

THE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF ITALIAN STATISTICIANS PRIOR TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR

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For Italian statisticians it is not uncommon to find out, in foreign statistical literature, the rediscovery of concepts and statistical indices which were created in Italy, and that have been, for a long time, an important part of the cultural background of every Italian statistician. The main reason is that Italian is not well known by most foreign statisticians.

Therefore, to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the International Statistical Institute, the Italian Statistical Society proposed to present an original Italian contribution to the 45th ISI Session (Tokyo, 1987). Such a contribution was planned to focus on a review (in English) of the main Italian contributions to statistics in 20th Century.

Many prominent Italian statisticians participated to this project, that was coordinated by Alighiero Naddeo. He devoted himself to this task with praiseworthy enthusiasm, and was the Editor of a book entitled “Italian contributions to the methodology of statistics”.

An equally praiseworthy task was carried out by Amato Herzel, who devoted a considerable part of his studies to re-examine, integrate and systematize the contributions of Italian statisticians to statistical methodology. As a result Herzel indirectly emphasized the contributions of Italian statisticians to Statistics. On the other hand, he also explicitly managed to stress the importance of statistical studies made in Italy, by reviewing in detail the Italian contributions to statistical inference (*Metron*, XXXV, 1-2).

To pay homage to Amato Herzel and Alighiero Naddeo, two important academic statisticians untimely deceased, it is in my opinion appropriate to point out again the international activities of Italian statisticians and demographers in the second half of 19th Century and the years of 20th Century before the Second War.

The work of all those scholars was actually an important part of the scientific work made in Italy in that period, and even today it is worth to spread its knowledge, especially among non-Italian scholars.

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Historical Premise

Unlike the majority of the great nations of Western Europe, which completed the process of unification during the Middle Ages, Italy achieved its unity only in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Infact, in 1815, at the end of the Napoleonic period, which lasted little more than a decade and represented for Italy a daring step forward towards the resolution of its unity, the Italian peninsula was divided up at the Congress of Vienna into regional states whose borders corresponded more or less to those in the previous century or centuries. There were five states of major importance: the Kingdom of Sardinia, consisting of Sardinia, Piedmont, Savoy, and Genoa; the Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia, with Milan and Venice, which formed part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, with Florence as its capital; the Papal States, with Rome as capital, consisting of part of Emilia, Romagna, the Marche, Umbria and Latium; and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, with its capital in Naples. The rulers of these states were absolute princes who did not allow their subjects to take part in the governance of the State.

At the beginning of 1848, four of the more important States - excluding Austro-Hungarian Lombardy-Venetia - under the thrust of more or less revolutionary liberal movements, had achieved a constitutional form of government. This lasted only for a brief interval, because, at the end of 1849, the constitutional regime remained in force only in the Kingdom of Sardinia, which became the leading State in the movement for independence and unification. Between the spring of 1859 and the autumn of 1860, the national policy of the Kingdom of Sardinia bore its fruits: by way of successive annexations, preceded by plebiscites, the Kingdom of Sardinia was gradually extended to a large part of the peninsula. On March 17, 1861, the Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed, though the process of unification was by no means over. Venetia was outside until 1866, when it was annexed, and Latium, together with Rome, was conquered in 1870. During the present century Italian troops entered Trento and Trieste in 1918.

1. THE CONGRESSES FOR SCIENTISTS

In 1815, the year of the Congress of Vienna, which sanctioned the new order in Europe, the Swiss chemist, H.A. Gosse, realized his idea of bringing together in congress all the scientists by proclaiming the holding of the Congress for Physical and Natural Sciences, in Berne in the following year. Gosse's idea spread far and wide throughout Europe and the Congress was followed by others which were held in many cities of Europe. These were attended by a great many scientists, among them a number of Italians who recognized the value of holding scientific meetings also in Italy.

The Grand Duke of Tuscany, Leopold II, who had studied the sciences in his youth and was extremely proud of being a Fellow of the Royal Society of London, granted permission for the first Congress of Italian scientists to be held in the Grand Duchy. This took place in Pisa, in 1839, and Leopold himself attended it.

The Congress of Pisa was an event of extraordinary political importance for Italy, and the Austrians were immediately aware of the gravity of the situation. Indeed the Austrian Field Marshal, Radetzky, asserted, certainly with considerable exaggeration, that the scientists had laid the foundations to the devil's work for the revival of Italy.

A few months after the close of the ninth Congress, which had been held at Venice, in 1847, in the Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia, a revolutionary movement broke out and subsequently the first War of Independence. No congresses for scientists were held in Italy for several years.

2. THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES FOR STATISTICS AND DEMOGRAPHY

At the beginning of the second half of the nineteenth century interest in plenary sessions for scientists dwindled and congresses for scientists in specific disciplines were preferred. This tendency also affected the statisticians who decided to hold their own first Congress in Brussels in 1852. With regard to the origins of the congresses of European statisticians, Zuccagni-Orlandini (1869, p. 234) reported as follows:

“On the occasion of the 1851 Great Exhibition of London, two illustrious Belgian economists, Quetelet and Visschers, were struck with admiration at the results produced by that foresighted project, which was so completely successful in gathering in one place the precious fruits of Man's ingenuity within the various branches of industry. As a result they conceived the plan of calling together the statisticians of Europe in periodical congresses. And despite the fact that this plan involved no small difficulties of execution, nevertheless, it was highly applauded and supported by French, British and German scholars gathered in London, who were equally unanimous in putting forward Brussels as the seat for the first Congress to be held.

On account of unexpected political conditions, the planned meeting was put off from the autumn of 1852 to May 1853, yet 150 scientists from 25 European nations gathered in the Belgian capital. The chair was given by acclamation to the famed scholar, Quetelet”.

The Congress of Brussels was followed by Paris (1855), Vienna (1857), London (1860), Berlin (1863), Florence (1867), The Hague (1869), St. Petersburg (1872) and Budapest (1876).

The third Congress could have been held in Florence, but the Government of the Grand Duchy, no doubt remembered the opposition shown by several of the Italian states and above all by Austria, when it had permitted the holding of the first Congress of Italian scientists in Pisa (in 1839). It therefore subordinated its agreement for the congress to a similar agreement on the part of the Austro-Hungarian government for a congress to be held first in Vienna. In fact, as Zuccagni-Orlandini wrote (1869, pp. 238-239),

“It was established in Brussels that, at the end of each congress, the city should be chosen which was to host the next congress. After the one held in Paris, the il-

lustrious scholar, Monsieur Legoyt, Director of Statistics in France, very kindly sent me a letter with the welcome task of approaching my Government, to ascertain whether it would have approved the holding of the Third Congress in Florence. For my part, I hastened to give the Ministry of the Grand Duchy an account of the task given to me. I attached the autograph letter sent to me from France, but, after several days' wait, the humiliating duty was transmitted to me, from Palazzo Vecchio, to inform the Government of France that, once the members of a Statistics Assembly had been received in Vienna, then this example would be followed by the Grand Duke. In fact the Aulic Council accepted the invitation, but the Government of the Grand Duchy", did not follow the example.

It was necessary to wait until Florence became the capital of the Kingdom of Italy (1865) before a congress of European statisticians could be held there (1867 - the sixth of the series). No fewer than 632 Italian and 85 non-Italian statisticians attended the Congress of Florence (Zuccagni-Orlandini, 1869) and the Italian attendance was noteworthy, not only for the number of scientists who in fact attended, but also for the quality of their contributions.

At previous congresses, few Italian statisticians had attended, but their contribution had been considerable. According to the account given by P. Maestri (1866) there were, at the first five congresses, respectively: 11 Italians at the Brussels Congress (1853), 9 at the one in Paris, 5 in Vienna, 1 in London and 4 in Berlin. The works presented by the Italian scientists amounted to 51 in all: 7 of a general nature; 4 on the organization of statistical services; 4 regarding the physical geography; 3 on population; 5 on landed property; 1 on mining and metallurgy; 1 on weights and measures; 3 on commerce; 2 on transport; 4 on public hygiene and health services; 1 on education; 9 on finance; 1 on military statistics; and 6 on the statistics of the legislative organs. In 1863 at the Berlin Congress, a general report on statistics in the new-born Kingdom of Italy was presented, which, it will be recalled, then consisted of seven-eighths of the Italian peninsula.

At the Congress of London (1860), Pietro Maestri put forward the proposal, which unfortunately was never realized, for the publication, in cooperation with the national statistical services, of a yearbook of international statistics.

The Congress of Florence set up a commission which was given the task of looking after the statistics regarding the causes of crimes, the rapporteur being Angelo Messedaglia, the renowned professor of statistics at the University of Padua. At the Congress at the Hague, Maestri took an active part in the deliberations concerning the means of determining income and its components.

At the London Congress (1860), a project was presented by A. Quetelet for the publication of 'The International Statistics of Europe' which was not completely activated because of the lack of interest on the part of the various governments. It was however partly realized with the publication of a number of monographs, including one on the Italian savings banks and six on the commercial banks (1878-1882) by Luigi Bodio.

At that time Bodio was the head of Italian statistical services which he had turned into one of the best services in Europe. From 1872 Bodio had been the Permanent Secretary of the Central Committee for Statistics and, from 1878, he

was the Director General of Statistics for the Kingdom of Italy, following another of the greats of Italian statistics, P. L. Maestri (who had died in 1871). If the work carried out by Bodio ensured a flourishing period for Italian statistics, his own contribution was also, indeed above all, to statistics beyond national and sectorial limits, to the point that F. Zahn, affirmed in 1934 when he was President of the International Statistical Institute, that Bodio “*appartint avec Quetelet, Engel, Lavasseur, Bertillon, von Ottingen, von Mayr, Wappäus, von Neumann-Spallart et autres à ce noyau d’hommes de science et d’administration éminents, qui firent parvenir la statistique à une age d’or dans la seconde moitié du dix-neuvième siècle*”.

The part played by the Italians at International Congresses was thus intense and prompt, but their part in international activities did not come to an stop with the ending of the international Congresses.

The problem that had obstructed the development of international Congresses of statisticians, and which brought about their closure depended on the equivocal relationship between the Congress and the governments which patronized it. In fact, if, on the one hand, governments financed and promoted congresses, on the other they were in no way obliged to observe the resolutions which the Congresses made. At the Congress of St. Petersburg a permanent commission was set up to resolve this problem, but the commission, far from smoothing out the conflicts with governments, only ruffled them still further by claiming supranational powers. Thus, with the Budapest session, the Congresses came to an end and two years later, in 1878, the last meeting of the permanent commission was held in Paris, putting an end to the first organization of statisticians on an international basis.

In the same year and in the same city, Paris, many statisticians met at the Congress on demography, which the organizers, J. Bertillon, E. Chervin, and P. Lavasseur - well aware of the negative outcome of the statisticians’ international Congresses - wanted to make completely independent of government. In each of the statisticians’ Congresses, there had been reserved a primary role for studies of population which were considered the first application of statistical methods. But the aim of these studies, population, was so specific as to make possible a meeting of experts in that field. For the discipline, though still considered a branch of statistics, the name ‘demography’ was chosen, imposed by the French, who organized the Congress and expressed, through Lavasseur, the need to justify this choice out of the various names used at the time (statistics, demology, social physics and the theory of population), “because, following the work of A. Guillard, this term has been used by several authors.” (IUSSP, 1985).

The scholars present at the Congress on Demography decided to proceed with their meetings, but effectively did not have sufficient forces, so that they had to resign themselves to holding their meetings in conjunction with those of the hygienists, who since 1876 had held their Congresses every two years. Thus from 1882 to 1912, Congresses of hygiene and demography were held and the demographers had to wait until 1927 to achieve complete autonomy once more and hold their World Population Conference in Geneva.

3. THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR STATISTICS AND DEMOGRAPHY

3.1. *The International Statistical Institute*

The statisticians, when they had concluded once and for all with the Congress in Budapest their experience of Congresses patronized by governments, could not give up the benefits that meetings had brought. In 1885, in the course of the celebrations for the jubilee of the Statistical Society of London (which in actual fact fell the previous year, but had been postponed for a year on account of the mourning at St. James's Palace for the death of the Duke of Albany), the proposal was put forward for the foundation of the International Statistical Institute. During the lively debate that ensued, Bodio supported the proposal, but the experience of the statistics Congresses which had been buried for ever caused him to ask that the association should be free and independent of government decisions. He also requested that into the association should flow the most eminent European and American statisticians, quite independently of their nationality (in this he was in conflict with von Neumann-Spallart, who proposed a prior partition of the members to be elected, on a geographical basis). It was natural for Bodio to be inserted into the committee charged with the drawing up of the proposal for the statutes of the Institute and for him to take an active part in Constituent Assembly which declared the foundation of the International Statistical Institute. At the Assembly, Bodio announced the Italian government's invitation to hold the first session of the Institute in Italy. An Englishman, R.W. Rawson, was elected President and a Frenchman, E. Lavasseur and an Austrian, FX. von Neumann-Spallart, became Vice-Presidents. Luigi Bodio was elected to the office of Secretary-General, a post perhaps of less prestige than the others, but certainly one of greater power. His qualities as a scholar were well known from his many publications and his capacities as an organizer were evident from the way he ran Italian Statistics and by his active participation in the most recent Congresses for Statisticians.

Bodio remained in office for twenty years: in 1905 the title of Honorary Secretary-General was conferred on him and he was the only person within the ambit of the International Statistical Institute who was given this honour. But in 1909 he obtained yet higher recognition: by unanimous acclamation he was elected President of the International Statistical Institute (1909-1911) and was re-elected in the two following elections (1911-1913, 1913-1923). He died in office in 1920.

The nomination of Bodio and his confirmation in the highest offices of the Institute, as well as the offices conferred upon him in the international field, not only within the Institute, are proof of his prestige among international statisticians. They are also proof of the level to which Italian statistics had risen and of the authority which Italian statisticians had acquired. A confirmation of the prestige of the Italians at the setting up of the International Statistical Institute is given by the nominations made in 1885 to the special commission which invited 13 Italians to be members of the International Institute, of whom 3 were honorary members, out of 106 nominations, while in the division proposed by von

Neumann-Spallart the Italians would have been 8 out of 81. The influence of the Italians is further confirmed by the outcome of the first elections of 1886, from which it is shown that of 154 persons elected, 23 were Italians, of whom 6 were honorary members (see Appendix). Also of significance is the choice of Rome as the seat of the first Congress of the Institute itself, which took place in 1887, with a year's delay beyond the date planned in 1886 on account of an outbreak of cholera which prevented the holding of the meetings. Rome was also the first seat of the International Statistical Institute, which remained there as long as Bodio was Secretary-General, that is for no less than twenty years, until 1905.

If the importance of the Italian statisticians was considerable in the international field, it could hardly be any less at home. In fact, among the qualifications of the first 13 members of the International Statistical Institute we find, besides that of a Finance Minister, Magliani, also among the new members, Boccardo, Ferrara, Messedaglia and Lampertico, who were Senators (the first three also being University Professors of Statistics), and two members, Correnti and Luzzatti, who were Deputies in the Italian Parliament.

A large part of the first volumes of the Bulletin of the International Statistical Institute was written in Italian, by Italian statisticians, and generally about problems which concerned Italy, always however compared to other countries. Volume 1, for example, after an historical account of the foundation of the Institute, by Neumann-Spallart, and an account of the work done at the Jubilee Meeting of the Statistical Society of London, a series of scientific historical records began with an article by J. Beloch, Professor of Ancient History at the University of Rome, on 'The Population of Ancient Rome', which was followed in Volume 3, by 'The Population of Italy in the 16th, 17th and 18th Centuries'. Beloch's work was followed by one by L. Perozzo, 'On the composition of the population by sex and age in Italy and several other countries'; one by L. Sbrojavacca 'On the value of landed property in rural areas and of the size of the taxes which hit certain States'; two anonymous reports: 'On emigration from Italy compared to some other European countries' and 'International comparisons regarding elementary education of the population'; and finally 'A proposal for an international statistical survey of the mentally ill, formulated at the meeting the Austrian Psychiatrists, held in Vienna in December, 1885'.

Thus, Italian statisticians worked in all branches of statistics and on such a vast scale and coverage that a reader who does no more than glance through the old volumes has an immediate sense of the prestige and authority that Italian statistics and statisticians had within the ambit of the International Statistical Institute. Confirmation of the esteem enjoyed by Italian statistics can be seen from the fact that the International Statistical Institute voted for the continuation of the work, already undertaken under the leadership of Bodio, for the collection and comparison of data on the movement of peoples in most European countries and in North America since 1865. This request was granted and the results of the studies, which go down to 1894, appeared in volumes 7 and 10 of the Bulletin.

Italian participation in the work of the meetings of the International Statistical Institute was extremely active. Italian statisticians of great distinction made re-

ports of their work at the meetings, acted as coordinators or members of commissions for studies set in motion by the Institute or as rapporteurs for the work-reports which came out of these commissions. A summary, by no means exhaustive, of the activities of Italian scholars (prior to the Second World War) may be useful to get a view of their contributions to the life of the Institute. The main contribution seems to have been that of L. Bodio who dealt with problems both of statistical methodology in the narrow sense, such as those related to the representative method proposed by Kiaer, and of the most diverse branches of applied statistics: health statistics, educational statistics, criminal statistic and demography, with particular regard to emigration and the natural movement of population, statistics on divorce, indexes regarding changes in the economic situation, etc. In addition to reports presented together with Bodio on the situation regarding hygiene and health care in Italy and other countries, E. Raseri made a study of the influence of the age of parents on fertility among married couples, made proposals as to the carrying out of a census on industry and enquiries into unemployment, and studied the question of the protection of abandoned children and also studied the relationship between the degree of infant protection and infanticide and voluntary abortion. C.F. Ferraris passed from dealing with problems of the statistics of higher education to those of the statistics of precious metals, while L. Luzzatti presented his study on public debt. A. Bosco di Ruffino dealt with criminal statistics and R. Livi gave the results of his anthropometrical survey on military personnel which covered the years 1880 to 1885. U. Giusti looked into the cost of living indices and presented several monographic studies on Italian agricultural workers' families, carried out by the National Institute for Agriculture, following the example set by Le Play. D. Ricci offered his study on methods of evaluation of agricultural cultivations and on their international harmonization, and also a work on the statistics of grain stocks. C. Gini covered the entire field of statistics extensively, from statistical methodology in the strict sense, dealing with concentration and graphic representation, through to demography, in which field he occupied himself with forecasts of the population of Italy, life tables and a method he developed for determining the average number of legitimate children per married couple, measurement of fertility among married couples and the effects of false declarations of births on the number of births declared at the beginning of the year. This problem had been high-lighted by R. Benini at the end of the eighteenth century and studied by L. Livi with regard to the years 1923 and 1925. Gini also dealt with the comparison of data from criminal statistics, the distribution of personal income in Italy and that of wealth and income of the nations. L. Livi (son of Ridolfo and father of Massimo, who together form the only example of three members from the same family elected ordinary members of the International Statistical Institute) dealt with the fertility of married women in relation to their age, with the influence of variations in the state of health and the economic well-being of the people on the alternating movements of the birth rate and the development of production capacity and its influence on economic life. A report was made on the fertility of Italian aristocratic families by F. Savorgnan, who also dealt with the distribution of income and with the theoretical aspect of

collective phenomena. Furthermore, G. Mortara studied methods for measuring the economic trend, and the indices for economic conditions and also the consumption of certain foodstuffs. A. Molinari dealt with the consumption of meat, besides the statistics of distribution costs and the methods for harmonizing, at international level, statistics on migration and those on tourism. G. Pietra read two papers on concentration and F. Vinci dealt with Italian life tables, while L. De Benardinis dealt both with definitions which lie at the basis of statistics of still-births and on the spread of venereal diseases.

Italians thus made a significant contribution to the various branches of statistics, among which demography took pride of place.

3.2. The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population

For a long period, in each of the meetings of the International Statistical Institute, there was “a special session was devoted to statistical demography” (IUSSP, 1985). These meetings made it possible for the demographic branch of statistics to achieve immense progress.

This continued until the International Statistical Institute with its Permanent Office, had the monopoly of demographic statistics in the international field - a monopoly which continued until the end of the First World War. Already during that war, international scientific cooperation had come to an end and the Permanent Office of the Institute had seen its financial backing reduced to the minimum. Following the war, in 1919, the League of Nations was born and with it the specialized agencies, which took on leadership functions in many areas of statistics, in which these agencies in part replaced the International Statistical Institute. In order to avoid duplication of efforts and friction between the Institute and the League, it was agreed to transfer to the League a part of the responsibilities which had been the Institute's from its foundation, among which were some of the principal activities in the field of demography.

“During this transitional period the World Population Conference of 1927 was held, which led to the emancipation of demography as a scientific discipline so and to its separation from statistics. The association with statistics had begun to prove irksome, and demography was able to develop its own methods and its international stature” (IUSSP, 1985). From the Conference, which was held in Geneva from August 29 to September 3, 1927, came the decision to set up an international organization intended to study population problems in a purely scientific spirit. The President of the Italian Central Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), Corrado Gini, had been a member of the commission which had put forward the proposal for the new body and was called upon to be a member of the select committee which was given the task of preparing the constitution of the new organization. The committee planned the structure of the new international organization which was given the name of the International Union for the Scientific Investigation of Population Problems.

In order to understand the structure that it was aimed to give to the Union, it is necessary to go back to the end of the First World War, when, particularly on

the prompting of the President of the USA, Woodrow Wilson, several projects were started for international cooperation, including the establishment of an 'International Research Council' which "was to be articulated as 'International Unions' by scientific sector (mathematics, physics, etc.). According to the initial project 'National Committees' were to join each of the 'International Unions'. These Committees were to be set up by the National Scientific Academies or by the National Research Councils" (Pucci, 1986) or by National Scientific Societies. In order to take part in this project the National Research Council was set up in Italy, in 1923. This was a public body which was a member of the International Research Council, with headquarters in Brussels. The previous year the Italian Mathematics Union had been created, also in connection with the constitution in Italy of the National Committees.

Thus the International Union for the Scientific Investigation of Population Problems, which was not within the framework of the International Research Council, but perhaps wished to come into it, and which certainly aspired to material and moral aid from the two US foundations connected with it, was given a structure and a statute which belonged to the 'International Unions' which made up the International Research Council. In fact, individuals could not join the organization, which was a confederation of national groupings. Its statute prescribed that each country, whose national groups had been admitted into the Union, were to form National Committees, Scientific Societies, Associations, Councils, etc., on the initiative of the National Scientific Academies or the National Research Councils, or else of Scientific Institutions or their associations. In Italy, whose national group had already been admitted into the Union without further validation, there did not exist any Scientific Societies or Committees or other bodies of the kind. For this reason C. Gini created the 'Comitato Italiano per lo Studio Scientifico della Popolazione (CISP)' (Italian Committee for the Scientific Study of Population), which represented Italy in the Union (which, in 1947, was to become the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, no longer based on the principle of a confederation of national groups, but on that of the separate membership of individual scholars).

The Constituent Assembly which gave the go-ahead to the Union met in Paris in July, 1928.

It was made up of 35 delegates from 12 different countries, with Italy among them represented by Corrado Gini and also by Franco Savorgnan, Marcello Boldrini, Vincenzo Castrilli and Carlo Valenziani. In the first Executive Committee of the Union, presided over by a Briton, R. Pearl, C. Gini was elected to one of the three posts of vice-president, and he was also given the chairmanship of one of the three research commissions that were created. At a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Paris in 1929, the decision was taken to hold the International Congress on Population in Rome, from June 3 to 7, 1931 and to precede it with a meeting of the General Assembly of the Union.

Thus the situations and decisions which had accompanied the creation of the International Statistical Institute seemed about to be repeated as if according to prearranged plan: the Presidency was to go to someone from Britain, the first

Congress to be held in Rome, a post of importance to go to an Italian (Gini) who had brought the Italian statistical service up to a high level, just as Bodio had done in his time. But events took a very different turn, both on account of the personalities of the people involved and because of the political situation. The International Union had been born out of the Conference of Geneva, which had been devised and organized by M. Sanger of the United States, who was a militant in the avant-garde of the movement for birth control, with the aim of meeting a problem considered crucial to humanity. "The earth is strictly limited in size and in ability to support human populations. But these populations keep on growing; and in so doing they are creating social, economic and political situations which threaten to alter profoundly our present civilization" (IUSSP, 1985).

In the Conference it was however plain that not all European countries lined up alongside the United States in recognizing the necessity for a policy of birth control: fascist Italy proposed to increase its population and with this idea was associated "the reactionary element in France /which/ also formed a society to combat birth control" (IUSSP, 1985). When it came to the question of financing the Congress of Rome and the Union, the Social Sciences Research Council, which championed birth control, refused to make a financial contribution to a Congress to be held in Italy, where demographic doctrine followed the directives of the fascist regime. The motivations for this refusal are contained in a letter to C. Gini from E.B. Wilson, the President of the Social Sciences Research Council: "From what I have heard, it seems to me that our social scientists have for some time had doubts about the scientific validity of Pearl's researches, and that our biologists no longer treat him with the respect that he previously enjoyed. In these circumstances it is difficult to generate much enthusiasm for the Union. Moreover, your personal position, as it is perceived in the United States, could generate more disadvantages. You are believed to be close to the Fascist government, which is not popular here, and there are those who believe that the demographic studies conducted in your country do not exclusively serve scientific truth, when this is in conflict with the foundations of Fascist policies" (IUSSP, 1985).

The President of the Union, who had already had a dispute with C. Gini, was therefore well pleased to have the decision of the executive committee of the Union changed and to transfer the Assembly from Rome to London. The Italian committee did not consider the deliberation to be valid and so went ahead with the Rome Congress just the same. The meeting was a great success and the proceedings of the Congress were published in ten volumes, for a total of 6275 pages, which included the contributions of scholars from all over the world, including a large number of Italians.

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The active participation of the Italians, first in the International Congresses for Statisticians, then in the meetings of the International Statistical Institute and in the conferences on demography, together with the influence exerted by the Italians within the International Statistical Institute, and in part in the International

Union for the Scientific Study of Population, will explain, at least in part, the lack of interest among Italian statisticians in the formation of an Italian statistical association, at least until the time when the International Statistical Institute dominated all fields of statistics.

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APPENDIX

Italians Elected Members of the International Statistical Institute Prior to the Second World War

1885 - MEMBERS: Luigi Bodio, Director General of the Statistics of the Realm, Rome (founder member, Secretary General 1885-1905, Honorary Secretary General 1905-1909, President 1909-1923); Cesare Correnti, Vice-President of the Superior Council of Statistics, Parliamentary Deputy, Rome; Vittorio Ellena, Parliamentary Deputy, Councillor of State, Rome; Carlo Francesco Ferraris, Professor of Statistics in the University of Padua (honorary member from 1924); Luigi Luzzati, Parliamentary Deputy, Professor in the University of Padua (honorary member from 1897); Angelo Messedaglia, Senator of the Realm, Professor of Statistics in the University of Rome (honorary member from 1891).

HONORARY MEMBERS: Gerolamo Boccoardo, Senator of the Realm, Professor of Statistics in the University of Genoa; Francesco Ferrara, Senator of the Realm, Director of the Superior School of Commerce in Venice; Fedele Lampertico, Senator of the Realm, Vicenza; Agostino Magliani, Senator of the Realm, Minister of Finance, Rome.

ASSOCIATES (who became Members in 1887): Antonio Gabaglio, Professor of Statistics in the University of Pavia (resigned in 1898); Aristide Gabelli, Parliamentary Deputy, Professor, Member of the Superior Council for Statistics, Padua; Luigi Perozzo, Inspector in chief of the technical offices of the Ministry of Finance, Rome.

1886 - MEMBERS: Giacomo Costa, Senator of the Realm, Advocate General of the Treasury, Rome; Giuseppe De Luca, Professor of Statistics in the University of Naples, (resigned 1889).

HONORARY MEMBERS: Luigi Cossa, Professor in the University of Pavia; Giuseppe Sacchi, formerly Prefect of the Brera Library and formerly Editor-in-Chief of the "Universal Annals of Statistics".

ASSOCIATES (who became Members in 1887): Leone Carpi, formerly Parliamentary Deputy (resigned in 1889), Rome; Carlo De Negri, Head of Office for Judicial Statistics at the Statistics Head Office, Rome; Giovanni Battista Favero, Professor at the School for Applied Studies in Engineering in Rome; Annibale Ferrero, Major General, Director General of the Military Geographical Institute, Florence; Maffeo Pantaleoni, Professor of Political Economy in the University of Bari; Enrico Raseri, Head of Office for Health Statistics in the Statistics Head Office, Rome; Ranieri Simonelli, formerly Parliamentary Deputy, Pisa (resigned 1889)

1887 - HONORARY MEMBERS: Bernardino Grimaldi, Minister of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce.

1889 - Antonio Allevi, Senator of the Realm; Gaspare Finali, Minister of Public Works (resigned 1898); Giovanni Battista Salvioni, Professor of Statistics in the University of Bologna; Bonaldo Stringher, Head of Division at the Ministry of Finance.

1891 - Augusto Bosco Di Ruffino, Secretary at the Statistics Head Office, Rome; Al-

berto Errera, Professor of Political Economy and Trade Statistics in the University of Naples.

1897 - Ridolfo Livi, Captain in the Medical Corps of the Italian Army, in charge of the Office of Health Statistics at the Ministry of War.

1902 - Rodolfo Benini (honorary member from 1929, veteran from 1952), Professor of Statistics in the University of Rome, formerly Professor of Political Economy in the University of Perugia, Member of the General Council for Commerce.

1913 - Ugo Giusti, Director in the Office of Statistics of the city of Florence, Head of Office in the Statistical Union for Italian Cities.

1923 - Corrado Gini (honorary member from 1939), Professor of Statistics in the University of Padua, Member of the Superior Council for Statistics, formerly Professor of Statistics and Political Economy in the University of Cagliari; Umberto Ricci, Professor of Political Economy in the University of Rome; formerly Professor of Political Economy in the University of Pisa; formerly Member of the Superior Council for Statistics.

1924 - Alessandro Aschieri, Director of the General Office for Statistics and of the Technical College of the Statistical Union for Italian Cities.

1925 - Riccardo Bachi, Professor of Political Economy in the Superior Institute of Economic and Commercial Sciences in Rome, formerly Professor of Statistics and Political Economy in the University of Parma; Livio LIVI, Professor of Statistics and Director of the Institute for Economic Statistics in the University for Economic and Commercial Studies in the University of Trieste.

1926 - Luigi Einaudi (honorary member from 1954), Professor of Financial Sciences in the University of Turin, Senator of the Realm, Member of the Accademia dei Lincei, formerly member of the Superior Council for Statistics; (later the first President of the Republic of Italy, 1948-1955); Franco Rodolfo Savorgnan, (Vice-President, 1934-1947), Professor of Demography in the University of Rome.

1927 - Pasquale Jannaccone, Professor of Statistics in the University of Turin, formerly Professor of Political Economy in the University of Padua, formerly Secretary General of the International Institute for Agriculture (Rome); Pietro Sitta, Senator of the Realm, formerly Undersecretary of State for Agriculture and for the Merchant Marine, Professor of Political Economy in the University of Ferrara, Member of the Superior Council for Statistics.

1929 - Costantino Bresciani Turrone, Professor of Political Economy in the University of Milan and the University of Cairo; Gaetano Pietra, Director of the School of Statistics of the University of Padua, formerly Director of the Institute of Statistics in the Superior School of Commerce in Venice, formerly Professor of Economic and Financial Statistics in the University of Ferrara, Member of the Superior Council for Statistics.

1930 - Alessandro Molinari, Director General of the Central Institute of Statistics (ISTAT).

1932 - Valentino Dore, Head of the General Statistical Service of the International Institute for Agriculture, formerly Member of the Committee of Experts in Statistics of the League of Nations.

1933 - Luigi De Berardinis, Head of Statistics and Population Movements at the Central Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), formerly Head of the Health Statistics Section of the Ministry of War; Alberto De Stefani, Professor of Economic and Financial Policy in the University of Rome, Academician of Italy.

1935 - Marcello Boldrini, (Vice-President 1953-1960, President 1960-1963), Professor of Statistics in the Catholic University of Milan, Professor of Demography at the Bocconi Commercial University of Milan; Luigi Galvani, Professor at the Superior Institute of

Economic Sciences in Naples, formerly Head of the Studies Office of the Central Institute of Statistics (ISTAT); Felice Vinci, Professor of Statistics in the University of Bologna.

1937 - Vincenzo Castrilli, Professor of Statistics and Director of the Institute of Statistics in the University of Bari; Guglielmo Tagliacarne, Professor of Statistics in the University of Milan, Director of the Studies and Statistics Office of the Confederation of Merchants (Rome), formerly Head of the Statistics Office of the Chamber of Commerce of Milan.

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RIASSUNTO

Le autorità internazionali degli statistici italiani prima della seconda guerra mondiale

A differenza dei principali Stati dell'Europa Occidentale, l'Italia raggiunse la sua unità soltanto nella seconda metà del secolo diciannovesimo. I Congressi degli Scienziati ebbero un ruolo molto importante nell'unificazione del paese. Ma ancor prima che l'Italia fosse unificata, gli statistici italiani recarono importanti contributi alla statistica, prendendo parte, fra l'altro, ai congressi internazionali di statistica e di demografia. Di particolare importanza fu il contributo dato dagli italiani alla fondazione, all'avvio e alla crescita dell'Istituto Internazionale di Statistica, alla cui vita, prima dello scoppio della seconda guerra mondiale, gli italiani parteciparono assai attivamente, soprattutto dando contributi importanti nelle sessioni scientifiche. Notevole fu l'influenza che i demografi italiani ebbero nella creazione e nello sviluppo dell'Unione Internazionale per lo Studio Scientifico dei Problemi della Popolazione che più tardi prese il nome di Unione Internazionale per lo Studio Scientifico della Popolazione.

SUMMARY

The International Activities of Italian Statisticians Prior to the Second World War

Unlike the majority of great nations in Western Europe, Italy achieved its unity only in the second half of the nineteenth century. The Congresses for Scientists played their part in the unification of the country. But even before Italy was unified, Italian statisticians made a solid contribution to the development of statistics, among other things by taking an active part in international congresses on statistics and demography. Of particular importance was the contribution made by Italian statisticians to the foundation, inception and growth of the International Statistical Institute and Italian participation in the life of the Institute was extremely active, especially in its scientific sessions, prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. Considerable influence was exercised by Italian demographers in the creation and development of the International Union for the Scientific Investigation of Population Problems, which later became known as the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.