

ABSTRACTS

MAURO BRUNELLO, *The New Society of Jesus and the Missionary Vocation: the Indipetae of the Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu (ARSI) and the Acquaderni photographic fond*

This article proposes to cast light on how the missionary vocation of the Society of Jesus never flagged, even after its re-establishment in 1814. As an illustration of this, the *Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu* (ARSI) conserves a vast and exceptional collection of letters, the *indipetae* written by aspiring missionaries in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Letters of this kind are to date still largely unexplored, also because they are not always easy to find. This contribution is therefore aimed at making it easier to locate them within the ARSI fonds, and also to offer new cues for research to be carried out on a similarly unexplored documentary collection: the *Archivio fotografico Acquaderni*.

EMANUELE COLOMBO – MARCO ROCHINI, *The Mission First. Italian Indipetae (1814-1853)*

This research proposes a quantitative and qualitative study of around eight hundred Italian *indipetae* written in the years 1814-1853, between the restoration of the Society of Jesus and the end of the generalship of Jan Roothaan. The nineteenth-century *indipetae* letters make it possible to explore the continuity and discontinuity between the Old and the New Society apropos a number of topics. These include the motivations expressed by the candidates; the evolution of the strategies of adaptation used in the mission lands; the more frequently requested destinations, and the reference to models of illustrious missionaries. One of the main challenges facing the reconstituted Society was to define its identity: the study of the *indipetae* reveals the development of the concept of mission perceived and expressed by the Italian Jesuits of the early nineteenth century and, more generally, the importance of the missions in the representation of the Jesuit identity in the nineteenth century.

ELEONORA RAI, «*Like Souls in Purgatory*» – *The Emotions of the Wait in the Italian Indipetae during the Generalship of Jan Roothaan*

This article aims to cast light the prominent role played by emotion and subjectivity in the drafting of the Italian *litterae indipetae* during the generalship of Jan Roothaan (1829-1853). Through analysis of the feelings of the candidates for the missions awaiting a reply, this essay illustrates the continuity of the missionary impetus in the restored Society of Jesus. It underscores the evolution of this impetus, linked to the altered times and sensitivities within the Ignatian Order. Finally, the study emphasises the theme of martyrdom as a fundamental aspect of the post-Restoration missionary sensitivity and as a key element in the spirituality of the New Society.

GUIDO MONGINI, «*If the Lord Truly Calls Me*». *Missionary Vocations in the Indipetae of the Jesuits of the Veneto Province in the Mid-Nineteenth Century: the Case of Francesco Saverio Cavalieri*

This essay reports on the first results of ongoing research devoted to the *Indipetae* of the Veneto Province of the Society of Jesus (16th-19th century), that is, the letters which the candidates for the missions would send to the general of the Order requesting to be sent to foreign lands. The article concentrates in particular on the central issue of the *indipetae* letters, namely the missionary vocation and the determination of the same as an authentic vocation, a 'true call' from God. Consequently, on the one hand the study has explored the types and characteristics of the missionary vocations of the Veneto Province in quantitative terms between 1846 and 1866, namely the first twenty years of the Province, following its rebirth after the suppression of the Society in 1773. This general overview of the Veneto Province was then supplemented, on the other hand, by an analysis of the *indipetae* letters of a prominent missionary who died in Mexico in 1878, Francesco Saverio Cavalieri. His submissions to be sent to the foreign missions indeed bring to the fore some of the pivotal aspects of the *indipetae*, from the problem of determining the authenticity of the missionary vocation to the role of the *Spiritual Exercises* of Ignatius of Loyola and the specific practices and strategies underlying the phenomenon of the 'repeated letters'.

MARINA MASSIMI – MASSIMO BRUNELLO, *Indipetae and Self-Knowledge: Ignatian Discernment and Modern Psychology in the Twentieth Century*

The article analyses a group of *litterae indipetae* written in the first four decades of the twentieth century in terms of the psychological dynamic narrated in them. Our theory is that one of the meanings of the letters is to expound forms of elaboration and transmission of personal experience in accordance with the definition of

the life project of the writer. From the analysis of the documents it emerges that this elaboration is inspired by various factors. These include the moulding experience appraised during Jesuit training, especially through the practice of the *Spiritual Exercises* and the individual and collective meditated reading, Loyola's autobiographical writings and the spiritual diaries written by other exemplary figures in the Society and, finally, the training received at the colleges of the Order, in which the study syllabuses included, inter alia, contemporary psychology.

CATIA MAGNI, *Stories of Coveted and Disputed Benefices: the Archpriest of the Collegiate Church of Piove di Sacco between the Fifteenth and the Eighteenth Century*

This article is based on extensive unpublished documentation that has been sourced and studied. It traces the history of the judicial disputes addressed down the centuries by the collegiate church of Piove di Sacco – a town in the Paduan countryside – for the right to elect its own archpriest. This was an illustrious office with a lavish benefice, and hence keenly sought after by influential figures under the protection of the powers of Rome or Venice or of the diocesan ordinaries, or in any case by 'outsiders' who had little interest in residence and still less in paying a substitute to guarantee pastoral and religious services to the population. The tenacious but vain pursuit of the aim of guaranteeing themselves a local priest from within the community came up against the reality of a system of benefice distribution which, while it invoked both the upper echelons of the Papacy and episcopal authority, was also tied up with the interests protected by the Venetian aristocracy and the control it exercised.

ROBERTO VIOLI, *Catholicism, 'Ndrangheta and Politics after the Second World War (1945-1955)*

This article reconstructs the establishment of the Catholic political movement during the first decade of democracy in Italy, in the area of Calabria with the most intensive presence of the 'ndrangheta. The Democrazia Cristiana suffered from an electoral practice corrupted by criminal associations which, in parallel, had also contaminated part of the Communist bedrock. The ecclesiastical hierarchy opposed Communism, entering into the thick of the political battle. In the early 1950s it risked being compromised as a result of the mafia connection of groups of the civil Catholic organisation and of certain exponents of the clergy engaged in a pure and simple struggle for power.

