

Correspondence in the Salvemini *Fonds*

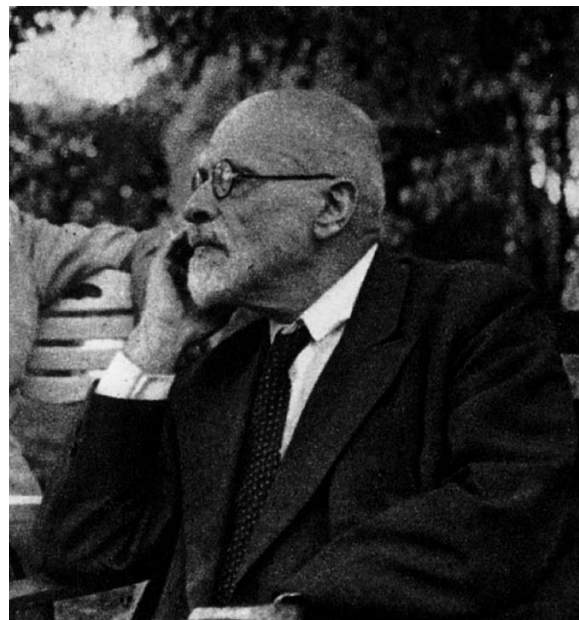
Archivist, Historical Archives of the EU | **Andrea Becherucci**

Gaetano Salvemini was one of the outstanding intellectual figures in Italian history in the first half of the twentieth century. He was born in Molfetta, Puglia in 1873 and died in Sorrento in 1957. His life's work, documented in his archival fonds, was extremely varied and included his academic work, involvement in reform of the school system, campaigns against Giolitti and protectionism, the campaign for agricultural reform in the Mezzogiorno, his journalistic activity, the anti-fascist movement, first in Italy and later in exile, mainly in the US, his return to Italy to support the move for a Republic, backing a democratic revival and taking a stand against clerical interference.

The documents which make up the Gaetano Salvemini fonds, have had a mixed custodial history. They were initially collected after the war by his student and friend Ernesto Rossi and they remained in his possession and later in that of Rossi's wife, Ada, until her death in 1993. From that date the papers were passed to her legal heir, her nephew Prof. Carlo Pucci, the mathematician, who before he passed away in 2003, created the Fondazione Rossi-Salvemini in order to guarantee the safety and accessibility of the Rossi and Salvemini fonds. After the death of Ernesto and Ada Rossi the Salvemini fonds were earmarked for permanent preservation in the Istituto Storico della Resistenza in Toscana. However there followed a long legal battle between the Fondazione and the Istituto for possession of the Salvemini papers. Fortunately a compromise was reached and the Gaetano Salvemini fonds are now preserved in paper form at the Istituto Storico della Resistenza in Toscana.

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The *fonds* are in two sections. The first comprises his work manuscripts for which there is an analytic inventory drawn up by Stefano Vitali which was published in 1998. The second part is the correspondence



which remained uninventoried until now. In order to develop a summary inventory, listing the persons with whom Salvemini corresponded within each box of correspondence, an agreement was stipulated between the Istituto Storico della Resistenza in Toscana, the Fondazione Rossi-Salvemini and the Historical Archives of the European Union.

The part of the Salvemini fonds concerning his correspondence has been described in the volume *Guida agli archivi delle personalità della cultura in Toscana tra '800 e '900* as 'Correspondence, currently subdivided in the following sections, for a total of circa 70 folders: A) Letters from GS up until 1925, originals, 2 folders. B) Letters from GS up until 1925, photocopies, 4 folders. C) Letters from GS from 1926 to 1957, originals and photocopies, 3 folders. D) correspondence GS-Ernesto Rossi, 3 folders. E) Letters to GS up until 1925, 15 folders. H) Letters from unidentified sources and related material, 6 folders'.

There are 67 boxes of correspondence containing over 20,000 individual items, including letters, cards, memoranda and telegrams. The result of the inventory work was the publication in December 2007 of *Archivio Gaetano Salvemini: Inventario della corrispondenza* by Andrea Becherucci with Gherardo Bonini (Bologna, CLUEB, 2007, xvii-557).

Currently, a microfilm copy of the Salvemini correspondence is available for researchers at the Historical ▶▶

- ▶ Archives of the European Union, and another micro-film copy will soon be available at the Istituto Storico della Resistenza in Toscana.

The correspondence covers the period 1894–1957 and consists of around 20,000 pieces, originally stored in folders in 67 separate boxes. Each of these folders is dedicated to a correspondent or in some rare cases to a set of correspondents (when dealing for example with a family unit). Some of these letters are photocopies (e.g. Salvemini's letters to Arcangelo Ghisleri, Guglielmo and Gina Ferrero, Giovan Battista Gifuni, Giuseppe Prezzolini and Roberto Bolaffio and Giustino Fortunato's letters to Salvemini).

The alphabetical sequence A–Z starts from boxes 64–69, and boxes 70–73, boxes 74–76 contain the correspondence between Ernesto Rossi and Salvemini, boxes 77–91 and boxes 92–109 the alphabetical sequence is once again applied; boxes 110–112 contain correspondence without signatures or with indecipherable signatures; once again the alphabetical sequence recommences from boxes 113–127. The last three boxes 128–130 contain copies of various correspondence (including letters from Salvemini to Ghisleri, letters from Salvemini to Zanotti Bianco, Giustino Fortunato, Piero Gobetti, Elsa Dall'Olio, Ugo Ojetti, Elio Conti, Bruno Caizzi, Franco Venturi and Camillo Berneri).

Among the most notable of Salvemini's correspondents were Francesco Ruffini, Piero Gobetti, Carlo Rosselli, Don Luigi Sturzo, Filippo Turati, Luigi Albertini, Giuseppe Prezzolini, Giovanni Amendola, Benedetto Croce, Luigi Einaudi, Ernesto Rossi, and Giovanni Gentile.

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The criteria adopted in the description of the letters is as follows: where possible the name of the sender, addressee, place, date are specified, accompanied by the specification of the type of correspondence (letter, note, card, telegramme), type of document (original, photocopy, photographic reproduction), the number of items and how they were written (typed, manuscript); where there were appendices or attachments (often newspaper clippings but also articles, deliberations, lists, motions, untitled typescripts, the characteristics of the document are described as completely as possible). Where the sender is not indicated or is unclear, question marks in square brackets are used. For non-

Italian locations, I tried to identify the place of departure specifying the state (for the US) or the country where necessary. The abbreviations *s.l.* and *s.d.* substitute place and date where these are not specified. The complete names of Salvemini's correspondents are given in full the first time they are cited in every group of letters, successively the person's initials are used. Original documents were only substituted when this was absolutely essential because of damage to the original folders where the letters were preserved, and their replacement in a new folder. ■

¹ Istituto Storico della Resistenza in Toscana, *Archivio Gaetano Salvemini, I: Manoscritti e Materiali di lavoro*, inventario a cura di Stefano Vitali, Roma, Ministero per i beni culturali e ambientali, Ufficio centrale per i beni archivistici, 1998 ('Pubblicazioni degli Archivi di Stato. Strumenti', CXXXII).

² Stefano Vitali, list of the Gaetano Salvemini fonds in *Guida agli archivi delle personalità della cultura in Toscana tra '800 e '900*, Firenze, Olschki, 1996, p. 553.

Births

Congratulations to **Fabian Breuer** and **Tijana Prokic** on the birth of their son **Nicolas Hubert**, on 15 February 2008.

