

Name: Giacomo Giudici

Mailing address: 59-61 Pitfield Street, London, N16BU, United Kingdom

Email address: ggiudi01@mail.bbk.ac.uk

Telephone number: +447453183933

Present rank and institution name: PhD Candidate, Birkbeck, University of London

Date PhD expected: February 2016

Citizenship status: Italian

Type of fellowship: one-month short-term Fellowship

Title of project:

**Renaissance Historiography of Milan at the Huntington Library:
the Texts, their Materiality, the Networks of their Owners**

History of fellowships and grants received during the past five years:

Date	Award	Institution
October 2012–September 2015	3-year Grant	European Research Council (EU)
November 2015	Travel/accomodation reimbursement for conference	LECEMO (Université Paris III)
June 2015	Study Fellowship	Society for Renaissance Studies (UK)
June 2015	Research Award	Royal Historical Society (UK)
June 2013	Travel/accomodation reimbursement for conference	University of Florence

Renaissance Historiography of Milan at the Huntington Library: the Texts, their Materiality, the Networks of their Owners

Project Proposal

Background. The Huntington Library possesses an outstanding collection of Renaissance texts dealing with the history of Milan under the Viscontis and the Sforzas – the two dynasties that ruled the city and its duchy between 1277 and 1535. The singularity of the collection does not stand in the number of items (nine in total,) but rather in how *all* the key works of Renaissance historiography on Visconti and Sforza Milan are distributed on a time-span ranging from 1480 to 1628. Such time-span is especially interesting because the most up-to-date scholarship on Milan is currently focusing on an analytical framework breaking the crude boundary between the late medieval age (1450–1535, the age of the Sforzas) and early modern age (1535–1707, the Spanish domination of the Milanese).¹

Printed books. The best represented title – three copies (1480, 1486, 1490), two in Latin and one in Italian – is Giovanni Simonetta's *Commentaria Rerum Gestarum Francisci Sfortiae*, a history of the first Sforza duke of Milan, Francesco (1450–1466) that soon became a milestone in humanistic historiography.² The library holdings include also a first edition of Bernardino Corio's *Patria Historia* (1503) – a work that duke Ludovico Sforza wished to be the sequel of the Sforza saga started by Simonetta.³ Next are Galeazzo Capella's *Commentarii* (1539) a history of the Italian Wars between 1522 and 1531 as seen from the perspective of duke Francesco II Sforza, who repeatedly lost and recaptured the duchy of Milan during that decade (and for whom Capella worked as secretary.)

Later in the sixteenth century, the titles naturally become less politically charged and more retrospective: Paolo Giovio's *Vitae Duodecim Vicecomitum Mediolani Principum* (1549) and Scipione Soncino's *Sommario delle Vite de' Duchi di Milano* (1574) are overviews of the whole Visconti-Sforza age. Finally, Robert Gomersall's *The Tragedie of Ludouick Sforza* (1628) stands out because it is the first work on the Sforzas written in English, and in the form of a theater play: comparing fiction and facts (and trying to figure out where Gomersall got the facts from) will be certainly a compelling task.

Focus. However, besides their content, what interests me most about these books is their materiality, i.e. the historical evidence they carry with their *unique* physical features. Firstly, on a diachronic level, I wish to understand who owned the items and how they ended up at the Huntington Library. And secondly – but equally importantly – I wish to study how readers approached these history books. This is possible through the analysis of material aspects such as book-bindings, marginalia and annotations, which all signal how texts were valued, interpreted and socialised. What was regarded as important or problematic in the history of the Viscontis and the Sforzas? Were the books owned by one person only, or did they circulate creating networks of readership? What were these networks like?

To sum up, the history encapsulated in the lives and afterlives of these specific books can be as important and revealing as the histories they tell in their strict texts. Books-as-objects can offer evidence that even the most renowned archival series cannot boast.

Current project and expertise. I will connect the results of my work at Huntington with those of parallel inquiries I have conducted in Milan (at the *Biblioteca Ambrosiana* and *Biblioteca Trivulziana*) and London (British Library). I am also applying for the *John "Bud" Velde Visiting Scholar Program* at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Campaign Library, where the same (Simonetta's, Corio's, Capella's, Giovio's, Gomersall's) or similar titles are available.

My research has already given encouraging results: for example, thanks to a series of marginalia on a book dealing with the history Milan's most ancient monuments, I was able to discover that the book's author had worked in partnership with Ludovico Annibale Della Croce — a secretary-humanist I have just published an essay on.⁴ Furthermore, Della Croce was only one member of a network that included other

1 Andrea Gamberini (ed.), *A Companion to Late Medieval and Early Modern Milan* (Leiden: Brill, 2014).

2 As argued in Gary Ianziti, *Humanistic Historiography under the Sforzas: Politics and Propaganda in Fifteenth-century Milan* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1998).

3 Stefano Meschini, *Uno Storico Umanista alla Corte Sforzesca. Biografia di Bernardino Corio* (Milan: Vita e Pensiero, 1995)

4 G. Giudici, "Ludovico Annibale Della Croce (1509–1577): Letterato, Segretario del Senato di Milano, Archivista del Cinquecento," in *Archivi e Archivisti in Italia tra Medioevo ed Età Moderna*, ed. by F. De Vivo, A. Guidi, A. Silvestri (Rome: Viella, 2015), 311-334.

learned people working in Milan's chanceries, which is helping me delineate a whole unstudied civic intellectual cadre.

More in general, Simonetta's, Corio's and Capella's histories all originated in the Sforza chancery, in which I am expert – my PhD thesis⁵ consists in a cultural and social history of duke Francesco II (1522–1535), the last of the Sforzas.

***Relazione del Stato di Milano* manuscript.** In addition to the eight printed rare books described above, the Huntington Library also holds a manuscript of great interest to me. It is entitled *Relatione del Stato di Milano* ('Report on Milan') and it is a history of Milan from the Visconti age to the early 1540s, when it was written. In other words, the report fascinatingly mixes past events and current affairs. A unique historical-political text written in the years following the end of the Sforza dynasty could provide invaluable insights for my current and prospect research, because my postdoctoral project is concerned with written political culture in Milan in a *longue durée* perspective – 1450–1630 – thus including the whole sixteenth century.

Description of Huntington materials to be consulted and work plan outline

The Huntington materials I have targeted for this project proposal are eight items of the Rare Books collection and one manuscript.

In order of date (from oldest to newest,) the first three rare books are copies of Giovanni Simonetta's *Commentaria Rerum Gestarum Francisci Sfortiae* – RB 96593 (1480), RB 96592 (1482), RB 104036 (1490, Italian version); the fourth is Bernardino Corio's *Patria Historia* (RB 387029, 1503); the fifth are Galeazzo Capella's *Commentarii* (RB 238540, 1539); the sixth is Paolo Giovio's *Vita Duodecim Vicecomitum Mediolani Principum* (RB 120076, 1549); the seventh is Scipione Soncino's *Sommario delle Vite dei Duchi di Milano* (RB 387030, 1574); the eighth is Robert Gomersall *The Tragedie of Lodouick Sforza* (RB 59971, 1628).

As for the manuscript, it is entitled *Relatione del Stato di Milano* (English title 'Report on Milan') and its shelfmark is HM772 (described in Huntington's *Guide to Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts* at page 252.)

I wish to apply for a one-month Short-Term Award, which I would take up in July or August 2016 (prior to the start of the new academic year in the UK.) Hence, I will have between 22/23 and 27/28 workdays at my disposal – as I understand the library is closed on Tuesdays, and I ideally plan to take a break on Sundays.

This means that I will be able to spend one to two workdays on each rare book, and a longer time (roughly four days) on the manuscript, which is 33 folios long and I would like to transcribe in full. Since my project proposal is concerned with the material use and the physicality of the textual objects I will study, I am also likely to avail myself of Huntington's Imaging Services Department.

It is understood that, once at Huntington, I will also look for more material to research if time will allow it: for example, the library holds a copy of Milan's statutes of the year 1498 (RB 97043), which does not fall in the category of history books, but nevertheless constitutes an object of interest to a Milan scholar like me.

I will be more than willing to acknowledge the Library's support when I will give papers and/or publish articles/essays based on the evidence I will find at Huntington.

5 Submission: December 2015; viva: February 2016.

ACADEMIC CV

GIACOMO GIUDICI

Contact Email: ggiudi01@mail.bbk.ac.uk

AREAS OF COMPETENCE: Palaeography and Diplomatics; History of Diplomacy; History of Information; Late Medieval and Early Modern Italian History

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION: Chancery Studies; History of Late Medieval and Early Modern Milan; History of Written and Documentary Culture

EDUCATION

- 2012 - present **PhD in History**
Birkbeck, University of London; Department of History, Classics and Archaeology
Research Project: “The Chancery of Francesco II Sforza (1522-1535): A Social History of the Production and Management of Documents in Early Modern Milan”
Supervisors: Dr Filippo De Vivo; Professor Evelyn Welch (King's College London)
- 2009 - 2011 **Master of Arts in History** – Laurea Specialistica in Storia at Statale University (Milan)
Thesis supervisor: Professor Marta Calleri; Final Grade: 110/110 cum laude
Thesis title: “The Charters of the San Vittore Basilica of Varese, 1290-1299”
- 2009 - 2011 **Diploma in Archival Sciences, Palaeography and Diplomatics** at Milan State Archives
- 2005 - 2009 **Bachelor of Arts in History** – Laurea in Scienze Storiche at Statale University (Milan)
Thesis supervisor: Professor Andrea Gamberini; Final Grade: 110/110 cum laude

RESEARCH VISITS

September – December 2015 **Institution:** European University Institute, Fiesole (Italy)

Department: History and Civilization

Supervisor: Professor Luca Molà

PUBLICATIONS

- “By Ink and Raven: Information and Communication in *Game of Thrones*,” in *Game of Thrones Versus History*, ed. by B. A. Pavlan and E. S. Lott (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, forthcoming 2016)
- “Ludovico Annibale Della Croce: Letterato, Segretario del Senato di Milano e Archivista del Cinquecento,” in *Archivi, Ufficiali e Società in Italia tra Medioevo e Età Moderna*, ed. by F. De Vivo, A. Guidi, A. Silvestri (Rome: Viella, 2015), 311-334.

PRESENTATIONS

- (forthcoming) “Documentation: Verticistic or Social phenomenon? Re-thinking the Authorship of Letters Patents and Diplomas as seen from the case study of Sforza Milan (1450-1535)”, European Social Sciences History Conference, The International Institute for Social History, Valencia, 30th March - 2nd April 2016
- (forthcoming) “*May Your Lordship not be offended (...)* if our letter will not be signed with our hand.’ The Correspondence between Francesco II Sforza and Bernardo Clesio (1518-1535): a Compelling Case for Early Modern Epistolarity”, Epistolary Cultures – Letters and Letter-writing in Early Modern Europe, Humanities Research Centre, University of York, 18th-19th March 2016
- (forthcoming) “The Urban Space of Diplomacy in Milan During the Italian Wars: Evidence From the Dispatches of the Este and Gonzaga Ambassadors”, *Ambassades et Ambassadeurs, XV^e-XVII^e siècles*, LECEMO, Paris, 26th-28th November 2015
- “Ludovico Annibale Della Croce: Segretario, Archivista, Letterato Milanese del Cinquecento. Primi Appunti di Ricerca”, *Archivi, ufficiali e società in Italia tra medioevo e età moderna*, *ARCHIVES* Project, Rome, 18th-19th September 2014
- “Exiled Diplomacy: The Material Side of Documentation in the Embassies For Francesco II Sforza (1526-1530)”, *Diplomacy and Culture in the Early Modern World*, TORCH, Oxford, 31th July-2nd August 2014

- “A Chancery in an Age of Turmoil: Documentary Practices under Francesco II Sforza (1522-1535)”, Birkbeck Graduate Research Symposium, London, 14th November 2013

- “La Cancelleria di Francesco II Sforza (1522-1535) e gli Altri Centri Documentari Milanesi all'Inizio del Cinquecento”, X Scuola di Alti Studi Dottorali, San Gimignano (Siena), 24th-28th June 2013

AWARDS

2012 - present **Institution:** European Research Council
 Award: 3-year Research Grant

Autumn 2015 **Institution:** Society For Renaissance Studies
 Award: Study Fellowship (for research expenses, 750L)

Autumn 2015 **Institution:** Royal Historical Society
 Award: Research Award (for research expenses, 500L)

November 2015 **Institution:** LECEMO (Université Paris III)
 Award: Travel and Accommodation Reimbursement for the Conference “Ambassades et Ambassadeurs Xve XVIIe Siècles”

June 2013 **Institution:** University of Florence
 Award: Travel and Accommodation Reimbursement for the “X Scuola di Alti Studi Dottorali” of San Gimignano

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2015 **Seminar Tutor** – Birkbeck, University of London
 Course: The Medieval World, c. 1100 – c. 1500
 Course Director: Professor John Henderson

2012 **Workshop-Series Co-convenor** – State Archives, Milan
 Workshop: “Dai Margini...la Storia” (“History from Marginalia”)
 Description: A series of workshops for introducing high-school students to historical research, centred on the relevance (and the allure) of marginalia in fifteenth-century notarial registers.

OTHER

2014 - present **Contributor** – BREPOLs Publishers, Turnhout (Belgium)
 Bibliographie Internationale de l'Humanisme et de la Renaissance

2012 - present **Registered Freelance Journalist** – Ordine dei Giornalisti della Lombardia (Italy)
 Card Number: 144731