

EABH Workshop: Archives Online. it's all about choices

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Anna Cantaluppi, Fondazione 1563 per l'Arte e la Cultura della Compagnia di San Paolo

D.A.C. – D.igital A.rchives and C.ollections of Fondazione 1563

Fondazione 1563 is one of the operating bodies of the Compagnia di San Paolo. Its mission is to safeguard, enrich and promote the artistic, cultural, archival and library heritage and to support research and advanced training programs in humanities.

The Foundation is in charge of the Historical Archives of the Compagnia di San Paolo that cover a period of time from the 16th to the 20th century. The history of the Compagnia di San Paolo can be divided in three main phases.

- 1) The old Compagnia, founded in Torino in 1563, managed a pawn shop and set up charitable, educational and religious institutions. The increase in its assets through numerous bequests led to intense financial activity.
- 2) With the advent of the liberal state, in 1853 the Compagnia's assets and management of welfare and lending activities were entrusted to a publicly appointed council, which gradually became a public law bank, the Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino.
- 3) In 1992, following the privatization of the banking sector in Italy, the Institute became a non-profit foundation under the historical name Compagnia di San Paolo, while the banking activities were entrusted to a new joint-stock company, the Sanpaolo bank, then Sanpaolo Imi, that merged with Intesa in 2007. Today the Historical Archives contain the archival collections of the old Compagnia di San Paolo and Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino from 1563 to 1991.

D.A.C. – D.igital A.rchives and C.ollections is a project set up by Fondazione 1563 to make historical archives accessible online. (see the video *L'archivio storico e il progetto D.igital A.rchives and C.ollections* <http://fondazione1563.it>) All the inventories and catalogues relating to the Fondazione's archival heritage are now collected under one roof and are managed through an open-source software called CollectiveAccess that ensures rational file management, that helps to overcome problems related to the system's obsolescence and, last but not least, that makes part of the archival heritage easily searchable. <http://archivistorico.fondazione1563.it/>

In November 2015 the virtual consultation room opened on the web and the archives of the old Compagnia di San Paolo (1563-1853), completely digitised – 4,500 documents, 200,000 pictures – went online. In 2016 there will be the addition of the archives of Istituto di San Paolo (1853-1950), Gestioni EGELI (confiscation of Jewish and enemies' properties during the Second World War, managed by the San Paolo bank), and the General Secretariat of the San Paolo bank (1950-1991).

Since January 2016, also the personal professional archives of the architects Bartolomeo and Giuseppe Gallo are available on line.

The project took advantage of activities that had been implemented in previous years. The oldest archival collection is an interesting case in point. It is an ancient archival fund that was arranged in 1963. In the

1990s it was entirely microfilmed to ensure conservation. Fifteen years later it was decided to digitize those microfilms – and this is why the images are all in black and white – and to make them available on a pilot intranet. From the archivist point of view, it is interesting to examine the passage from the traditional inventory published in 1963 to the electronic inventory and then to the web. The traditional inventory opened with a long historical and archival introduction that was followed by a description of the dossiers and the volumes organized into series and subseries. The inventory was transformed into a tree structure and the digitized documents were connected to the relevant archival descriptions. Descriptions were drawn up for each level (institution, series, subseries, etc.), for content and creators, according to ISAD and ISAAR standards. On website <http://archivistorico.fondazione1563.it/collections/object/detail/51/> you can see on the left the diagram tree; on the right the description of the archival fund: content, date range, document type, archival tradition, institutional history, extent, finding aids, bibliography. <http://archivistorico.fondazione1563.it/collections/object/detail/15475/> In the case of a dossier: title, date, number, type, extent.

Then structure is divided into two parts: Documents of the Compagnia di San Paolo; Documents of families – also the Ducal House of Savoy, which includes the oldest papers.

<http://archivistorico.fondazione1563.it/collections/object/detail/55/>;

<http://archivistorico.fondazione1563.it/collections/object/detail/56/>

Let's now take a look at the documents. Inventories can be accessed freely, but digitized documents require the user's registration. This allows us to monitor who is accessing the archives to consult which documents.

Minutes and resolutions of the meetings form a complete series from 1579 to 1853 and then from 1853 to 1991. This is the most consulted series for research on the history of the city of Turin and of the Piedmont region from an economic and social point of view. This are the first minutes. <http://archivistorico.fondazione1563.it/collections/object/detail/15951/> (to see the document please [click on the image and register](#))

Another important series concerns accounting books, that have been available since 1701. These are treasurers' statements from 1701.

<http://archivistorico.fondazione1563.it/collections/object/detail/15994/>

Let's launch a query. Since we are in Vienna let's type in the word "emperor". This is a patent issued by Rudolph II of Habsburg (8/11/1589). The emperor legitimated Claudio Marini, who became ambassador of Luis III, King of France at Savoy court in Turin. The Marini family archive arrived to Compagnia di San Paolo in XVIII century with a bequest. <http://archivistorico.fondazione1563.it/collections/object/detail/24659/>

For the more recent and very extensive archives (II, Istituto di San Paolo di Torino 1853-1950; Segreteria Generale 1950-1991) we chose to digitize only the main and most frequently consulted series, such as articles of association and minutes of decision-making bodies and photographs. So far we have digitized around 150,000 pages. Since the reproduction was made from the originals, they are in color. In the past years, to facilitate research of the minutes, all the meetings and all the decisions on the agenda from 1853 to 1991 were filed and recorded. Today we have retrieved this database and connected decisions to the corresponding pages of the minutes.