

Permanent Study Centre on Emigration – Museum of the Emigrant: The Memory Archive and the Migrants' Jobs

Noemi Ugolini and Chiara Cardogna

Chairman of the AEMI,
Members of the AEMI,

Good morning. We would like to express our gratitude for your kind invitation to take part in the Annual Conference and for your warm welcome.

We are here today to present the *Memory Archive*, a networked system dedicated to the research and management of data and documentation on San Marino emigration. This project, still in progress, allows San Marino citizens resident abroad to cooperate in research, providing documents, which can be forwarded by filling in the form for the description of photographs, letters, work permits etc. The Chairmen of the 25 San Marino Communities Abroad can access the system using a password, which was given them after signing a privacy statement regarding all data entered in the Archive.

The *Memory Archive* is also aimed at promoting social cohesion, in recovering historical memory not only on migration but also on families and family lines for genealogical research. The inter-

est shown by San Marino residents, but also and particularly by non-residents, highlights this strong feeling of belonging. This Archive, which is the jewel of our Study Centre, is also used by schools to conduct researches and recollect the historical line of entire generations who left from their country in seek for work and luck in the world. It has been used by many young people, visiting our Study Centre, to conduct research into past and present memory of their own families. Teachers have confirmed that knowledge about distant relatives emigrated abroad facilitates social cohesion in classes with pupils from immigrants' families.

This computerised archive is divided into 8 thematic databases, which are constantly updated. The first 5 databases contain expatriation documents, reflecting more than 100 years of emigration. The last 2 contain respectively photographs and letters.

Let us now take a look at the Archive.

Database 1: Passports (1923-1962)



The archive contains about 12,000 entries (plus renewals) with photographs obtained from passports issued to San Marino citizens (Law on passport issue n. 23 of 13 August 1923, which replaced all other expatriation documents). The passports are preserved at the Museum of the Emigrant and represent an invaluable documentary heritage not only for the photographs contained, but also for other personal documents found inside the passports. Each passport shows photograph, personal data, social condition, destination, places of destination, profession and accompanying family members' names. This is the only database containing photographs.

Database 2: Emigration permits (1865-1923)

The Emigration Permits Database contains more than 16,000 entries obtained from the emigration permits issued to

San Marino citizens who emigrated to Italy from 1865 to 1923. Each permit shows personal details, social condition and destination.

The emigration permit was a kind of identity document allowing San Marino citizens to emigrate to Italy. In winter, when in San Marino there was a lack of jobs and agriculture was temporarily unproductive, peasants, craftsmen and costermongers used to leave San Marino for Italy. They would leave in autumn and come back in spring, as shown by document issue dates.

Database 3: Register of expatriation records 1 (1835-1843) and 2 (1856-1860)

The archive contains more than 1,500 entries from 1835 to 1843 and from 1856 to 1861. Such data have been obtained from expatriation records on migration movements of San Marino population to Italy, showing personal details, social condition and destination.

Database 4: STUBS (1868-1923)

It contains about 6,000 entries obtained from the stubs of the expatriation records (documents necessary to emigrate to European and non European countries from 1868 to 1923). They contain personal details, social condition and destination, and accompanying family members' names.

Database 5: Renewal of stubs (1868-1923)

It contains almost 2,000 detailed entries obtained from the requests for renewal of the expatriation documents. Stubs expired after one year. They show tem-

porary migration movements, places of destination, profession and accompanying family members' names.

Database 6: Repatriations (1960-1980)

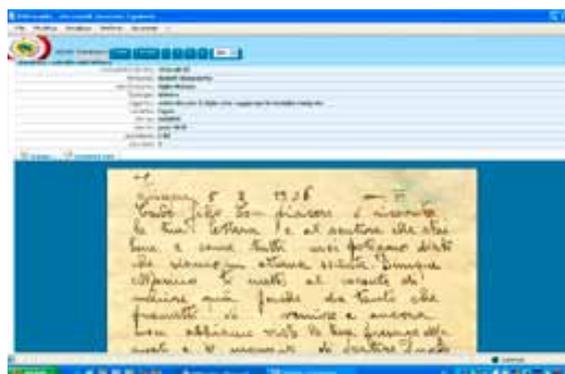
The archive contains about 5,000 entries of citizens repatriated to San Marino between 1960 and 1985. Each entry shows personal details, repatriation year, country of departure.

Database 7: Iconographies

It contains about 2,000 photographs from late 1800 till mid 1900. The photographs are catalogued into macro-categories (study, ceremony, travel, community, work, monuments, leisure time, school, other purposes). For each photograph place, date, type and donor are specified.

Database 8: Letters

It contains about 200 letters from 1913 to 1960 catalogued according to the following parameters: date, sender, receiver, type (letter, postcard, telegram), subject, place.



Conclusion

Drawing to the conclusion, we would like to present a project. Our objective is to conduct together a networked research project. You may consult the project at www.museoemigrante.sm under the section "On-line Projects". This project enables all AEMI members to take part in it uploading their own researches, sharing projects and documents. The topic is *Migrants' Jobs* and the purpose is to create a comprehensive map of emigrants' jobs.

The other idea is to collect, with your cooperation, a large number of documents to be published. This publication would certainly enhance the AEMI activities.

Taking part in the project is easy and free. Just register and start contributing to the project, uploading and sharing any type of documents related to this topic. The material uploaded in the box will be available only to AEMI members.

The research might be updated giving details of jobs taken up today by immigrants in European countries. If the research is successfully carried out, it might become a useful instrument to



increase social cohesion. It would help to understand that the main reason for emigration today as well as in the past is the need for work and income, and that throughout history emigrants have always had to take up the humblest jobs in the hosting country.

(To access the reserved research section, visit the website of the Museum of the Emigrant at www.museoemigrante.sm enter with the password and complete registration with your personal details. The main page

of the box already contains a few job sections entered by us. You may choose to add new material to these sections or create new sections for other jobs. In this case access the box control panel and follow the indications.

You are kindly invited to visit the box and send your comments and/or suggestions.

You may also email the material or mail a digital copy. We will upload it in the e-box. Thanks for your attention.