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

Newsletter n°1 (January 2022)

As president of the Atelier Généalogique, I am pleased to present this first issue of the newsletter of our project, which is Coratino... and French, and Italian, and American, and *tutti quanti*. Originating in a specific research to find the biological parents of my late friend, Francine - a research not yet completed - what has become a 'project' is now followed by a scientific steering committee of university historians! You can find an (illustrated) summary of the project between 2017 and 2021 here : <https://www.emigrazione-corato.org/blog/divers/recapitulatif-de-nos-actions-de-2017-a-2021.html>

1. The establishment of a scientific monitoring committee under the chairmanship of the historian, Professor Biagio Salvemini

The scientific monitoring committee is a proposal by the historian Stéphane Mourlane (Aix-Marseille-Université) and follows the webinar we organised on 24 September 2021, in which he was the main speaker: <https://www.emigrazione-corato.org/pages/article-html/webinar-of-september-24-2021.html>

We are pleased to announce that Professor Biagio Salvemini, full professor of history at the Aldo Moro University of Bari, has agreed to be the president. In addition to Stéphane Mourlane, a specialist in Italian migration to France, other academics have agreed to monitor our project: Anne-Marie Granet-Abisset from the University of Grenoble and Philippe Hanus from the University of Valence. Some others may also join the committee.

Stéphane Mourlane describes the purpose of a scientific steering committee as follows: *"an advisory body that guarantees the scientific integrity of a project or programme. It participates in the definition of orientations by making suggestions or validations that guarantee the inclusion of the various productions in a historiographical reference framework. The scientific committee may also be asked to produce or validate editorial content.*

Let us recall that the topic of our webinar of September 24 was *"How can descendants of emigrants contribute to the documentation of the history of emigration, by collaborating in migration studies?"*

2 History based on memory: the development of migration testimonies

The primary objective of our project remains the liberalisation of access to authentic documentary resources required for satisfactory genealogical research. This is evidenced by the file we sent to the Archbishop of Trani in August 2021 to request the digitisation and the putting online of the parish archives of Corato; as well as the similar request made to the Mayor regarding the passport applications of emigration candidates. At the same time, since this liberalisation of resources would facilitate the discovery and elaboration of family history, it should also stimulate the writing of the history of Coratino migration based on 'memory'. This premise is the very foundation of our project.

With the creation of a scientific monitoring committee composed of historians, the contribution of the descendants of emigrants to the writing of the history of Coratino migration will logically have to be adapted to what the historians wish to receive from our project as testimonies, and how they can use them.

Indeed, we have begun to encourage and facilitate the expression of testimonies written or reported by Coratini migrants or their descendants. One example is the story "To my children and grandchildren", written by Dominique d'Introno with Rosalba Palermiti. This testimony recounts his crossing of the Alps at the age of 6 as an "illegal immigrant" in 1946; it also reviews the diversity of agricultural jobs in Puglia in the lifetime of his father (see the text in three languages: <https://www.emigrazione-corato.org/medias/files/dominique-d-introno-english.pdf>)

A meeting is planned with the historian Philippe Hanus about this testimony. Philippe is working on an exhibition around the animated film by director A. Ughetto "Dogs and Italians forbidden". (saga of a Piedmontese family through the Alps 1860-1960). He proposes to use some extracts from Dominique's testimony, which could also be published *in extenso* in the blog he manages at the Ethnopole 'Migrations, Frontiers, Memories'.

It is also logical that the development of a working relationship with the Archives Départementales de l'Isère (AD38) should be one of the essential orientations of our project, in order to make some of the resources found there more accessible. During our meeting with the director, Madame Viallet, on 14 December 2021, she kept us for an hour and a half in her office. She expressed interest in Stéphane Mourlane's proposal to borrow the exhibition 'Ciao Italia', a production for which he was the scientific curator on behalf of the Musée National de l'Immigration (as a member of its Steering Committee). We have sent Mrs Viallet detailed information about the exhibition so that she can judge whether it would fit in the space dedicated to exhibitions at AD38, as well as photos of each panel. If she accepts this proposal, Stéphane Mourlane also suggested that we provide an extra panel on Coratino migration. For this new panel, the presentation of a family of Coratino origin that has become both Grenoble-based and transnational is a proposal to be validated by our scientific monitoring committee: this would undoubtedly enhance the genealogical contribution of our project to the writing of the history of Coratino migration.

We have also received other testimonies, from France, or above all, from the United States, such as a text by Leslie Salvagione Edwards on the Caffè Puglie, in Yonkers, New York, which emphasizes the pride of Coratini emigrants in their culture: <https://www.emigrazione-corato.org/blog/temoignages/yonkers-new-york-the-caffe-puglie-leslie-salvagione-edwards.html>

3 Developing information about our project

This is also an important focus of the third phase. In addition to the newsletter, in January 2022 we launched our Emigrazione - Corato page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/353812753216819>

This Facebook page will essentially act as a forum and will direct visitors to writings on our website: www.emigrazione-corato.org... and also facilitate contact between people.

The Facebook page will, in particular, enable us to answer genealogical questions and help you, as family genealogists, to make the best use of the family tree we have created, the *albero genealogico coratino*. The database that accompanies this tree provides important tools for anyone doing research on Corato - whether purely genealogical, or hopefully historical as well. See here for instructions on how to use these tools:

<https://www.emigrazione-corato.org/pages/article-html/how-to-use-the-albero-genealogico-coratino-and-the-database.html>

Here is an example (in French only), concerning Coratini surnames:

<https://www.emigrazione-corato.org/pages/arbre-genealogique-et-bases-de-donnees/>

Finally, we found on the Tuttogenealogia.it site

(<https://www.tuttogenealogia.it/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=9113&hilit=https%3A%2F%2Funivers-alviewer.io%2F&sid=53bbb9c76cf800508f43eee0b8a7a8ad&start=885>)

a procedure for **saving records in high definition on the new Antenati site**. We have made a tutorial that demonstrates the procedure step by step : <https://www.emigrazione-corato.org/pages/arbre-genealogique-et-bases-de-donnees/myheritage-ancestry-geneanet.html>

Do you know of a simpler method? With a little practice, this one is acceptable...until such time as Antenati comes up with a procedure as simple as the one on its former site!

The Facebook page is managed by a new member of our association, Thomas di Frenza.

4. Search in the Corato cemetery

Are you looking for a photo of the grave of one of your ancestors who died in Corato?
Are you going to Corato to visit the grave of one of your ancestors?

Through us, you can obtain a photo of your ancestor's grave, as well as a photo and the coordinates of its location.

Make a request as described here:

<https://www.emigrazione-corato.org/pages/article-html/c-o-r-a-t-o-c-e-m-e-t-e-r-y.html>

5. Wanted !

In the context of our search for testimonies of migration, but also simply to lend a hand, we are looking for people, especially in the Grenoble area, but not only, who are willing to contribute some of their time to the activities of the Atelier Généalogique project:

- who could do some digitisation and/or research in the Archives?
- if you are in Corato, would you be willing to go to the Stato Civile or the Anagrafe for us, to photograph records?
- who can tell us about the experience of an immigrant member of your family who was an employee of a company, especially in Grenoble?
- who is part of a family whose members have emigrated to different countries?

If you wish to join our association, you can do so here: <https://www.emigrazione-corato.org/contact/formu.html>

Subscribe to our newsletter here : [Newsletter](#)

Finally, if you have any questions, comments or proposals, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We wish you a Happy New Year 2022!

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