

Project : 'A tale of two twinned cities: Corato and Grenoble '

**Webinar organized by the association Atelier Généalogique on
September 24, 2021:**

“Where do we go from here ?”

"How can descendants of emigrants contribute to the documentation of emigration history, by collaborating in migration studies ?"

(Numbers below correspond to the timing of the webinar recording)

Communication by **Jean-Philippe di Gennaro**, vice-president of the Lyon section of the Committee of Italians Abroad (COM.IT.ES),

01.14.59 In answer to a question about the impact of Coratino culture in the city of Grenoble

Good evening to all. First of all I would like to thank you all very much for your presence, speakers and the audience present, as well as those who have made suggestions, comments and questions about this debate.

To answer the question on Grenoble if I had to answer YES or NO and of course as far as I am concerned I would say NO : I don't know of any studies to this effect. But I wanted to intervene both to thank you, as I said, but also to tell you that despite this firm NO...there is so much to say and I say this as a witness born and raised in Grenoble and of Coratino origin, of course.

To this effect I thank my president of the Com.It.Es for having given me the charge of this mission in Corato to which we will give long space on my return to the Council of Italians Abroad.

So I would say that in Grenoble there is a Coratino culture that lives on on a daily basis and is a reality that concerns not only all of us Coratini born or of Coratino origin, descendants, but I would say beyond also.... James said before - but others more specialized in the matter have also said so - that Grenoble was built by Coratini. This is a reality which means that through this process there is a whole culture, of cuisine, of traditions, made both by the workers originally from Corato and/or from Grenoble, with their wives, children, etc..

Grenoble lives in the Coratino culture, this is a reality. If we go to restaurants, there are many Coratino specialties in Italian restaurants because few restaurants call themselves Coratino restaurants. But half of them still serve Coratino specialties, this is an example. Through this there is a whole process of culture immersed in the mentality of the host city and then by their own Grenoblois residents, and by the French in general. This is an example concerning cuisine and there are others regarding traditions, or more folkloric things and other aspects.

I don't want to take up any more of your time, so I just wanted to tell you that this reality exists and to mention another example, many French people also apply

Coratino words in dialect to evoke different things: that is, to speak of Coratino *orecchiette* made with '*cima di rapa*' (turnip tops), they say we want '*straccenotte*', because in restaurants they call them '*strachenotte*' (pronounced in Coratine but written in French... with CH). ... and then I'm sorry I did not make a list of all this vocabulary ; but many words are mixed between Italian and French, sorry for the slip... I would say between Coratino and French.

But having said that, and to talk about something else, it is to be regretted that a large diaspora of our descendants from Corato and the Italians of France do not speak their language of origin, and this is something that we, at the COM.IT.ES, we have noticed for a long time ; and it is also for this reason that this event, provoked and launched by James long ago (since before the COVID crisis) relaunches us, the Italian collectivity abroad and in particular in Grenoble, to talk about the Coratini, to relaunch in every way our Italianness through the following themes, both cultural and research on the memory of our immigration, not to mention our famous twinning arrangement, inaugurated almost twenty years ago between Grenoble and Corato. This is a real and proper opportunity not to be missed by all of us present this evening for the continuation of this beautiful and noble project to which I am really both moved and very proud as a Corato in Grenoble but also simply as an elected member of the entire Italian collectivity abroad, with regard to our constituency between Lyon and Grenoble of course. Thank you all.