

Atelier Généalogique,
18 B rue Jules Moulet,
13006 MARSEILLE
ateliergenealogique@gmail.com
Tel: +33 (0) 689434343
James Smith: President
Marina Labartino: journalist, project partner in Corato

SIREN : 923 194 252
SIRET: 923 194 252 00014

Attached appendix : a summary of our project's progress since 2016

2023/24 programme of the project 'A tale of two twinned cities: Corato and Grenoble': promoting the writing of emigration history from Corato, Puglia

1. Our project was formally created in 2019 to help descendants of *Coratini* immigrants discover their origins through genetic genealogy.

Genetic genealogy, as a science, has developed mainly in the United States. In fact, its development has been meteoric in recent years¹. Of the hundred or so Coratini family trees we helped to build, the vast majority concerned American owners, descendants of Coratini emigrants, who had taken a DNA test. This has enabled us to create a genealogical database going back to the 18th century - sometimes even further - which also benefits French descendants of Coratini emigrants. On the French Geneanet site, out of 29,207 mentions of 'Corato', 14,992 are by *anchorpoints*, our Geneanet acronym.

In summary, Atelier Généalogique has been researching Coratino genealogy for six years and has built a family tree of over 25,000 interconnected people, around 85% of whom are from Corato. We are currently cooperating with Wikitree, a U.S.-based genealogical mutual-help organization whose activity and methodology must surely contribute to genetic genealogy being recognized as a science. All content on the Wikitree site is free, rigorously checked for authenticity and compliant with the European GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). In short, Wikitree is a serious response to Americans' well-known need to find their roots.

In the course of our research, we came across the problems posed to this research by endogamy. We found that Corato, in the mid-19th century, was 97% endogamous, so it was often very difficult to distinguish between the myriad of cousins and namesakes. At Wikitree, we helped develop an application - called 'X-friends' - that can help solve this problem: it identifies the descendants of people who are potential carriers of the same X chromosomes as the 'source person', who will not necessarily have taken a DNA test².

¹ <https://www.dataminingdna.com/who-has-the-largest-dna-database/>

(article on the evolution of genetic genealogy in recent years: Ancestry's customer base has grown from 6 million in January 2018 to 22 million in September 2022). In 2023, Wikitree announced that it had reached one million registered participants and that its tree contained over 28 million interconnected people.

² <https://www.wikitree.com/g2g/1523948/introducing-the-x-friends-app>
[https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Corato_One_Place_Study : further experimentation with the Wikitree X-friends app](https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Corato_One_Place_Study:_further_experimentation_with_the_Wikitree_X-friends_app)

At Wikitree, we've set up a "*Corato One Place Study*"³ that can keep us focused on our main objective - to help descendants of emigrants and immigrants discover their origins, including through genetic genealogy - while addressing the phenomenon of migration, which has affected a large majority of Coratini families. With this American partner, we will continue to take a multilingual and international approach to the subject of Coratino emigration, and to work towards making resources available to genealogists and historians. We also hope to be able to identify transnational families.

2. The second aspect of our project concerns the discovery that the immigration of people from Corato has been virtually undocumented in France.

The history of this migration therefore remains to be written. In June 2019, we had published a bilingual version of our French translation of local historian Pasquale Tandoi's little book '*Quand c'était nous les clandestins*'⁴. Since 2022, we have been fortunate to have a scientific monitoring committee, made up of historians, some of whom are among the best specialists in migration in France and Italy (see composition in appendix).

According to Pasquale Tandoi, at least 7,450 Coratini emigrated to France (not counting illegal immigrants⁵), between 1920 (approx.) and 1959. Most of them settled in the Grenoble area, and are said to have contributed greatly to the social, economic and cultural development of this major French city.

According to current historiography, history can be written on the basis of "memory", using qualifying criteria, as well as quantitative elements. It would therefore be important for the descendants of these immigrants to make their own contribution to the history of how their families were affected by migration. This presupposes that the descendants of emigrants can build their own family history.

Our conviction is that if people from all walks of life collaborate with university researchers, the result can be social benefits, in terms of an accurate understanding of a social reality, sometimes leading to the production of law. In this participatory approach to writing history, we are keen to ensure that the sources of testimonies are fully recognized and valued.

The city of Grenoble has assured us of its support in this undertaking, which could help to boost its twinning with Corato, officially inaugurated in 1982.

With our scientific monitoring committee, we have planned a series of events over the next 18 months, including the organization of a Study Day, the presentation of an exhibition produced by the Musée National de l'Histoire de l'Immigration (MNHI), entitled "Ciao Italia", and a public meeting organized in collaboration with the Musée Dauphinois. We requested the MNHI to extend the 'Ciao Italia' exhibition for the next 5 years : the MNHI agreed to do so, and has authorized us to add 3 new panels on Coratini emigration. We plan to present the

³ https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Corato%2C_Puglia_One_Place_Study

⁴ Originally published in 2011 under the title '*Quando i clandestini eravamo noi: l'emigrazione dei Coratini nel mondo 1902 - 1959*'. Italian/French version in 2019 (available on request). See : <https://www.emigrazione-corato.org/medias/files/summaries-submitted-for-publication-on-the-compas-blog.pdf> (page 5). Translated into English in 2022 by Gina Tarantini, Pennsylvania : '*When we were the illegal immigrants*'.

⁵ Figures taken from the above-mentioned publication.

exhibition in French in Grenoble and in Italian in Corato (and perhaps in other places in Puglia). The aim of the exhibition is to show how Italian immigrants "made France".

A school cooperation project on migration from Corato between schools in Corato and in Grenoble is also being sought. Its realization will undoubtedly depend on the commitment of teachers to such an undertaking, to which our project can make a definite contribution in genealogical terms. This school cooperation could be a factor in accessing certain essential primary resources, and be monitored at university level.

3. The third aspect of our project is that, more than 100 years after the start of emigration from Corato to foreign places, writing the history of this emigration could contribute scientific elements to the debate on worldwide migration.

At the suggestion of Guido Bonsaver, Professor of Italian Cultural History at Pembroke College, Oxford, we sent Professor Biagio Salvemini of the University of Bari, the chairman of our scientific monitoring committee, an appeal for the creation of an international database on migration from Puglia. The Atelier Généalogique was then invited to present this project at a conference organized by CRIAT in Bari⁶. On March 17, 2023, the international database was created by CRIAT.

Our wish is that the Study Day planned for 2024 - which is the initiative of our scientific monitoring committee - should be organized as part of a cooperation between CRIAT and the University of Grenoble. We are counting on the contribution of both the Musée Dauphinois archives and the 'Grenoble Ville Ouverte' department of the City of Grenoble to make it happen.

This Study Day will focus on the emigration of the Coratini, while examining how it was significant in the context of the global migration phenomenon.

The program for the Study Day will be drawn up in the coming months. We want to examine how Coratino migration impacted on both Grenoble and Corato - in the construction industry, for example, to which a significant proportion of the Coratino workforce belonged. The participation of Coratini immigrants in the French Resistance during the Second World War could also be one of the subjects examined, as could the relevance of Coratino migration to the construction of Europe.

Finally, the Study Day will provide an opportunity to prepare and validate the creation of 3 new panels for the 'Ciao Italia' exhibition mentioned above.

4. The fourth aspect of our project, and by no means the least - and perhaps what could be the key role of the international database at CRIAT - concerns access to primary resources and the need for the research and writing of history to comply with European and Italian privacy laws.

On March 15, 2023, a meeting was held at the Corato town hall, attended by town councillors Concetta Bucci and Antonella Varesano and Marina Sforza representing the municipality of

⁶ The conference "Polycentric settlements. Transformations, scenarios and perspectives", organized in Bari on March 17 and 18 by CRIAT (Centro di Ricerca Interuniversitario per l'Analisi del Territorio), a coalition of 4 Pugliese universities.

Corato, James Smith, president of the Atelier Généalogique association and Marina Labartino, the association's partner in Corato, and Professor Biagio Salvemini representing CRIAT and also in his capacity as chairman of the Atelier Généalogique's scientific monitoring committee. At the meeting, town councillor Concetta Bucci proposed that cooperation between CRIAT and the Corato town council be formalized in a legal-institutional manner - by the signing of an agreement -, capable of managing the actions to be carried out so that the writing of the history of Coratino migration can take place in complete independence.

A key element of this agreement will undoubtedly concern privacy. Not only will our project have to comply with European and Italian privacy laws, it will also have to become an 'expert' in this field, and be recognized as such. This means ensuring that the interpretation of these relatively new laws does not unduly restrict access to the primary sources needed to write the history of migration. In concrete terms, this means that descendants of emigrants must be able to access data from the *Stato Civile italiano* to build up their family history; just as historians involved in writing the history of migration must have access to administrative archives concerning emigration - such as the AIRE (*Anagrafe Italiani Residenti all'Estero*) - including those that concern the twinning between Corato and Grenoble.

What do you want to digitize?

This is undoubtedly the question the project will have to ask genealogists, descendants of emigrants and historians alike.

Access to primary resources - and to archives in general - is obviously the *sine qua non* for writing the history of Coratino migration. Unfortunately, these resources are often poorly maintained in existing archives. The digitization of archives is the goal to be achieved, everywhere, based on the same participatory principle as the contribution of testimonies about migration by families and individuals: *volunteerism*. Digitization is not a complicated technical task. It can be done efficiently by volunteers. The obstacle usually put forward as a reason for not digitizing, namely lack of funds, must be overcome.

An immediate objective is the digitization of 4 registers held by the Corato municipal archives, which contain passport applications from would-be emigrants between 1920 and 1960. The digitization was requested by the Lyon section of COM.IT.ES (Comitato degli Italiani all'Estero), with the support of the Italian Consul in Lyon. The international emigration database created at CRIAT - which could cover not only Corato, but the rest of Puglia - could be the decisive factor in the Municipality of Corato acceding to this request, ensuring that the digitization is carried out under its responsibility.

Appendix: progress since 2016 of the project 'A Tale of Two Twinned Cities: Corato and Grenoble

1. Genealogical production

- The *albero genealogico coratino* family tree (25,000 people) and the Atelier Généalogique website (+20,000 photos of records collected since 2016 and stored on Google Drive, as well as various writings collected on the www.emigrazione-corato.org website);
- The inventory of naturalization files of Coratini immigrants in France (work in progress by the Atelier Généalogique based on the work of Maurice Loisel⁷): the files up to 1940 are kept at the Archives départementales de l'Isère (AD38);
- The AD38 has assured us that a link to the digitized inventory of series W2973 (expired residence permits) can be established on our website.

We also aim to provide additional documentation, either by making it available on our website, or by facilitating access to it. These include primary resources, theses and other existing studies:

- Passport applications from Coratini prospective immigrants between 1920 and 1960 (held in the Corato municipal archives: to be digitized)
- Data from the Ellis Island Foundation in New York on Coratino immigration to the United States;
- Archives of industries and businesses that employed Coratini immigrants in Grenoble.

2. Testimonies of migration

- In August 2020, following the COVID lockdown and with the support of the Lyon branch of COM.IT.ES (Comitato degli Italiani all'Estero), the Atelier Généalogique sent a 70-page dossier to the Archbishop of Trani to ask that the Church digitize and put online the Corato parish archives. This dossier received no acknowledgement by the Diocese of Trani, but it facilitated the organization in September 2021 of a webinar entitled '*How can descendants of emigrants contribute to the documentation of the history of emigration, within the framework of migration studies?*', with the participation of several French and Italian historians.

- In May 2022, the Atelier Généalogique presented 6 abstracts to the Oxford University Migrations Program, illustrating various aspects of what the project has achieved, in terms of testimonies obtained and other contributions relevant to migration from Corato. The English language version can be read here : : <https://www.emigrazione-corato.org/medias/files/summaries-submitted-for-publication-on-the-compas-blog.pdf>

Titles of summaries presented to the Oxford University Migrations Programme in May 2022 :

- *When we were the illegal immigrants*, by Pasquale Tandoi : translation and publication in an Italian/French edition in June 2019 ; translation in English in 2022 by Gina Tarantini, of Pennsylvania.

⁷ Alphabetical list of people who have acquired or lost French nationality by decree, Ministry of Public Health and Population, Department of Settlements and Naturalizations, Maurice LOISEL, Paris, 1948 (years 1900 to 1920) to 1983 (years 1970 to 1979).

- Thesis : *Studies on 'change' in the analysis of acculturation processes*, by Marina Labartino, Corato (2012)

- *For my children and grandchildren* by Dominique d'Introno (with Rosalba Palermi), 2021: family history of an enterprising emigrant who emigrated to Grenoble in the immediate post-war period (1946).

- *Being Coratino in Grenoble today: visible, unconscious or claimed identities*, by Anastasia Chauchard and Elliott Bouanchaud, 2020

- *Yonkers, New York: the Caffè Puglie*, b Leslie (Salvagione) Edwards, 2021.

- *An estimate of the level of endogamy in Corato* by James Smith, Atelier Généalogique, 2021.

3. Members of our Scientific Monitoring Committee

- Professor Biagio Salvemini: full professor of modern history at the University Aldo Moro of Bari (chairman)

- Leonardo Casalino, professor of modern and contemporary Italian civilisation, Laboratoire Universitaire Histoire Cultures Italie Europe (LUHCIE) of the University of Grenoble.

- Anne-Marie Granet-Abisset, professor of contemporary history at the University of Grenoble Alpes and delegated director of UMR5190 of LARHRA (Rhône-Alpes historical research laboratory)

- Stéphane Murlane, lecturer in contemporary history, Aix Marseille University

- Matteo Sanfilippo, Professor of Modern History, University of Viterbo, coordinator of the journals "Studi Emigrazione" and "Archivio storico dell'emigrazione italiana"

- Professor Eric Vial, Professor of Contemporary History, University of Cergy-Paris

- Catherine Virlovet, professor emeritus, University of Aix Marseille, former director (2011-2019) of the Ecole Française de Rome

Marseille, April 27, 2023

James Smith, Atelier Généalogique, Marseille.

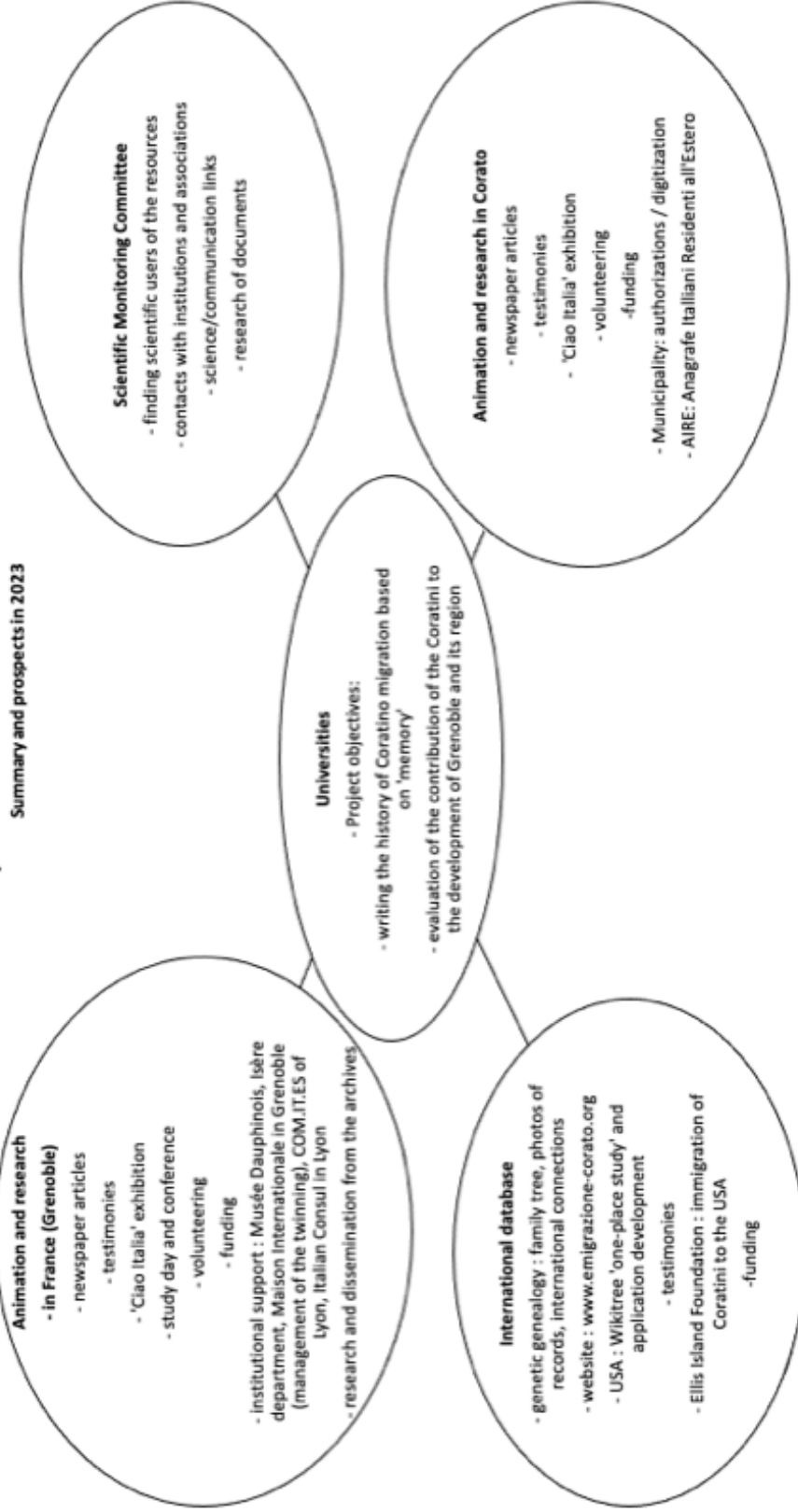
Tel: +33 (0) 689434343

ateliergenealogique@gmail.com

www.emigrazione-corato.org

ATELIER GENEALOGIQUE Association			
2023/2024 Budget Beginning : 01/01/2023 - End : 30/06/2024			
EXPENSES		PRODUCTS	
Description	Amount €	Description	Amount €
<i>Operating costs</i>			
Bank charges	153,00	Bank balance as at 6/12/22	85,23
Postage	50,00		
photocopies, printing	50,00		
Office supplies	200,00	Lyon COM.IT.ES	200,00
URL domain	150,00	30 membership fees	600,00
Google Drive subscription	20,00	gifts	97,77
Ancestry subscription	10,00		
IT support	500,00		
missions to Grenoble	300,00		
Digitization mission to Corato	600,00	Corato municipality	600,00
Unforeseen costs	1 500,00		
Sub-total	3 533,00	Own funds	2950,00
<i>Investments</i>			
Ciao Italia exhibition (see detail)*	8 400,00	Grenoble Ville Ouverte	1000,00
		Casillo Foundation, Corato	2000,00
Study Day (see detail)**	3 000,00		
Public meeting	1 000,00	Isère Department	5000,00
sub-total	12 400,00	Rocco Forte Hotels	3400,00
TOTAL	15 933,00	TOTAL	15933,00

* Ciao Italia exhibition (both Franch and Italian versions)	
2 X 2 700 (new printing of 16 existing panels:roll-up printing with aluminium base, on 240g tarpaulins - black back)	5400
2 X 3 X 200 : printing of 3 new panels for both versions	1200
2 X 3 X 300 : graphics for 3 new panels	1800
Total (incl. tax)	8400
**Study Day in Grenoble (with travel for 10 persons)	
10 X 140 : tickets	1400
10X 100 : hotel	1000
2 meals/person	600
Total (inc. tax)	3000





Banca dati internazionale sull'emigrazione da Puglia, Bari, 17 marzo 2023

(dalla sinistra)

Antonio Bonatesta, Univ. di Bari
Angela Barbanente, Politecnico di Bari
Antonella Varesano, Assessore urbanistica, Corato
James Smith, Atelier Généalogique, Marseille
Francesco Romano, Univ. di Salento
Biagio Salvemini, Univ. di Bari