

## **Gli antichi stati italiani: un progetto di *authority file***

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The project to create an authority list of the ancient Italian states arises from the lack of such a list in Italy. The standardization of headings for the ancient states has taken into account all the problems and difficulties arising from the nineteenth-century concept of <state> - which we refer to. That concept is quite difficult to apply to the Italian states established before that time.

The creation of the authority list is mainly based on two sources: the *Raccolta di statuti, consuetudini, leggi, decreti, ordini e privilegi dei comuni, delle associazioni e degli enti locali italiani dal Medioevo alla fine del secolo XVIII* and the *Fondo delle leggi degli antichi Stati italiani*, both of which are held in the Senate Library.

The documents about administration and legislation (including communal, seignorial, urban, rural and maritime statutes, customary laws, privileges and seignory decrees) have been examined from the *Raccolta di statuti* (771 manuscripts, 39 incunabula, 3626 editions printed between the XVIth and XVIIIth centuries and partially reissued since the XIXth century).

The statutes concern all the areas within the borders of the ancient Italian states - including those under foreign domination, possession and colonies - the local administration and legislation and the statutes of the towns later changed into states.

In the introduction to the first volume of the Catalogue, Corrado Chelazzi defines the real meaning of <statute>. Such a term refers to a specific concept of the law-history but is used generically to designate a set of documents not belonging to the ancient *ius statuendi* which governed certain social relations in the place of imperial and ecclesiastic law or individual states legislation <sup>></sup><sup>2</sup>. Therefore it appears that some documents of a different kind and laws promulgated by different entities were often named <statutes>.

The *Fondo delle leggi degli antichi Stati italiani* (670 works in several volumes) was probably constituted when the Senate library was founded in 1848 and has been fully examined.

The classification of the first nucleus - dating back to 1865 - is clear and easy to understand; it includes those States consecrated

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<sup>1</sup> This paper summarizes some ideas from the PhD dissertation defended at the Scuola speciale per archivisti e bibliotecari, Università La Sapienza di Roma (academic year 2000-2001). With thanks to the relator Professor Mauro Guerrini for his valuable suggestions. As soon as possible the *Raccolta degli statuti* and the *Fondo delle leggi degli antichi Stati italiani* will be available to selected readers in the reading-rooms (Italian law history section) of the new building of Biblioteca del Senato della Repubblica.

<sup>2</sup> BIBLIOTECA DEL SENATO DEL REGNO, *Catalogo della raccolta di statuti, consuetudini, leggi, decreti, ordini e privilegi dei comuni, delle associazioni e degli enti locali italiani, dal Medioevo alla fine del secolo XVIII*, Volume I, A-B, Roma, tip. del Senato, 1943, p. XVIII.

after the Restoration and <the major Napoleonic states, including the French Republic, Piemonte, Liguria and Parmense><sup>3</sup>. The increasing in fund with ancient documents made the individuation of the States established and succeeded in the Italian territorial boundaries more difficult. At the end of the era of the City-State the statutes were dependent on sovereign ratification which confirmed them as laws of the new State. In 1934, on the occasion of library restructuring, all the collections were examined, grouped together and finally classified. In the preface to the catalogue of 1986 the compiler points out that the catalogue has no scientific or bibliological pretensions and should be considered as an inventory of the archival holdings, an instrument of access to the printed library indexes. The compiler also warned of the potential problems in the identification of the thirty-five headings - referring to the ancient states - and the alphabetical index<sup>4</sup> including spurious names and groups of headings.

Both the funds have been studied in order to identify possible cataloguers errors or mistakes in location and dating problems of documents and the Italian legal and political system.

The working method has involved the study of the historical events and government transformations in the Italian states in order to clarify the main changes reflected in the *authority list*. Regarding the establishment and development of modern states in the nineteenth century, the historians turned their attention more closely to national monarchies than to Italy, considering a disordered group of political entities difficult to define. For a considerable period of time Italian historiographers have considered our peninsula as a confused and fragmented mosaic of little states with evolution delayed or unsuccessful in comparison with the other European monarchies. Recently the nineteenth-century concept of <state> has come under discussion because it does not appear to refer either to the ancient or modern states.<sup>5</sup>

The modern concept of <state> does not apply to the ancient territorial entities and the lack of sources and documents from available sources has caused problems in dating the establishment of those states. In the past the laws were issued in the name of the King or Lord who often exercised power over several territories. This makes identification of state entities difficult and the authority

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<sup>3</sup> SENATO DELLA REPUBBLICA. BIBLIOTECA, *Le leggi degli antichi Stati italiani. Catalogo della Raccolta di fonti possedute dalla Biblioteca del Senato*, edited by W. MONTORSI, Roma, Tipografia del Senato, 1986, p. 17.

<sup>4</sup> The thirty-five headings are : Adige *vel* Tirolo meridionale, Bergamo, Bologna, Brescia, Chioggia, Dalmazia e Illiria, Due Sicilie, Emilia, Ferrara, Genova, Italia, Liguria, Lombardia, Lucca, Milano, Modena, Napoli, Padova, Parma, Piemonte, Roma, Romagna, San Marino, Sardegna, Savoia, Sicilia, Siena, Stato pontificio, Ticino, Toscana, Treviso, Venezia, Venezia Giulia e Trentino, Verona, Vicenza.

<sup>5</sup> For a thorough analysis of this problem see E. FASANO-GUARINI, <Etat moderne> et anciens Etats italiens. *Elements d'histoire comparée*, <Revue d'Histoire moderne et contemporaine>, 45 (1998) n. 1, pp. 15-41; C. CASANOVA, *L'Italia moderna. Temi e orientamenti storiografici*, Roma, Carocci, 2001.

file will need to be revised and augmented after further investigation in other libraries and archives.

The *authority list* includes those Italian States established between 1400 and 1850 and also those constituted before the 12th century. The list includes only those States within Italian territorial boundaries.

Each entity has been given a chosen title in bold face, followed by dates in italics and unauthorized terms linked to authorized headings in Roman; for those states whose names have changed over time an authorized term is linked to the authorized headings via cross-references.

Each variant form of geographical names in the documents consulted – for example Venexia instead of Venezia – is shown as linked to the terms actually used.

The headings are listed in alphabetical order:

1. name of the place, followed by specification (duchy, provisional government, grand duchy, marquisate, princedom, regency, kingdom, republic) in brackets;
2. compound name or expression found in publications or already used in SBN (for example: Repubblica ligure, Repubblica romana, Regno d'Italia, Stato dei Presidi).

In case of coincidence of two authorized forms, they have been sorted chronologically by date of the establishment of the state in descending date order. The differences of names due to the use of capital and small case letters have been disregarded; for Latin denominations the headings in capital letters have been preferred to those ones in small case, which are usually used for the adjectives.

Foreign expressions (idioms), deduced from consulted sources, have not been compared to those ones of the National libraries OPACs. As soon as possible the *authority list* will be supplemented with relative headings in the most common foreign languages.

The authorized terms prefer using the abbreviated headings which can result in unexpected problems. For instance:

1. the authorized heading is **Brescia** (provisional government): in SBN the *Manifesto del governo provvisorio rappresentante il sovrano popolo bresciano (...)* is entered under **Brescia**, but the *Raccolta dei decreti del governo provvisorio bresciano (...)* under **Brescia** <Provisional government; 1797>;
2. the authorized term for the Regno delle Due Sicilie is **Due Sicilie** (Regno), in SBN we find **Due Sicilie**; in SBN the *Codice civile di Napoleone il Grande tradotto nella lingua italiana d'ordine di Giuseppe Napoleone re delle Due Sicilie* (published in 1808) is entered under **Francia**, the *Traité de paix entre S.M. le Roi des Deux Siciles et la Republique francaise* of 1801 under **Napoli** <Kingdom>. The matter could be controversial because the headword "Regno delle Due Sicilie" has been in use before 1808 and used since that time;

3. in SBN the *Statuta (...) civitatis Ferrariae* del 1534 and the *Statuta urbis Ferrariae (...)* of 1567 are entered under **Ferrara, the Capitoli et ordini del ser.mo D. Alfonso II Duca di Ferrara, & c. (...) and the *Statuta prouisiones, et decreta gabellarum ciuitatis Ferrariae (...)* of 1624 under **Ferrara** <Duchy>; in our *authority list* the authorized term is **Ferrara, Modena e Reggio** (Duchy) because the State of the Estensi, founded when Borso d'Este was granted the ducal title in 1471, included the above mentioned territories;**
4. the authorized heading for Regno lombardo-veneto is **Lombardo-Veneto** (Kingdom) by analogy with SBN;
5. some authorized headings for Lucca are:
  - **Lucca** (Republic), *116?-1799*; in SBN the heading **Lucca** <Republic> is also referred to the Repubblica lucchese of 1801, instead in our *authority list* the state entities of 1799 and 1801-1805 are distinguished from the Repubblica of Lucca - previously established - by the headword **Repubblica lucchese**;
  - **Lucca** (Principedom), *1805-1814*, by analogy with the heading in SBN: the Principedom of Felice and Elisa Baciocchi, Napoleon's sister, included the Repubblica lucchese territories in addition to Piombino, Massa, Carrara and Garfagnana; in the documents examined the headword mostly found is "Principato lucchese";
  - **Lucca** (Province), *1815-1817*, for the Provincia lucchese (1815-1817) including the territories of Lucca and Piombino for few months in 1815, and the former feuds of the Lunigiana under Austrian domination; in SBN the *Bollettino delle leggi della Provincia lucchese* is entered under **Austria**;
  - **Lucca** (Duchy), *1817-1847* for the Ducato lucchese, the same heading in SBN;
6. in SBN (Ancient Books section) all the records relating to Modena - part of the Duchy of Ferrara, Modena and Reggio - and a document sent to the commander of Modena from general La Poype (commander of the Cisalpina) are entered under **Modena**; some statutes of Modena, published in 1547 and the documents concerning the Duchy of Modena, Reggio and Mirandola (1814-1829) are entered under **Modena** <duchy>; in our *authority list* are authorized terms:
  - **Modena** (Consultative body), *1734-1736*
  - **Modena** (Provisional government), *1831*
  - **Modena e Reggio** (Duchy), *1452-1471; 1598-1734, 1736-1796*
  - **Modena e Reggio** (Provisional government), *1848*
  - **Modena e Reggio** (Regency), *1848*
  - **Modena e Reggio, Mirandola** (Duchy), *1814-1829*
  - **Modena e Reggio, Mirandola, Massa e Carrara** (Duchy), *1829-1847*
  - **Modena e Reggio, Mirandola, Massa e Carrara, e Guastalla** (Duchy), *1847-1859*
7. the chosen heading for Padova – state entity established in 1797- is **Padova** (Municipality); in SBN (Ancient books section) the *Annali*

*della libertà padovana* (published in 1797) are entered under the generic heading **Padova**;

8. **Parma** (Duchy), **Parma e Piacenza** (Duchy), **Parma, Piacenza e Guastalla** (Duchy) are authorized terms; in SBN the relative documents are entered under the headings **Parma e Piacenza** <Duchy> (including the *Codice penale per gli stati di Parma Piacenza e Guastalla*), or **Parma, Piacenza e Guastalla** <Duchy> (for instance, the *Codice civile per gli stati di Parma, Piacenza e Guastalla*), with the exception of the *Cerimoniale per la ducal corte di Parma*, published in 1824 and entered under **Parma** <Duchy>;
9. in SBN we find both the headings **Regno italico** and **Regno d'Italia** (the second one is mostly used) for the Italian Kingdom of Bonaparte (1805-1814); in our *authority file* the chosen heading is **Regno d'Italia** because this is commonly used in the official documents;
10. the authorized and preferred heading is **Repubblica anconitana**, denomination used in the official documents for that state-entity; in SBN we find the generic heading **Ancona**;
11. the authorized term is **Repubblica bergamasca** for the same reasons as above; in SBN the *Raccolta di avvisi, editti, ordini ec. pubblicati in nome della Repubblica bergamasca (...)* is entered under **Bergamo**;
12. the authorized heading for the Republic established in Genoa, during the Napoleonic age, is **Repubblica ligure** (heading mostly used in the official documents); in SBN we find the headings **Repubblica Ligure, Genova** <Republic; 1797>, and **Liguria** <Republic>, the first of which is most commonly used.
13. for the Neapolitan Republic of the 1799 the authorized heading is **Repubblica napoletana** instead of **Repubblica partenopea** (both of them are used in SBN);
14. for the Roman Republic ruled by Mazzini, Saffi e Armellini, the chosen heading is **Repubblica romana, 1849**; it is mainly used in SBN where we find **Roma** <Republic> and **Roma** <Republic, 1849> as well;
15. the authorized heading for the State of San Marino is **San Marino** (Republic), in SBN we find both **San Marino** <Republic> and **Repubblica di San Marino**;
16. in SBN we find both **Regno di Sardegna** <1717-1861> and **Sardegna** <Regno> (the second one is mostly used); we have chosen the short form **Sardegna** (Regno);
17. about the Papal States, the temporal power was declared lost in both 1798 and 1849, and in Napoleonic age the territory was divided with the annexation of Marche to the Kingdom of Italy and the transformation of Lazio and Umbria in French districts. Therefore it is necessary to verify the headings used for the Papal States of the time by reference to pontifical documents not found in the Senate Library collections;
18. the authorized heading for Siena is **Siena** (Republic): in SBN we find **Siena, Siena** <Republic> and **Siena** <State>;

19. in SBN we find both **Toscana** <Grand Duchy> and **Toscana** <Duchy>: in our authority list the two forms are referred to **Toscana** (Grand Duchy ) and **Firenze** (Duchy).

Here is an example of the authority list for Repubblica bresciana of 1979<sup>6</sup>:

*Legenda*

- = see (link to the authorized heading)
- < = from (cross referenced from unauthorized term to authorized term)
- >> = see also (cross reference among variant forms)

*Abbreviations*

? = unknown

cent. = century

in. = ineunte (beginning/first half of the century)

ex. = exeunte (second half/end of the century)

**Brescia** (Provisional government), 1797

< Provisional government [of Brescia], 1797

< Provisional government *bresciano*, 1797

< Municipality of Brescia, 1797

< Provisional municipality [of Brescia], 1797

< Provisional municipality of "Sovrano popolo bresciano", 1797

< Provisional municipality [of Brescia], 1797

< Republic *bresciana*, 1797

>> **Cisalpine Republic**, 1797-1802

>> **Venezia** (Republic), 8th cent. in. -1796

Provisional government [of Brescia], 1797

- **Brescia** (Provisional government), 1797

Provisional government *bresciano*, 1797

- **Brescia** (Provisional government), 1797

Municipality of Brescia, 1797

- **Brescia** (Provisional government), 1797

Provisional Municipality [of Brescia], 1797

- **Brescia** (Provisional government), 1797

Provisional municipality of "Sovrano popolo bresciano", 1797

- **Brescia** (Provisional government), 1797

Provisional Municipality [of Brescia], 1797

- **Brescia** (Provisional government), 1797

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<sup>6</sup> The complete *authority list* is available in the libraries of the Scuola speciale per archivisti e bibliotecari (Università La Sapienza of Rome) and of the Italian Senate, depositary of a copy of the dissertation from which this paper has been abstracted.

Republic *bresciana*, 1797

➤ **Brescia** (Provisional government), 1797

The suggested authority list is not a final solution but should, hopefully, lead to further investigation and discovery. The librarian should not limit his/her activities just to the disciplines proper to Library Science but needs to be skilled in many subjects (eg history, law, information technology etc.), avoiding the paradox of the polymorphous and utopian librarian (Née de la Rochelle, Peignot) who loses sight of his goal which should be to provide instruments for searching and widening human knowledge.