

## ARCHIVES

### HERITAGE

The archive was founded in 1950 to preserve the documentation of the liberation movement in the province of Modena, the first provincial Institute after the National one. Since the nineties, the Historical Institute of Modena has transformed itself into an institute of contemporary history, expanding its interest throughout the twentieth century. This has meant, about archival and book assets, opening up to civil society, welcoming documentation produced by parties, unions, associations, companies and individual personalities, avoiding in several cases its dispersion and carrying out an action of protection in agreement with the Archival and Bibliographical Superintendence of Emilia-Romagna.

The latter has declared of great historical interest, the archival heritage preserved by the Institute, to date formed over 150 funds for about 700 linear metres of documents. A heritage that is constantly growing, because the Historical Institute is recognized as one of the main places of conservation and promotion of the history of Modena.

The commitment of the Institute for the conservation and enhancement of its archival heritage is also reflected in the activity of reorganisation and computerised inventory of the funds it holds: using the collaboration of the Cultural Heritage Service of the Emilia Romagna Region, which has made available its database "IBC Archives", the Institute is proceeding in this direction and is currently able to make available to anyone (scholars, researchers, students, ordinary citizens) the outcome of the archival interventions concluded that see protagonists their own archives, some party funds (Modena Federation of the Italian Communist Party, the Carpi section of the Socialist Party, the Modena Action Party) the maps of an association such as ANPPIA and those of Modena citizens who played a role in the construction of the social and political life of our territory. To these are also added the archives of the *Patronato pei figli del popolo* and the *Ferrarini Institute of Modena*.

**The inventory description** is not only a list of files, names and dates, but the result of a careful investigation into the history of the cards, the criteria by which they were stored and managed over time, and above all an in-depth exploration of the historical events that those maps have gone through and today give back: hence the composite structure of the inventories that consist of the reasoned listing of the files, inserted in the context of well-defined criteria of reorganisation, and then from two cards, one of which reconstructs the history of those who produced those cards while the other outlines the institutional profile of those who keep them.

[Archive of the Institute for the history of the Resistance and contemporary society in the province of Modena](#)

[Archive of the Italian Communist Party - Provincial Federation of Modena](#)

[Archive of the Italian Communist Party - Modena City Committee](#)

[Archive of the Italian Communist Youth Federation - Modena Federation](#)

[Archive of the Modena Action Party](#)

[Archive of the Italian Socialist Party - Section of Carpi](#)

[Archive of the League of Democratic Municipalities - Modena Provincial Section](#)

[Maps of the National Association persecuted Italian anti-fascist politicians - Modena Committee](#)

[Antonio Ferrari's archive](#)

[Bruno Manicardi's archive](#)

[Fermo Melotti's archive](#)

[Bruno Piva's archive](#)

[Onelio Roncaglia's archive](#)

[Franco Zavatti's archive](#)

[Archive of the Patronage for the children of the people \(Modena\)](#)

[Archive of the Istituto Lodovico Ferrarini \(Modena\)](#)

[Collection Franco Beghelli](#)

[Archive Alfredo Bertesi](#)

### **The institutional archive**

The archive of the institute has preserved papers from 1958, when it has its own headquarters. Until that moment, the headquarters of the institute was the office of the mayor of Modena, Alfeo Corassori.

Of great interest are the materials of the training courses for teachers and the conferences promoted from the sixties onwards. There are also papers from the Documentation Centre for Contemporary History, a structure created by the Institute

to census all the historical archives in the province of Modena between the eighties and nineties of the last century.

In the archive are preserved some research funds, related to scientific projects promoted by the institute. These are materials about Anglo-American prisoners saved by Modena's citizens, local administrations, the Republican National Guard News, the Allied Armed Forces, the deportation and military internment in Germany, the biographies of the fallen Resistance, the anti-fascists of the province of Modena filed in the central political register, the cards produced by the peripheral structures of the fascist regime between 1920 and 1943.

Important for the study of the construction of the memory of deportation in Italy are two specific funds: these are the papers of the Committee promoting the national event on the Resistance in the extermination camps that took place in Carpi in 1955 and the National Exhibition on the Nazi concentration camps promoted by the Institute between 1955 and the sixties, which was fundamental in the "discovery" of deportation to Italy.

### **The archive of the Resistance and the Civil War**

The Institute keeps the documentation produced by the various organisations of the Modena Resistance. These papers have been delivered over time by several former partisan commanders and cover the entire province. Among the most significant names are Umberto Bisi, Ermanno Gorrieri, Mario Ricci, Marcello Sighinolfi, Giuseppe and Norma Barbolini, Giovanni Vandelli, Mario Costi, don Nino Monari, Arrigo Boccolari, etc. The last important acquisition is two years ago, with the donation of the personal archive of Colonel Carlo Zanotti 'Garlan', partisan in Montefiorino in the democratic group-Christian, then Chief of Staff of the Bologna Division and finally a member of the CUMER Removal Office.

The institute also keeps documentation produced by the Social Republic, such as the Republican National Guard News, the collection of the main newspapers published in the period 1943-1945 (including the "Gazzetta dell'Emilia", completely digitised) the archives of Bruno Piva, head of the Political Investigative Bureau of the GNR and that of Elio Vocca, containing dozens of periodicals of the fascist period.

An extraordinary source to know the period is the Chronicle of the Nazi-Fascist occupation in Modena, edited by Adamo Pedrazzi, director of the Municipal Historical Archives during the war. It is a typescript in three volumes of over 3,000 pages, accompanied by six volumes of original documents collected by the author and his collaborators.

## **Personal archives**

The Institute keeps the personal archives of some of the political and social life of the province of Modena. Among these, for the pre fascist period we can mention the archive of Senator Alfredo Bertesi and the socialist master Renato Prati; for the fascist the papers of Enzo Ponzi, founder of the Modena fascism, and numerous anti-fascists such as Dante Bizzarri, Enrico Sabbatini, Olinto Cremaschi, Celso Pirazzini, Luigi Benedetti, Primo Bellettini, Albano Franchini, Luigi Mattioli; for the period of the partisan war Gabriella Rossi, Filippo Papa, Renato Giorgi, Franco Bellei, Franco Bellei, Fermo Melotti, Mario Ricci, Antonio Ferrari; from the post-war period until the seventies of the militants and political leaders Bruno Messerotti, Ennio Manzini, Ermelindo Vaccari, Enzo Gatti, Raniero Miglioli, Maurena Lodi, Paolo Pompei, Giuseppe Gavioli, Luciano Guerzoni, Silvio Miana.

In some cases the archives concern people active in the search for historical documentation: this is the case, among others, of Ilva Vaccari, who conducted research on resistance in the Modena countryside, on the anti-fascist fallen during the Twentieth Century and on the fallen during the Resistance; by Ennio Resca, who collected a lot of documentation on the Modenese cooperative movement, Gregorio Agnini and anti-fascism; by Franco Beghelli, who identified many original sources on the elections and referendums that took place in Modena between 1946 and 2009, on the union, on the socialist section of Medolla and on the communist sections of Concordia, Finale Emilia, Camposanto and Solara, on the Vecchi farm of San Prospero, on the Bosco della Saliceta and on the Centro Quadrupedi of San Martino Spino.

## **Parties and movements**

The Institute keeps the papers of various political organisations active in the reality of Modena: the Fascist National Party of Sassuolo, the Action Party, the Popular Unity Movement, the sections of Carpi and Spilamberto of the Italian Socialist Party, the Communist movement-anarchist Modena, the Italian Communist Youth Federation of Modena, the Modenese Federation of the Italian Communist Party, the PDS and the DS and the Modenese Federation of the Italian Socialist Party of proletarian unity. In private funds are kept papers related to other political organisations or associations, such as the Italian Socialist Democratic Party, the Italian Union of Labour, Workers' Power, Italian Anarchist Federation, student collectives and organisations of the new left active in the seventies, Provincial Committee of solidarity with Chile, Modena Committee for public water, etc.

## Trade unions and enterprises

In the Institute is preserved the archive of the Confederal Chamber of Labour of Modena, which includes the papers on categorical structures, the Federation CGIL-CISL-UIL for the period 1971-1984, the municipal Chambers of Work of Camposanto, Carpi, Castelfranco, Castelvetro, Cavezzo, Concordia, Finale Emilia, Mirandola, Pavullo, San Felice sul Panaro, San Possidonio, Spilamberto, Vignola. The CGIL also has an important collection of about 200 historical flags.

Over the years the Historical Institute has paid attention to business archives, unfortunately with limited results due to the lack of interest in the protection of this material. In any case, there are maps relating to the Adige-Garda Autonomous Body, the Ettore Factory and Luigi Rizzi of Modena, the SAMIS-Bellentani of Massa Finalese and the Friedmann Farm of Nonantola. In any case, in the union charts there are numerous files concerning the internal life of the main Modena companies

## Bodies, Institutions, associations

Among the documents preserved, some important archives for the history of Modena and the province can be mentioned. The first is the **archive of the Patronato pei Figli del Popolo** (1873-2008), an archival fund of considerable interest for the history of the Modenese welfare institutions, of childhood and the transformations of welfare in our territory; the archive of the Institute of popular culture Lodovico Ferrarini, Circulating library active between 1910 and 1960, which became the library of the Fascist Federation of Modena in the next twenty years; the archive of the National Association of Persecuted Anti Fascist Politicians; the photographic archive of the ANPI in Modena; the archive of the National Association of Fighters and Veterans of Modena.

## Library, newspaper and audiovisual library

To the archival heritage are added the library collections, consisting of over 40,000 volumes, 34,000 of which are catalogued in SBN. In addition to the library of the Institute, there are collections relating to the Ferrarini Institute, the Communist Federation of Modena, the Confederal Chamber of Labor. Important personal libraries of Ennio Resca, Ennio Manzini Franco Focherini, Loes Mussini, Silvio Miana and Giuseppe Gavioli.

The newspaper library keeps about 900 newspapers and periodicals. Of great interest are the collections of “Gazzetta dell’Emilia” (from 1920 to 1975), “L’idea Nazionale” (from 1914 to 1922), “L’Avanti”, “L’Unità”, magazines of the fascism period and

neofascism, political periodicals of the post-war period. The Institute retains hundreds of audiovisual materials, mainly available for educational activities in schools.

### **Photos and posters**

The Institute holds almost 40,000 photographs relating to the history of the province of Modena or some moments of national history. The most significant funds concern the First World War, the birth of fascism, the period of the regime, the war of Ethiopia, the war and the Resistance, the political and social life of Modena in the post-war period. It also contains thousands of political and trade union posters, and a remarkable collection - among the most significant in Italy - of posters of the Italian Social Republic published between 1943 and 1945. These posters have been digitised and are available on the website [www.manifestipolitici.it](http://www.manifestipolitici.it).

### **Consultation**

The access to the historical archive is free BY APPOINTMENT during the opening hours of the Institute: from Monday to Thursday 9:00-13:00, Tuesday and Thursday also 15:00-19:00. To book an appointment, please write to [segreteria@istitutostorico.com](mailto:segreteria@istitutostorico.com) or call 059 242377 specifying the requested material. The study room, accessible by appointment, has ten seats; we have internet access, scanner and photocopier. For the consultancy service, please take an appointment with the archive manager.

In order to enhance and make the documentation more accessible, several reorganisation and inventory projects have been undertaken over the years, with the publication of tools for the search of the documents themselves and the creation of computerised databases, in collaboration with local authorities and institutions.

The first database online, ISIS, was established in the late nineties and made available the documents kept in the historical archive of the National Institute for the History of the Liberation Movement in Italy.

[Here you can have access to this archive](#)

Recently, the Istituto Storico has participated in the project Archivi@ which connects the inventories of the historical archives of Francesco Luigi Ferrari Cultural Centre and the Women's Documentation Centre, as well as the Istituto Storico: the user can identify in which archive is placed the physical document.

[Here you can have access to this archive](#)

The local network Archivi@ is connected to the national network Archivi del Novecento, which gathers 83 Italian cultural institutions with over 750 archives described, of which about 280 with analytical inventory at the file or document level; in some cases, the documents are full scanned and can be used online as a digital image. There are several hundred biographical papers available online.

Since spring 2015, the network has been restructured within the Direzione generale archive (DGA) to revitalise the network as part of a new DGA thematic portal on politics and culture.

The Istituto Storico of Modena (Modena Historical Institute) since 2007 has joined the project ArchiviaMo, supported by the Foundation Cassa di Risparmio di Modena, to enhance the historical archives of the Modena area of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, while maintaining its active presence in the database of the National Institute.

[Here you can access to this archive](#)

The project involves the publication of inventories within the information system edited by the Institute for Artistic, Cultural and Natural Heritage, IBC Archives, and through thematic information systems such as Archivi del Novecento.

## **FUNDS**

On this page will be progressively implemented all the materials of deepening on the individual funds of the Institute, starting from the analytical inventories, or studies or in-depth studies that focus on the exploitation of the documentary heritage of the Historical Institute of Modena.

Download the inventories:

[Inventory of Ennio Manzini Fund](#)

[Inventory of Paolo Pompei Fund](#)

[Inventory of archive and library](#)

## **FORMS**

Since the 3th june 2020, in order to contain the Covid 19 spread, there are new guidelines.

The deontological code of for the processing of personal data for historical purposes, and here the International Code of Archival Ethics is applied.

[Here you can download it.](#)

The forms required for requesting access, consultation and reproduction of documentary material can also be downloaded here.

With the [application for admission to the study room of the Historical Institute of Modena](#), users are given the opportunity to consult the archive material; the application shall be completed only once during the year.

The [request for access to the documentation of the Historical Institute of Modena](#) allows researchers and scholars to consult the documentary material kept at the archive of the Institute historian of Modena. By filling in the [appropriate form of Request reproduction documents](#) kept at the archive of the Historical Institute of Modena you can ask for permission to reproduce documentary and iconographic material kept at the Historical Institute's archive.

The Institute is continuously increasing its documentary heritage through the acquisition and donation of maps, iconographic documents, audiovisual and multimedia materials by institutions, The European Commission has published a report on the European Union's research and development policy in the field of education. The material deposited, carefully preserved and valued, is subject to the constraints and regulations indicated in the rules of the archive of the Institute. Here you can download the forms for [private individuals](#) and [institutions](#) to donate funds to the Historical Archive of the Historical Institute of Modena.

## **NEW ONLINE INVENTORIES**

The inventory of the Alfredo Bertesi Archive was published in the regional information system dedicated to the historical archives, one hundred years after the death of its producer on 20 August 1923.

He was a representative of Modena socialism and the cooperative world of the province, as well as a very particular industry. The archive of Alfredo Bertesi testifies the most important events of his political and social activity: the presidency of the Association of Workers of Carpi, the election to municipal and provincial councilor, the establishment of the first Carpi socialist circle and then the appointment of the national secretary of the Italian Socialist Party, the experience of prison, membership of the Socialist Reformist Party and the entry into Parliament. The papers also relate to his activity as a chip industrialist, to his work as Director of “Luce” (Carpi, 1891) and “Il Secolo”, or as President of the Union of newspaper publishers in Alta Italia. It is a rich correspondence of material of a political nature, electoral writings, appeals in support of the Civil Action Committee (1917-1918), articles, pamphlets and newspaper clippings, which are accompanied by private, family and friendly documents.

Alongside this great achievement, we also point out the online publication of the inventory of the Franco Beghelli Collection.

The collection brings together a rich and heterogeneous collection of original materials of a political and trade union nature that covers the entire chronological arc of the twentieth century and particularly affects the area of the province of Modena commonly called “Bassa Modenese” specifically the municipalities of Bomporto, Finale Emilia, Concordia sulla Secchia, Mirandola, San Felice sul Panaro, Medolla, Camposanto, Cavezzo. The value of these papers lies above all in the relations that they intertwine with the archives of the Confederal Chamber of Labour of Modena and the Modenese Federation of the Communist Party: these are information and propaganda materials, such as bulletins, sheets and single numbers, produced by different union bodies in the local and national territory; communications and reports, letters, correspondence, texts of trade union agreements, circulars, minutes of meetings; trade union press.

Translation of Sara Dell’Infante and Anna Fiorini.