

Summaries

Annacarla Valeriano, *“The first time you forgive, the second you club”*. *Women in mental institutions during the fascist regime*

The paper considers the life stories of women admitted in the asylum of Saint Anthony of Teramo during the years of the fascist regime. The aim is to illustrate how fascism draws on established cultural patterns – based on a positivist imprint – to contain female perversion. The psychiatric institution confirms its repressive function and assisted the State in preserving the morality and health of the human race. Within the walls of the psychiatric institution, we find the “pecore matte” who interacted with the regime placing themselves outside the conventional models. Subject to psychiatric treatments, women acquired new cultural identities, while the hysterical ones returned to the institution’s medical records. Moreover, the Rocco Penal Code humiliated the victims of rape, forcing them to undergo psychiatric evaluation to determine their morality and ability of endurance towards their assailants.

Matteo Petracci, *Unforgivable, uncorrectable. Life and death of Giovanni Corvi*

The paper deals with the story of Giovanni Corvi, who in September 1924 killed the Fascist deputy Armando Casalini to revenge the murder of Giacomo Matteotti. Since then, Casalini experienced the most representative corrective structures of the fascist regime (prison, asylum, exile and internment camp). His case caused inevitably an overlapping among authorities, which were asked to fulfill different requirements: the judicial authority (for the criminal part), the psychiatric authority (to verify his criminal responsibility and healthcare detention) and the public security authority (that characterized his entire life, always being predominant on the other two).

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Ilaria La Fata, *An institution to deny? The case of the mental institution of Colorno*

The article focuses on the history of the asylum of Colorno – in the province of Parma – from a material point of view. It describes the place where doctors, nurses and patients had lived or worked since 1873. Bars and buildings in the structure were assembled without a logical order, and deeply conditioned everyone who had been living there for over 100 years. Over the years, many directors leading the structure agreed that such an inhospitable place surely amplified the bad quality of the treatments reserved to patients. However, until the Sixties nobody would have considered closing the asylum, but just tried to make it more comfortable, modern and efficient.

Caterina Pesce, *The psychiatric hospital of Arezzo during the Seventies. The reformatory project of Agostino Pirella*

During the Seventies the psychiatric hospital of Arezzo, by virtue of the reformatory project of Agostino Pirella, became a leading centre for developments in the field of psychiatry. There, important innovatory principles were established even before the approval of law no. 180 of May 13, 1978. The process started in 1971 when Agostino Pirella, psychiatrist and colleague of Franco Basaglia, took up the management of the hospital. The common work of Pirella, doctors, nurses and the local policy makers, allowed the Arezzo area and its surroundings to tackle, with high expertise, the process for the correct implementation of the new law. It represented a model for all the other Italian regions that had not started any new reformatory measure yet.

Micaela Procaccia, *“Papers to be tied”. The protection of Psychiatric Archives in Italy*

In this paper the author describes the project entitled “Papers to be tied”. The protection of Psychiatric Archives in Italy, promoted by the Directorate general for Archives of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities. The project started at the end of the 90’s, when the Psychiatric Hospitals were dismissed, in order to guarantee their historical memory through the protection of the archives. The initiative achieved important results and

led to the inclusion of the the archives' characteristics in the "Sistema informativo unificato delle Soprintendenze archivistiche" as well as the development of a web Portal that serves to disseminate information and grant protected access to the medical records.

Caterina Breda, *From the archive Bemporad: notes on "Almanac of Italian women"*

By using the unpublished documents of the Bemporad archive, the paper looks at the main themes of the *Rassegna del movimento femminile italiano*, one of the key sections of the Almanacco della donna italiana. The section was written at first by the socialist Laura Casartelli Cabrini, then by the young Ester Lombardo, and it was the perfect place to talk about women's movements, suffrage and the rise of the fascism. The two journalists did it in two different ways. After analyzing the contribution of Laura Casartelli Cabrini, the author rebuilds the background of the drafting of the *Rassegna*, by Ester Lombardo by studying her letters, telegrams and post-cards.