

BERNARDINO BARBADORO

**PISTOIA'S HISTORY
THROUGH ITS ARCHIVES**

INAUGURATION SPEECH TO CELEBRATE
NEW PISTOIA STATE ARCHIVE SITE
JUNE THE 26TH IN 1955

English version edited by

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PISTOIA STATE ARCHIVE SOLEMN INAUGURATION

In June 26th 1955 went on the inauguration ceremony of the restored site of Pistoia State Archive, in ex Leopoldine schools palace in Scuole Normali square.

Attended the ceremony:

Senator Lawyer Guido Bisori

State Undersecretary for Interior Ministry, on behalf of Government

Prefect Doctor Domenico Del Cortivo

Monsignor Guido Baldini, on behalf of Bishop

Deputy Mayor Doctor Vincenzo Nardi, on behalf of Mayor

Senator Giorgio Braccesi

Honourables Members of Parliament Palmiro Foresi and Romolo Diecidue

Doctor Renato Scambelluri, Head of State Archive Central Office of Interior Ministry

Professor Guido Carobbi, on behalf of Florence University Chancellor

Professor Bernardino Barbadoro, Dean of Magistero Faculty at Florence University

Professor Ernesto Lama on behalf of Education Offices

Colonel Luigi Nappini, Recruiting Office Commander, on behalf of Area General

Commander

Tribunal's President Doctor Edoardo Delehay

Doctor Achille Verani, Head of Police Administration

Doctor Giulio Prunai, Tuscany Archive's Supervisor and Livorno State Archive Director

Doctor Antonio Lombardo for State Archives Central Office

Doctor Filippo Rossi, Florence Galleries Supervisor

Doctor Sergio Camerani, Florence State Archive Director

Doctor Giovanni Cecchini, Siena State Archive Director

Doctor Mario Luzzatto, Pisa State Archive Director

Doctor Sandro De Colli, Arezzo State Archive Director

Doctor Giovanni Cabizza, Massa State Archive Director

Doctor Renzo Morandi, vice-internal Revenue Office on behalf of Finance intendency

Engineer Michele Mansi on behalf of Head Civil Engineers
Lieutenant Colonel Pasquale Milone, on behalf of 88th Infantry Regiment Commander
Colonel
Lieutenant Colonel Giustino Marinelli, Carabineers Group Commander
Professor Quinto Santoli, Forteguerra Library Director
Professor Vittorio Caselli, Chamber of Commerce President
Mr. Luciano Andreini, E.C.A. President
Knight Arrigo Nobili, Provincial Tourism Authority President
General Giovanni Bongiovanni, Prefectoral Commissary of Associated Hospitals
Professor Doctor Mario Romagnoli, Radiological Institute Director
Many other personalities belonging to Pistoia artistic and cultural world.

Authorities and attendees have been received by Pistoia State Archive Director, Doctor Giovanni Antonelli.

Immediately after the arrival of Undersecretary Senator Bisori at 9.30, ceremony started with blessing of the rooms given by Monsignor Baldini. Then Doctor Antonelli guided authorities through Pistoia State Archive visit, illustrating the arrangement of materials and funds.

Finished visiting the rooms, authorities and audiences took sit in conference salon.

Doctor Antonelli spoke first, illustrating the meaning of the ceremony and giving his salutation and thanks to Government representative and all presents, specially to State Archive Central Office Head, to archival Supervisor and Tuscany State Archives Directories, who by their attendance underlined the importance of Pistoia archival heritage. He also turned his thanks to the Interior Ministry, Engineers Corps, provincial Administration, Municipality, to E.C.A., and Chamber of Commerce, that in admirable strength and purposes union, contributed in giving to Pistoia State Archive a so worthy and equipped office.

Doctor Antonelli finished mentioning the work for Pistoia State Archive by Professor Santoli, first Director of it, thanking Professor Barbadoro for having accepted to hold inauguration ceremony and wishing Pistoia to find in its history cult new vital impulse and inspiration for future glories.

So Professor Santoli began his speech:

"In October 1925 I was sent by public education Ministry in Pistoia as headmaster of our Gymnasium Lyceum.

Anyway this Lyceum specializing in classical studies didn't exist. Actually existed two separated schools having their own history. Classical studies were the continuation of the old school of Sapienza and had site in the beautiful 16th Century Sapienza palace, now entirely occupied by Forteguerriana Library.

Imperial and royal under Grand Duchy became "royal Lyceum" after the birth of Italy Reign in 1861. Gymnasium was born as "royal equal" in 1860, under Bettino Ricasoli provisional Government, had site in San Mercuriale palace and afterwards in other rooms.

For almost half century was officially recognized and supported by Pistoia municipality.

In 1904 Gymnasium became royal school and it might have been joined to royal Lyceum, but actually it remained school itself under the direction of that distinguished fellow citizen who is the considerable Professor Alfredo Chiti.

The first problem I had to solve when I came in Pistoia as headmaster was the reunion of Lyceum and Gymnasium.

I solved it by leaving Sapienza palace to Forteguerriana Library and transferring classical Lyceum in San Giovanni Battista music school. So I finally manage to accommodate Lyceum and Gymnasium in the same place, and ten years later, thank to Arturo Ganucci Cancellieri the institute could move in Vittorio Emanuele II street.

The building was a convent, but Count Ganucci Cancellieri built a new floor, adorned it with a marble staircase and modified it to removing its cloistral aspect and turning it in splendid scholastic

room. It is still that same building which hosts both Lyceums classical and scientific.

Lyceum dismissal allowed me to give a suited settlement to Forteguerriana Library that until then was Lyceum Library.

Library Director and Secretary received modest remuneration once established by Pia Casa di Sapienza; but in 1921 Public Instruction Ministry rejected in going on paying and Forteguerriana Library was closed.

The Library was set up by the ancient Sapienza fund, by Puccini fund (the illustrious philanthropist and patriot who left all his books to that Library) and some miserable purchases made by all headmasters of the royal Lyceum. In all not more than 35.000 pieces.

Due to my passion as bibliophile and studious, I intended to transform Forteguerriana in a civic Library, and I succeeded. I managed not so much for helps I had from municipality, but for those I received from Cassa di Rsparmio, thank to the intervention of the unforgettable friend Arturo Ganucci Cancellieri. In 1926 the Library was opened to the public and three years later, followed a pool among Municipality, Province and Cassa di Risparmio which granted its continuation.

Its heritage grew up after 1926 for the acquisition by Cassa di Risparmio of the Library of the illustrious bibliophile, writer and politician Ferdinando Martini, for Alberto Chiappelli's donation and many other gifts that count not less than 110.000 pieces including handwritings and incunabulums of great value.

Exactly when I was Forteguerriana Director I proposed to concentrate there all the city and contado Archives having historical importance.

This concentration was suggested by the neglect and carelessness state in which all our Archives were. Except Municipal Archive and Clerical Property Archive, all others weren't in stock list. If a scholar had done some search in these Archives, he would have found such difficulties to be discouraged in going on it. Moreover material was not well preserved, and so exposed to the risk of removal and dispersion.

The concentration finally happened when Pistoia became province in January 1927.

A rich Archive already existed since 16th century in Sant'Andrea in Fabroni palace. There were kept registers and precious documents about Florentine, French domination and about our Risorgimento.

That Archive was going to be totally devastated and relegated in the loft of the building, when thank to my opportune and vigorous intervention, with the consent of Interior Ministry, I obtained to deposit it in the Forteguerriana Library.

But I didn't want neither that Archive nor the ones which were added afterwards to be confused with Forteguerriana Library. I dreamt of a State Archive, so I placed that material in ex Leopoldine schools palace, which is close to Forteguerriana but separated by Sapienza palace.

In miserable conditions in 1930 arrived San Marcello Pistoiese ex-Prefecture Archive, whose more interesting part was the one from the ancient Capitanato of Montagna Superiore in Cutigliano.

In the same year 1930, the Library got the Ecclesiastical Heritage Archive that I reorganized and inventoried in 1902.

Between 1931 and 1933 were collected in Forteguerriana the following Archives:

ancient Land Registry, Pistoia Commune (which formed the most important part of the actual State Archive), Serravalle Commune, Charity Congregation and other minor ones. In 1936 arrived Sambuca Commune Archive too.

Air raids of war period fully shouted the most of the three rooms destined to Archive use. Gherardi family Archive was destroyed as well as all archival material coming from local Prefecture and other funds were damaged.

But fortunately the most valuable material wasn't there because at the right moment I decided to put it in a safe place. In the end major damages were not at the material but those caused to the building.

Head Civil Engineers arranged to the rebuilding of the palace. And is this what today we inaugurate.

Actual State Archive officially established in 1941, it is so neither more nor less than that I reorganized between 1927 and 1936 for the concentration I talked about.

It's all new and fully suitable for its function, but unfortunately in worse conditions than that I organised. And this not for the absence of good will by the actual Director Doctor Giovanni Antonelli and his collaborators, but for the lack of metallic shelving in third and major room. So I hope, in this occasion, at the presence of Senator Bisori Government's influential representative, that the rebuilding of that shelving be soon made. So our Archive could finally not only arrange the piles of registers yet pending, but in long years' importance accommodate all the archival material that local prefecture and the other public offices will send to Pistoia State Archive."

Immediately after Doctor Scambelluri spoke.

"As Head of State Archives Central Office, I wish to thank all the authorities here to celebrate with us the inauguration of the new site of the revived Pistoia State Archive. The presence of His Excellency Honourable Bisori, in official representation of the Government, is not only for us the highest recognition, but also further proof of the consideration that Government has for State Archives in the last decade.

Only who daily lives like us the bureaucratic life of Archives, is able to appreciate all that has been done for these institutes. We can declare without fear of denial that never in the past were been demonstrated so much comprehension and so much concern for the solution of the problems of this so delicate organizations, the importance of which, unluckily escapes to the majority.

To realize how Government made in this sector would be sufficient the comparison between the allocations in balances of 8-9 years ago with that actual ones: an enormous way has been done. And it constitutes - undoubtedly - very high merit for the Government that wanted and realized the need of institutes of qualified cultural, scientific and administrative importance as State Archives.

The importance of them, as I just signed, escapes to the majority that considers them depot of old dusty papers more or less useless; but I can assure that reality is very different for who has to know it. It is an inexhaustible mine, a wonderful world, that provokes admiration and dismay at the same time, because you have immediately the sensation that you could live even thousand years but couldn't study it completely.

Who had the fortune to enter an Archive - and here in Tuscany there are very interesting and rich - remains surely enchanted of them.

So we need to know and get to know State Archives and enhance the value of all its functional opportunities to promote the progress of culture and studies. I think that a Government which succeed in this aim must be very proud of it.

My fervent and affectionate thanks to Honourable Bisori, Undersecretary Interior Affairs, our Undersecretary.

And we, whether bureaucrats, we are good witness of their daily efforts, of their sacrifices to the solution of much delicate problems, of their high sense of justice, of equity, of impartiality inspiring their action.

Sincere thanks to His Excellence the Prefect, to Professor Santoli for how he did for the safeguard of the archival heritage, and to Professor Barbadoro that will speak in a little while. A special thank to provincial Administration and to Head Civil Engineers for what they made and, without any doubt, will make for the completion and definitive placing of this new office.

I express to Doctor Antonelli the praise and satisfaction from Administration Office for the ability, zeal and enthusiasm he managed and run the reconstruction works.

I see here reunited, and it is the first time I have the pleasure to meet them, Tuscany State Archives Directors, archival Supervisor and many eminent functionaries. Let me tell this very good collaborators a word of cordial greeting, affectionate salutation, so that they know that Administration knows and appreciates their work, the difficulties they face up and they overcome, their efforts.

State Archives work is hard, requires intelligence, maximum effort, deep study. Satisfactions are very sweaty and realize after long and patient wait.

I wish to ensure that Ministry is aware of the need and the particular situation of their career and it will make everything is possible to better it by bureaucracy's reform.

So I push them in working with confidence and passionate fervour, because surely central Administration will do any effort in enhancing their value.

I wish my greeting to Tuscany collaborators in this occasion arrives to all the staff of the outskirts offices too.

With such feelings I thank Archives State Management for all the authorities here and for all those who give greater solemnity in today's ceremony by their presence."

Then Undersecretary Lawyer Bisori began to speak:

"It could be strange that an outgoing Government attends with their representative in a ceremony. But it's not strange because even if men change, institutes work by the persons in charge until the change.

I am particularly happy - as a Tuscan and very fond of his region and history - to be here today - oh Pistoia people - to inaugurate your new site of State Archive.

In your city - with beautiful churches, streets, palaces, squares, surrounded by pleasant hills and impressive mountains, full of historical memories - papers collected to witness those memories have finally a worthy site.

So please, look respectfully at this Archive and at the papers it keeps.

The present has to appreciate past time. Even the Holy Bible warns us that there is no news under the sun. Events, ideas, passions, matters seem very new for us, but actually have already turned out in the past.

And if it's true that history is our teacher, we should find inspiration and learn from it.

For this reason Foscolo urged Italians "alle istorie". And the warning was then taken from Carducci, even if in his youth he scorned those who looked in Archives only to glitter worn-out blazons.

So there is no vanity or foolishness in searching in past time documents, because it increases men's knowledge, warning them that many other passed where they pass and that they acted, passed, suffered not much differently from them.

For these aims is and will be always valid Foscolo's urging exhortation "alle istorie".

Even for these aims has been arranged this new site of State Archive of yours, with Province, Head Civil Engineers and Interior Ministry aid and the owners of this building. And for this work and settlement we send all our thankfulness.

As Tommaseo wrote:

"There is no town in Tuscany whose events don't link up to whole Italian and European history".

It's a right remark that has to educate Tuscan people to have special sensibility towards our memories.

I wish this inauguration increases in Pistoia the love for archival studies and for history in enlarging consideration and respect for the past.

By this exhortation to love ancient memories, with every best wish for the increasing in studies, I have the honour to inaugurate, in the name of Italian Government, the new site of this Archive."

Immediately after the applause that welcomed Undersecretary's words, Professor Barbadoro started his official speech.

"Pistoia can boast of having the oldest history among Tuscan towns. Compared to Middle Age and until Lombard conquest, the roman city had a great importance, as well as marking borders between the new Barbarian kingdom and the Byzantine Italy.

For its strategic position had here great importance monastic foundations that, after Lombard conversion from Arianism to Catholicism, contributed to reconcile overcome and winners, Romans and Germanics.

Right from those institutions came most part of documents that made up the Diplomatico Archive, founded in Florence by the first Leopoldo Lorenese, which represent the initial part of the actual Florentine State Archive.

Today we celebrate the transferring of Pistoia Archive, which became State Archive. Anyway we cannot start without focusing on the oldest, that as I told is not here but in the Florentine Diplomatico. I will summarize fastly the news to satisfy the curiosity of less informed.

In that Diplomatico there are sources from Pistoia, called "Fondi". They are 18 with above 16.000 parchments. Six of those Funds - Capitolo, Comune, Monache di San Mercuriale, Patrimonio Ecclesiastico and Roccettini - have documents preceding the year1000 and from Roccettini is the most ancient parchment from 726.

According to the traditional Lombard custom, Pistoia was ordered as royal town directly dependent on the King. For this reason there was in Pistoia a Gastaldo, a functionary in direct representation of Royal Court and so independent from Dukes of Florence and Lucca.

It's also remarkable that Pistoia under King Liutprando had the honour of having its own coin.

Eminent pistoiese historian Luigi Chiappelli informs us that Lombard settlement was especially huge in the eastern side of the town.

For this in Pistoia lasted Germanic traditions longer than elsewhere and for a long time Lombard laws prevailed on the Roman ones. Another considerable event is that Lombard built in town and in the contado important abbeys and monasteries. Even from their archives came us important documentation.

Particular importance had the "hospitia" in the great road arteries: it proves the strategic role that Lombard gave to this territory as transit zone.

On the road Pistoia-Firenze there were two "hospitia" of Abbey of San Bartolomeo and San Salvatore all'Agna.

On the road Pistoia-Bologna the "hospitium" called Pratum Episcopi.

On the way Pistoia-Modena San Salvatore of Fainano.

On the road Pistoia-Sambuca later raised, but had great importance the Badia a Taona "hospitium" .

The Diplomatico has above 500 parchments of that provenance there, and in addition many other from San Michele in Forcole Monastery.

But I also want to consider the period of the medieval communes with the rebirth of latin element, not deleted by the Barbarians, whose documentation is wide and permanent at the local Pistoia Archive.

With the citation of "Fondi" begins the generation of the last 800th century of remarkable historian. I limit the citation of three names, for their grasper connection to archival theme.

The first, that we still have today with us is Quinto Santoli. I want to mention his edition in Regesto of the Liber Censuum Comunis Pistorii, which is the base code of ancient Municipality's Archive, where we can find municipality rights.

The second is still related with municipal's Archive by Statuti, Leges Municipales and for them I will mention Ludovico Zdekauer publisher of the "Statuto del Podestà" in 1296 version, but based on that one more ancient of 1267.

Moreover for a very abundant production about aspect of pistoese history and life in the Middle Age, I will repeat the name of Luigi Chiappelli that, in spite of the difference of age passing among us, honoured me of his friendship and habit of studies.

Well deserving of culture, were also his two brothers Alessandro and Alberto.

And how many other illustrious names of the ultimate generation we should remember, starting from Michele Barbi.

Ancient Archives are the sancta sanctorum of the researchers. And I can tell this for my direct experience, because in Archives I spent my youth and I improved myself in studying history. By celebrating today the Archive I remember my youth and my studies.

By searching demographic files in Tuscany I had the fortune to report the existence of acts of birth or baptism preserved in the Episcopal Court without any interruption from 1481, while the series of baptism deeds started only after the Tridentino Council decrees from the second half of 500th Century in the rest of Tuscany.

Pistoia Commune started with the figure of Consuls in 1105, during the last years of Matilde of Canossa's Government. We notice

the same rhythm in constitutional evolution. Podestà, as supreme commune regent, became permanent in Pistoia in 1216 replacing Consuls and alternating himself until 1158, from the time of the restored imperial Government in Tuscany with Federico Barbarossa.

In the same age we notice conflicts with the near municipalities for the expansion beyond the respective contado: in 1219 is the definitive peace with Bologna.

In 1228 we had the first defeat of Pistoia in front of Florence, although due to its inner conflicts. From now and after guelphinism and ghibellinism even in Pistoia had double meaning, above that formal one of adhesion to the Papacy or to the Empire.

Of course the years between 1260 and 1266 are of Ghibelline superiority, but Benevento's Guelph victory in 1266 and Carlo D'Angio's consequence installation in South Italy indicated decisive destinies for Pistoia and Florence. Svevian depression with Manfredi's death helped Florence Guelph's revival and its hegemony in Tuscany, while Pistoia got in subordinate position in "Tallia guelfa societatis Tusciae".

It followed Pistoia's separation in two Cancellieri sides, Bianchi e Neri that will pass through in Florentine factions. Florence White side took part in Pistoia's conflicts and arrogated - in 1294 - the election of Podestà'. But overthrowing sides in Florence, that is Blacks' victory on Whites thank to Boniface VIII support and Carlo di Valois was essential for Pistoia. It's famous and awful 1301-1306 war which episodes live with great drama in Dino Compagni's Cronica.

Florentine interference in Pistoia decreased during Castruccio Castracani's war against Florence and the brief domination of Athens's Duke. Anyway Pistoia's autonomy weakened because of internal conflicts between Cancellieri and Panciatichi families.

In 1351 Riccardo Cancellieri prevailed, helped from Florence. Neither in saving Pistoia's independence counted Gian Galeazzo Visconti, who went beyond Apennine to defend against Florence. But Gian Galeazzo's death in 1402 helped Florentine Republic revival that won all municipal endurances and prepared to the imminent Medicea Seignory a sure presence all over Tuscany. Only Lucca and Siena remained unabsorbed.

After this concise explanation of historical events I'll do a concise introduction about Pistoia State Archive by dividing it into three parts.

First of all the ancient Commune Archive including both the period in which Pistoia was State-town and part of Florentine State. We find Liber Censuum, for jurisdictional rights, Statuti until the Riforme of XVII Century.

Moreover here are Provvisioni dei Fiorentini sopra Pistoia from 1331 to 1503 (that is almost the end of Florentine Republic), Paci e Tregue from 1455 to 1690 (between Cancellieri and Panciatichi), Atti Consiliari from 1330 to 1777, when during Lorena civic Magistracy was withdrawn and created the community.

Less ancient is Carteggio (1612-1777) and later Atti della Cancelleria from 1567 to 1775.

I want to add this first group even Land Registers - Atti del Catasto - only from 1396 to 1402, then, Pistoia 1045 Land Register is in Florence State Archive.

In our history of Comuni the introduction of Catasto was quite late as evaluation of citizens' capacity in paying taxes. Only when the wealth solidified itself in the ground (in the soil), municipalities began to impose real and normal taxes. Even Pistoia economy during the XIV Century had this transformation.

The second part is totally related to Florentine management in Pistoia. Here are documents of Camera ducale, Patrimonio Ecclesiastico and Tribunale di appello.

Regarding Camera ducale it was presided over four Florentine commissaries that in December the 6th 1639, signed an agreement with town, country and mountain to collect property taxes through a Depositario or Camarlingo. We find traces in the triple series of Carteggio del Depositario, Libri di amministrazione and Lettere.

Patrimonio Ecclesiastico is instead of Lorena period. It was set up in October the 30th 1784 and used as equipment for parish churches. This administration was dismissed in 1789 and Resti passed in Pistoia Hospitals Administration until the move at the Central Economato of Vacant Benefits. Bishop Scipione dei Ricci advised Pietro Leopoldo in organizing Patrimonio Ecclesiastico.

Regarding to Tribunale di appello we find documents from 1526 until its abolition in 1808, and after Leopold's reforms in 1777 they were called Collegi.

We finally arrive to the third part where we find administrative books called Opere linked with civic temples. Less ancient is Opera di Santa Maria dell'Umiltà. This is the name that Leone X chose in 1515 for the church of Santa Maria Foris Portam famous for a miracle in 1490.

More ancient is archival material of Opera dei SS. Giovanni and Zeno institution established in 1533.

Our exhibition closes with the richest and most remarkable work Opera di Sant'Jacopo, the most venerated saint by Pistoia citizens, whose cult comes from 886. In 1333 Bishop Atto founded the chapel and nearby grew up the treasure by accumulating gifts and donations.

In this way was born the Opera of Sant'Jacopo whose aims were tax collections and State goods management. In this archive we find documents back to 300 Century with Capitoli, Contracts, Administration Books, and even Bandi and Condanne in violence and theft trials.

In this ultimate part of my speech I perhaps bored the audiences, but I hope you didn't dislike having known the great memories that Pistoia keeps in its history.

We owe to hand on ancient memories to the posterities as old generations passed us.

In the end I want to invite you to meditate about a Cicerone's sentence: "not knowing what happened before our birth is like remaining children forever."

So the ceremony ended up.

Immediately after in Leon Bianco Hotel, Doctor Antonelli offered a lunch to Head of State Archive Central Office, to Archive's Supervisor, to Tuscany State Archives Directories and to Pistoia State Archive staff.

Unable to attend the ceremony, telegraphed and accepted :

Monsignor Luigi Romoli, Pescia Bishop

Doctor Corrado Catenacci, Interior Ministry General Director of Civil Administration

Doctor Biagio Abbate, already Head of State Archive Central Office, at the moment Interior Ministry General Inspector

Doctor Domenico Corsi, Lucca State Archive Director.