

Studi di storia delle istituzioni ecclesiastiche 9

**Collana diretta da
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a cura di
Matteo Sanfilippo
Péter Tusor

**GLI AGENTI PRESSO LA SANTA SEDE
DELLE COMUNITÀ
E DEGLI STATI STRANIERI
II. SECOLI XVIII-XX**

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ABBREVIAZIONI

- AA.EE.SS. = Congregazione degli Affari Ecclesiastici Straordinari
AAQ = Archives de l'Archidiocèse de Québec
AAV = Archivio Apostolico Vaticano
Acta = Acta Sacrae Congregationis
AGAD = Archivi Centrali degli Atti Antici - Varsavia
AGSP = Archivio Generale Storico delle Scuole Pie - Roma
APF = Archivio della Sacra Congregazione de Propaganda Fide
APFA = Archivio Privato Famiglia Antici - Recanati
Archivio Benincasa = Archivio Privato Benincasa (Anni 1562-1861)
AS = America Settentrionale
ASAN = Archivio di Stato di Ancona
ASNa = Archivio di Stato di Napoli
ASSP = Archivio Storico di San Paolo fuori le Mura
Arch. Hib. = "Archivium Hibernicum"
BAV = Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana
CGB = Copialettere di Giuseppe Benincasa alla Congregazione de Propaganda Fide e ad altri
CUL = Paper of Paul Cullen
DBI = Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani (Roma, Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana)
FT = Fondo Tomek
GKA = Gesandtschafts- und Konsulatsarchive Rom
HHStA = Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv
KIR = The Kirby Collection
LPF = Lettere della Sacra Congregazione de Propaganda Fide a Giuseppe Benincasa
LPFB = Lettere della Sacra Congregazione de Propaganda Fide ai Benincasa
MEMORIA RERUM = Sacrae Congregationis de Propaganda Fide Memoria Rerum, a cura di Josef Metzler, Rom-Freiburg-Wien, Herder, 1971-1975
MFK = Magyar Ferences Könyvtár [Biblioteca dei Frati Minori in Ungheria]

MFL = Magyar Ferences Levéltár [Archivio dei Frati Minori in Ungheria]
PICR = Archives of the Pontifical Irish College in Rome
PL = Prímási Levéltár (Archivio Primaziale)
PMKL = Piarista Rend Magyar Rendtartomány Központi Levéltára (Archivio Centrale della Provincia Ungherese degli Scolopi)
PSB = Polski Słownik Biograficzny
SC = Scritture Congressi
SOCG = Scritture originali riferite nei congressi
S.RR.SS. = Sezione per i Rapporti con gli Stati
WDA = Westminster Diocesan Archives

Introduction

Matteo Sanfilippo, Péter Tusor

This volume is the fruit of a 15 years cooperation between the Università della Tuscia of Viterbo and the Pázmány Péter Catholic University of Budapest. More precisely, the projects of this cooperation are jointly carried out by the CESPOM (Study Center on the Sobieski Age and Modern Poland)¹ – established by Gaetano Platania, and coordinated by Alessandro Boccolini – and the Fraknói Research Group². The genesis of the joint work is based on historical research in the Holy See's Archives, and specifically in the Vatican Archives. The idea of continuing the project series of *Gli Archivi della Santa Sede*³ with the introduction of Central-European, and more specifically Hungarian, references was born in the summer of 2006 during the informal conversations in the Cortile della Biblioteca Vaticana. In May 2007, an international conference was held in the Palazzo Falconieri⁴, and in 2008 *Gli Archivi della Santa Sede e il Regno d'Ungheria* was published. The book – which was in memoriam of Lajos Pásztor and dedicated to the papal-Hungarian relations – was

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- 1 Cf. www.cespom.eu (under construction); see <https://www.settecitta.eu/catalogo/collana/1/cespom> and <https://www.easterneuropeanhistory.eu/>. Beyond Central-East Europe, this Center mainly focuses on the history of the Papacy and the Church: <https://www.settecitta.eu/catalogo/collana/39/studi-di-storia-delle-istituzioni-ecclesiastiche>. See above fn. 3.
 - 2 Cf. <http://institutumfraknoi.hu/en>.
 - 3 *Gli Archivi della Santa Sede come fonte per la storia moderna e contemporanea*, ed. by Matteo Sanfilippo e Giovanni Pizzorusso, 2001; *Gli archivi della Santa Sede e il mondo asburgico nella prima età moderna*, ed. by Matteo Sanfilippo, Alexander Koller, and Giovanni Pizzorusso, 2004; *Gli archivi della Santa Sede e la storia di Francia*, ed. by Giovanni Pizzorusso, Olivier Poncet, Matteo Sanfilippo, 2007. All volumes are published by Sette Città (Viterbo) in its appealing *Biblioteca* collection.
 - 4 Cf. http://institutumfraknoi.hu/sites/default/files/2007-06-12_convegno-ungheria-santasede.pdf.

published as the fourth volume of the *Collectanea Vaticana Hungariae* (CVH), founded in 2002 and started in 2004⁵.

The CVH is a modern continuation of Bishop Vilmos Fraknói's monumental undertaking, the *Monumenta Vaticana Hungariae* (1884-1909). Fraknói established and maintained a Hungarian historical institute in Rome at the turn of the twentieth century. With the support of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Research Group started its operations in 2012. The Fraknói Research Group opened new opportunities for international cooperation. In May 2013, an international symposium was organized in Budapest, *The Papacy and the local churches (XVIth – XXth centuries)*⁶. All presentations, interactions, debates and summaries are available online⁷. The proceedings are in bilingual volume printed in 2014⁸. At the same time, the leader of the Budapest Research Group started a monograph, that introduces the history of papacy in early modern time⁹.

The cooperation in the Viterbo-Budapest, Italian-Hungarian – and a broader international – research-community born in the court of the Vatican archives intensified in the last years. *Gli "angeli custodi" delle monarchie: I cardinali protettori delle nazioni*, published in 2018, gather the proceedings of

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- 5 *Gli archivi della Santa Sede e il regno d'Ungheria (secc. 15–20). In memoriam di Lajos Pásztor* (CVH I/4), ed. by Gaetano Platania, Matteo Sanfilippo, and Péter Tumor, Budapest-Roma, Gondolat, 2008. Online: http://institutumfraknoi.hu/index.php/en/gli_archivi_della_santa_sede_e_il_regno_dungheria_secc_15_20_memoriam_di_lajos_pasztor. For later volumes: *Gli archivi della Santa Sede come fonte per la storia del Portogallo in età moderna. Studi in memoria di Carmen Radulet*, ed. by Giovanni Pizzorusso, Gaetano Platania, and Matteo Sanfilippo, Viterbo, Sette Città, 2012; *Holy See's Archives as sources for American history*, ed. by Kathleen Sprows Cumming and Matteo Sanfilippo, Sette Città - Cushwa Center for the History of American Catholicism, 2016.
 - 6 Budapest, 8-12 May 2013. Organisers: Hungarian Academy of Sciences – Péter Pázmány Catholic University "Lendület" Church History Research Institute in cooperation with the University of Viterbo and the Italian Institute of Culture, Budapest. Scientific Committee: Silvano Giordano, Alexander Koller, Gaetano Platania. See <http://institutumfraknoi.hu/index.php/en/kronologia/2013>.
 - 7 For the uploads: [youtube.com/channel/UCPscGUuIGrnpi3lnl_P3qg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPscGUuIGrnpi3lnl_P3qg). For the summaries: [youtube.com/watch?v=kbnojh19bYo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbnojh19bYo). For the interviews: [youtube.com/watch?v=SPvyAi25fHo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPvyAi25fHo).
 - 8 *Il papato e le chiese locali Studi / The papacy and the local churches. Studies*, ed. by Péter Tumor and Matteo Sanfilippo (Studi di Storia delle Istituzioni Ecclesiastiche 4), Viterbo, Sette Città, 2014.
 - 9 Péter Tumor, *The Baroque Papacy (1600–1700)*, Viterbo, Sette Città, 2016.

workshop seminars held in Rome and Viterbo in 2017¹⁰. The international symposium of *The Agents of Foreign Communities and European-American States* in Rome was also organised in 2018. Reports examine the action of agents and representatives (*agentes, procuratores, sollicitatores*) in Rome of countries, “nations”, and ecclesiastical organisations in early modern times¹¹, detailing the topic of a previous research promoted by the the Royal Netherlands Institute at Rome¹². In September 2019, this research went on analyzing the same phenomenon from the late 18th century to the middle of the 20th century within the walls of the Istituto Nazionale di Studi Romani on the Aventinus¹³.

This volume presents the results of this conference. Before it, the activity of the agents in Rome during the 19-20th centuries has been hardly researched despite its relevance. In the Conference, a number of scholars covered the topic in different chronological and geographical sets: Canada and United States in the 19th century, United Kingdom and migrant Irish settlements in the same century, the Kingdom of the Two Sicily and the Habsburg Empire still in the 19th century, Poland in the late 18th century, and Hungary in the first half of the 20th centuries.

Moreover, Luca Codignola and Matteo Binasco deal with the work and significance of particular agents. The former introduces the career and Roman work of Robert Gradwell, rector of the English college. He arrived in Rome in 1817 and worked as rector until 1828. He was not only the agent of England and Wales’ four apostolic vicars, but also dealt with Catholic bishops in British North America – with the exception of Newfoundland – and in the United States. Matteo Binasco discloses the role of an Irish monk, Bernard Smith, in the second half of the 19th century. He coordinated the Irish scattered around the world, while being the vice-rector of the Irish college in Rome, the consultant of many Roman Congregations and teaching theology in the Collegio

10 *Gli “Angeli custodi delle monarchie”. I cardinali protettori delle nazioni* (Studi di storia delle istituzioni ecclesiastiche 7), ed. by Matteo Sanfilippo and Péter Tusor, Viterbo, Sette Città, 2018.

11 *Gli agenti presso la Santa Sede delle comunità e degli Stati stranieri*, I, *Secoli XV-XVIII* (Studi di storia delle istituzioni ecclesiastiche 8), ed. by Matteo Sanfilippo and Péter Tusor, Viterbo, Sette Città, 2020.

12 Cf. “*Your Humble Servant*”. *Agents in Early modern Europe*, ed. by Hans Cools, Marika Keblusek and Badeloch Noldus, Hivelsum, Uitgeverij Verloren, 2006, proceedings of a three-day seminar “Agency in Early Modern Europe”, held at the same Institute in February 2004.

13 *The Agents of Foreign communities and European-American States in Rome (19-20th century)*: <http://institutumfraknoi.hu/sites/default/files/Programma%202019%20definitivo%20%281%29.pdf>.

Urbano. He was never granted an official assignment as an agent, yet he served this role representing in Rome the interests of Irish and English bishops; moreover, he acted also as the roman procurator of the American and the English Benedictine congregation.

In his study, Andreas Gottsmann introduces the history of the Austrian imperial-royal agency in the long 19th century. It was established in 1714 and operated until 1918. From 1767 the agency became a tool of the caesaropapism: communications with the Holy See could only be conducted through this institution. Consequently, the State monitored the local churches' relations with Rome. Anyway, the Concordat of 1855 brought a turn: the agency continued its work, yet lost its monopoly and some bishops managed their business through the national church of the Santa Maria dell'Anima.

Matteo Sanfilippo explores the activity of many temporary Canadian agents in the second half of the 19th century. This period was important since the Canadian Dominion was born in 1867 with the participation of Canada, New-Brunswick and Nova Scotia, while Manitoba joined in 1870, British Columbia in 1871 and Prince Edward Island in 1873. At the same time, the Canadian national church started to be formed, but was burdened by the conflicts of French- and English-speaking communities. Each of these communities had representatives in Rome.

Antonio Salvatore Romano presents an unrealized plan, namely that of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies to found an agency in Rome. The plan was raised by the marquis of Fuscaldo in 1816; he suggested that in cases of conscience, bishops should be given a free hand in communicating with Rome, while other cases could only be handled through the agency of Naples with previous permission. At the request of the monarch, he detailed his proposal. The plan set off dynamically; however, it came to a halt.

Gaetano Platania and Alessandro Boccolini touch upon Polish history. The former introduces the activity of Tommaso Antici, who became a cardinal thank to a previous activity as an agent for a number of German princes in the early 1760s and for the king of Poland from 1766 onward. The history of Rome-Warsaw's relations in the last years of the independent Poland can be helped by studying his papers. Alessandro Boccolini outlines the Roman delegation (1778) of Jan Chrzciel Albertrandy, who was of Polish-Italian origin and served as a librarian/archivist at the court of Stanisław August, king of Poland. The monarch commissioned him to carry out research in the Italian archives, especially in the Roman ones. As the archives of the Holy See were not public, the research required supporters in Rome, like the already mentioned Tommaso Antici.

Both Krisztina Tóth and Balázs Rétfalvi deal with the 20th century. Tóth examines the activity of the Franciscan procurators in favour of Hungary in

1920-1925. She carried out her research in the Hungarian Franciscan Archive and in the Archivio Storico Generale dell'Ordine dei Frati Minori in Rome, focusing on three procurators, Bernardinus Klumper (1915-1921), Callistus Zuccotti (1921-1923) and Aloysius Susa (1923-1927). Rétfalvi deals with another subject relating to a religious order. He introduces the role of the Piarist superior general, Vince Tomek, between 1947 and 1967, outlining the situation of the Hungarian Catholic Church after the Second World War. After the papal nuncio's expulsion in 1945, the communication with the Holy See as well as the possibility of travelling was reduced for Hungarian priests. Nevertheless, Tomek was allowed to participate at the General Chapter of his order, where he was appointed general in 1947. He had valuable insights on the situation of Central-East Europe and shared them with the Vatican. His observations between 1949 and 1975 are collected in his journals, which are worth to be further analyzed.

This volume, as well as the previous one on the agents in the 15th-18th century, opens a new field of study. Both volumes prove that if we want to understand the inner functioning of the Roman Curia and its external links, we have to work on the documents of these Roman “procuratores” of other States. It is worth to dig deeper in the surviving documents of Roman agents, because they not only complement the information gained from the correspondence of papal nunciatures, but they are summing reports about the then current affairs. Nevertheless, it is not enough to analyse the reports of the agents in Rome, but we can also publish *in extenso* their reports, as we did and do for the reports of the nuncios. Think, for example, about the weekly reports of Giacomo Olivieri, the Roman agent of Cardinal Franz Dietrichstein¹⁴.

The employment of the agents was more interactive than we would think at first. Countries, organisations, influential prelates were not the only to employ agents in Rome, but the nuncios themselves found it advisable to do so during their foreign commission¹⁵. What is more, the dicasteries of the Holy

14 Cf. Tomáš Parma, “*Vi fui a farle riverenza a nome di Vostra Signoria Illustrissima*”. *Franz Kardinal von Dietrichstein und seine römischen Agenten, in Abwesenheit beobachten. Zu Kommunikation auf Distanz in der Frühen Neuzeit*, ed. by Mark Hengerer, Münster, Lit Verlag, 2013, pp. 147-155. The publication of these reports is in progress.

15 For instance, Luca Antonio Fabroni was the agent of Malatesta Baglioni, the apostolic nuncio of Vienna. Cf. Malatesta Baglioni's report to Cardinal State-Secretary Francesco Barberini, 12 February 1638, in BAV, Barb. Lat., 6896, fol. 37v. See also *Nuntiaturen des Malatesta Baglioni, des Ciriaco Rocci und des Mario Filonardi. Sendung des P. Alessandro D'Ales (1634-1635)* (Nuntiaturberichte aus Deutschland IV/7), ed. by Rotraud Becker, Tübingen, Max Niemeyer, 2004, p. 802, *ad indicem*.

See made use of their service; naturally not in the Roman court, but beyond it. This topic is analysed in this volume by Oliver Panichi, who writes about Propaganda Fide's agents in Ancona in the 18-19th century. They were members of the same family, the Benincasa, and the service passed from father to son. Ancona was a significant hub of the correspondence between the missionary-territories and Rome; besides, it was on the way to and from Rome, the students of the Collegio Urbano also travelling through this city. Beyond obtaining and forwarding information, the Benincasas had duties in relation to the national communities (e.g., Armenians, Greeks) in Ancona.

In conclusion, a question could be raised. Do these representations have still a *raison d'être* and a future in our digital age? Based on the studies of this volume, the answer is yes. The agents' aptitude, personal influence and creativity are still essential, as their ability to build networks to check the flow of information or to pursue administrative tasks. The development of technology will never replace the human factor.