

Prosopography of Italian Physics

Coordinator: Paolo Rossi

Participants:

Paolo Rossi (CF Grant 2016-2018)

Adele La Rana (CF Grant October 2017 – September 2018)

Place of Work & Collaborations:

Main work places: Pisa – Rome

Archives of several Italian Universities

Collaboration: “Centro Pontecorvo” of the Physics Department – Pisa University

Prosopography of Italian Physics

Project main goals and results achieved in 2017



GOAL: A Biographic Dictionary of Italian Physicists, articulated in three main sections

I. From the Renaissance to the Risorgimento (Physicists born before 1770)

II. From the Risorgimento to the II World War (Physicists born between 1770 and 1918)

III. The Second Postwar Period (Physicists born between 1918 and 1948)

- **Two versions:** **Online** Dictionary and **Printed** Dictionary

- **Focus in 2017-2018:** **Section II**, physicists who were active between Italian Unification and World War II

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Section II of the Dictionary:

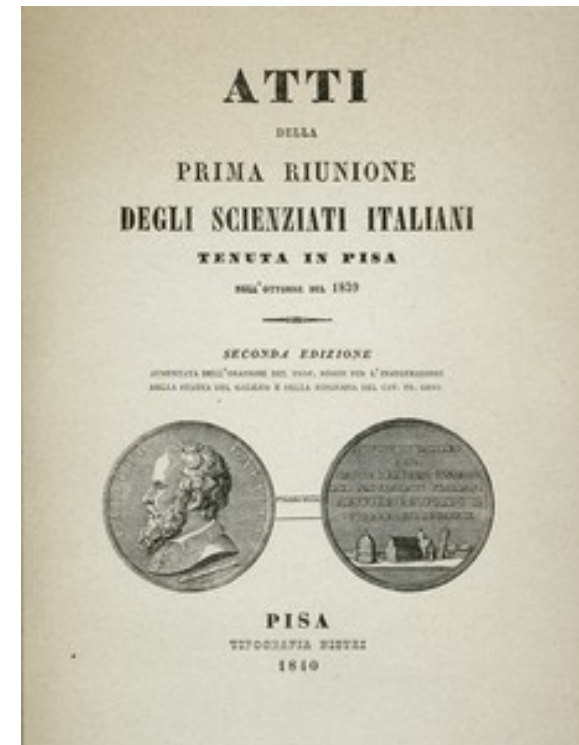
From the Risorgimento to the II World War (Physicists born between 1770 and 1918)

Who will appear in Section II of the Dictionary?

All Italian physicists who

- Participated in the first conference of Italian scientists (Pisa, 1839)
- Worked in a Physics Institute, including the ones having only a temporary position and afterwards become school teachers
- Published on Nuovo Cimento
- Taught in a scientific faculty as *Liberi docenti* (Science, Engineering, Medicine and surgery, Pharmacy, Architecture, Veterinary science)

About 1100 physicists



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How were the 1100 names identified and where can not-obvious biographical informations be found?

Some archival and bibliographic resources:

- Driescher, *Le facoltà di Scienze fisiche, matematiche e naturali in Italia (1860-1915)*
- Giuliani, *Il Nuovo Cimento. Novant'anni di fisica in Italia (1855-1944)*
- Yearbooks of the Ministry of Education and Seniority Roles
- Yearbooks of Italian Universities
- Personal folders of University members
- Poggendorf, *Biographical-Literary Dictionary of the Exact Sciences (5 Volumes, 1863-1926)*
- *Rendiconti Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*
- Biographies of members of Italian Academies of Sciences
- CVs, Necrologies on Physics Journals



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Within January 2017 preliminary biographical data sheets have been prepared and uploaded online:
<http://osiris.df.unipi.it/~rossi/Indice%20Dizionario.htm>

1113 biographical data sheets

Cognome e Nome	Sede (ultima)	Nascita	Morte
Ercolini Guido	Firenze	1870	?
Eredia Filippo	Catania	1877	1948
Esdra Elena			
Estrafallaces Ada	Bari	1900	?
Fabaro Luigina	Torino	1890	?
Fabri Cornelia	Ravenna	1869	1915
Fabri Riggero	Ravenna	1830	1904
Fabris Cesare	Venezia		
Fadda Guglielmo	Cagliari		
Fadda Pasqualino	Cagliari		
Faè Giuseppe	Padova	1856	?

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COGNOME e NOME	Fabaro Luigia in Ballarin
Luogo e data di nascita e di morte	Cagliari, 1890 - ,
Paternità e maternità	
Luogo e periodo studi preuniversitari	
Luogo e periodo studi universitari	
Luogo, data e relatore della tesi	Laureata in Fisica a Roma nell'anno accademico 1913-14, lo stesso anno consegue il diploma di magistero in fisica (quell'anno a Roma si laureano in fisica altre due donne: Elena Freda e Margherita Blache).
Titolo ed argomento della tesi	
Carriera accademica e/o professionale (periodi, sedi, ruoli)	Allieva in soprannumero (con stipendio di 800 lire) presso l'Istituto Fisica della R. Università di Roma dal 1915 al 1920 (Dal fascicolo personale in Sapienza risulta dimissionaria dal 24 ottobre 1919). Come si legge in una lettera del 2 Febbraio 1915 di Pietro Blaserna, allora direttore del R. Ist. Fisico di Roma in via Panisperna – contenuta nel fascicolo personale di Fabaro in Sapienza – un posto di allievo era rimasto vacante a seguito della nomina di Trabacchi a assistente di Corbino per la Fisica complementare dal 16/10/1914. Blaserna propose quindi Luigia Fabaro per il posto vacante di allieva a partire dal 16/10. Nel 1920 è supplente di fisica nel R. Liceo-ginnasio di Campobasso. Nel 1921 è residente a Poirino in provincia di Torino (sposata).
Data pensionamento o cessazione	
Principali argomenti di ricerca e periodi	
Pubblicazioni su Nuovo Cimento	Sul calore specifico del platino a elevate temperature, 9 (1915) 123-139 N° articoli NC: 1
Monografie, altre pubblicazioni	
Bibliografia essenziale	Fascicolo Personale Sapienza

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Main steps forward done in 2017, up to now:

- Careful study of the Yearbooks and Seniority Roles of Ministry of Education, in order to:
 - a) complete the list of physicists to be included in the Dictionary
 - b) collect as much as possible biographical information
 - c) identify the physicists who have become school teachers (**250** up to now: original data which come directly from archival resources)
- Careful research about the women physicists (about **90 researchers**, most of them became school teachers)
- Preparation of **1113 preliminary** biographical data sheets, which have been uploaded on the webpage <http://osiris.df.unipi.it/~rossi/Indice%20Dizionario.htm>

For a comparison
about the period
under investigation

Italian Biographic Dictionary



about 220 physicists

Wikipedia



about 300 physicists

Scienza a Due Voci



about 60 women phys.

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University	N° Data Sheets	Sufficient Data
Bari	6	Ok
Bologna	50	OK
Cagliari	24	OK
Camerino	12	OK
Catania	28	
Ferrara	5	OK
Firenze	50	OK
Genova	45	OK
Messina	18	
Milano	64	OK
Modena	30	OK
Napoli	82	

University	N° Data Sheets	Sufficient Data
Padova	58	
Palermo	36	OK
Parma	24	X 7 sch.
Pavia	41	OK
Perugia	10	X 4 sch.
Pisa	97	OK
Roma	110	OK
Sassari	12	
Siena	19	OK
Torino	74	OK
Urbino	12	OK

6 Univ. where archival research *in loco* is necessary

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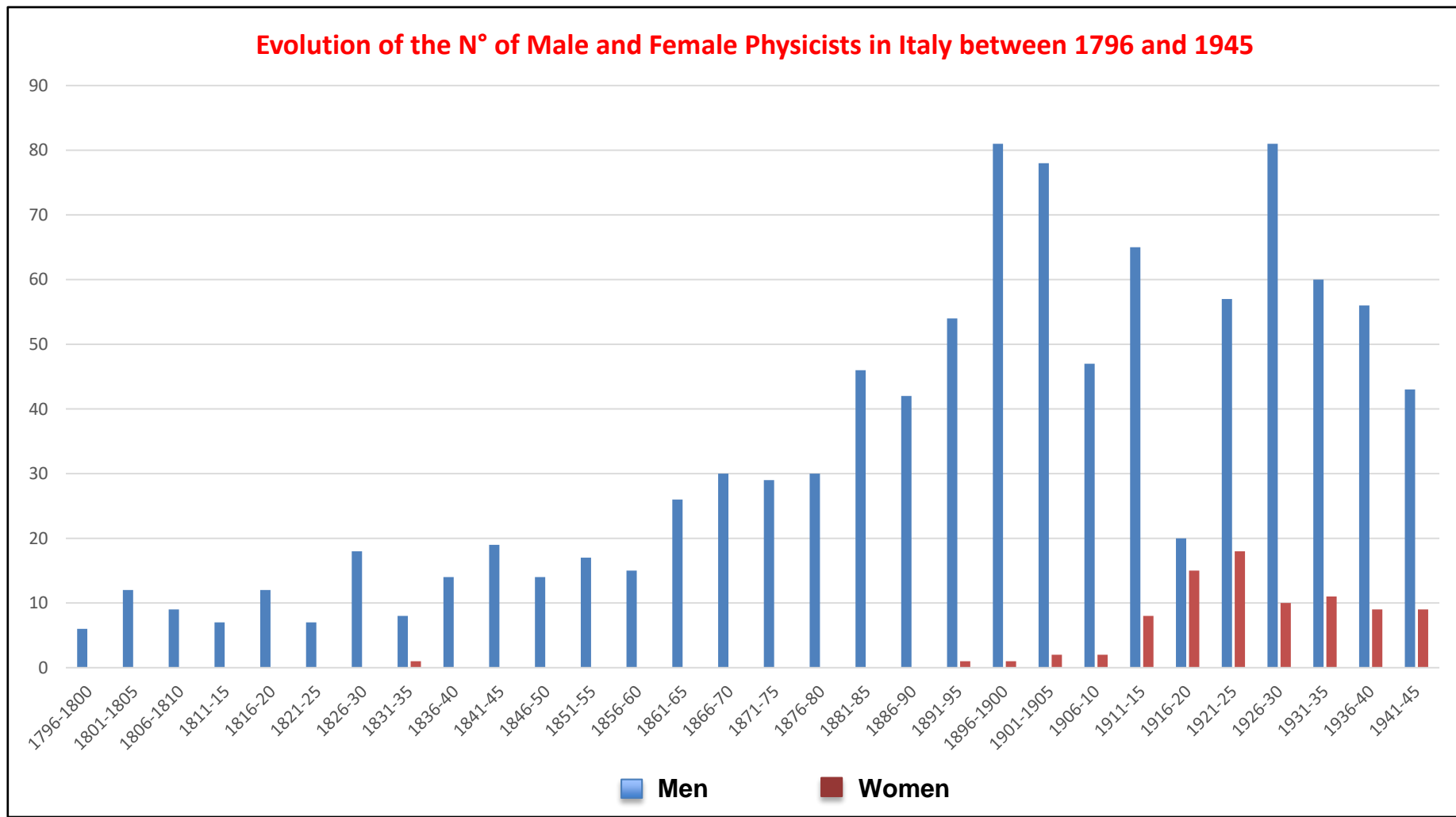
Women Physicists in Volume II of the Dictionary, up to now

Margherita Agnoli	Giovanna Barresi	Teresina Bonacini	Anna Casanova	Adele Donetti	Carola Maria Garelli	Adelaide Marchetti	Teresa Mundula	Caterina Savorelli	Alda Torazzi
Adalgisa Alimenti	Maria Battista	Elisa Bonauguri	Marianna Ciccone	Elena Esdra	Ginestra Giovene	Elena Marini	Bianca Nannei	Caterina Scarpellini	Paolina Tulipano
Giuseppina Aliverti	Ester Bellisaj	Cesarina Bortolotti	Ada Corsi	Ada Estrafallaces	Maria Kahawanowicz	Pierina Massardo	Elena Nannei	Bianca Scognamiglio	Lucia Venturelli
Giulia Alocco	Olga Bertoli	Cecilia Brigatti	Vittoria Da Rios	Luigina Fabaro	Matilde Lignana	Giovanna Mayr	Maria Luigia Pagliarulo	Maria Segrè	Flora Villani
Filomena Altieri	Pasqualina Bigliardi	Rita Brunetti	Maria D'Avanzo	Cornelia Fabri	Gabriella Livione Marchetti	Emma Mazzotto	Maria Pastori	Maria A. Sforzini Pierotti	Maria Washington
Gabriella Armani	Maria Binghinotto	Angelina Cabras	Maria De Marchi	Camilla Festa	Carlotta Longo	Clementina Melli	Luisa Pelosi	Rosina Spadea	
Idda Avenanti	Margherita Blache	Leonella Caffaratti	Maria De Marco	Elena Freda	Giorgina Madia	Maria Clotilde Montù	Isabella Piergallini	Eugenia Tedeschi	
Maria Bacarani	Liliana Bocca	Amalia Caldi	Amalia De Negri	Elena Furlanetto	Ester Maio	Marta Moretti	Pierina Quintili	Iole Terni	
Soemia Baccharini	Daria Bocciarelli	Maria Campa	Amelia Di Muro	Orestina Garavaldi	Matilde Marchesini	Nella Mortara	Maria Rosati	Vanna Tongiorgi	

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Evolution of the N° of Male and Female Physicists in Italy between 1796 and 1945



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FISICA E FISICI A PISA NEL '900

Convegno promosso dal
CENTRO PONTECORVO DEL DIPARTIMENTO DI FISICA

7-9 NOVEMBRE 2017

PALAZZO MATTEUCCI
PIAZZA TORRICELLI
PISA

COMITATO SCIENTIFICO E ORGANIZZATIVO

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Dipartimento di Fisica dell'Università di Pisa

Vincenzo Cavalini
Coordinatore del Centro Pontecorvo

Ettore Vicari
Direttore del Dipartimento di Fisica dell'Università di Pisa

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Alessandro Massimo Baldini
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Paolo Rossi
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Gloria Spandre
Sezione di Pisa dell'INFN

Giuseppe Grosso
Dipartimento di Fisica dell'Università di Pisa,
Consiglio di Presidenza della SIF



As planned last year, a conference on the XX century history of physics in Pisa was successfully held last November.

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Milestones 2018

- Completion of the archival researches in the Italian Universities: Catania, Messina, Napoli, Padova, Parma, Sassari
- Completion of the study of Poggendorf's volumes and of the Rendiconti Accademia dei Lincei, in order to find all the papers published by Italian physicists elsewhere than Nuovo Cimento
- Within September 2018, completion of the final biographical data sheets of the physicists to be published online and in printed version



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Plan of activities 2018 - 2020

- **Publication of Volume II** of the Dictionary (online and printed versions): From the Risorgimento to the II World War (Physicists born between 1770 and 1918)
- Implementation of a **relational online database** (for example, to look for the physicists working in a certain period in a certain University)
- **Work for Volume III** of the Dictionary: The Second Postwar Period (Physicists born between 1918 and 1948)
- Organization of the XXXVIII **Conference of SISFA**, in autumn 2019 in Pisa
- **Collaboration with Centro Pontecorvo** for outreach activities, as the SISFA Conference and particularly for database implementation
- **Work for Volume I** of the Dictionary: From the Renaissance to the Risorgimento (Physicists born before 1770) - Only about 100 scholars, a compilation work!

Expected funding in the 3-year period:

- Request of funding by Centro Fermi

- a) Grant: 1 year extension of research fellowship
- b) Reassignment of unspent funds requested last year, in addition to a request of 3000 euros for further missions

- Potential external funding

- a) Research funds from the University of Pisa



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- P. Rossi, *Enrico Fermi a Pisa*, in *Se il risultato è contrario all'ipotesi*, pp. 43-56, Pisa University Press, Pisa 2017
- P. Rossi, *Physics in Pisa in the first half of th XX century: a reappraisal*, in *Atti del XXXVII Congresso SISFA, Bari 26-29 settembre 2017*
- A. La Rana, *The origins of Virgo and the emergence of the International gravitational wave community*, in eds A. Blum, R. Lalli, J. Renn, *Back with a Flourish: Revisiting the Renaissance of General Relativity*, for the series *Einstein Studies*, Birkhäuser, 2018. In print.