

# ITALIANS ★ TO AMERICA

Lists of Passengers Arriving  
at U.S. Ports

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Volume 16  
Passengers Arriving  
at New York  
November 1900—April 1901

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Edited by  
Ira A. Glazier  
and  
P. William Filby

**ITALIANS  
★ TO   
AMERICA**



Italy, 1880–1910

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# Contents

Foreword by P. William Filby, vii

Introduction by Ira A. Glazier, ix

Lists of Codes

    Occupations, xxi

    Villages, xxiii

    Destinations, xxxv

Key, xxxix

Passenger Lists, 1

Index, 330

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## Foreword

About 90 percent of the Italians who emigrated to the United States came to New York, with the major arrivals beginning in about 1880. Until then, comparatively few Italians migrated to America. However, with the development of faster steamships to replace sailing vessels and thereby shorten transoceanic voyages, and with Ellis Island opening in 1892 to facilitate the arrival of more immigrants, this situation changed, and increased numbers of Italians began leaving their homeland. This series of *Italians to America* will concentrate on the period from 1880 to 1899, with the first volumes listing those Italians who arrived in New York and later volumes including other U.S. ports.

The original passenger lists, transcribed by shipping agents and ships' officers and filed by all vessels entering U.S. ports, have been used in the preparation of *Italians to America*. Although almost all Italians departed from ports in their own country, this study also includes Italian departures from other foreign ports. Presented in chronological order by each ship's date of arrival, these passenger lists provide the names of ships, ports of departure and arrival, and debarkation dates. The researcher also can locate data regarding a person's age, sex, and occupation as well as village of origin and destination when available.

An important feature of *Italians to America* is the extensive Italian-surname index of ships' passengers included in each volume. These indexes, containing approximately 750,000 names for the 1880–1899 period, will greatly facilitate the task of finding an ancestor's family name, especially when the exact date or port of arrival in the United States is unknown.

In addition to the passenger lists and name indexes, *Italians to America* includes an introduction to the history of the Italian migratory movement to the United States, with statistical data showing the total Italian emigration to other selected countries, such as to Europe, Brazil, and Canada. This series is an invaluable reference work for anyone interested in genealogical research or in studying family history.

P. William Filby, Former director, Maryland Historical Society  
Fellow of the Society of Genealogists, London  
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## Introduction

*Italians to America* provides both the genealogist and the historian with an extensive data base of Italian immigrants who came to the United States between 1880 and 1915. This data base derives from the original ship manifest schedules, currently housed at the Temple-Balch Institute's Center for Immigration Research in Philadelphia. These schedules were filed by all vessels entering U.S. ports in accordance with the act of Congress of 1819. Although this series of *Italians to America* includes only the years from 1880 to 1899, Scholarly Resources plans to publish additional volumes for the 1900–15 period.

The passenger lists reproduced in these volumes are arranged in chronological order by date of arrival. Italian passengers on these lists who disembarked at New York are published in their entirety; the names of non-Italian passengers are deleted.

According to the act of 1819, lists of all passengers were to be delivered upon arrival to the local collector of customs, who made copies that were then transmitted to the secretary of state and subsequently reported to Congress.<sup>1</sup> The secretary of state also published quarterly and annual summaries under the title of *Statement of the Number and Description of Passengers Arriving in the United States* between 1820 and 1870. These reports were later published by the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department from 1867 to 1895 and by the Office of Immigration, now the Immigration and Naturalization Service, after 1895.

The passenger lists make possible a detailed reconstruction of the movement of population from the major sender countries, in the present case Italy, by including information on the age, sex, occupation, and nationality of each passenger and residence and putative destination. Analysis of this information enables the researcher to identify U.S. citizens returning to their country of origin, persons transitting the United States, and immigrants. The manifests record deaths during the voyage, although information on mortality is not reproduced in these volumes. The lists herein also indicate the name of the ship, the port of embarkation, and the date of arrival in the U.S. port.

Although the manifests provide significant information about nineteenth-century immigration, we know relatively little about the actual

compilation of these lists. Available evidence suggests that the lists were compiled first by shipping agents at the port of embarkation and initially contained the names of all prepaid passengers; the names of additional passengers were added on board, after which clerks copied the lists before depositing them with U.S. authorities at the port of debarkation.

## **Historical Background and Causes of Italian Migration in the Nineteenth Century**

For over a century, Italy has been one of the most important countries in the world for emigration. Over 25 million Italians have emigrated between 1861 and 1960. In the years between 1880 and 1915, Italy underwent a "demographic explosion" and completed the first phase of a demographic transition due to a more rapid fall in death rates than in birth rates and to a rapid increase in the rate of growth of the population, which rose from 26.8 million to 34.6 million between 1871 and 1915, or by about 8 million persons. The increase in population growth rates led to massive emigration from the south, or Mezzogiorno, where the process of demographic transition was delayed.<sup>2</sup> Birth rates and death rates fell more slowly in the south than in the north, so that the Mezzogiorno had a higher natural rate of growth and underwent greater demographic pressure.

Italy experienced a migration boom between 1871 and 1915 when over 13.5 million emigrants left the country for European and overseas destinations. Migration was the most visible manifestation of a disequilibrium caused by a stagnant economy and increasing population pressure. From a comparison of population in the Italian censuses between 1861 and 1911, and intercensal data on births and deaths, we can determine the migratory balance, the increase or decrease of population from migration for Italy, as well as for its various regions.<sup>3</sup> Italy had a migratory deficit of 4 million between 1871 and 1915. In the decade from 1871 to 1880 the deficit was -362,000; this rose between 1880 and 1890 to -996,000, increased again between 1890 and 1900 to -1,545,000 and to -846,000 from 1900 to 1910. The migratory deficits also showed marked regional disparities. Between 1861 and 1871 the north had a migratory deficit of 150,000, while the south showed a positive balance; between 1871 and 1881 the north had a deficit of -330,000, and the south of -42,000. The later period, however, from 1901 to 1911, witnessed a dramatic reversal; the south showed a negative balance of -900,000, while the north had a deficit of -791,000.<sup>4</sup>

Italy lost its demographic equilibrium in the 1880s when the mortality rate started to fall. As the decline in the birth rate was delayed in the south, the Mezzogiorno became the main contributor to these migratory deficits. Yet overpopulation does not entirely account for migration from the south between 1881 and 1911.<sup>5</sup> The exodus was also the result of deeper and more complex historical forces: poverty, backwardness, isolation, and ignorance.

In the years that followed the establishment of the new Kingdom (1861), Italy showed a growing dualism, a disparity in social and economic conditions that separated the industrial north from the agricultural south. Dualism was evident not only in demography but also in social and economic structures. The south had experienced centuries of economic and political domination under foreign conquerors. In addition, it had poor soil, lack of irrigation, recurrent droughts, massive deforestation, and malaria. Agriculture was still dominated by large estates and absentee landlords. Attempts at reform, to break up the latifundia and replace them with small peasant farms, proved abortive. There was a permanent scarcity of capital for investment.

Moreover, the south had a feudal social system and little industry. The region was isolated from the industrial and commercial centers of western Europe. Government was inefficient and dishonest. The centralizing policies of the new state also contributed to the impoverishment and backwardness of the south; free trade and unification policies after 1861 transformed the area into a colony of the north; the protective tariff of 1887 favored the industrial interests of the north at the expense of southern agriculture; the tariff war with France deprived the south of traditional export markets; and the tax burden imposed on the south by the government was out of proportion to its share of national income.<sup>6</sup> The difference in the levels of economic development between the north and south became even more accentuated after unification.

In addition to the general factors that caused migration from Italy at the end of the nineteenth century—demographic pressure, low wages, the desire for greater social mobility, the stagnation of the economy and its inability to absorb surplus labor, particularly in the south, the agricultural crisis of the 1880s, cheap and more efficient transport—there were special factors in each region that contributed to emigration. In the north it was growing unemployment because of industrial competition from the more advanced European countries; in Liguria the shipping industry was in crisis; in central Italy the sharecropping system (*mezzadria*) was in collapse; in the Mezzogiorno, peasants were fleeing from hunger, malaria, rising taxes, and rising prices. Migration in the

south became an act of defiance, a form of class struggle of peasants against landlords.

## Origins and Destinations of Migrants

Italy accounted for 5 percent of total immigration to the United States between 1881 and 1890 but 26 percent of U.S. immigration between 1911 and 1915. Of the 13.5 million emigrants who left Italy between 1880 and 1915, 5.3 million came from the south while the remainder were from the north central region. The south, which had 40 percent of Italy's population, contributed about the same amount to total emigration but accounted for 70 percent of the country's emigration to the United States.

The movement to the United States followed broadly Italian migration to the rest of the world. After fluctuating through the first half of the 1880s, emigration stabilized between 1888 and 1890, showed a modest rise from 1890 to 1900, a fourfold increase to 1906, a moderate decline between 1907 and 1911, and a recovery to 1913.

Long-term trends in immigration respond to push forces in the sender country while short-term changes respond to the pull of economic conditions in the receiving country. Emigration to America

**Table 1. Total Italian Emigration for Selected Countries, 1881-1915**

<i>Countries</i>	<i>1881-1890</i>	<i>1891-1900</i>	<i>1901-1910</i>	<i>1911-1915</i>	<i>Total</i>
France	374,071	259,283	572,616	325,317	1,531,287
Germany	86,392	230,931	591,004	280,906	1,189,273
Switzerland	71,175	189,062	655,668	357,977	1,273,882
European and Mediterranean countries	929,201	1,288,001	2,512,008	1,217,677	5,946,887
Argentina	391,503	366,820	734,597	259,957	1,752,877
Brazil	215,552	580,224	303,361	107,422	1,206,559
Canada	6,272	5,915	65,105	71,134	148,426
United States	245,230	514,327	2,329,451	1,054,701	4,143,709
Transoceanic countries	950,000	1,546,725	3,514,682	1,525,382	7,536,789
Total	1,879,201	2,834,726	6,026,690	2,743,059	13,483,676
no. of males	1,523,899	2,229,148	4,945,475	2,197,626	10,896,148

**Source:** *Commissariato Generale dell'Emigrazione, Annuario statistico dell'emigrazione italiana del 1876 al 1925, con notizie sull'emigrazione negli anni 1869-1875* (Rome, 1926), passim.

followed a rising trend with peaks in 1890, 1893, 1900, 1903, and 1913, but with short-term fluctuations in periods of economic crisis in the United States in 1884–85, 1894–1897, 1903–4, and 1911. In the early phase of Italy's migration boom (1880–1886) the heaviest flows were from the north. The preferred destinations of north Italians were the continental European and Mediterranean countries: France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria-Hungary, Algeria, Tunis, and Egypt. In a second phase (1887–1915) the largest migration originated in the south. South Italians went mostly to overseas destinations in North and South America: Argentina, Brazil, the United States, and Canada. Between 1880 and 1887, Argentina was the primary destination until the economic crisis of 1888. From 1888 to 1897, Brazil was the most important destination until the collapse of the coffee boom in 1897. The United States emerged as the primary destination in 1898; after 1900 it absorbed between 60 and 70 percent of the total overseas flow. Altogether about 4 million Italians migrated to the United States and Canada and 3 million to Latin America.

There was considerable variation in emigration among the different regions of Italy. The Veneto was most heavily affected, with over 3 million migrants between 1870 and 1915. It was followed by Campania, Piedmont, Sicily, and Lombardy, each with between 1.2 and 1.4 million. The most important regions for migration overseas were Campania, Sicily, Calabria (822,000), and Abruzzi e Molise (776,000). In the Molise the largest numbers came from the provinces of Campobasso, Isernia, and Aquila; in Campania from Salerno and Avellino; in Basilicata from Potenza; in Calabria from Catanzaro and Cosenza; and in Sicily from Palermo.

Migrants from northern Italy went chiefly to European destinations. However, substantial numbers also went overseas: Ligurians to Argentina; Venetians to Brazil and to Austria-Hungary; Piedmontese, Marchigiani, Ligurians, Lombards, and Sardinians not only to France, Switzerland, and Germany but also to Argentina. Migrants from southern Italy went predominantly to America; over two thirds of the departures from Lazio, Sicily, Campania, Puglia, Abruzzi e Molise, Umbria, Basilicata, and Calabria were for the United States.

Before 1885 migration from northern Italy was a temporary or seasonal movement of workers from nonagricultural backgrounds to European countries—France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria-Hungary—in response to a growing demand for skilled labor such as masons, bricklayers, metal workers, and artisans. After 1885 the occupational structure changed as migrants came increasingly from unskilled, agricultural backgrounds. The shift in occupations corresponded to the changes in destination as larger numbers of migrants from the Mezzogiorno

responded to the increased demand for low-rated, unskilled, and semi-skilled jobs overseas, on the *fazendas* of São Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul as well as on the subways of New York. Emigrants from southern Italy were strongly attracted by high wages in the industrializing economy of the United States.

There, Italian migrants spread in a diaspora across the country. They worked as agricultural laborers in California, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington and on the rice and sugar plantations of Louisiana; as unskilled and semiskilled laborers on railways, canals, roads, and in mines in the north central and western regions; and as fruit sellers, ditch diggers, street cleaners, barbers, factory workers, rag pickers, and musicians in urban centers throughout the northeast.

The social, psychological, cultural, and occupational backgrounds of these Italian emigrants played a determining role in the formation and character of their communities overseas. The emigrants were predominantly male (80 percent), of working age and mostly married. The largest number, however, traveled as singles to the United States. They were not from the poorest classes, since they were able to afford the costs of migration. They were the offspring of a traditional, premodern social order in an advanced stage of disintegration in their home country. Largely unskilled—or at the very least with skills that were of limited value in an industrial urban society—they were mostly illiterate. In the Little Italies they preserved the customs, cultures, and traditions which they had left behind and tried to protect themselves from discrimination, hostility, and violence in their new home.<sup>7</sup>

### **Migration and Return Migration**

Of the nearly 4 million Italians who emigrated to the United States between 1871 and 1915, about 2 million returned to Italy. Although we lack continuous data on aggregate repatriation rates before 1902, net migration of Italians was considerably less than gross migration because of the large number of repatriates, either temporary or permanent.<sup>8</sup> Many emigrants were target workers with life-cycle strategies who came to the United States for a few years, worked under conditions of great deprivation, accumulated savings, and returned home to buy land and improve their social status. The repatriation rate rose from 45 percent between 1895 and 1900 to over 60 percent between 1910 and 1915. By the 1890s Italian emigration was largely a matter of chain migration, in which family networks played a crucial role.<sup>9</sup> (These networks also facilitated repatriation.) Chain migration was a system in which an earlier generation of migrants provided transport, accommodation, employment, and

**Table 2. Total Italian Emigration to Selected Destinations and to the United States, 1880–1915**

Years	Total (a)	European and Mediterranean	Trans- oceanic	United States (d)	100%	100%
		Basic Countries (b)	(c)		(d)	(c)
1880	119,901	86,643	33,080	5,711	4.76	17.26
1881	135,832	94,768	41,064	11,482	8.45	27.96
1882	161,562	101,736	59,826	18,593	11.51	31.08
1883	169,101	104,818	64,283	21,256	12.58	33.07
1884	147,017	90,698	56,319	10,582	7.20	18.79
1885	157,193	83,712	73,481	12,485	7.94	16.99
1886	167,829	84,952	82,877	26,920	16.04	32.48
1887	215,665	85,363	103,302	37,221	17.26	28.56
1888	290,736	86,036	204,700	32,945	11.33	16.09
1889	218,412	94,823	123,589	25,434	11.64	20.58
1890	215,854	102,295	113,559	47,952	22.21	42.23
1891	293,631	106,056	187,575	44,359	15.11	23.65
1892	223,667	109,421	114,246	42,953	19.20	37.60
1893	246,751	107,769	138,982	49,765	20.17	35.81
1894	225,323	113,425	111,898	31,668	14.05	28.30
1895	293,181	108,664	184,517	37,851	12.91	20.51
1896	307,482	113,235	194,247	53,486	17.40	27.53
1897	299,855	127,777	172,078	47,000	15.67	23.31
1898	283,715	147,803	135,912	56,375	19.87	41.48
1899	308,339	167,572	140,767	63,156	20.48	44.86
1900	352,782	186,279	166,503	87,714	24.86	52.68
1901	533,245	253,571	279,674	121,139	22.72	43.31
1902	531,509	246,855	284,654	193,772	36.46	68.07
1903	507,976	225,541	282,435	197,855	38.95	70.05
1904	471,191	218,825	252,366	168,789	35.82	66.88
1905	726,331	279,248	447,083	316,797	43.62	70.86
1906	787,977	276,042	511,935	358,569	45.50	70.04
1907	704,675	288,774	415,901	298,124	42.31	71.68
1908	486,674	248,101	238,573	131,501	37.02	55.12
1909	625,637	226,355	399,282	280,351	44.81	70.21
1910	651,475	248,696	402,779	262,554	40.30	65.18
1911	533,844	271,065	262,779	191,087	35.79	72.72
1912	711,446	308,140	403,306	267,637	37.62	66.36
1913	872,598	313,032	559,566	376,776	43.18	67.33
1914	479,152	245,938	233,214	167,481	34.95	71.31
1915	146,019	79,502	66,517	51,720	35.42	77.75

**Source:** *Commissariato Generale dell'Emigrazione, Annuario statistico dell'emigrazione italiana del 1876 al 1925, con notizie sull'emigrazione negli anni 1869–1875* (Rome, 1926), passim.



**Table 3. Italian Migration to America by Country of Destination, 1880–1915**

<i>Years</i>	<i>Argentina</i>	<i>Brazil</i>	<i>Canada</i>	<i>United States</i>	<i>Other Destinations</i>	<i>Total</i>
1880	12,003	6,080	45	5,711	9,241	33,080
1881	15,899	6,766	26	11,842	6,338	40,871
1882	22,997	9,074	76	18,593	8,955	59,695
1883	24,127	7,590	81	21,256	10,334	63,388
1884	31,927	6,116	265	10,582	6,577	55,467
1885	37,710	12,411	611	12,485	9,373	72,490
1886	36,534	11,334	1,720	26,920	5,658	82,166
1887	52,383	31,445	1,632	37,221	6,582	129,463
1888	64,223	97,730	1,347	32,945	8,019	204,264
1889	69,008	16,953	447	25,434	11,339	123,181
1890	36,695	16,233	67	47,952	12,080	113,027
1891	24,125	108,414	163	44,359	9,411	186,472
1892	25,331	36,448	211	42,953	8,864	113,807
1893	32,541	45,324	382	49,765	10,287	138,299
1894	32,557	41,628	805	31,668	4,801	111,459
1895	49,029	90,090	783	37,851	6,166	83,119
1896	56,026	76,665	397	53,486	6,424	192,998
1897	36,075	80,984	139	47,000	6,459	171,294
1898	33,938	38,659	328	56,375	5,893	135,193
1899	44,168	26,574	1,021	63,156	5,015	139,934
1900	40,393	27,438	1,686	87,714	8,396	165,627
1901	59,881	82,159	3,497	121,139	11,500	278,176
1902	36,778	40,434	2,951	193,772	8,651	282,586
1903	43,915	27,707	2,528	197,855	8,408	280,413
1904	51,779	19,724	4,748	168,789	4,534	249,574
1905	86,158	30,079	5,930	316,797	5,760	444,724
1906	107,227	27,808	10,032	358,569	5,712	509,348
1907	78,493	21,297	10,436	298,124	5,952	414,303
1908	80,699	15,558	5,988	131,501	3,659	237,405
1909	84,949	19,263	8,786	280,351	4,317	397,666
1910	104,718	19,331	10,209	262,554	4,040	400,852
1911	32,719	22,287	9,094	191,087	5,185	260,372
1912	72,154	35,562	18,991	267,637	5,369	399,713
1913	111,500	31,952	30,699	376,776	5,398	556,325
1914	34,822	14,017	11,589	167,481	2,856	230,765
1915	8,762	3,604	761	51,720	1,030	65,877

**Source:** L. Di Comite, "L'Emigrazione Italiana nella Prima Fase del Processo Transizionale," *Giornale degli Economisti*, nos. 7–8 (1983): 507–13.

**Table 4. Emigration and Remigration for the United States, 1880–1915**

Year	Emigration (a)	Remigration (b)	100%
			(b) — (a)
1880	5,711	—	—
1881	11,482	—	—
1882	18,593	—	—
1883	21,256	—	—
1884	10,582	2,667	25.2
1885	12,485	—	—
1886	26,920	—	—
1887	37,221	3,000	8.0
1888	32,945	6,072	18.4
1889	25,434	4,734	18.6
1890	47,952	2,881	6.0
1891	44,359	10,170	22.9
1892	42,953	12,695	29.5
1893	49,765	22,912	46.0
1894	31,668	26,845	84.7
1895	37,851	17,039	45.0
1896	53,486	20,885	39.0
1897	47,000	22,292	47.4
1898	56,375	24,735	43.8
1899	63,175	31,289	49.5
1900	87,714	31,966	36.4
1901	121,139	24,678	20.3
1902	193,772	48,880	25.2
1903	197,855	80,576	40.7
1904	165,789	151,097	91.1
1905	316,797	77,636	24.5
1906	358,569	109,258	30.4
1907	298,124	176,727	59.2
1908	131,501	240,877	-54.5
1909	280,351	73,806	26.3
1910	262,554	104,459	39.7
1911	191,087	154,027	80.6
1912	276,637	128,310	46.3
1913	376,776	120,885	32.0
1914	167,481	150,176	89.6
1915	51,720	101,956	-50.7

**Note:** Column (a) for 1880–1915 covers all arrivals at U.S. ports. Column (b) for 1884–1901 includes Italians and other foreigners traveling third class and disembarking at Italian ports; for 1902–3, Italians and foreigners of all classes landed at Italian ports; for 1904–1915 only third-class Italian passengers landed at Italian ports.

**Source:** I. Ferenczi and W. Wilcox, *International Migrations*, vol. 1, *Statistics* (New York, 1929), 839; *Sommario di Statistiche Storiche Italiana, 1861–1955* (Rome, 1958), 67; B. B. Caroli, *Italian Repatriation from the United States, 1900–1914* (New York, 1973), *passim*.

support for more recent arrivals, generally through primary social relationships. It also explains the pattern of settlement in the Little Italies where fellow townsmen clustered together in specific localities in the city. Thus, we have the example of south Italians from Avigliano (Basilicata) clustering in East Harlem; from Calabria on Mulberry Street in New York; from Laurenzana (Basilicata) in Utica; from Sciacca (Sicily) in Norristown; from Amalfi and Atrani (Salerno) in New Haven; from Abruzzi in South Philadelphia; from Melilli (Sicily) in Middletown; from Termini Imerese (Palermo) in Cleveland; from Altavilla, Milicci, Monreale, and Termini Imerese (Sicily) in Chicago; from Salerno (Campania) in Providence; and from Molfetta (Basilicata) in Hoboken.<sup>10</sup>

Finally, Italians came to the United States between 1880 and 1915 in a series of overlapping and interdependent waves. In the first phase (1880–1890s) many arrived through a series of intermediate steps before settling permanently in the United States. This was the generation of pioneers. They were followed in a second phase (1900–1915) by a much larger wave that was more temporary in character and had a much higher propensity to return. The pioneers provided the initial support and stability for the rotating generation that arrived after 1900.

## Conclusion

Genealogists and historians in the field of immigration have relied on aggregate-level data to examine the development, extent, and characteristics of population movements. With the information available in this volume, researchers will be able to go beyond gross statistical profiles to study these movements at the level of microhistory—to follow individuals and families from their place of origin to their destination and to focus on their personal circumstances. This, in turn, will enable scholars to assess the push-and-pull factors that contributed to the migration phenomenon and to give a more human dimension to this mass movement.

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## Notes

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