

Association ATELIER GENEALOGIQUE, Marseille, January 14, 2020
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A. Where family history becomes part of History

In June 2019, we published a bilingual Italian-French version of the book "Quando i clandestini eravamo noi / Quand c'était nous les clandestins". This is a historical and statistical account of *coratini* emigration from 1902 to 1959, originally published in 2011 by the Santarella School in Corato (Puglia, Italy), under the direction of the historian Pasquale Tandoi.

The translation was done in the course of a 4-year search for the biological parents of a friend, Francine. This research led us to build a family tree of more than 16,000 people, 90% of whom were born in Corato. The tree is freely visible here :

https://gw.geneanet.org/anchorpoints_w

or here :

<https://www.myheritage.fr/pedigree-tree-449620341-4000001/francine-canepa?treeId=4>

We believe that this genealogical work - which led to the constitution of a database of more than 14,000 photos of referenced civil records - can be useful to *coratini* everywhere : in Corato itself or in any country where *coratini* emigrated, such as France and the United States.

On September 28, 2019, a public meeting was held at the Sporting Club in Corato for the presentation of the book by Pasquale Tandoi. This also allowed us to present a project that we called 'A tale of two twinned cities: Corato and Grenoble ' (with a respectful nod in the direction of Charles Dickens' novel !). For those of you who read Italian, the following articles published by the magazine LO STRADONE give an account of the evening at Corato, as well as a summary of the project,:

<http://www.lostradone.it/quando-i-clandestini-eravamo-noi/>

<http://www.lostradone.it/corato-la-microstoria-si-fa-grande-storia/>

The goal of the project, as announced on the evening of September 28, 2019 in Corato, is to **revive the twinning arrangement between Grenoble and Corato through genealogy and the in-depth history of emigration from Corato**. To achieve this goal, we formulate the following objectives:

1. To put online a searchable version of our Corato civil records database (see above)

We think it can save you hours of research if you find part of your family in the tree we have built. In January 2020, we have a meeting at the Isère Departmental Archives to suggest that they put our database online.

2. To have the Corato Church archives put online.

In October 2019, we managed to have sent to the person in charge of these archives, Don Giuseppe Lobascio, a copy of the baptism and marriage records which had been digitized by Pierre Marzocca in 2008, but which had remained untraceable in Corato for 11 years. According to our information, the Church has its own digitization project: with the support of the COM.IT.ES of Lyon and that of the Association des Coratins de Grenoble, we want to convince the Curia of Trani to authorize putting these archives online.

3. To initiate a university project to conduct an in-depth history of emigration from Corato.

Our conviction is that it is time, almost 100 years after the start of emigration of *coratini* to France, to evaluate the socio-economic impact of this emigration on the development of the Department of Isère, in particular. The descendants of the *coratini* emigrants to this area can no doubt be numbered today in their tens of thousands. The initial contacts we have had with academics have convinced us that it would be worthwhile to conduct historical research based on the experience of families.

We envisage that this research could be done within the framework of a collaboration between the universities of Bari, Grenoble and hopefully Oxford, which has an important Migrations Program (the city of Oxford being also twinned with Grenoble). Ultimately, this historical work may be extended to other countries where *coratini* have settled. Contacts have been made and we believe that this program can start as early as 2020.

4. To ensure relevant distribution of the Italian/French bilingual book, "Quand c'était nous les clandestins" (When we were the illegal immigrants).

As a priority, we hope that this book will reach the descendants of *coratini* emigrants, in particular those who are searching for their origins through genealogy and / or who are willing to testify in the context of the planned historical work. The 'Association des Coratins de Grenoble' sent its members a leaflet announcing that they could obtain a free copy. We will make the same proposal to genealogists who have in their tree people born in Corato (on Geneanet.org, there are about a thousand such genealogists).

5. To increase membership of the Atelier Généalogique association

We are in a phase of collecting and putting online genealogical and historical resources. We have opted to take a participatory approach to make genealogical sources more accessible to people seeking to know their origins; and, at the same time, to collect testimonies on the family experience of emigration. **We will need volunteers to participate in the digitization of certain archives, both in France, and in Corato.** We hope to find them among the members of the Atelier Généalogique (Genealogical Workshop).

B. The linguistic dimension of the search for *coratini* origins

a) 'Italia in Ardèche' immersion week-ends

We believe that the ability to communicate in Italian is an asset for researching *coratini* origins. Therefore, we are seeking to develop - in collaboration with several language schools within a radius of 230kms - weekend immersions at the Domaine du Trouillet in Ardèche (near Alboussière, 2 hours' drive from Grenoble).

See: https://www.facebook.com/italiainardechetrouillet/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

And

http://www.letrouillet.com/event/week-end-plongeon-dans-la-langue-et-culture-italiennes/?fbclid=IwAR2-q5uvk0gX4EzwnuWmRG3wIB01Ibpptj_oppjI5cmP7NQcQ7Qg-9i8g7E

During these immersions, throughout the weekend, the participants agree to speak only Italian, including to each other. This approach is adopted as if it were a game, to stimulate thinking in Italian, and to commit oneself to communicating in this language (with the help of a teacher, of course). The owner of the Domaine, Roberta Petrini, as well as the cook Simona, and the manager Nicole, all Italian, turn this place in the beautiful Ardèche countryside into a real Italian microcosm, a kind of *agriturismo* that has become a cultural centre.

These residential immersions from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon are open to anyone determined to speak Italian, having already a grammatical base in the language. A first immersion week-end took place in March 2019, with success.

b) Bearing witness in Italian on one's family history

Starting in May 2020, we intend to organize at the Domaine du Trouillet a module specially designed as a preparation for the search of one's origins in Corato itself. During the weekend, with the help of Silvia, an Italian teacher, participants will be able to tell the story in Italian of their family's experience of emigration, and compare it with that of the other participants. The Atelier Généalogique association will contribute its experience of doing research on site in Corato, and of genetic genealogy.

(It is also planned to organize a day-trip from Grenoble, with a three-hour session in French on a Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by lunch, for people wishing to meet other French-speaking genealogists interested in researching their *coratini* origins).

c) Organizing language courses in Corato

In the spirit of its participative approach to the work of the historian, our project offers language stays of 2 or 3 weeks in Corato including 2 or 3 hours of Italian lessons per day and possibly 2 hours per day of volunteer work for the digitization of archives (in particular of passport applications kept in the municipality's archives).

In short, these on-site courses aim to be both useful and pleasurable, with AirBnB accommodation (preferably a room in a local inhabitant's home).

We are working to set up these courses in partnership with the Hyperion Language School (director: Max Quatela) in Corato, starting in the summer of 2020.

Planned timetable

A project has its own dynamic and evolves according to constraints and opportunities, the will of direct and indirect participants, and even luck, as much as planning. However, here is a short chronological summary:

December 2019 / January / February 2020 : 'anchorpoints' genealogical database to be put online ; meeting at the Isère Departmental Archives in Grenoble ; meeting with academics (Aix-en-Provence, Grenoble, Oxford) ; prospection among genealogists (France, USA)

March / April 2020: start of the 'Italia in Ardèche' week-end immersions in 2020; mission to Corato (digitization and putting online of archives; meeting at the University of Bari)

May 2020: genealogical module at the Domaine du Trouillet

June / July 2020: start of language stays in Corato ; digitization of archives.

2020 budget

- book distribution (150 copies)	750€
- 2 digitizers.....	840€
- 2 missions to Corato.....	1 000€
- 2 missions to Grenoble.....	600€
- 1 mission to Oxford.....	100€
	3290 €

Funding sources

American genealogists	1,850 US\$
French companies, Atelier Généalogique membership fees	1.650€