

RASSEGNA STORICA DEL RISORGIMENTO
Vol. 112, issue 1, January-June 2025

Contents

COVER

Alessandro Bonvini

The Black Man in the Red Shirt. Garibaldian Universalism in the Biography of an African-American Former Slave

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Leonardo Quadrio

Discourses of Barbarism in Haiti. Between Colonial Demonisation and Re-Appropriation by the Colonised (1791-1820)

Michele Finelli

At the School of Democracy. Mazzini's Pedagogical Journals between Italy and Britain (1830-1844)

Ginevra Villani

«Is London truly so vast? Yet, all speak only of me!». Adelaide Ristori, a Celebrity beyond the Channel

Irene Polimeni

Repressing and legitimising. Luigi Ajossa in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, 1848-1860

THE WORKSHOP OF THE LONG 19TH CENTURY

The Italians' Flora. Geography, Selection and Representation of Botany in the Age of the Risorgimento

Elisa Bassetto

Nations at Arms. Public Institutions, Political Violence and Civil Society in Modern and Contemporary Mezzogiorno

Andrea Marino

Research by Daniele Cal, Andrea Bertolino, Francesco Sosso, Federico Ricci, Silvia Benini

SOURCES

Lucia Aprile

The Doctor at War. Sexual Violence and Medico-Legal Knowledge in the Mezzogiorno in Arms (1860-1865)

OPEN SHELF

Monuments and Memory in the United States of America

A forum on A. Testi, *I fastidi della storia* and A. Lorini, *Statue bugiarde*

Reviews by Fulvio Conti, Giulia Crisanti, Stefano Luconi, Marco Sioli

Edited by Simona Berhe

WHAT WE HAVE SEEN

Giulia Corrado

Aesthetics are not Enough. How History and Representation Go Haywire in Jodice's *Le Déluge*

Alessia Francesca Casiraghi

Lidia Poët. Gender Inequality before the Law

WHAT WE HAVE READ

Albergoni 2024 (C. Pinto); Breccia 2024 (E. Beri); Castaldi-Gallia 2023 (G. Tatasciore); Cinnella 2018 (E. Cerroni); Contes-Fruci-Pellegrinetti 2024 (G.M. Scanu); Elster 2023 (E. Bianchini); Levati 2024 (E. Baccini); Maréchaux 2024 (M. G. Stranieri); Prévot 2024 (A. Forte); Tasca 2024 (T. Plebani); Tatasciore 2022 (F. Casales); Tovalusci 2023 (G.B. Boggione)

CONTENTS AND ABSTRACTS

REFEREES 2023-2024

RASSEGNA STORICA DEL RISORGIMENTO
Vol. 112, issue 1, January-June 2025

ABSTRACTS AND KEYWORDS

Research Articles

Leonardo Quadrio, Scuola normale superiore, Pisa

Discourses of Barbarism in Haiti. Between Colonial Demonisation and Re-Appropriation by the Colonised (1791-1820)

This study examines how the dehumanizing stereotypes constructed by French colonial power during the Haitian Revolution (1791-1820) influenced the formation of the new Haitian State. The French depicted African and Afro-descendant insurgents as barbarians and cannibals to justify potential recolonization. However, Haitian élites reappropriated and inverted these stereotypes, using them to delegitimize French claims and denounce the horrors of the colonial system. The paper further explores how these redefined images helped shape Haitian national identity – at least in the minds of the new élites – and played a significant role in the civil conflict between Christophe's northern kingdom and Pétion's southwestern republic.

Keywords: Dehumanization; Haitian Revolution; Postcolonial Reversal; National Identity; Colonial Discourse.

Michele Finelli, Università Roma Tre

At the School of Democracy. Mazzini's Pedagogical Journals between Italy and Britain (1830-1844)

Between June 1842 and June 1844, the Scuola italiana di Londra, founded by Giuseppe Mazzini, published two periodicals, «Il Pellegrino» and «L'Educatore». Although limited, their experience provides an insight on the role that Mazzini and the republicans played in the debate on education stimulated by the rising Italian pedagogical press since the 1830s. By investigating the part taken by these periodicals in the debate, the article analyses the crucial importance that the battle for education acquired for the democratic movement. Were «Il Pellegrino» and «L'Educatore» purely didactic publications? Were they also used to promote the Italian cause among the English public? The article will also explore the influence

that both the broader European debates on education and historical novels that were popular at the time possibly exerted on the two periodicals.

Keywords: Education; Children's Literature; Giuseppe Mazzini; Pedagogy; Press

Ginevra Villani, Università di Padova-EHESS

«Is London truly so vast? Yet, all speak only of me!». Adelaide Ristori, a celebrity beyond the channel

This article investigates the construction of Adelaide Ristori's international celebrity during her 1856 tour of Britain, placing it within the broader emergence of nineteenth-century celebrity culture. Based on unpublished correspondence, contemporary press coverage, and visual materials, the study emphasizes the strategic role played by her husband, Giuliano Capranica del Grillo, in shaping her public persona. The analysis foregrounds the interplay between theatrical performance, media representation, and aristocratic sociability in the consolidation of Ristori's fame. The article argues that Ristori came to embody not only the figure of the celebrated actress, but also a symbolic representation of national and maternal ideals within the context of the Risorgimento.

Keywords: Celebrity; Aristocratic Sociability; Fan Culture; Theatre; Visual Studies

Irene Polimeni, Scuola superiore di Studi storici, Repubblica di San Marino

Repressing and Legitimising. Luigi Ajossa in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, 1848-1860

This article examines the repression of political dissent in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies under Bourbon rule after the 1848 revolution, by focusing on the political biography of Luigi Ajossa, a high-ranking state official whose action exemplifies the perspective of the state apparatus. Administrator of Bari and Salerno, Police Director in 1860, and a conspirator in the Bourbon resistance against the Italian Risorgimento, he became a target of the delegitimizing narratives of the Italian national and liberal forces, particularly following the defeat of Carlo Pisacane expedition in 1857. Ajossa's experience highlights the role of provincial officials in police control and local administration, which were both crucial for political legitimation. The counterrevolutionary era in the Bourbon state emerges for its marked conservative and reactionary nature.

Keywords: Political Repression; Civil Servants; Policing; Securitization; Counterrevolution in Government.

Sources

Lucia Aprile, Università di Teramo

The Doctor at War. Sexual Violence and Medico-Legal Knowledge in the Mezzogiorno in Arms (1860-1865)

The paper explores the intersections between sexual violence, forensic medical knowledge, and political conflict in the context of post-unification brigandage. By analyzing judicial cases drawn from archival sources, the study highlights how violent rape – carried out by irregular armed bands – served not only as a weapon of domination and humiliation, but also as a site of negotiation between scientific knowledge and the repressive needs of the emerging Italian State.

Keywords: Sexual Violence; Brigandage; Forensic Medicine; Political Violence

REFEREES DELLE ANNATE 2023 E 2024

Marco Maria Aterrano
Francesco Bartolini
Marco Bellabarba
Antonino Blando
Marie Bossaert
Giulio Brevetti
Catherine Brice
Elisabetta Caroppo
Maria Pia Casalena
Antonio Chiavistelli
Valentina Dal Cin
Pierre-Marie Delpu
Nicola Del Corno
Laura Di Fiore
Ferdinando Fasce
Carlotta Ferrara degli Uberti
Enrico Francia
Pierangelo Gentile
Antonio Gibelli
Jacopo Lorenzini
Marco Manfredi
Guido Melis
Sandro Morachioli
Elena Papadia
Paolo Pezzino
Emilio Scaramuzza
Francesca Sofia
Jens Späth
Alessandro Tuccillo