

Research: sheet for reading and interpreting documents

LOCATE THE INFORMATION RELATED TO THE DOCUMENT (simulation relates to Attachment A4/4 ASSP-III-585, Stella Valabrega):

DO YOU FIND ONE OR MORE DOCUMENTS IN THE FILE?

The document is an excerpt from the file on the management of the property in the name of Michele Valabrega, Stella's father, and includes the record of the bank taking charge of the seized property (Document 1), as well as the record of the return of the property (Document 2, last page).

WHEN DID HE WRITE IT?

The DATE of the document is not shown. The report refers to the inspection that took place on 10th June 1944. Presumably the document was typed on the same day, or in the days immediately afterwards.

WHY DID HE WRITE IT?

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE DOCUMENT is the drawing up of a precise inventory of all the assets belonging to Michele Valabrega, in order for the bank to take charge of their management, based on the order 12th May 1944 by the head of the Province of Turin (Div. Gab. 1181).

WHAT TYPE OF DOCUMENT IS IT? IS IT OFFICIAL OR INFORMAL IN NATURE?

The document is a record of taking possession of the expropriated property. It is an official document.

WHO DRAFTED DOCUMENT NO. 1?

The AUTHOR of the document is the accountant Pietro Rotolo, appointed by the San Paolo Institute of Turin.

WHERE WAS HE WHEN HE WROTE IT?

The document does not mention the PLACE, presumably it was written in the offices of the San Paolo Institute in Turin.

IS THIS AN ORIGINAL DOCUMENT? DOES IT BEAR AN IDENTIFICATION (AN ALPHANUMERIC CODE) OF THE FILE, SIGNATURES, STAMPS?

The original shelfmark on the cover of the file, and inside the document is GES (Gestione Ebraici Sequestrati - Management of Jewish Seizures) 239 TO. The header bears the name of the organisation - San Paolo Institute of Turin. The signatures are those of the author of the document, of the witnesses present during the drawing up of the inventory, and of the consignee of the movable property.

WHAT INFORMATION CAN I FIND ABOUT THE SEIZED PROPERTY?

WHERE IS THE FLAT LOCATED?

The flat is in Turin, at 25 Via Po, on the third floor of a historic building.

WHOSE PROPERTY IS IT?

The flat is owned by the Ceriana sisters, who have rented it to the family of Michele Valabrega.

DOES THE SEIZURE RELATE TO MOVABLE OR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY?

The seizure relates to the movable property in the flat.

AT THE TIME OF WRITING THE DOCUMENT, WHO LIVES THERE?

Nobody lives there. When the accountant arrived, the flat was sealed by the Commissariat of Public Security, Section Dora. The presence of two witnesses was required for the opening and drawing up of the inventory (Deputy Brigadier E. Capone and Mr C. Valle from the Revenue Office).

IS THE HOUSE IN GOOD CONDITION?

The state of preservation of the house is fair. Due to the air raids, some of the glass is broken.

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WHO DRAFTED DOCUMENT NO. 2?

The **AUTHOR** of the document is Bacchini, an employee of the San Paolo Institute of Turin.

WHEN DID S/HE WRITE IT?

The **DATE** of the document is 4th June 1945.

WHERE WAS HE WHEN HE WROTE IT?

The document does not give the **PLACE**. Presumably it was written in the offices of the San Paolo Institute in Turin.

WHY DID HE WRITE IT?

THE **OBJECTIVE OF THE DOCUMENT** is the drafting of the record of the handover of the confiscated property to Aldo Valabrega, Michele's son. This followed the Liberation, and the reinstatement of the civil, political and patrimonial rights of Jewish citizens.

IS THIS AN ORIGINAL DOCUMENT? DOES IT BEAR AN IDENTIFICATION (AN ALPHANUMERIC CODE) OF THE FILE, SIGNATURES, STAMPS?

The document refers to file 239 TO, the header shows the name of the institution - the San Paolo Institute of Turin, the signatures are those of the author of the document (Bacchini, an employee) and of the consignee of the movable property (A. Valabrega).

WHAT TYPE OF DOCUMENT IS IT? IS IT OFFICIAL OR INFORMAL IN NATURE?

The document is a record of the consignment of the expropriated property. It is an official document.

ACTIVITY 1

The previous simulation relates to the file in the name of **Michele Valabrega**, Stella's father.

Read the document '**Inventory and detailed description of objects listed...**'.

The document is part of the archival fonds ASSP, III, Management Service EGELI of the San Paolo banking Institute of Turin. It is described in the digital inventory available via the portal of the Historical Archive of the Foundation 1563

[LINK](#)

For more information:

Browse and search the complete inventory:

[LINK](#)

Map search for files (Find Places section):

[LINK](#)

ACTIVITY 2

Put the information from the documents on the timeline. **Read Stella's story on the website** and try to put the information from the report and other documents on the timeline.

Try to answer the questions, or to ask different ones:

Did the seizure of the property take place before or after 8th September 1943?

When the accountant entered the accommodation at 25 Via Po, where were the owners?

Who signs the report of the consignment in 1945?

ACTIVITY 3 – IN-DEPTH STUDY

Reading the documents reveals traces that can lead us on new paths of research, to make findings, verify information, and discover new details.

From this document, for example, we could go into more detail regarding the '**recent air raids**' (*When did they take place? Which areas did they affect? Did the building at 25 Via Po suffer war damage?*) Further research may be made in other archives, e.g., the **Historical Archive of the City of Turin**, which keeps the documentation on the bombings of the city; the **Turin State Archive**, which keeps the archive of the files relating to war damage), or some details in reference to the objects described (*To what does the inscription "R. Montello - 16th June 1918" on the letter opener refer?*).