



SEARCH

[HOME](#) [ITALIANO](#) [العربية](#) [CONTACTS](#) [FAQ](#) [NEWS](#) [ALERT](#) ●●●

[Home](#) [Press Room](#) [Press Archives](#) [In Detail](#) ITALY-USA - The Monuments Men Foundation returns 8 precious volumes to Italy

ITALY-USA - The Monuments Men Foundation returns 8 precious volumes to Italy

30 May 2013

A ceremony was held today at the Embassy of Italy in Washington DC, in collaboration with the Cultural Heritage Protection Unit of the Carabinieri and the Interpol Liaison Office, to mark the return to Italy of eight antique volumes, believed to be property of the University of Naples.

These volumes were recently entered into the possession of the Monuments Men Foundation, whose aim among other things is to promote the return of works of art taken from Europe during the Second World War.

The Ambassador of Italy Claudio Bisogniero participated at the ceremony together with the President of the Monuments Men Foundation, Robert Edsel, author of several books on the subject, including the recent *Saving Italy and The Monuments Men*, soon to be a major motion picture directed by and starring George Clooney.

"The recovery of works of art is one of our priorities," underscored Ambassador Claudio Bisogniero. "Together with the Carabinieri and Interpol - he added - we have established an excellent cooperative relationship with U.S. authorities, which in recent years, has led to the discovery and the return of numerous works."

How the books were recovered

The books were given to the Foundation by Irving Tross, a 96-year-old American veteran who served in the 88th Infantry Division, 339th Field Artillery Battalion. Mr. Tross had found them among the ruins of the church and convent of San Francesco in Minturno, where a part of the volumes belonging to the University of Naples had been sheltered during the Second World War. The convent was subsequently damaged by bombing.

"Mr. Tross has set a great example which I hope will encourage other veterans and their families to look in their attics and basements for any lost wartime items," stated Mr. Edsel. "These books are just the tip of the iceberg for the millions of cultural items still missing since WWII, which the Monuments Men Foundation hopes to help locate in the coming years."

Among the 8 volumes (4 dating back to the XVI century, 1 from the XVII century and 3 from the XVIII century), there is a Latin translation of one of Isaac Newton's works, a Hebrew grammar that had been published in Cologne in 1567, an edition of Boccaccio's "Fiammetta" of 1533, and a selection of Petrarch's works of 1542.

The Embassy of Italy in Washington thanks the Monuments Men Foundation and its President, Robert Edsel, for its multi-year commitment in this sector and for its cooperation in returning these eight precious books to Italy.



LINKS
Embassy of Italy, Washington
Monuments Men Foundation
Flickr Channel Embassy of Italy in Washington

OFFICE OF RELATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC

Is open to the public from Monday through Friday from 9.00 to 13.00 ([how to get here](#)) and can be contacted by:

Telephone

(+39) 06 36918899

from Monday through Friday from 8.30 to 15:30

Email

using the online [information request form](#) (available also in English, French and Spanish)

Fax

(+39) 06 3236210

Letter addressed to

Ufficio Relazioni con il Pubblico

Ministero Affari Esteri

Piazzale della Farnesina, 00135 Roma

[Poteri sostitutivi in caso di inerzia](#)

THE MINISTRY

- [Ministry Contacts](#)
- [Embassies and Offices for Promotion](#)
- [Certified e-mail address](#)
- [Permanent Missions](#)
- [Italian Cultural Institutes](#)
- [Italian Science Attachés Abroad](#)
- [Foreign Missions in Italy](#)
- [Transparence, Assessments and Merit](#)
- [Laws Online](#)
- [A Green Ministry](#)
- [Training: The Diplomatic Institute](#)
- [Club, Associations and Committees](#)

THEMATIC SITES**HOW TO...**

- [Active e-government services](#)
- [E-government services to be activated in the future](#)

SERVICES FOR ITALIANS ABROAD

- [CRISIS UNIT](#)
- [Safe Travelling](#)
- [Where we are in the World](#)
- [Theft or loss of documents](#)
- [Consular Services](#)
- [Registry of Italians Residing Abroad \(AIRE\)](#)
- [Assistance for Italian nationals](#)
- [Notary Services](#)
- [Identity Card](#)
- [Citizenship](#)
- [Tax Number](#)
- [Navigation](#)
- [Notification Abroad](#)
- [Passports](#)
- [Driving License](#)
- [Pensions Social Security](#)
- [Marital Status](#)
- [Translation and Legalisation of Documents](#)

UNIT FOR ANALYSIS, PLANNING AND HISTORIC-DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTATION

- [Historic-Diplomatic Archive](#)
- [Library and Research Office](#)
- [Internationalisation Agencies](#)
- [Diplomatic documents](#)

WORK AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITALIANS

- [MFA](#)
- [Cooperation Agreements with Industry, Science and Technology](#)
- [International Organisations](#)
- [European Union](#)

- [SEAE](#)
- [Development Cooperation](#)
- [Scientific and Technological Cooperation](#)
- [Bursaries for Italians](#)
- [Bursaries for Foreigners and Italians Residing Abroad](#)
- [Youth Exchanges](#)
- [Italian Academic Institutions Abroad](#)

FOREIGN POLICY

- [Africa](#)
- [Americas](#)
- [Asia, Oceania, Pacific and Antarctic](#)
- [Europe](#)
- [Mediterranean and Middle East](#)
- [Euro-Atlantic Relations](#)
- [Human Rights](#)
- [Counter-Terrorism](#)
- [Disarmament](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [European Union](#)
- [Italian Economic Diplomacy](#)
- [Italian Development Cooperation](#)
- [Culture](#)
- [Science](#)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS

- [Italian Economic Diplomacy](#)
- [Calls for Tender](#)
- [Patronage](#)
- [News](#)

WORK AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGNERS

- [Attracting Talent from Abroad](#)
- [Bursaries for Foreigners and Italians Residing Abroad](#)
- [Entry Visas and Residence Permits](#)

VISA FOR ITALY

THE PORTAL FOR ONLINE CONSULAR SERVICES

ARCHIVE OF INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

2009 Copyright Ministry of Foreign Affairs

legal notes - editorial committee

[TOP](#) ^ - [HELP](#) - [GUIDE](#) - [MAP](#) - [CONTACTS](#) - [W3C XHTML 1.0](#) - [W3C Css](#)