The Historical Archive of the Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory

Archivist: Antonella Gasperini

Address
Largo E. Fermi, 5 - 50125 Firenze
tel.: +39 055 2752237
www.arcetri.astro.it/BIBLIO/storico/

Information
Access to the archive is by appointment.

Associazione Nazionale Archivistica Italiana
Sezione Toscana

http://soalinux.comune.fi.it/anai/anai.htm

Direttivo: Francesca Klein (Presidente),
Caterina Del Vivo (Vicepresidente),
Monica Valentini (Segretario),
Ilaria Marcelli (Vicesegretario)
M. Raffaella de Gramatica, Sara Pollastri

Segreteria presso Archivio di Stato di Firenze
Viale Giovine Italia 6 - 50122 Firenze
tel.: +39 055 263201
fax: +39 055 2341159

English translation by Vivienne Paceca
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The Historical Archive of the Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory

Edited by
Francesca Capetta
and Antonella Gasperini

Archimeetings
Since 2002 the Tuscan Section of the Associazione Nazionale Archivistica Italiana (ANAI) has been organising a series of “Archimeetings”, visits to those lesser known archives in the region. These events take place in the many and diverse spaces where these archives are to be found together with the owners, the curators and the keepers of these archives, and also with the administrative officials of the Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali who oversee the safekeeping of these archives. The “Quaderni” or booklets of the Archimeetings developed out of these events. We would like to thank all those who have helped us during the publication of these ‘Quaderni’ and especially the Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze, and the Assessore alla Cultura del Comune di Firenze – SDIAF. But above all we would like to thank those who read these publications, and through them will come to consider archives no longer as dusty storerooms removed from reality, but as the living testimony of a past which we must continue to investigate in order to understand the present and give a direction to our lives.

FRANCESCA KLEIN
President of the Tuscan Section of ANAI

Numeri già pubblicati:
6. Archivio dell’Accademia degli Immobili (Teatro della Pergola), a cura di Maria Alberti (2005).
15. L’Archivio dell’Opera di S. Maria del Fiore di Firenze, a cura di Lorenzo Fabbri (2007).

These “Quaderni”, the result of the experiences encountered at Archimeetings, aim to summarise in written form the most interesting themes, topics and problems which came to light during the visits to public and private archives. The “Quaderni di Archimeetings” are intended for all those who encounter these collections for the first time, and to that wider and wider public and historians in all fields who are showing an increasing interest in archives, in order to investigate the historical background, or in the study of wider cultural questions. The texts are intentionally simple, aiming to stimulate curiosity as well as to suggest ways of discovering the past. The texts are written for those who are not specifically occupied in the archiving field, but they are written by experts in order to guarantee the correctness of their content, and also to stress the professionalism of the archivist, who, through the profession is able to explain and to make available to others this precious cultural heritage. Following the most recent research carried out in the discipline, the information on each archive is structured around three important areas: those who produced the archival documentation (i.e. foundations, families, or individuals); the physical sites where the archives are conserved; and a description of their main areas of content. However the “Quaderno” is not intended to be a tourist guide or an heraldic encyclopedia: the format we have chosen permits just a quick sketch of the owner’s history and of the places where the archives are kept. It is to be hoped that these “Quaderni” will stimulate research, and will provide the information necessary in order to access these archives either personally or with the help of an archivist who will be able to indicate specific areas of study.

CATERINA DEL VIVO  M. RAFFAELLA DE ERAMATICA

The visit at the Historical Archive of the Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory was held on 4th May 2007.

Francesca Capetta: Graduated with a thesis on the Archive of Ernesto Codognola, she holds the master degree of "Archivistica, Paleografia e Diplomatica" at the Archivio di Stato di Firenze. For many years she worked on the reorganization of historical archives and has published numerous catalogues. She collaborated on the project Anagrafe degli archivi italiani and on the census of the archives of important cultural figures in Tuscany between ‘800 e ’900. She is currently reorganizing the Historical Archive of the Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory.

Antonella Gasperini: Graduated with a degree in Letters and Philosophy from the University of Florence. Since 1993 she works at the Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory and is currently responsible for the INAF Libraries and Historical Archives on a national level. In 2003 she organized the exhibition on the construction of the solar tower, “From the hill of Arcetri to California: the birth of a collaboration between Arcetri and the United States”.

Cover picture:
Panorama from the Arcetri hill (photo E. Brunetti)