

PORTAL
FOR THE
ARCHIVES OF
SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY
IN ITALY.



ARCHIVI
DELLA
SCIENZA

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Archives of Science and Technology in Italy

Scientific documentation, in all its different formats, constitutes a significant part of Italian archival heritage. However, the discovery, or rather the rediscovery, of its existence and value is quite recent.

Early studies and inventorying of science archives date back, in fact, to the late 1980s, when the intense work of recovery and conservation promoted by the Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze, detta dei XL, in previous decades gained support and technical backing from the Archival Administration.

The first result of these projects was the census of 170 science archives which were held outside the Italian State Archives. This early research was the starting point for other initiatives that led in 1991 to the Convegno internazionale di studi "Gli archivi per la storia della scienza e della tecnica" (International Conference on "Archives for the History of Science and Technology"), organized by the Accademia dei XL and the Archival Administration in Desenzano del Garda.

The main result of the conference was to bring the attention of archivists and scholars to the fundamental role science has had in industrial, social, political, and economic development in Italy.

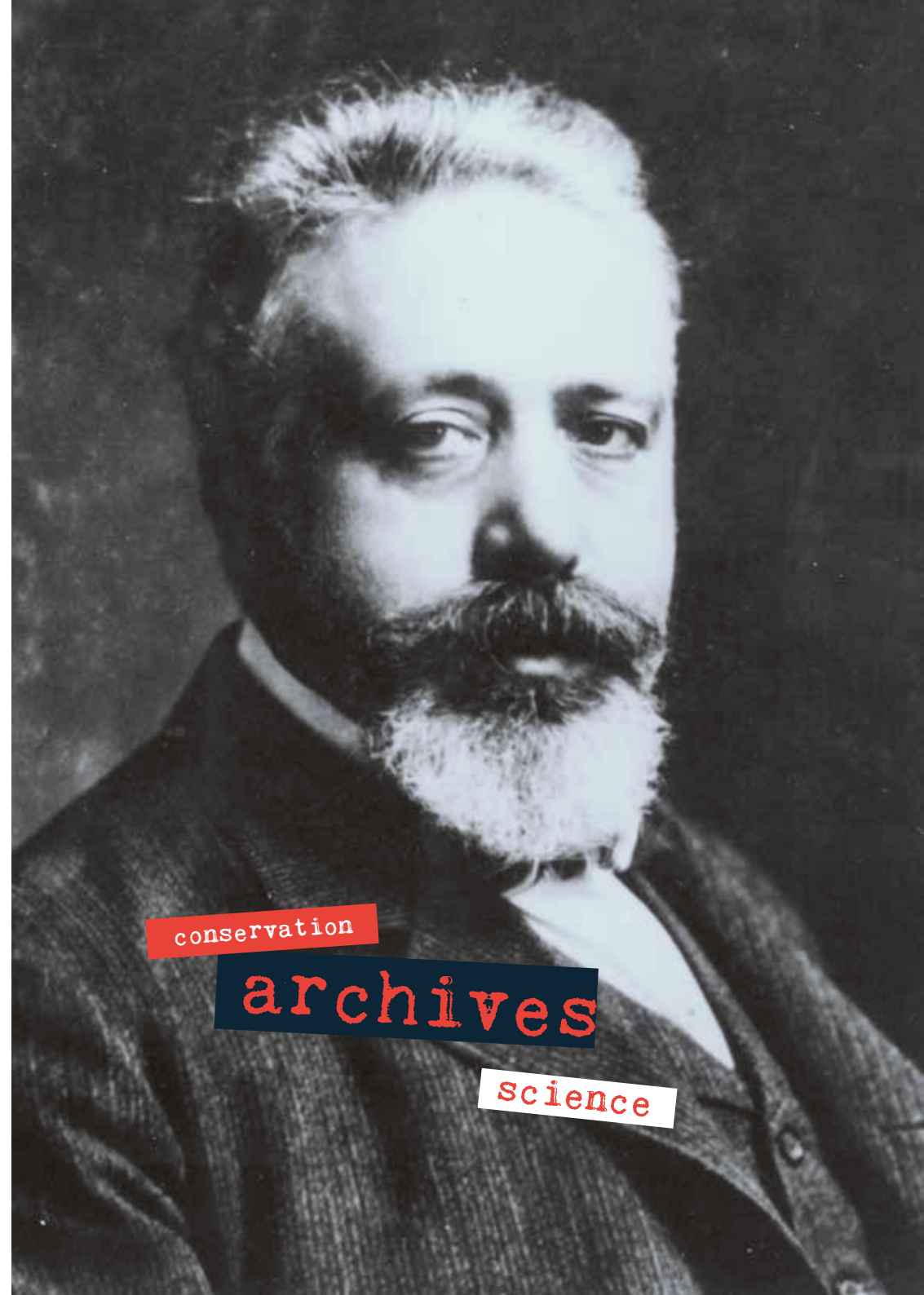
Since the 1990s, many steps have been taken to ensure proper preservation of Italy's scientific heritage, by using the opportunities offered by the Internet. Since then, projects and websites dedicated to science archives have taken considerable development: e.g., science institutions in the portal *Archivi del Novecento*, and the project *Voci della Scienza*.

From the 1980s to present day, the census data on science archives have considerably increased.

The number of identified archives is now approximately 2,000, from the Middle Ages up to the present. Part of them are kept in State Archives and others in different locations.

The idea of launching a portal for the archives of science and technology in Italy originated from this work.

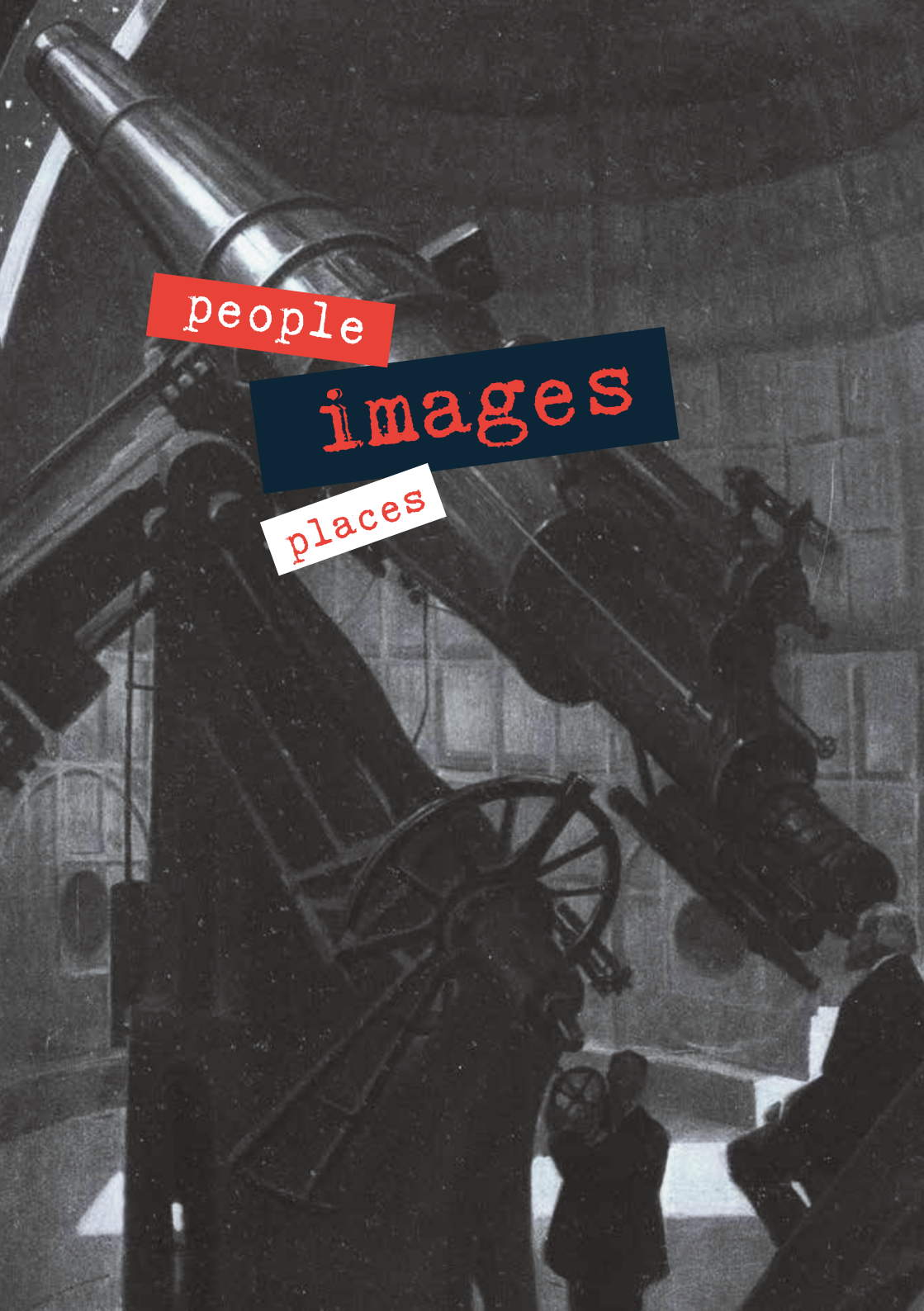
The creation of the portal was strongly supported by the late President of the Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze detta dei XL, Prof. Emilia Chiancone (1938-2018).



conservation

archives

science



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The portal

www.archividellascienza.org

The portal for the Archives of Science and Technology in Italy is a project created by the Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze, detta dei XL, in collaboration with the Museo Nazionale Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci. The portal aims at allowing the localization of archives of research institutions, as well as of personal papers of scientists.

In the portal you can find the essential information on the content, scope, chronological details, research tools (traditional and/or technologically advanced), access.

In addition, it offers a wealth of bibliographic resources, related to the archives of science in general and to the archives of scientists and scientific institutions in particular, curated by the library of the Museo Galileo in Florence.

To make it user friendly and attractive to a larger audience, the portal also offers insight and thematic paths that unfold through people, places, and institutions that have made the history of science in Italy. The archival information is complemented by a thematic bibliography for further reflection and research.

The portal is an important tool giving visibility to the historical-scientific component of the Italian archival heritage, which is one of the world's richest.

It includes materials from the Middle and Early Modern Ages, as well as materials from before and after Italy's unification. They document the role of the scientific and technical community in the construction of the national identity and the unitary State.

The portal promotes access of an audience of non-specialists to the documentation that shows the importance of the contribution of the Italian research system to both scientific progress and Italy's social and economic development. It also intends to offer to archive holders the opportunity to assess best practices for the safeguarding of their own documentation and that produced by the organization they belong to.

The Scientific Director of the portal is Prof. Giovanni Paoloni (Sapienza-Università di Roma).



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How to contribute

The portal for the archives of science and technology in Italy makes it possible to locate more than 1,500 archives in over 200 Italian institutions.

This result, though remarkable in itself, is not the conclusion but rather the starting point of an itinerary whose aim is to safeguard and enhance the potential for scholarly work of the Italian Science Archives.

The portal is therefore open to contributions from people and institutions wishing to make their own archival holding accessible within a framework of safeguarding, use, and communication.

MAKE YOUR ARCHIVE BETTER KNOWN

Should the holders of science archives wish to make them more visible and accessible through the portal, they can share the information they intend to bring to the attention of the public by using the tools available in the portal; they can provide descriptions of their archives or even develop a complete inventory.

SHARE YOUR STORIES

Would you like to share the stories that emerge from your archive?
Would you like to let others know about your research through the portal?

Send us a proposal to enrich the Stories webpage.

Contact us and we shall help you to become part of our community of Science and Technology Archives.
info@archividellascienza.org

All materials sent will contribute to enrich the Portal. Contents will be available for all in share-alike mode.

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