Theresa D'Eredita’s “Little Italy”

An inventory of her Collection at the Nuova Monopoli Repository

Overview of the Collection

Creator(s): Theresa D'Eredita and Charlene Martin  
Title: Theresa D'Eredita’s “Little Italy”  
Inclusive Dates: 1889 – 2010  
Quantity: 1.04 cubic ft.  
Abstract: Theresa D'Eredita’s Italian immigrant experience in Syracuse, New York’s “Little Italy” is represented in this collection. Also included are photographs of the D'Eredita family and 131 John Street, as well as ephemeral mementos with a focus on the Santini (holy card) collection.  
Language: English and Italian  
Repository: The Nuova Monopoli Repository  
131 John Street  
Syracuse NY 13208

Biographical History

Charlene Martin, a native of Oswego County, New York, is currently employed by Syracuse University Library while attending graduate school at Syracuse University's School of Information Studies. Completing the collection that Theresa had begun and making it available for study is the fulfillment of a childhood interest in the collection.

Born in Monopoli, Italy, Theresa D'Eredita (nee' De Michele) immigrated to the United States in 19131 to join her husband. The D'Eredita's settled permanently at 131 John Street in 19372. After raising seven children, Theresa continued to reside there with a son and his family as a widower from 1954-1974. Sometime before 1910-1915, Theresa began the practice of using an Italian prayer book as a sort of family bible, inserting holy cards and in memoriam cards between its pages, some containing family-related marginalia and handwritten correspondence. This forms the heart of the collection.

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Scope and Contents of the Collection

The collection includes five series: Theresa’s prayer book with inserted holy cards; Theresa’s Roman Catholic liturgical paraphernalia; various photographs related to the D’Eredita family and 131 John Street (analog and digital surrogates); genealogical materials (digital surrogates and born digital); and ephemeral mementos of Little Italy, Syracuse. The prayer book and holy cards are the heart of the collection, with a majority of the materials originating from 1889-1930. Theresa’s use of the holy cards seems to have extended beyond the usual in memoriam practices, connecting the visual vocabulary of Santini with personal meaning: some are inscribed with messages to and from family members, or to herself, while other cards reflect an “encoded” personal history related to the provincial parishes of the Apulia region or namesake saints of family members.

SERIES 1: Printed Material

This series includes a leather bound Italian prayer book originally filled with holy cards which are mostly chromolithographic prints from Italy circa 1889-1930, referred to as the “900 Series Santini” by collectors. The origination of two other cards appears to have been related to Syracuse, New York. These materials form the genealogical heart of the collection, at the same time providing a secondary focus as a collection of Santini printed in Italy and America. The cards are no longer inserted in the prayer book due to preservation concerns, but are kept in folders in the series. Available in original printed form as well as digital surrogate format (saved as .tiff files on CD-R for on-site use).

SERIES 2: Photographs

This series includes photographs of the D’Eredita family and 131 John Street residence, spanning from 1930-1971. Available in original printed form as well as digital surrogate format (saved as .tiff files on CD-R for on-site use).
SERIES 3: Roman Catholic Liturgical Paraphernalia

This series consists of a Roman Catholic sick call crucifix made of cherry wood, and a commemorative porcelain plate for a Syracuse, New York parish, circa 1950/1960

SERIES 4: Genealogical Materials

This series includes Ellis Island ship manifest data and mortuary information related to Theresa and immediate family members. Contains some newspaper content regarding the De Michele and D'Eredita families, circa 1950. Available in digital surrogate format (saved as .tiff files on CD-R for on-site use).

SERIES 5: Ephemeral Mementos

This series includes artifacts dating from 2010, collected to represent local (Syracuse, New York) food merchants extant during Theresa D'eredita’s lifetime. Includes food wrappers and an empty imported wine bottle. Available in digital surrogate format (saved as .tiff files on CD-R for on-site use).

Arrangement of the Collection

The series are arranged by type of material, adhering to original order as much as possible. The holy cards are further arranged according to geographic origin (imprimatur data).

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions on this material, although researchers will be directed to utilize digital surrogates of materials when possible.

Use Restrictions

Written permission must be obtained from the Nuova Monopoli Repository and all relevant rights holders before publishing quotations, excerpts or images from photographic or genealogical materials in this collection.
Subject Headings

**Persons**
De Michele family
D’Eredita family
D’Eredita, Cosmo
D’Eredita, Theresa

**Corporate Bodies**
Catholic Church--New York (State)
Nuova Monopoli Society

**Subjects**
Catholic Church. Liturgy and Ritual
holy cards
Italian American families--New York (State)--New York
Italian Americans
Italian Americans--New York (State)--History
Italian Americans--New York (State)—Religion

**Places**
Bari (Italy: Province)--Emigration and Immigration
Monopoli (Italy)--History
Syracuse (N.Y.)—History

**Genres and Forms**
chromolithography
correspondence artifacts
devotional images (religious works)
devotional objects (religious works)
digital images
digital photographs
digitized images
electronic reproductions
personal correspondence

**Occupations**
Italian Americans--Employment--History
Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Theresa D'Eredita's "Little Italy" Collection
Nuova Monopoli Repository
131 John Street/Syracuse, New York 13208

Acquisition Information

Transfer from Charlene Martin to the Nuova Monopoli Repository circa 2010

Finding Aid Information

Created by: Charlene Martin
Date: 17 March 2010
Revision history: 05 Apr 2010 - converted to EAD-(CLM)

Other Related Finding Aids
Google Maps: Building a Bridge with Faith http://tinyurl.com/y6hm7ll

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Inventory

Printed Material (in Italian and English)

Folder 1: Books
"Raccolta Della Preghiera Alla Vergine Del Rosario Di Pompei"/"Collection of Prayer to the Virgin of the Rosary of Pompeii", bound in leather 1894

Folder 2: Santini holy cards: Milan 1898-1930
St. Antonio Di Padova
Santa Maria Della Pace
St. Giuseppe
L'Immacolata Concezione
Nostra Signora Del Carmelo
Regina Sacratissimi Rosari
Regina Sine Labe Originali Concepta
St. Rita Da Cascia
Spirito Santo (with marginalia)
St. Antonio (with marginalia)
St. Michele

**Folder 3**: Santini holy cards: Genoa 1898-1930
St. Giuseppe

**Folder 4**: Santini holy cards: Bari 1898-1930
Mater Creatoris
Gesu
Maria Madre Di Graze
Maria Santissima Del Pozzo (with marginalia)

**Folder 5**: Santini holy cards: Mottola 1898-1930
Parrocchia Di Mottola

**Folder 6**: Santini holy cards: Ravennae 1919
Ricordo Pasquale Dell Anno Di Pace / with Benedict XV inscription

**Folder 7**: Santini holy cards: Syracuse, New York 1960’s
Sanctus Joseph/ Mallaro *in memoriam*
St. Maria Goretti / YCW Senior Breakfast (with marginalia)

**Folder 8**: Santini holy cards: No date, no location
postcard with no saint designation (with marginalia)
Visitando a’ tu Dios. (with marginalia)
no verso, image only
St. Assisi
Santo Teresa

Folder 9: CD-R disc containing digital surrogates of holy cards

Photographs

Folder 10: D'Eredita Family 1940’s – 1950’s
Theresa and the D'Eredita family (black & white photograph)
Theresa, son, and daughter-and-law (black & white photograph)

Folder 11: 131 John Street 1940’s – 1970’s
131 John Street (black & white photograph)
131 John Street, with street view (black & white photograph)
131 John Street, with street view circa winter 1971 (color photograph)

Folder 12: CD-R disc containing digital surrogates of photographs

Roman Catholic Liturgical Paraphernalia
Folder 13: “Our Lady of Pompei” (parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese, Syracuse, N.Y.) commemorative porcelain plate 1950’s – 1960’s

Folder 14: sick call crucifix in cherry wood 1950’s

Folder 15: CD-R disc containing digital surrogates of paraphernalia

Genealogical Materials CD-R Disc
Folder 16: Ellis Island Materials
digital surrogate of Barbarossa ship manifest featuring D'Eredita entry.
digital surrogate of Barbarossa ship image 1913.

Folder 16: Newspaper Articles
digital surrogate of newspaper article: We Congratulate Joseph De Michele. 1950, September 14. The Post-Standard.


Folder 16: Mortuary content
born digital image of gravestone of Theresa and Cosmo D'Eredita, Anthony D'Eredita and Felice Mallaro


Ephemeral Mementos

Folder 18: Food Wrappers
Di Lauro’s Bakery and Pizza Inc. bread loaf wrapper
Lombardi’s Gourmet Imports and Specialties food wrapper
Locatelli cheese wrapper

Folder 19: Wine Bottle
Citra Pinot Noir “Puglia” wine bottle

Folder 20: CD-R disc containing digital surrogates of ephemera