 21 novembre 1904	1	2
Lorenzo Magro to Anna Marchese di Giuseppe, New York 19 gennaio 1907	1	3
Lorenzo di Calogero to Federico Amoroso, Brooklyn 13 febbraio 1907	1	3
Lorenzo Modico to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 11 aprile 1907	1	3

Lorenzo Capostagno to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 15 maggio 1907	1	3
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Lorenzo Modico to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 17 maggio 1907	1	3
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dates

There are no letters from 1905 or 1906 in the collection

Salvatore Lomascolo to Luigi Lomascolo, Brooklyn 4 giugno 1907	1	3
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Fionto Bisposta to Federico Amoroso, [?] 10 giugno 1907	1	3
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To the Commissariat-General of Emigration, Rome from Luigi lo Mascolo, Palermo; care of Don Federico Amoroso 13 giugno 1907	1	3
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Scope and Contents note

The letter writer is asking the Commissariat-General of Emigration in Rome to let him join the rest of his family who have immigrated to New York. The response is that he is not allowed to disembark because of his chronic conjunctivitis, which kept potential immigrants out of the country as per the law of 1903.

Luca Mazza to Federico Amoroso, Palermo 20 giugno 1907	1	3
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Scope and Contents note

Luca Mazza, of the General Transport Agency in Palermo writes to Don Federico that because Luigi lo Mascolo is not yet of age and has no family left in Girgenti, he has been allowed passage to the United States and must embark immediately.

Lorenzo Capostagno with Calogero Capostagno to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 22 giugno 1907	1	1
Salvatore Lomascolo to Federico Amoroso, Brooklyn 16 luglio 1907	1	3
Salvatore Lomascolo to Federico Amoroso, Brooklyn 2 agosto 1097	1	3
Pietro Molida to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 27 agosto 1907	1	3
Di Calogero Lorenzo Ragusa to Federico Amoroso, Houston 31 agosto 1907	1	3
Scope and Contents note		
Letter to Lorenzo Lo Mascolo from the Societa di Patronato per gli emigranti, Palermo, 17 June 1907 included		
Lorenzo Modico to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 2 settembre 1907	1	3
Pietro Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 7 ottobre 1907	1	3
Di Calogero Lorenzo Ragusa to Federico Amoroso, Houston 20 ottobre 1907	1	3
Scope and Contents note		
The letter writer indicates to Federico Amoroso that he is unhappy with their financial arrangement, and wants to be released from any further obligations and to have "his house free."		

Luigi Mascolo and Salvatore Mascolo to Federico Amoroso, New York 8 novembre 1907	1	3
Pietro Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 27 novembre 1907	1	3
Pietro Modica and Di Calogero Lorenzo Ragusa to Federico Amoroso, New York 5 novembre 1907	1	3
Scope and Contents note		
These are a series of commercial checks for the Banca Commerciale Italiana		
Falzone Lorenzo to Federico Amoroso, Ravenna 15 gennaio 1908	1	4
Pietro Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 19 gennaio 1908	1	4
Michele Lomascolo to Federico Amoroso, Brooklyn 27 gennaio 1908	1	4
Falzone Lorenzo to Federico Amoroso, Ravenna 11 febbraio 1908	1	4
Lorenzo Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 26 febbraio 1908	1	4
Salvatore Sicorella to Federico Amoroso, Boston 14 aprile 1908	1	4
Lorenzo Modica di Calogero to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 20 aprile 1908	1	4
Salvatore Peruggia to Francesca Markess, Montaperto 7 maggio 1908	1	4

Lomascolo Carlo from the Amministrazione della Congrua Parrocchiale di Montaperto, Montaperto 21 settembre 1908	1	4
Lorenzo Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 17 ottobre 1908	1	4
Pietro Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 16 novembre 1908	1	4
Salvatore Sicorella to Federico Amoroso, Notre Dame du Lac, Quebec 18 dicembre 1908	1	4
Pietro Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 3 febbraio 1909	1	5
Pietro Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 18 marzo 1909	1	5
Pietro Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 14 giugno 1909	1	5
Francesco Capostagno and Salvatore Capostagno [?] to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 4 agosto 1909	1	5
Pietro Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 13 agosto 1909	1	5
Fragopone Cilagera to Federico Amoroso, Harewood, West Virginia 8 settembre 1909	1	5
Francesco Capostagno to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 12 settembre 1909	1	5
Lorenzo Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 10 ottobre 1909	1	5

Lorenzo Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 19 febbraio 1910	1	6
Lorenzo Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 18 maggio 1910	1	6
Giuseppe Amato to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 18 maggio 1910	1	6
Lorenzo Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 11 agosto 1910	1	6
Pietro Modica to Federico Amoroso, St. Louis 26 settembre 1910	1	6
Lorenzo Capostagno to Federico Amoroso, Beach City, Ohio 8 dicembre 1911	1	7
Domenick Scaglione to Rev. Lydio F. Tomasi, New York 19 December 1996	1	8

Scope and Contents note

This letter presents the archival collection to then CMS Archive Director

Rev. Lydio F. Tomasi to Giovanna Garofalo Cassina, New York 5 marzo 1997	1	8
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Scope and Contents note

Official letter thanking the donor