



THE CAMPERIO ARCHIVE GROUP

The Camperio Archive Group consists of 4000 volumes (so there is a sort of "private library" once belonging to Camperio family), 2000 pictures and many private documents of the family; it was left to the municipality by Giulio Camperio in 1974.

This sort of private library allows to know the cultural interests of a typical middle-class family of the XIX-XX century; not including a little group of books dated back to the XVI century, the majority of the volumes are from XIX century or first years of XX century, at the most. Beside the most common works of European literature, there are many other publications concerning the personal interests of Camperio family, such as explorations, travels, essays with military and naval topic, juridical documents, handbooks and magazines of the time in addition to still others concerning what we can define as the hobbies of Camperio family (football, dog breeding, photography). Moreover, there are some works concerning the Far East and a few historical documents written in Japanese and in the Tigre language (the language used in the Ethiopian region).

A part of the Archive Group consists of 1623 pictures, whose 1486 kept in 15 thematic photo albums, while the other 137 are all different with any connection between them.

Historically and culturally very important are some pictures given to Pippo Camperio by personalities of the time, such as Vittorio Emanuele of Savoy, the American president Theodore Roosevelt, Gabriele D'Annunzio, Isabella of Bourbon, Giacomo Puccini.

These pictures document the intense participation of Camperio family in the social and political life of the time, emphasizing the interest its members had and the values they showed about these subjects.

In particular, the beauty of some of these pictures is really incomparable and unchallengeable; for this reason it is worth dwelling on the photo album about Japan, since it includes the first examples of color photographs in addition to the photo albums about Australia, with panoramic pictures and glimpses of Sidney during first years of 1900s, all very well-preserved.

Less remarkable on the artistic point of view but still interesting on the documentary and historical level, other photos showing the Russo-Japanese War; Pippo Camperio himself took part in this war as military attaché in the Russian army located in Manchuria.

This series was collected in another photo album which consists of 900 pictures approximately, allowing to anyone who look at them to have a wider framework of the war, since they make easier to reconstruct the military and human events of the conflict.

This photo album completes the documents concerning the Russo-Japanese War present in the Camperio Archive Group; here we can find also 37 volumes of Pippo Camperio's personal journals and the manuscripts of the two works he published after that war experience: "*Al campo russo in Mancuria (note di un marinaio)*" (literally, "In the Russian battlefield of Manchuria, the journal of a sailor") and "*La battaglia di Tsuscima*" (literally, "The Tsushima Battle"). Anyway, we must always remember that most of the photos present in the Archive Group were probably bought or commissioned by Camperio family. Most likely, Pippo was the author of the pictures concerning the Russo-Japanese War. Whereas the family pictures where we can see captain Manfredo Camperio, were probably shot by his son Giulio, who was very passionate about photography.