

**Associazione Nazionale
Archivistica Italiana (A.N.A.I.)**

The Archives of The Biomedical Library (Biblioteca Biomedica) of the University of Florence

Wednesday, October 24th, 2012

Rare Collections Room of the Biblioteca Biomedica of
the University of Florence

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Foreword

The Biblioteca Biomedica of Florence University contains an historic collection of invaluable works, including incunabula, printed works of the 16th century and anatomical diagrams. This collection was first constituted in 1679 at the hospital of Santa Maria Novella in Florence and was later enriched thanks to numerous book donations by medical doctors and university professors. In addition to books, many of these donors also left manuscripts that gave rise to the archival collection of the Biblioteca Biomedica. These archives now comprise thousands of manuscript documents that have been inventoried by the Tuscan Archives Office and have recently been valorized by both exhibitions and digital elaboration.

The principle archival collections of the Biblioteca Biomedica :

The Medical College (Collegio Medico) of Florence (13th-19th c.): This prestigious institution created within the Guild of Physicians and Apothecaries, issued licenses for the practice of medicine and surgery in Tuscany. The library contains records of the licenses granted in 13 files from Santa Maria Nuova and 13 files of “Giornaletto” dating from 1560 to 1867. The archives also contain the medical college’s supporting documents relating to each license and other deliberations in 120 files labeled “Business” and 4 additional binders.

Antonio Cocchi (1695-1758): Simultaneously a physician, naturalist, antiquarian, bibliophile, translator, intellectual, traveler, and one of the first Italian Freemasons, Cocchi has left an indelible mark in the history of Florentine health care. The library has 160 of his handwritten notebooks and 6 boxes of his loose-leaf papers.

Vincenzo Chiarugi (1759-1820): Physician and psychiatrist, Chiarugi was considered to be one of the greatest innovators in the treatment of mental illness. The library has about two thousand pages of his notes, lectures, and treatises.

Pietro Betti (1784-1863): As the public Service Doctor appointed to the port of Livorno, Betti played a crucial role during the cholera epidemic of 1834. He was also a university professor and played a key role in the creation the *Museo Patologico* (Pathological Museum) in Florence. The archives of the Biblioteca Biomedica have five files containing his work, comprising correspondence, lectures and autographed notes, as well as medical and surgical case reports written by others.

Carlo Burci (1813-1875): Both a surgeon and Professor of Anatomy at the hospital of Santa Maria Nuova, Burci was also a university professor in Pisa and a literary scholar. Burci further distinguished himself in the First War of Independence and in 1865 was elected Senator of the Kingdom (*Senatore del Regno*). The archival collection contains 28 binders of his various papers (correspondence, notes, lectures, and miscellany).

Ferdinando Zannetti (1801-1881): Was a University Professor, Florentine Physician, and Surgeon-in-Chief in the Tuscan army during the First War of Independence. Zannetti achieved lasting fame after having removed a bullet from the

leg of Garibaldi. The Biblioteca Biomedica contains 46 folders of his personal manuscripts including correspondence, forensic reports and notes relating to his work as an educator, military surgeon and author.

Table of Contents

Medicine and Pharmacy

1. Antonio Cocchi, *Effemeridi (Ephemeris)*, 26 April 1746, Cocchi Collection, Mss. 207.24.VII.61.
2. Vincenzo Chiarugi, *Chiarugi. Malattie mentali con indice scritto dal prof. Michelacci (Mental Illness with Index Written by Professor Michelacci)*, 1802-1803, Chiarugi Collection, Mss. R.210.18bis, fasc.
3. Pietro Betti, *L'addio al mondo. Istorie medico-chirurgiche (Goodbye to the World. Medical-Surgical Stories). Cartella II. Opera Pia*, 1822-1862, Betti Collection, 4, Mss. R.210.20.
4. Collegio Medico di Firenze, *Registri di matricole (Graduation Records)*, 13 September 1788, Arm. 1A.
5. Ines Gardini, *Tesi di laurea "Il padiglione dell'orecchio nell'uomo" (Thesis "The Auricle of the Ear in Man")*, supervising professor Giulio Chiarugi, 1899-1900, T. L. 17.20.
 - Aldina Francolini, *Tesi di laurea "Ricerche sulle modificazioni morfologiche funzionali dei dendriti delle cellule nervose" (Thesis "Studies on the Morphological Changes of Functional Dendrites of Nerve Cells")*, supervising professor Tanzi, 1899-1900, T. L. 016.27.
6. Filippo Pacini, *Lettera autografia a Pietro Betti (Autographed Letter to Pietro Betti)*, 8 June 1863, Betti Collection, Cartella II, nn. 66-67, Mss R.210.20
7. Ferdinando Zannetti, *Lettera autografa a Garibaldi (Autographed Letter to Garibaldi)*, t. post quem November 1859, Zanetti Collection, 39/13.
8. Giuseppe Moricci, *Testa di cadaver (Head of a Cadaver)*, pencil drawing on paper, 13 December 1844, Banc. 111.

9. Anonymous, *Regolamento pel Vestiario uniforme dei Componenti le Università Toscane approvato con Sovrana Risoluzione del 26 Maggio 1843* (*Regulation of Tuscan University Uniforms from 26th of May, 1843*), watercolor on paper, Office of Public Education, business concluded before 1844, Filza II ins. 47.

10 Soprintendenza agli Studi del Granducato di Toscana, *Regolamento pel Vestiario uniforme dei Componenti le Università Toscane approvato con Sovrana Risoluzione del 26 Maggio 1843* (*Regulation of Tuscan University Uniforms from 26th of May, 1843*), letter addressed to the administrator of Santa Maria Nuova, 9 June 1843, Filza II ins. 47.

11. Luigi Guerri, *Lettera autografa a Ferdinando Zannetti* (*Autographed Letter to Ferdinando Zannetti*), 10 May 1859, Zannetti collection, 42/2.

12. Carlo Burci, *Disegni preparatori per la pubblicazione di opere* (*Preparatory Drawings for the Publication of Works*), t. ante quem 1875, Burci Collection, 2/2.11.

Botany and agriculture

1. Pietro Crescenzi, [*Libro dell'utilità della villa*] (The Book of the Benefits of the Villa), volume bound in parchment, late fifteenth century.?, Mss. R.210.11. (CHECK ON THIS ONE)

- *Incomincia il libro della agricoltura di piero crescietio cittadino di bologna ad honore di dio & della sua madre vergine maria* (*Here Begins the Book on Agriculture Written by Piero Crescietto, Citizen of Bologna to the Honor of God and His Mother the Virgin Mary*), printed in Venice on the 6th of September in the year of our Lord 1511.
- *Pietro Crescentio tradotto novamente per M. Francesco Sansovino nel quale si trattano le cose della villa* (*Pietro Crescentio newly translated to M. Francesco Sansovino in which one deals with the things of the villa*), in Venetia, Appresso Francesco Rampazetto, 1564.

2. Agostino Del Riccio, [*Trattato di agricoltura*] (Treatise of Agriculture), 2 volumes, early 17th century, Mss. R.210.2.

3. Tommaso Maria Chellini, *Nuovo Libretto di tutte le qualità dej Funghi miniati al naturale e trovati e fatti dà mè Tommaso Maria Chelini Cittadino Fiorentino (New Book of All the Qualities of Mushrooms Painted from Nature and Found and Drawn by Me Tommaso Maria Chelini, Florence Citizen)*, 5 volumes, 1699, Mss. R.210.16.

4. Anonymous, *Viridarium botanicum novissimum italo-hispanum*, 2 directors, 1731, Mss. 2.6.1. (I cant translate this)

History of Florence

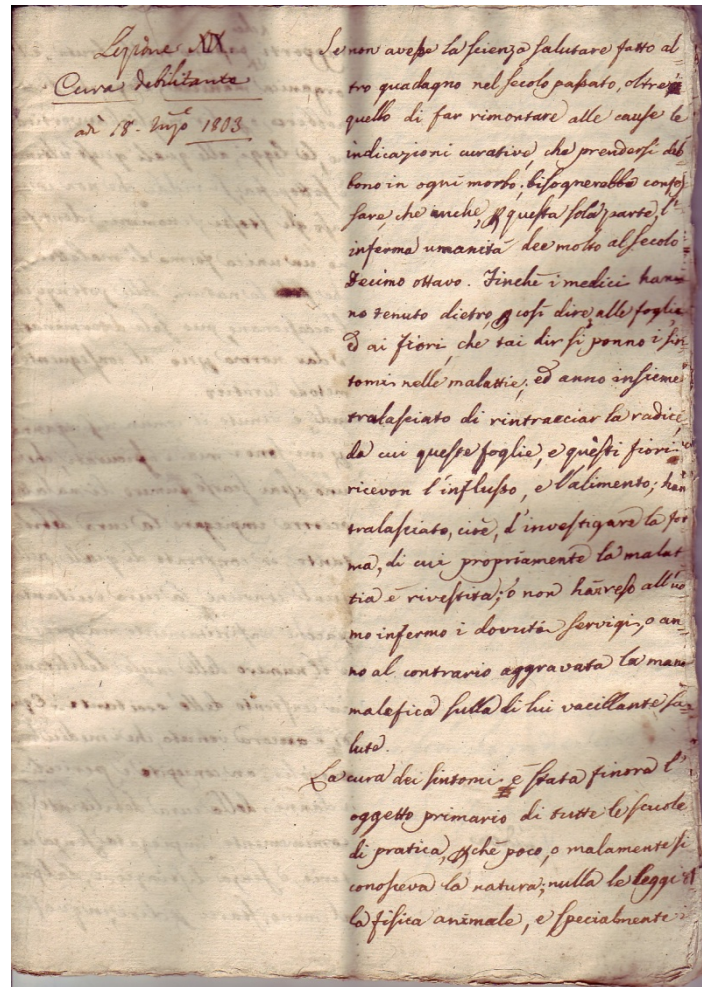
2. Anonymous, *Statutorum Florentinorum Liber (Book of Florentine Statues)*, manuscript volume, 16th or 17th century., Mss. R.210.3.

3. Giuliano Ughi, *Memorie storiche delle cose di Firenze dall'anno MDI all'anno MDXLVI (Historical Memoir of the Affairs of Florence from 1501 to 1546)*, manuscript volume, Mss. R.210.4.

4. Migliore Cresci, *Storie delle cose d'Italia dall'anno MDXXV all'anno MDXLVI (History of the Affiars of Italy from 1525 to 1546)*, manuscript volume, Mss. R.210.4.

5. Scipione Ammirato, *Historie Fiorentine (Florentine History)*, manuscript volume, 16th century.?, Mss. R.210.1.

accessible online. This page features a list of recipients to whom Cocchi gifted a copy of the first edition of his work, *Lettera critica sopra un manoscritto in cera* (*Critical Letter on a Manuscript in Wax*), Florence, at the sign of Apollo, 1746) Such a history allows us to reconstruct—albeit incompletely—the network of relationships that Cocchi had with the politicians and intellectuals of his time.

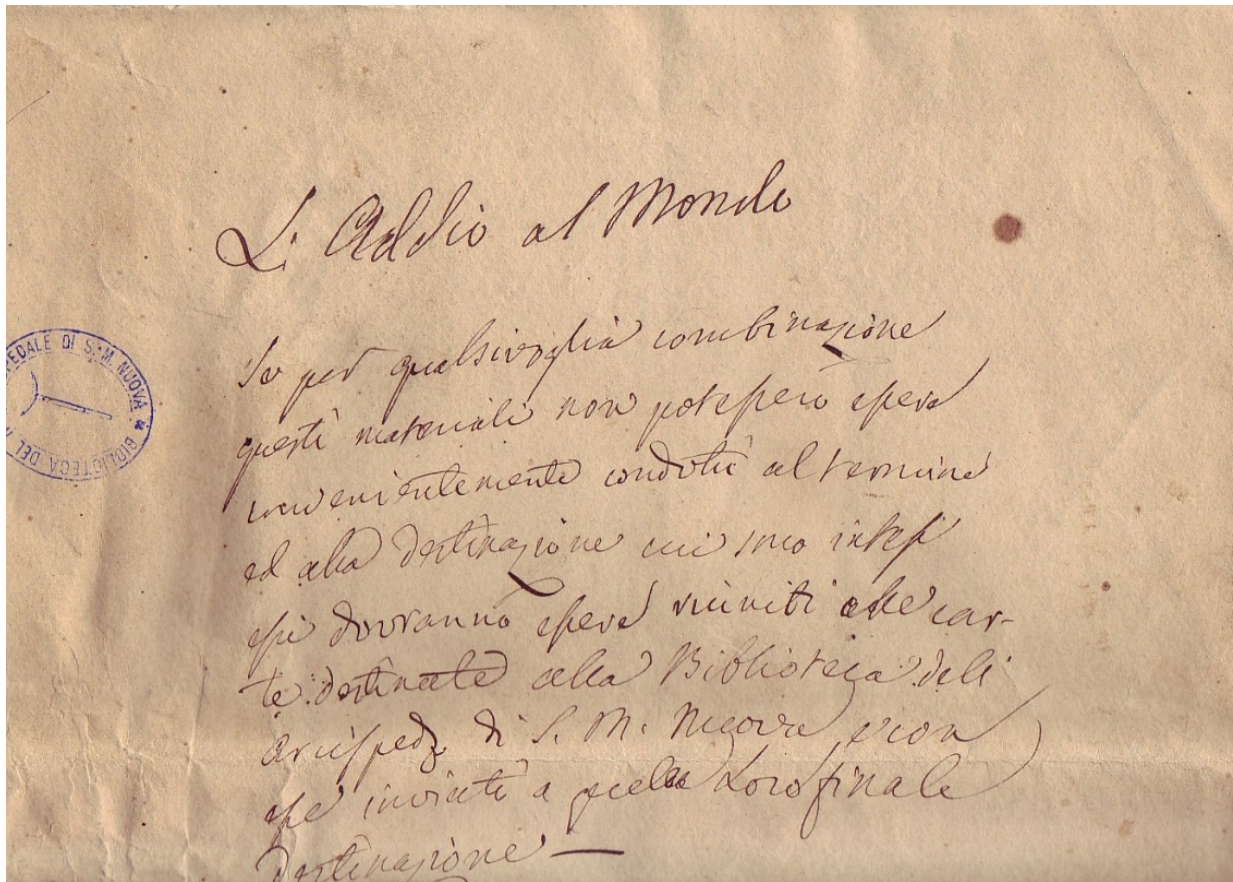


Vincenzo Chiarugi, *Malattie mentali con indice scritto dal prof. Michelacci, (Mental Diseases with Index Written by Prof. Michelacci) 1802-1803.*

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica dell'Università degli Studi di Firenze, Carte Chiarugi, Mss. R.210.18bis, fasc. 2.

Vincenzo Chiarugi was a physician originally from Empoli whose work in Florence gave rise to a particularly (although contested) in-depth experience with mental illness that played a central role in the development of the discipline of psychiatry. He is also responsible for having contributed to the re-organization of the Hospital of Bonifazio (*Ospedale di Bonifazio*) and later of Santa Maria Nuova. Chiarugi was also the personal doctor of Louise Bonaparte, a university lecturer and luminary. Chiarugi was highly esteemed in Tuscany and abroad; the first edition of his treatise *Della pazzia in genere e in ispecie* [Of

Madness in General and in Particular] in 1793/94 was immediately, although partially, translated into German. Chiarugi is best remembered for his work to reform the treatment of mental illness and promote the humane treatment of it. The *Biblioteca Biomedica* has a small collection of his recently reorganized manuscripts, mainly composed of miscellaneous books and lecture notes, including the document pictured above.

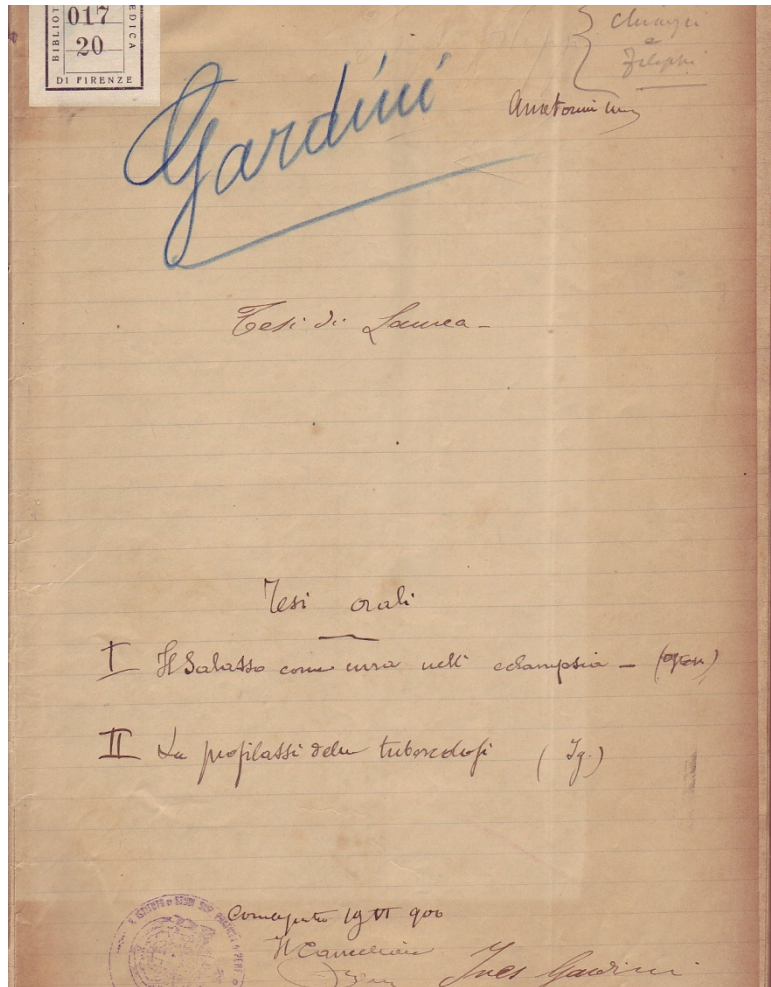


Pietro Betti, *L'addio al mondo. Istorie medico-chirurgiche* (Goodbye to the World. Medical - Surgical Stories). Cartella II. Opera Pia, 1863?.

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, Betti Collection 4, Mss. R. 210.20.

Pietro Betti, came from the Mugello area of Tuscany and worked at the Hospital of Santa Maria Nuova in Florence where he also taught surgery, comparative anatomy, and physiology and pathology. He was also the medical director of the port of Livorno where, after the outbreak of a cholera epidemic, he assumed responsibility for all the quarantine hospitals of the region. This experience gave rise to several publications. He was one of the main organizers of the Pathological Museum, and was also involved in both forensic medicine and health administration. Betti's document pictured above expresses his intention to donate his personal collection of books (as listed in his will) as well as other papers that came directly from him (or through Ferdinando Zannetti), in addition to Betti's works and notes intended for the press.

del Collegio Medico (1814-1867), and 13 volumes of student registration records. In the latter appears a surgical license granted on September 13th, 1788, to a woman, Mary Petroncini (though sources sometimes refer to her as Petraccini, Petracini, or even Petrocini), both a wife and student of the surgeon Anghiari Francesco Ferretti,.



Ines Gardini, *Tesi di laurea "Il padiglione dell'orecchio nell'uomo"* (Thesis, 'The Auricle of the Ear in Man'), relatore prof. Giulio Chiarugi, 1899-1900.

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, T.L. 17.20.

The *Biblioteca Biomedica* contains a rich collection of historical thesis manuscripts (partially catalogued and viewable at <http://www.sba.unifi.it/CMpro-v-p-339.html>) from the Royal Institute of Higher Studies (*Regio istituto di studi superiori*). Founded in 1859, the Royal Institute of Higher Studies is considered to have been the ancestor of the University of Florence. These manuscripts testify to the fact that academic medicine in Florence was largely a masculine discipline (despite the numerous diplomas earned by midwives) until the approval of a degree in medicine and surgery awarded to Aldina Francolini in 1899 with her thesis on nerve cells. In 1990, another woman, Ines Gardini, was awarded a medical degree after presenting her work in Otolaryngology, but it was not until 1905 that another record of a female medical graduate was to appear that was awarded to Carmela

Marchioni even though Augusta Bulgarini received a diploma in pharmacology in Florence in 1903/04.

[illegible]

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, Betti Collection, Mss. R. 210.20 Cartella II, nn. 66-67

Filippo Pacini (1812-1883) was a celebrated scientist, anatomist, researcher, and lecturer at the Hospital of Santa Maria Nuova from 1847 to 1883. The year 2012 is the bicentennial of his birth. Pistoia, his place of birth has honored him with a series of workshops and conferences as well as an exhibition (in multiple locations around the city) from the 21st of September to the 31st of October of the current year. Although his career suffered on account of his determination to implement the revolutionary microscope into 19th-century medicine, he was responsible for many important discoveries. For example, he discovered nerve endings called Pacinian Corpuscles or Lamellar corpuscles and the cholera vibrio that, unfairly, is named after Robert Koch who observed it 30 years after Pacini. The Biblioteca Biomedica recieved a small, but prestigious donation of from Pacini, including a valuable copy of Galileo Galilei's *Sistema Cosmicum*, and an almost complete collection of Pacini's publications. An unknown series of letters exchanged between Pacini and his distinguished colleagues Ferdinando Zannetti, Carlo Burci, Pietro Betti and Pietro Vannoni was also found during the 2012 celebrations in the proceedings of the Florentine medical college (*Collegio Medico Fiorentino*) providing testimony to the professional activity of Pacini's microscopic campaign. The letters shown above come from this series and is dated June 7th, 1862 and addressed to Pietro Betti. This letter reveals that the great scientist, at the request of a prominent and highly respected senior colleague, enthusiastically became available to help satisfy the most extravagant request: the microscopic observation of a duck egg.

33
 Milano G. Garibaldi Garibaldi
 Voglia accettare i miei suggerimenti per tratti
 di fiducia e di amicizia dei quali mi pare allora che altri in sorte di
 le siano come chirurgo. Abito in Capa dell'11^a divisione; e non si degna
 che io la compia. Esercizio fatto come di Giuseppe Tevere e l'entusiasmo del
 lavoro in tutto il lavoro ha già fatto avanti, ma per me non lo dimostro
 prima che il fatto avvenga. Che cosa che io ne offro del resto come Zannetti: al
 no fatto per me, ma allora sulla qualità che rappresentavo, già il solo studio
 di, in Capa che in quel tempo si conosceva per la morte di Bologna, allora a
 lavoro, già abito in Capa di unio spirito completo che offro subito dall'
 studio centrale di condotti al Capa, già mi sono impegnati, non mai di
 potere allora tutto altro, e molto più che lavoro

Ferdinando Zannetti, Lettera autografa a Garibaldi (Autographed Letter to Garibaldi), t. post quem November 1859.

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, Zannetti Collection, 39/13.

Ferdinando Zannetti (1801-1881) was a scientist, professor, and surgeon at the Hospital of Santa Maria Nuova in Florence. Research on Zannetti received more attention and support in 2011 due to the commemoration of the unification of Italy, for it was Zannetti who removed a bullet from the leg of Garibaldi and subsequently achieved the title of Head of Surgery of the Tuscan army during the first war of independence. After his death, Zannetti's heirs promptly donated his collection of thousands of books and pamphlets to the Hospital Library of Santa Maria Nuova. The collection is currently at the *Biblioteca*

Biomedica in addition to 46 folders of manuscripts largely concerned with medical matters (now re-ordered, catalogued, and searchable) that probably were transferred along with Zannetti's collection of books. The letter pictured above was found only recently. It dates from the time when Zannetti was just being reestablished as a university professor following a decade of political ostracism on part of the Grand Dukes. On one hand, this letter testifies to Zannetti's passion for teaching. On the other, it shows his strong engagement and interest in political and military affairs as he expresses disappointment regarding his removal from the battlefield as the Head of Surgery.

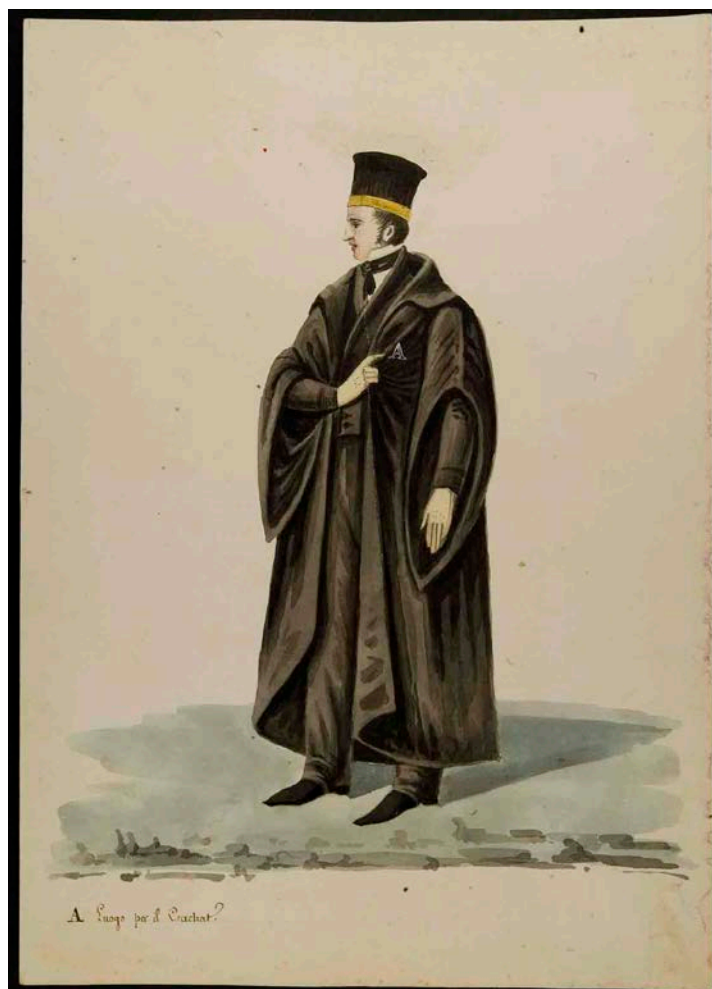


Giuseppe Moricci, *Testa di cadavere (Head of the Cadaver)*, pencil drawing on paper dated March 13th, 1844 with a handwritten dedication to Ferdinando Zannetti

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, Banc. 111.

Giuseppe Moricci (Florence 1806-1879) was both a fervent patriot and a talented Florentine painter who studied during the first half of the nineteenth century at the Academy of Beautiful Art (*Accademia di Belle Arti*). He attended painting classes at the Hospital of Santa Maria Nuova on anatomical drawing taught by Ferdinando Zannetti. Moricci and Zannetti were almost of the same age and were to become lifelong friends sharing patriotic and civil ideals in addition to their passion for medical representation. The detailed and dramatic drawing pictured above was given by Moricci to Zannetti in mark of his esteem and gratitude on 13 March 1844. Now preserved in the *Biblioteca Biomedica*, this drawing was first presented at an exhibition in the Palazzo Medici-Riccardi

in Florence during the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the Unification of Italy.



Anonymous, *Regolamento pel Vestiario uniforme dei Componenti le Università Toscane approvato con Sovrana Risoluzione (Resulation PEL Uniform of the Components of the Tuscan University Approved with Resolution of Sovereign) May 26th 1843*, watercolor on paper.

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, Public Instructions - Affari spediti prima del 1844 - Filza II inserto 47.

In the general correspondence of the Department of Education (*Pubblica Istruzione*) presented at the *Biblioteca Biomedica*, is a letter dated 9 June 1843 addressed to the commissioner of the Hospital of Santa Maria Nuova. This letter contains the new regulations regarding the dress code issued by the Superintendent Studies of the Grand Duchy (*Soprintendenza agli Studi del Granducato*), on 26 May of the same year regarding the dress code to be adopted by the University of Tuscany (*Università Toscana*), Pisa, and Sienna. The document describes, in detail, the uniform of all professors, stewards, clerks, and porters. The document is accompanied by two watercolors that show the

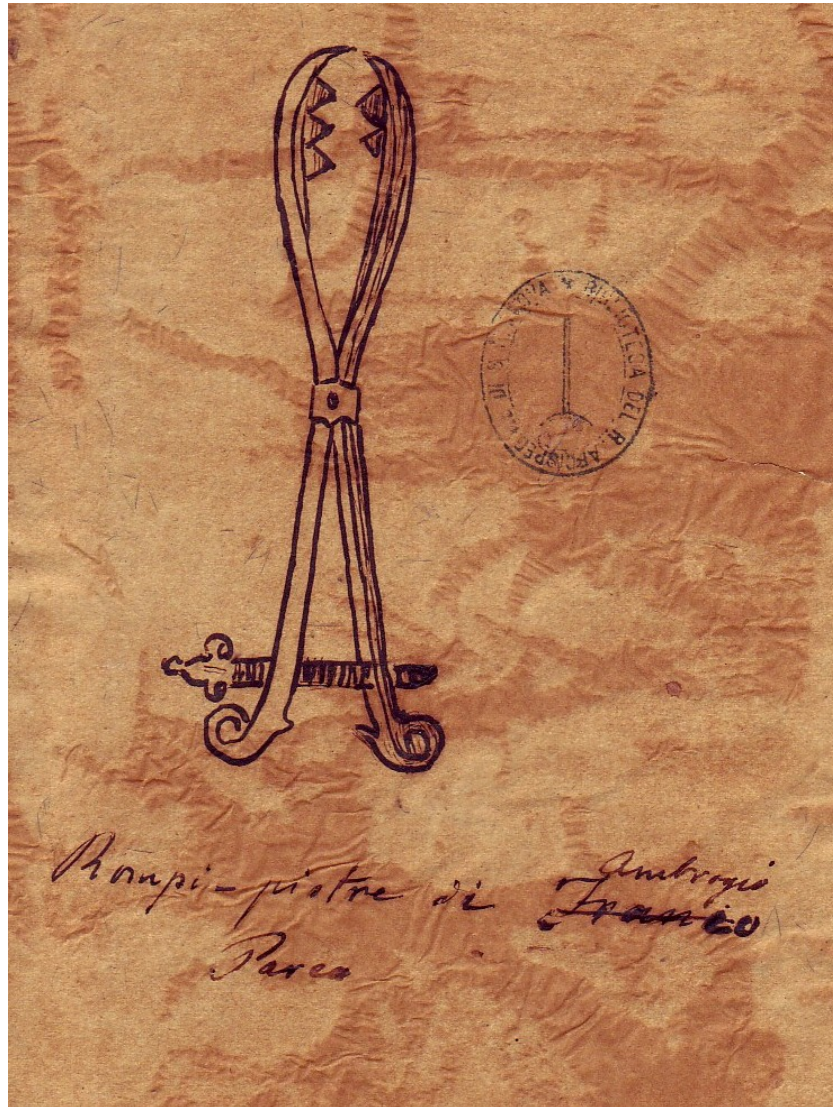
uniform to be worn by professors, consisting of a robe and a black wool hat meant to be put over certain articles of clothing. On the robe is pinned a badge of the University of Pisa with features like the head of a cherub in gold on a blue background. Unfortunately, the third drawing is missing, which would have featured the university badge of Sienna, a small oval with the image of St. Catherine in gold on a black and white background.

Luigi Guerri
M'incresco ottremodo d'aggiungere pec-
ture e peccature, ma un caso imprevisto mi costringe
di dirgermi anche oggi a te (dopo essermi perito jersi
dell'amico comune Zuccini) a vedere se tu potessi
trovar un rimedio.
Il giovine Chiopri uno dei più diffidenti giovani nostri
tolti l'anno scorso corp agli pueri d'arruolarsi per i
volontari lasciando il proprio paes. Oggi riceve una
lettera di suo padre (come potrai dte. se fosse verificata)
con la quale gli dice: che se egli perbe quel farmaci-
pe o addetto all'ambulanza non gli preppone offe-
sola, ma se partirà quel soldato non spera d'esser
dopo la guerra più ricevuto in casa delle sue fami-
glie! Questa lettera lo ha messo nelle maggiori
costernazione e mi si è rivolto perchè colto facer
rappi con mediazione presso di te. L'offezione ch'è
posta a questo giovine che sempre se diffida e se
la condotta e per profitto mi han spinto a tor-
nare con te tutti argomenti - ambulanza - d'a-
fatti una preghiera calda e che egli possa esser
soddisfatto.
Il tuo buon animo mi offecura che se ti è possi-

Luigi Guerri, Lettera autografa firmata e indirizzata a Ferdinando Zannetti (Handwritten and Signed Letter Addressed to Ferdinando Zannetti), May 10th, 1859.

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, Zannetti Collection, 42/2.

Luigi Guerri (1823-1892), who was considered a hero of the Battle of Curtatone and Montanara (28 May 1848), is the most well known of the Tuscan pharmacist patriots. He devoted himself to the teaching and practice of pharmacy at the main hospital of Santa Maria Nuova in Florence as of 1850 and later moved his professional activity to the *Regio Istituto di Studi Superiori*. The *Biblioteca Biomedica* has in its possession several manuscripts and letters by Guerri, such as the one pictured above. Addressed to his friend Ferdinando Zannetti, this letter concerns the recruitment of pharmacists for the Tuscan army in 1859.

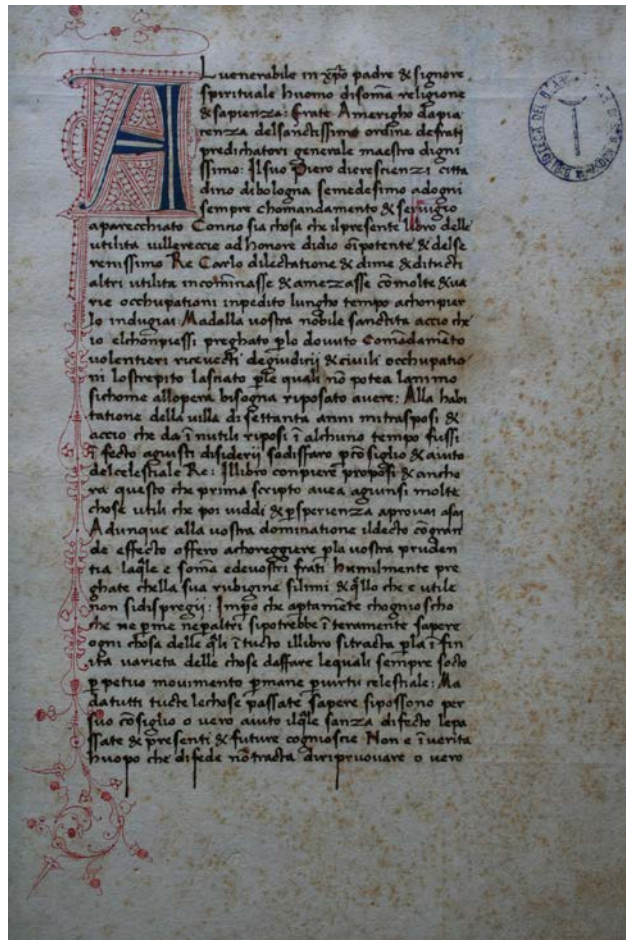


Carlo Burci, *Disegni preparatori per la pubblicazione di opera* (Preparatory Drawings for the Publication of Works), before 1875.

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, Burci Collection 2/2.11.

Carlo Burci (1813-1875) was first a student and then colleague and friend of Ferdinando Zannetti. Burci became a professor of Anatomical Pathology and Clinical Surgery in Pisa, acted as a surgeon for the soldiers during the First Italian War of Independence (1848-1849) and was the author of the publication

Regarding Wounds from Firearms Observed and Treated in Lombardy During the Campaign of 1848 (*Intorno alle ferite per arme a fuoco osservate e curate in Lombardia durante la campagna del 1848*). Among the most important of his works is *Lessons of Feminine and Masculine Cystotomy* (*Lezioni di cistotomia maschile e femminile*) published in 1861. In addition to his extensive medical activity and publications, Burci was also a man of vast culture: he translated the work of Antonio Benivieni and wrote *An Abridged History of Italian Surgery from its Beginning until the 19th Century* (*Storia compendiata della chirurgia italiana dal suo principio fino al secolo XIX*), published posthumously. In addition to its collection of Burci's published works, the *Biblioteca Biomedica* has many manuscript documents by his hand, amongst which include a series of drawings of surgical instruments such as the one pictured above (most likely drawn by Burci himself).

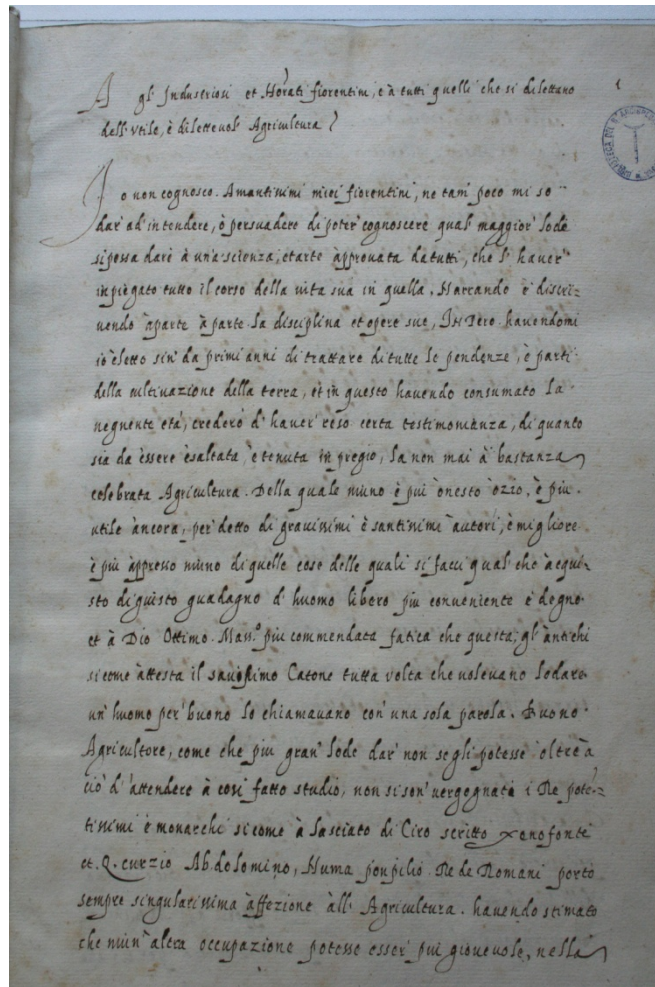


Pietro Crescenzi, [Libro dell'utilità della villa] (Book of the Utility of the House), register bound in parchment, late 15th century?.

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, Mss. R.210.11.

Pietro Crescenzi (1233-1320) was a Bolognese judge interested in philosophy, medicine, and agronomy. Thanks to his profession, Crescenzi had the opportunity to travel and learn about different farming techniques practiced in Northern Italy. In the first decade of the 14th century he recorded his acquired knowledge in his work titled *Ruralium commodorum libri 12*, one of the rare books on agronomy that emerged during the Middle Ages. Translated into the vernacular under the title, *Book of the Utility of the House* (*Libro dell'utilità della villa*) this volume was wildly popular and experienced wide circulation and rapid translation into other vernacular languages. In the manuscript and later print pictured above, the work is dedicated to Brother Amerigho Giliani of the

Dominican Order of Mericant Preachers, who taught at the University of Bologna and inspired much of Crescenzi's work. The manuscript owned by the *Biblioteca Biomedica* is decorated with finely drawn, elegant initial letters and is still in its original, valuable leather binding. Ottavio Andreucci who was the assistant librarian of the Hospital of Santa Maria Nuova during the second half of the 19th century, believed that this volume was particularly valuable because it was, if not the original, one of the first copies in Tuscany from which Florentine edition was printed in 1478. A copy of this edition can be found at the Riccardiana Library in Florence. The *Biblioteca Biomedica* possesses two printed copies of this work, printed in the 16th century.



**Agostino Del Riccio, [Trattato di agricoltura] "Treaty of Agriculture",
register bound in cardboard and half vellum, early 17th century.**

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, R 210.11.

Agostino del Riccio (1541-1598) was a Florentine Dominican friar who had a passion for botany, natural sciences, and agronomy. Agostino was also the author of several manuscripts and wrote a voluminous treatise on agriculture in the late sixteenth century. The first two volumes were entitled *Experimental Agriculture* (*Agricoltura Sperimentale*) and the third volume was titled *Theoretical Agriculture* (*Agricoltura Teorica*). The third volume lists the monthly activities of the farmer while the first two are divided into chapters with plant names organized alphabetically and describe horticultural techniques. From other sources we know that those works were enriched with illustrations by Vincent Dori, but unfortunately, no trace of these valuable images remains. The

complete work is now preserved in the National Center Library of Florence (Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze). The *Biblioteca Biomedica* has two manuscript volumes. The title page of these manuscript volumes bears a dedication to the honorable Florentines who enjoy agriculture, but there is no title page. Nonetheless, these manuscripts seem to correspond to the first two volumes of the *Agricoltura Sperimentale*. These works originally came from the Hospital of Santa Maria Nuova from the collection of Antonio d'Orazio d'Antonio da Sangallo (1551-1636), grandson of the famous architect Antonio da Sangallo the younger. The 16th-century Sangallo was both a bibliophile and archivist (he had a rich library that the *Biblioteca Riccardiana* preserves today), and probably transcribed Agostino del Riccio's works himself.



Tommaso Maria Chellini, *Nuovo Libretto di tutte le qualità de' Funghi miniati al naturale e trovati e fatti dà mè Tommaso Maria Chellini Cittadino Fiorentino* (New Booklet with all the Qualities of the Mushrooms [miniati?] Natural and Found and Made by Myself, Tommaso Maria Chellini, Florentine) 1699, register bound in cardboard, 1699.

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, Mss. R.210.16.

The *Biblioteca Biomedica* has five volumes of botanical watercolors depicting mushrooms. Two of the volumes have title pages (one of which is pictured above) which attribute the watercolor illustrations to the Florentine painter Tommaso Maria Chellini (Florence 1672-1742). On each page, the author has depicted a species of mushroom, often adding a descriptive note regarding its name, edibility, location, and season of the mushroom portrayed. An additional insert into the last volume is dedicated to orchids. These volumes, which came

from the Hospital of Santa Maria Nuova are mentioned by Giovanni Targioni Tozzetti who researched this artist's substantial production in Florentine libraries. Chellini's work was characterized by a rapid and concise manner, which permitted a prolific production. He routinely collaborated with Pier Antonio Micheli for whom he made numerous illustrations.

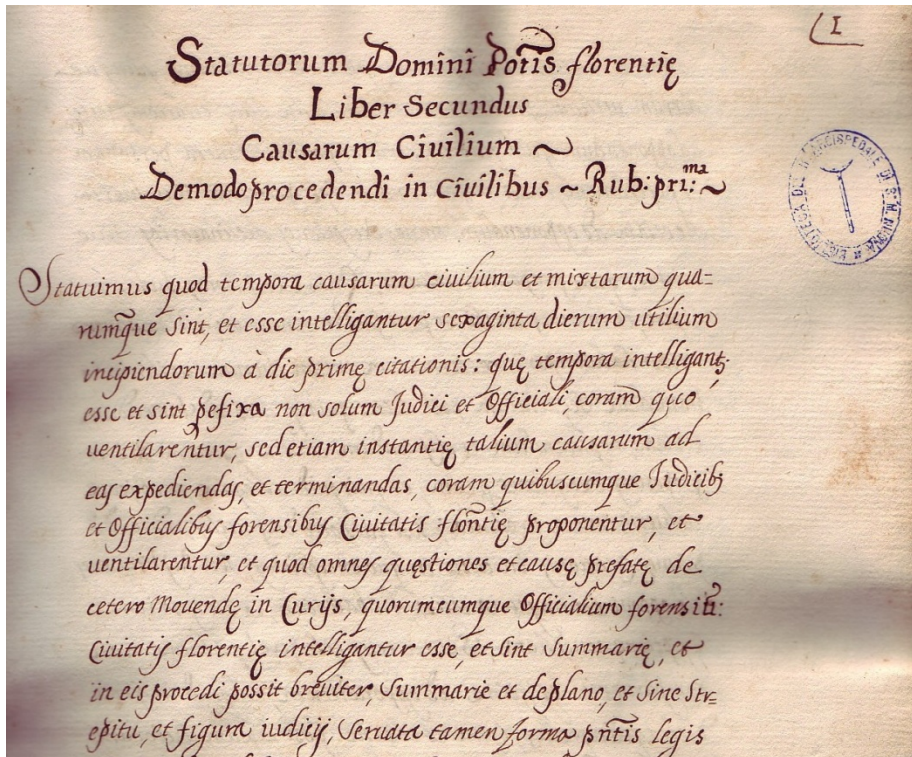


Anonymous, *Viridarium botanicum novissimum italo-hispanum*, register bound in parchment, 1731.

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, Mss.2.6.1.

These two large, precious volumes were created in 1731 and contain more than a thousand pages of watercolor illustrations depicting numerous varieties of plants found in 18th century Italy and Spain, identified by name. In addition to the plants there are also drawings of animals that are also identified. The volumes contain a table of contents and a bibliography. There is still not enough information about these volumes to identify the author, but current research is investigating the hypothesis that the author might be identified amongst the figures who, in those years, enriched the tradition of Florentine botanical illustration. The original presence of these volumes in the library of the Hospital of Santa Maria Nuova bears witness to the importance of phytology

in the institution where these plants were used for the preparation of medicines rather than food.



Paul. castron: qui unus ex compilatoribus nouis. Statutorum
florentie, cui hoc statutor in primo de iussi. dot. refert.
Notan: a Paul. in statu. de iur. dot. q. aa. de. et vide de pro
de gl. q. non sicut committit iudicem florentinu

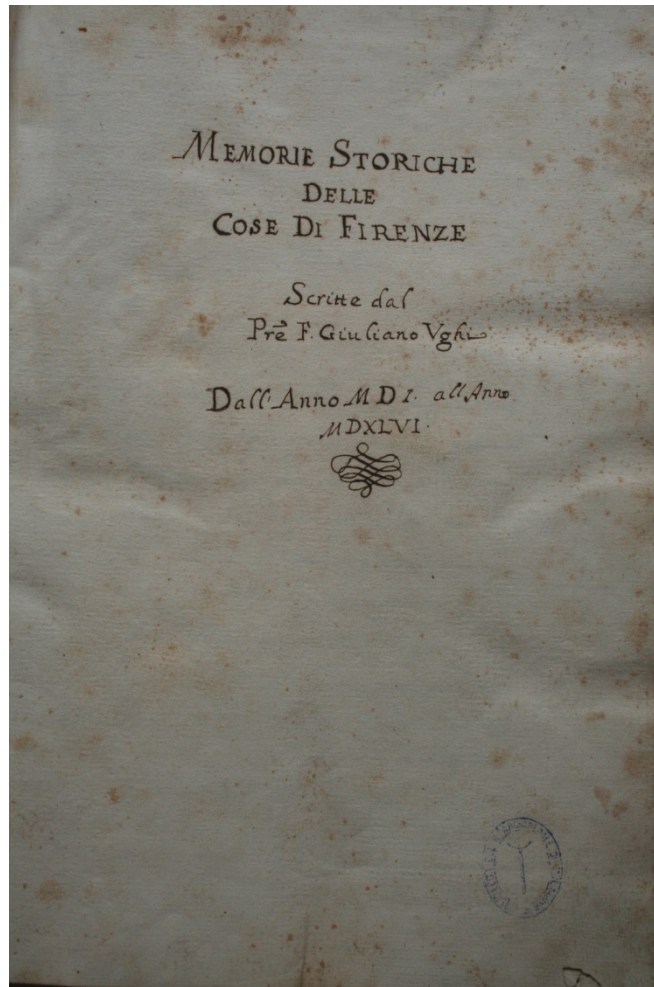
De Lorenzo Pucci

Statutorum Florentinorum Liber, register bound in parchment, 16th or 17th century.

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, Mss. R.210.3.

In many cases, the statutes of medieval towns [*Comuni medievali*] remained applicable until the Napoleonic age. However, in reality, in the Granduchy of Tuscany criminal legislation was revised by the Leopoldine reforms of 1786, and to a certain extent other statutes laid dormant until they were officially abolished. A volume of manuscripts owned by the *Biblioteca Biomedica* (which is believed to have been received as a gift from its original owner, Lorenzo Pucci, a lawyer and a benefactor of the library) contains the second book of Florentine statutes in the revised version of 1415. The first printed edition of the statutes was only to appear in the late 18th century: This volume mainly focuses on civil

cases and is followed by successive additions *Correctio statutorum contra libertatem ecclesiasticam* 1427. On the back of the volume lists a few members of the commission that drafted these statutes, such as the jurist Paulo di Castro.

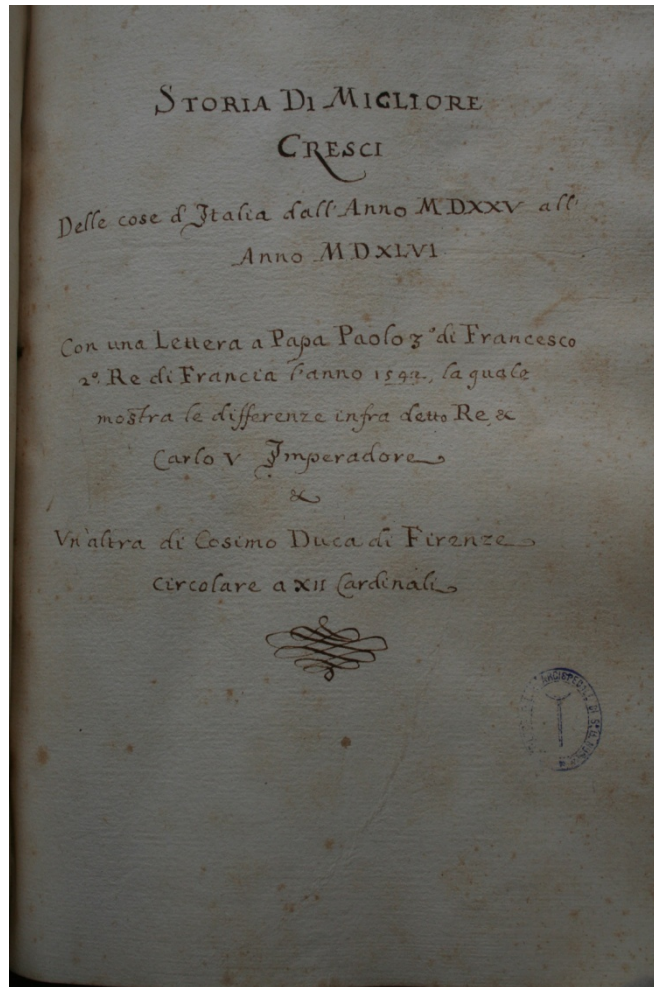


Giuliano Ughi, *Memorie storiche delle cose di Firenze dall'anno MDI all'anno MDXLVI* (*Historical Memoirs of the Affairs of Florence since the Year MDI to the Year MDXLVI*), register bound in parchment, 16th century.

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, Mss. R. 210.4.

One of the few sources on the life and work of the Franciscan monk Julian Ughi, also called “della Cavallina”, who was attached to the convent of Santa Maria del Bosco, is the 19th-century edition of his most important work: *The Chronicle of Florence from years MDXLVI to MDXLVI* (*Cronica di Firenze dall'anno MDI all'anno MDXLVI*). In 1849, Francesco Frediani wrote an *Appendix of the Italian Historical Archive* (*Appendice all'Archivio storico italiano*). In his preface, Frediani explained how, even in the absence of an original manuscript by the author, the work was nonetheless preserved in seven later copies. The Main Hospital (*Arcispedale*) of Santa Maria Nuova possessed one of

these and is now in the archives of the *Biblioteca Biomedica*, which is the only copy whose title features the variant *Historical Memories of Things* (*Memorie storiche delle cose di Firenze*). Divided into three parts, this volume gives prominence to military-political events such as the siege of Florence by Charles V and the resistance of the city. It is therefore an important historical record of some of the more critical events of the 16th century.



Migliore Cresci, *Storia delle cose d'Italia dall'anno MDXXV all'anno MDXLVI* (History of Affairs of Italy Since MDXXV to year MDXLVI), register bound in parchment, XVIII sec.

Florence, Biblioteca Biomedica of the University of Florence, Mss. R. 210.4.

Migliore Cresci (1494-1546 *post quem*), hailed from Fiesole, was both a humanist and politician in early 16th century Florence and, in 1534, held the office of Prior. Initially, he expressed sympathy for the republican government only to later embrace the restoration of power to the Medici. He devoted a short treatise on the political and moral duties of a good prince to Cosimo I. In this work Cresci attributes to the Medici family its political behavior the final pacification of an era that had seen too much bloodshed. Greci's most famous work is the *History of Italy* (*Storia d'Italia*) in ten volumes that focus on the political and military events that affected the peninsula from 1525 to 1546: twenty crucial years of war between Charles V and Francis I for dominance in

Italy. Paralleled to the enormous struggle between the two monarchs, Cresci inserts historical digressions of the city of Florence, personal reflections on the Italian situation and the society of his time, and observations regarding both culture and customs as well as moral reflections on the mechanisms of power. As a whole, his work conveys the depth of material observation and reflection that characterizes the highest products of Renaissance historiography.

Tuscany, but without mention of an author or dates. After page 80 there appears a page numbered 41, obviously written in a different hand. At the beginning of this page, the following words can be read:

“da qui avanti questa storia è scritta di mano di medesimo Ammirato Autore di essa”.

(From here on this history is written by the author Ammirato himself)

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