Edward C. Stibili Papers
CMS.123

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September 05, 2019
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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# Summary Information

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<td>Abstract</td>
<td>CMS.123 contains the research notes of Edward C. Stibili, Ph.D., author of a monograph on the Saint Raphael Society for the Protection of Italian Immigrants and a biography of Father Pietro Bandini, founder of that society's New York branch and also founder of Tontitown, Arkansas.</td>
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**Preferred Citation note**

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Edward C. Stibili Papers (CMS.123); Box 1; Folder.
Biographical/Historical note

Edward Claude Stibili received his bachelor's degree from Saint Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin in 1962, his M.A. from the University of Chicago in 1967, and his Ph.D. in history from the University of Notre Dame in 1977, the latter partly on the strength of his dissertation on the Saint Raphael Society for the Protection of Italian Immigrants. His early career was in teaching and academic administration. In 1994 he was appointed academic dean and later joined the faculty of Calumet College of Saint Joseph in Hammond, Indiana, and retired from there with the rank of emeritus, whereupon he turned his attention to research, writing, and publishing the work he had long planned. Besides the books mentioned in the General Note, he is the author of and numerous reviews and articles in scholarly journals and in edited works.

Scope and Contents note

CMS.123 represents the scholarly life of Edward C. Stibili, and his commitment to preserving two particular histories. Both of those histories had a common origin, in the work of Bishop Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, who became interested in the immigrants leaving nineteenth-century Italy. In 1887, Bishop Scalabrini founded the Society of Saint Charles, a congregation of male religious. Bishop Scalabrini included in his new order's work the care of migrants in transit, which led to participation in the Saint Raphael movement, founded in 1871 in Hamburg, Germany, by a Catholic layman, Peter Paul Cahensly. Cahensly supported immigrant aid stations in port cities to assist migrants and to protect them from exploitation. Working with a prominent layman in his diocese, Giovanni Battista Volpe-Landi, Scalabrini organized an Italian Saint Raphael Society. In 1891, Scalabrini sent Father Pietro Bandini to establish the Italian Saint Raphael's New York City branch.

The Archdiocese of New York supported the Saint Raphael Society with the purchase of a building at 113 Waverly Place, but immigrant aid societies posed problems of ongoing funding that institutions serving more settled populations did not. Also, at the time members of Bishop Scalabrini's order of clergy took only temporary vows. Father Bandini fulfilled his obligation, and, as there was no one with his skill set to replace him, the Italian Saint Raphael effort in New York languished and the Waverly Place house was sold.

In 1901 Bishop Scalabrini visited his missionaries working in the United States and took steps to revive the Saint Raphael Society by assigning Father Giacomo Gambera to the work. Father Gambera worked with the Archdiocese of New York, the archbishop's "Italian Secretary," Monsignor Gherardo Ferrante, and the Sisters of Charity Pallottine to open a new hospice at 8-10 Charlton Street. In 1905 Gambera became pastor of Santa Maria Addolorata in Chicago, and Gaspare Moretto became director of the Saint Raphael Society.
The New York branch of the Saint Raphael Society closed in 1923. During the 1920s US law cut Italian migration by 95%, from about 100,000 per year to about 5,000, and required prospective immigrants to undergo preliminary screening and secure visas at US consulates, thus reducing the need for service in New York Harbor. Under Mussolini Italian law restricted Italian out-migration, and apparently switched preferences in immigrant aid, working not with the Scalabrini Fathers but with an agency called Italica Gens. American Catholicism reorganized at the diocesan and national levels, and the National Catholic Welfare Conference Bureau of Immigration New York Port Office replaced myriad ethnic immigrant aid agencies.

Research into the Saint Raphael Society introduced Stibili to Father Pietro Bandini. Bandini was born in Forli, Emilia-Romagna, Italy, March 31, 1852, the youngest of nine children of Marco Bandini from his marriages to Marianna Artusi and Matilde Bruni. He entered the seminary at Bertinaro at age twelve in 1864, as this was the usual path to a liberal arts education in his area at the time. Members of the Society of Jesus staffed the seminary, one of his older brothers had entered the Jesuits, and young Pietro also gravitated toward a vocation with them. In 1869 he entered the Jesuit novitiate at Monaco. Ordained a priest September 30, 1877, he left for the mission field September 19, 1882. He served successively at Saint Ignatius, Saint Francis Xavier, and Saint Joseph Labre Missions in Montana, where he ministered on Indian reservations. He took his final vows February 2, 1889, but a month later was called to Italy and later asked to leave the Jesuits. Bandini may have posed a financial risk to the Jesuit missions. He developed grand plans for his ministry, soliciting funds from Katherine Drexel, who later founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to ministered to African Americans and to Indians, and also from the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions.

In 1891 Bandini joined Bishop Scalabrini's new congregation, and, as mentioned, fulfilled a five-year commitment that included founding the New York branch of the Italian Saint Raphael Society. In 1896, he took a new position, as chaplain to a group of Italians who had been recruited from their homes in rural areas to work as sharecroppers at an eastern Arkansas cotton plantation called Sunnyside owned by New York railroad magnate Austin Corbin. Corbin had invested in the plantation as an experiment; an alternative to African American labor and an opportunity to help laborers work toward ownership of a share of the plantation. Problems soon developed among people never trained to grow cotton living in an unfamiliar climate near the malarial Mississippi River. But the final blow was Corbin's death in a carriage accident June 4, 1896. Corbin's heirs were not interested in continuing his experiment.

Bandini then embarked on his last and most famous ministry. He located land in Arkansas' Ozark mountains and transported his Italian congregation there by rail. He led his congregation in the founding of Tontitown, and developing it into a village of small home- and landowners engaged in farming "table" fruits, pretty enough to display in a fruit bowl at a home, restaurant, or hotel. Bandini served as the pastor of Tontitown's Saint Joseph parish, and as the town's first mayor. He was also its chief lobbyist, working to get a railroad line through the town and to expand the market for its produce. Bandini suffered a stroke in his rectory December 9, 1916. He was brought to the hospital in the nearby city of Fayetteville and, when his condition worsened, to Saint Vincent's Infirmary in Little Rock. He died there January 2, 1917. He was survived by Tito Bandini, a nephew who had followed him into the priesthood and into the American missions, and by Tontitown.
Upon publication of his research, Dr. Stibili turned his attention to preserving his notes for future scholars. In 2017, he deposited with the Center for Migration Studies three bankers' boxes of photocopies. The handling of these materials is described in the Processing Information Note.

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**Arrangement note**

CMS.123 is organized into five subject folders.

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**Administrative Information**

**Publication Information**

Center for Migration Studies 2 March 2018

**Conditions Governing Access note**

Open to researchers by appointment.

**Conditions Governing Use note**

The Center for Migration Studies may not own the copyright to materials in CMS.123. It is incumbent upon researchers to secure permission from copyright holders before publication.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

CMS.123 is the gift of Edward C. Stibili. A deed of gift is on file in the collection.

**Processing Information note**

In 2017 the Center for Migration Studies received from Edward C. Stibili three boxes of research material that he had collected between the 1970s and the 2000s. Workers at the Center for Migration Studies sorted the material. The bulk of the material consisted of photocopies of material from archives, including the Center for Migration Studies, and photocopies of publications. CMS volunteers Frances Fynan, Rachel Morten, and Mary T. Sanders compiled a bibliography of Dr. Stibili’s holdings, but processed only photocopies that would be difficult to replicate, items that came from Father Bandini's hometown government offices and from his educational institutions. Mary Brown prepared the finding aid referencing "Describing Archives: A Content Standard."
Existence and Location of Originals note

CMS.123 consists of photocopies of records held by the commune of Forli in Emilia-Romagna, Italy, and by the Turin Province of the Society of Jesus.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

PRIMARY-SOURCE PERIODICALS

America

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Zazzara, Jerome N. “Pastoral Care of Italian Emigrants,” vol. 64, March 1921, 279-284.

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“Excited Crowds,” July 18, 1894, 8.
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“Italian Bishop Leaves Boston,” September 12, 1901, 7.
“Padrones and Banks Denounced,” June 1, 1894, 3.
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“To Aid Immigrants,” December 15, 1904, 9.
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“Italian Bishop Said Farewell,” September 12, 1901, 8.
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“An Italian Home,” January 1, 1890, 8.
“Arthur Leary is Dead,” February 24, 1893, 8.
“Arthur Leary’s Will Filed,” March 9, 1893, 4.
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“Barred From Ellis Island,” April 16, 1903, 16.
“Beginning Their Labors,” July 26, 1888, 8.
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“ Leaving One Church to Take Another,” March 11, 1895, 8.
“ Letter to the Editor,” March 26, 1903, 8.
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“ Mr. Taylor Indignant,” June 7, 1900, 2.
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Related Archival Materials note

CMS.005, Saint Raphael Society for the Protection of Italian Immigrants Records

CMS.037, Our Lady of Pompei, Greenwich Village, New York, Records

CMS.069, Giacomo Gambera Papers

CMS.078, Society of Saint Charles, Saint Charles Province Records

Dr. Stibili also deposited research notes with the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, Our lady of the Lake Catholic Church Museum in Lake Village, Arkansas, and the Tontitown Historical Museum, Tontitown, Arkansas. For further information on the University of Arkansas holdings, see Edward Stibili, Pietro Bandini: Missionary, Social Worker, and Colonizer Research Materials, Special Collections, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 2018, libraries.uark.edu/specialcollections/findingaids/ead/transform.php?xml=mc2237

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)
• Scalabrinians.

Geographic Name(s)

• Tontitown (Ark.)

Personal Name(s)

• Bandini, Pietro, (Rev.), 1852-1917

Subject(s)

• Italian Americans |z Arkansas
• Jesuits |x Missions
• Priests |z United States.
• St. Raphael Society (U.S.)
## Collection Inventory

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<td>Educational Records 1831-1904</td>
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