

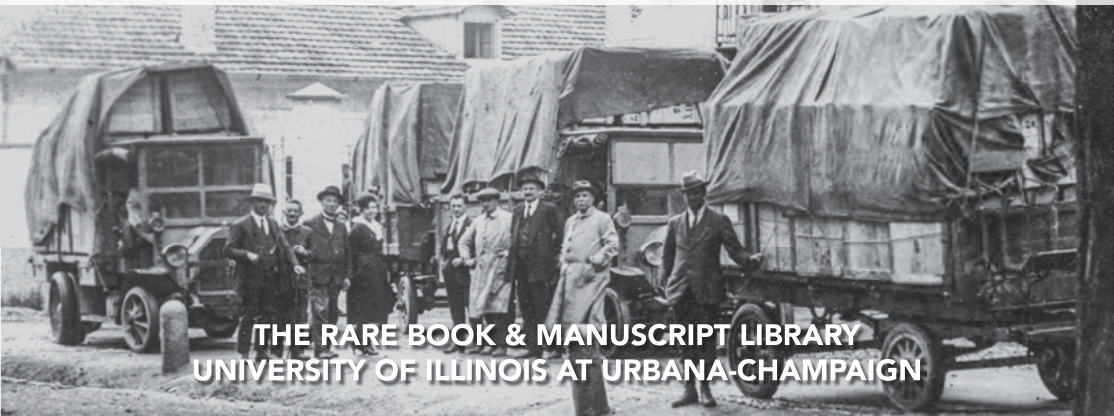
# BUILDING A LIBRARY



## The Cavagna Sangiuliani Collection at Illinois

ON VIEW SEPTEMBER 14-DECEMBER 14

CURATED BY CHLOE OTTENHOFF



THE RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

## BUILDING A LIBRARY

In 1921 the University of Illinois acquired the Cavagna Sangiuliani Collection of Italian imprints and manuscripts from the heirs of Count Antonio Cavagna Sangiuliani di Gualdana (1843-1913), seven years after discussions of its purchase began. In February 1914, the Leipzig firm Gustav Fock had informed University President Edmund J. James of the availability of the collection, estimated at 85,000 printed works; 7,500 prints; and 12,000 maps and documents relating to the history of Italy and its art. James asked head librarian Phineas L. Windsor and University faculty to investigate the collection's status and contents. Previous estimates of its size were refined, but Cavagna's library was considered to be remarkable, vast,



Antonio Cavagna Sangiuliani's monogram, surmounted by a crown with elements of the Cavagna family coat of arms: a golden lion and blue band with a golden basket ("cavagno") within



Bookplate designed for the collection by W.C. Titcomb, featuring the Cavagna family crest and the motto of the University of Illinois: Learning and Labor

and indeed just the sort of notable collection the library was looking for. Its purchase would greatly add to James's plan to build the library's collections to at least one million books as quickly as possible, in order to establish the University as a leading center for advanced study.

Communications between the University and Cavagna's family, led by sons-in-law Oscar Mörlin-Visconti and Luigi Cesare Bollea, continued for several years. The negotiations were hindered by war, as well as by insurance, shipping, and other bureaucratic matters, but the collection was finally cleared for export in March 1921. Weighing twenty tons, the collection was shipped over on the steamer *Dante Alighieri*.

## THE CAVAGNA SANGIULIANI COLLECTION AT ILLINOIS

Librarian Adah Patton and others began cataloging the collection immediately upon its arrival, distributing items to various departmental libraries. Cataloging librarian Meta Maria Sexton (1883-1959) would spend thirty years working with the collection, cataloging over 20,000

books and compiling the guide *Manuscripts and Printed Documents of the Archivio Cavagna Sangiuliani in the University of Illinois Library* in 1950, which remains the primary listing of these historical documents. In January 2015, the Rare Book & Manuscript Library (RBML)

won a Cataloging Hidden Collections grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) for “Cataloging Cavagna: Italian Imprints from the Sixteenth through Nineteenth Centuries.” The project’s team has succeeded in making accessible another 20,000 titles that remained uncataloged for nearly a century; cataloged over 600 bound manuscripts dating from the fifteenth to twentieth century; and added item-level descriptions to finding aids for over sixty linear feet of manuscript and printed material, including ephemera and maps, from the Archivio Cavagna Sangiuliani.

This exhibition celebrates the history of the collection at the University of Illinois, its collector Antonio Cavagna Sangiuliani, and the extraordinary depth and breadth of the collection. The items on display illustrate just a sample of the potential opportunities for study the collection can foster across a broad variety of subjects and disciplines. In addition to its unsurpassed contributions to the study of the history of Italy, its laws, and its families, the Cavagna Sangiuliani Collection remains a foundational part of the University Library.

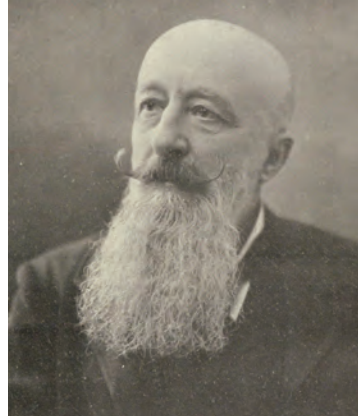


Photograph of the transport of the Cavagna Sangiuliani Collection from Zelada (or Zelata), province of Pavia



## ANTONIO CAVAGNA SANGIULIANI, COLLECTOR

Cavagna was born in Alessandria, Italy, on August 15, 1843 to Giovanni Battista Cavagna, Count of Galdana, and the noble Ida Fenini of Milan. In 1853 Cavagna was adopted by his cousin Antonio Sangiuliani, Count of Balbiano, who was without an heir, and incorporated the surname into his own. He volunteered to fight for unification in the 1866 war against Austria with the regiment “Lancieri d’Aosta.” He studied in universities in Bologna, Pavia, and Rome, and received his law degree in 1871. Cavagna started his book collection at the age of nineteen and over the course of his lifetime built his library through auctions—purchasing significant portions of other private collections and family archives—and close relationships with booksellers. As he became known as a prolific historian and collector, many colleagues and contemporaries would send him their works in homage. Cavagna was a member of hundreds of artistic, historical, and charitable associations, and served as councilor for the cities of Voghera and Pavia, and as mayor of Bereguardo for fourteen years. He died in Milan on April 5, 1913.



Portrait taken in 1908, from item 1.4

### ITEMS ON EXHIBIT:

- 1.1 [Various ephemera including postcards from Cavagna’s future son-in-law and photographs of the family villa in Zelada, province of Pavia]
- 1.2 Cavagna Sangiuliani, Antonio. *Il portico di San Celso in Milano*. Milano: Tipografia di Pietro Agnelli, 1865. Q. 726.645 C313p
- 1.3 [Samples of works authored by Cavagna]
- 1.4 Bollea, Luigi Cesare. *In memoria del conte Antonio Cavagna Sangiuliani di Galdana nel primo anniversario della sua morte, 5 aprile 1913*. Pavia: Stab. tipografico Caio Rossetti, 1914. Q. Cavagna 50262
- 1.5 [Receipt from copyist for transcription of manuscript “Notizie del castello di Pieve di Cadore,” 1880]
- 1.6 [Receipt for books purchased from the antiquarian bookstore owned by Felice Mojana in Como, 1879]

## SCIENCES

From railroads to rinderpest, Cavagna collected widely in scientific works, but focused mostly on subjects that had profound effects on shaping Italy—both physically and demographically. Historical works on plague outbreaks and contemporary works on the prevention and treatment of cholera and malaria are particularly well represented. The collection contains a significant number of works on hydrotherapy and the composition and therapeutic use of mineral waters found across Italy. Volcanology, geology, and archaeology are strongly featured, as are agricultural topics such as sericulture, risiculture, and the prevention of livestock diseases. Civic and hydraulic engineering—from Roman times to the Risorgimento—are also strengths of the collection, especially works on land reclamation and river and flood control.



Item 2.1, detail

### ITEMS ON EXHIBIT:

- 2.1 Spallanzani, Lazzaro. *Viaggi alle Due Sicilie e in alcune parti dell'Appennino*. In Pavia: Nella Stamperia di Baldassare Comini, 1792. 508.45 Sp19v
- 2.2 Legati, Lorenzo. *Museo Cospiano annesso a quello del famoso Ulisse Aldrovandi e donato alla sua patria dall'illustrissimo signor Ferdinando Cospi*. In Bologna: Per Giacomo Monti, 1677. Q. 507 L52m
- 2.3 Capra, Domenico. *Il vero riparo il facile, il naturale per ouuiare, ò rimediare ogni corrosione, e ruina di fiume, e torrente, abbenche giudicata irremediabile*. In Bologna: Per Giacomo Monti, 1685. 627.4 C17v
- 2.4 *Addì 16 maggio 1799...in proposito della pillole dette del Pievano, segreto della dita Gio. Giacomo Zannichelli...* [Venice]: Stampata per li Pinelli zio, e nipote stampatori regi, [1799]. Q. Cavagna 03310a
- 2.5 Borsieri de Kanilfeld, Giambattista. *Delle acque di S. Cristoforo, trattato*. Seconda edizione. Faenza: Per Lodovico Genestri, 1786. 615.79 B648d1786

## SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS

Records of everyday life abound in the collection, from eighteenth-century royal courts to the period of unification in the mid-nineteenth century. Orders and decrees issued by the Duchy of Milan, for example, reveal customs on funerary dress or the use of public ovens. The collection contains many unique ephemeral items, including almanacs, yearbooks, and travel guides, that provide a snapshot of their times. Religious life is well documented in pilgrimage guides, liturgies and pastoral letters, prayers and programs for festivals, and rules for monasteries and convents. The births, marriages, and funerals of notable people are recorded in commemorative works, especially in the nineteenth century with “per le nozze” publications and epithalamia. Also notable in the collection are many records of mutual aid societies, almshouses, charities, orphanages, and learned institutions.

### ITEMS ON EXHIBIT:

- 3.1 *Memorie del calcio fiorentino*. In Firenze: Nella Stamperia di S.A.S. alla Condotta, 1688. 796.33 B51m
- 3.2 *Calendario postale per l'anno...* Poggibonsi: Stab. Tipogr. Cappelli, 1898-1910. Cavagna 13217
- 3.3 Scappi, Bartolommeo; Cervio, Vincenzo. *Dell'arte del cucinare con il mastro de casa e Trinciante*. Venetia: Combi, 1643. 641.5 Sca6d
- 3.4 *Notizie sulla giraffa e descrizione di quella giunta in Venezia nel mese di aprile dell'anno 1828*. Venezia: Presso Gio. Batista Missiaglia, al segno dell'Apollo, [1828?]. Q. Cavagna 10504
- 3.5 *[Collection of printed ephemera from the Duchy of Milan]*. [Milan], [1752-1786]. Q. Cavagna 30054 no.5
- 3.6 Palatino, Giovanni Battista. *Libro di M. Giouambattista Palatino...nelqual s'insegna à scriuer ogni sorte lettera, antica, et moderna, di qualun que natione, con le sue regole, et misure, et essempli*. In Roma in Campo di Fiore: Per Antonio Blado asolano, il mese d'ottobre 1545. 745.6 P17l1545



Item 3.2, 1906 issue



# GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY

Titles of nobility played an important role in Italian history and went through significant change during Cavagna's lifetime. Fittingly, the collection contains important resources for genealogical and heraldic studies, including general manuals, originals and transcripts of wills and investitures, and registers of nobility. Royal, ecclesiastic, family, or city coats of arms are detailed and diagrammed in many colorful volumes. The collection is rich in histories and genealogies of noble families, as well as genealogical histories of different cities and regions across Italy. Works on orders of knighthood and chivalry and military religious orders, in particular the Knights of Malta, including their emblems and costumes, also feature prominently in the collection. Histories of royal families across Europe, especially the House of Savoy, also make up a significant portion of the genealogical works in the collection.



Item 4.3, detail

## ITEMS ON EXHIBIT:

- 4.1 Coronelli, Vincenzo. *Blasone veneto, o, Gentilizie insegne delle famiglie patrizie oggi esistenti in Venezia*. [Venice]: Stampato da Gio. Batista Tramontin, 1706. 929.6 C81b
- 4.2 *[Famiglie nobili di Venezia]*. [Venice?], [not before 1616]. CAV 139
- 4.3 Barbuò, Scipione. *Sommario delle vite de' duchi di Milano, così Visconti, come Sforzeschi raccolto da diuersi auttori*. In Vinetia: Appresso Francesco Ziletti, 1584. Q. 929.2 V822b
- 4.4 Maresti, Alfonso. *Raccolta dell'armi antiche, e moderne de nobili ferraresi*. In Ferrara: Nella stampa camerale, 1685. Q. 929.6 M33r
- 4.5 Federici, Federico. *Della famiglia Fiesca*. Gen[o]a: Per Gio Mar[i]a Faroni, [approximately 1650?]. Q. 929.2 F464f
- 4.6 Torelli, Carlo. *Lo splendore della nobilta napoletana ascritta ne' cinque saggi*. In Napoli: Appresso Antonio Bulifon, 1678. 929.8 T635s

## THE ARTS

Art and architecture are celebrated in works on the cathedrals, monuments, sculpture gardens, cemeteries, and architectural masterpieces of Italy, especially of the Lombardy and Piedmont regions. The Cathedral of Milan and the Certosa of Pavia are especially well represented. Exhibition catalogs of museums and galleries in Milan document the artistic culture of the nineteenth century, as do libretti and theater programs. Antiquities and Roman ruins are detailed in works on numismatics, inscriptions, and archaeological discoveries. The collection also has practical manuals and technical handbooks; biographies of artists; histories of art collections and museums, both private and civic; histories of art academies and guilds; and philosophical works on art, architecture, and aesthetics.



Item 5.1, detail

### ITEMS ON EXHIBIT:

- 5.1 Zanotti, Giampietro. *Storia dell'Accademia Clementina di Bologna aggregata all'istituto delle scienze e dell'arti*. In Bologna: Per Lelio Dalla Volpe, 1739. Q. 708.5 B638z v.1
- 5.2 *Per la facciata del Duomo di Milano*. [Milan?, circa 1656?]. Q. 726.645 P41
- 5.3 Agustín, Antonio. *Dialoghi... intorno alle medaglie, iscrizioni, & altre antichità*. In Roma: Appresso Andrea Fei, à spese di Pompilio Totti, & Andrea Montano, 1625. Q. 737 Ag9dIs1625
- 5.4 *Il maestro di miniatura a guazzo ed all'acquerello: opera dedicata alle dame...* Milano: Presso P. e G. Vallardi in S. Margherita, [1822?]. Mini Cavagna 04658
- 5.5 *Il maestro di miniatura a guazzo ed all'acquerello: opera dedicata alla gioventù...* Milano: Presso P. e G. Vallardi C.S. Margherita, 1820. 757 T43m
- 5.6 Rosenberg-Orsini, Justine. *Altichiero par Mad[am]e J.W.C.D.R. À Padoue*, 1787. Q. 914.5312 Or8a1787



## ARCHIVIO CAVAGNA SANGIULIANI IN ZELADA

The “Archivio Cavagna Sangiuliani in Zelada” consists of nearly sixty linear feet of manuscript and printed documents, including prints, maps and land surveys, limited correspondence, ephemera, and photographs. Arranged alphabetically by place name, and chronologically by content, the bulk of the archive—“Carte storico-diplomatiche”—pertains to the local history of northern Italian towns and cities, including family histories, legal instruments, investitures, wills, diplomas, charters, leases, and papal bulls. Many manuscripts are original documents, with the oldest dating from 1116; however, the majority of the manuscripts are authentic copies, often notarized, or simple copies transcribed directly from originals held in Italian archives.



Item 6.6

### ITEMS ON EXHIBIT:

Inventory card 53 of 138, containing 26 entries from Medea-Mirandola

- 6.1 [*Documents concerning the Chiesa di S. Rosso, Pieve di S. Giuliano*], [1650-1658]. CAV 53.1; [*Documents concerning the Conti delli Cappellani*], [1660-1676]. CAV 53.2
- 6.2 [*Imbarco delle truppe Napoletane dopo la capitolazione di Melazzo*], [1860]. CAV 53.3
- 6.3 [*La Risotteide, del dott. G.B. Bolza da Valmenaggio*], [circa 1860?]. CAV 53.9
- 6.4 [*Storia del borgo di Menaggio descritta da Paolo Bertarelli, 1643*], [circa 1700s]. CAV 53.10
- 6.5 [*Three original investitures on vellum*], [1422, 1433, 1439]. CAV 53.5, CAV 53.6, CAV 53.8
- 6.6 [*Enrico IV imperatore pretende sotto la sua protezione il luogo di Menaggio. Diploma originale in pergamena*], [1116]. CAV 53.7
- 6.7 [*Map of Mezzago, Pieve di Vimercate*], [circa 1750]. CAV 53.20

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Rare Book & Manuscript Library  
346 Main Library, 1408 West Gregory Drive  
Urbana, IL 61801  
[www.library.illinois.edu/rbx](http://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx)

