LUIGI MENEGHELLO COLLECTION

MS 5509

The collection comprises notes and multiple annotated, edited and non-edited typescripts and manuscripts of three of Meneghello's books. There are unedited manuscript and typescript copies of "Fiori Italiani", "Pomo Pero" and "I piccoli maestri". Furthermore, there is the typescript of the translation of "I piccoli maestri" ("The Outlaws") penned by Raleigh Trevelyan, with annotations by Meneghello. The folder regarding "The Outlaws" includes Meneghello's attempts at rewriting the translation or suggestions for Trevelyan. Similarly, the folders regarding "I piccoli maestri" include the first attempts and the discarded material for the book, annotations and loose papers in which Meneghello wrote his considerations and ideas about the characters. Furthermore, in the folders regarding "I piccoli maestri", "Fiori Italiani" and "Pomo Pero", there are a few loose papers with annotations and Meneghello's attempts to write some of the sentences which were later included in the final versions of the book or discarded.

Papers surveyed and collection level description prepared by Cristina de Luca as part of a PhD work placement with Special Collections, University of Reading, 2026. Catalogue completed and edited by Danni Corfield.

The Collection covers the years 1964-1976.

The physical extent of the collection is 3 boxes.

Introduction

Luigi Meneghello was an Italian author, scholar and Resistance fighter. He was born in Malo, Italy, on 16 February 1922 to Cleto Meneghello and Pia Giuseppina Canciani. His father was a craftsman, while his mother was a teacher. Meneghello had three siblings: Bruno, Gaetano and Ester Elisa.

In 1939, he enrolled in the University of Padua. He graduated with a thesis on the philosophy of Benedetto Croce in 1945. During these years, he worked at the newspaper Il Veneto and had his first contacts with antifascism. In 1940, he met other prominent Italian Resistance fighters such as Antonio Giuriolo, Neri Pozza and Francesco Flora. In 1942 and 1943, the group of Resistance Fighters surrounding Meneghello established the Partito d'Azione, in which he took part. In January 1943, he was sent to the Alpine Officer Cadet School in Merano. After the armistice, he returned to Vicenza. However, shortly after, his friends were incarcerated and he became a wanted man. After the end of the Second World War, he kept attending the Partito d'Azione to honour those who died in the militancy during the war. After graduating in 1945, he won a British Council Scholarship in 1946. In 1947, he left to

study for one year at the University of Reading. His early life is documented in his books published from 1963: his education is described in "Libera Nos a Malo" (1963), "Pomo pero" (1974) and "Fiori Italiani" (1976); the experience as a Resistance fighter is narrated in "I piccoli maestri" (1964); the emigration is discussed in "Il dispatrio" (1993).

In 1948 he married Katia Bleier. That same year, the University of Reading asked Meneghello to stay for two years to teach. In 1955, the section of Italian Studies was created within the Department of English Literature of the University of Reading. In 1961, the University of Reading established the Department of Italian Studies, directed by Meneghello until 1980. In the meantime, he contributed to the Italian newspaper Comunità, directed by the entrepreneur Adriano Olivetti. In 1980, Meneghello left Reading and moved to London. Between 1980 and 2004, Meneghello lived between the UK and Thiene, in Italy. His wife died in 2004, and he moved back to Thiene. In 2007, he died of a heart attack.

Biographical note researched and written by Cristina de Luca as part of a PhD work placement with Special Collections, University of Reading, 2026.

MS 5509/1 **Manuscript and typescript drafts of 'Libera nos a malo' by Luigi Meneghello [withdrawn]**

Manuscript and typescript drafts of 'Libera nos a malo' by Luigi Meneghello. The material has been withdrawn and is now held by the University of Pavia.

MS 5509/2 **Manuscript and typescript drafts of 'Fiori Italiani' (Inedito) by Luigi Meneghello**

Undated [c.1976]

Manuscript and typescript drafts of 'Fiori Italiani' (Inedito) by Luigi Meneghello. Multiple versions of the same chapters are present in manuscript and typescript form, including manuscript annotations and revisions by Meneghello. The drafts are not arranged in chapter order. Includes loose papers containing calculations, isolated words and other material not directly related to the manuscript.

1 folder

MS 5509/3 **Manuscript draft of 'Pomo Pero' by Luigi Meneghello**

Undated [c.1974]

1 folder

Manuscript draft of 'Pomo Pero' by Luigi Meneghello. Includes loose manuscript sections detached from their original sequence and notes made by Meneghello during the writing process.

MS 5509/4 **Annotated manuscript and typescript drafts of 'Pomo Pero' by Luigi Meneghello**

Undated [c.1974]

2 folders

Folder 1: Annotated manuscript and typescript drafts of 'Pomo Pero' by Luigi Meneghello. Includes a bundle entitled 'Note Pomo Pero' containing notes relating to the book. Also includes a note on linguistic matters and several poems unrelated to the published work.

Folder 2: Manuscript and typescript drafts of 'Pomo Pero' by Luigi Meneghello. Includes loose handwritten drafts, sentence fragments and compositional notes relating to the development of the book.

MS 5509/5 **Manuscript and typescript drafts and notes for 'I Piccoli Maestri' by Luigi Meneghello**

Undated [c.1964]; 1995

3 folders (657 folios)

Folder 1 (ff.1-267): Manuscript and typescript drafts of 'I Piccoli Maestri' by Luigi Meneghello. Includes labelled bundles entitled 'Mater. scart.' [discarded materials] (ff. 1-24), 'Mater. usati' [used materials] (ff. 25-87), 'Toneselle[?]' (ff. 108-118), 'Extra' (ff. 133-155), 'La discesa' (ff. 177-183), 'L'intermezzo di Frizzon' (ff. 184-185), 'La cattura a Enego' (ff. 186-192), 'Il rastrellamento' (ff. 193-197), 'Padova' (ff. 226-235), 'Fimon' (f. 236, empty) and 'Finale' (ff. 239-245). The bundle 'Extra' contains a note by Meneghello describing its contents as 'some reflections and small drafts which did not make it to the final edition' [translation from the Italian], dated 15 May 1995. Loose material is present throughout the folder (ff. 88-107, 119-132, 156-176, 198-225, 237-238 and 251-267) and includes draft sentences and paragraphs, notes on the structure and

organisation of the book, and manuscript and typescript pages preserved outside the principal sequences. The typescript drafts generally follow on from one another, while the manuscript pages are more dispersed and do not necessarily form a continuous sequence. Some papers bear the annotation '1 ED'.

Folder 2 (ff. 268-460): Manuscript and typescript drafts of 'I Piccoli Maestri' by Luigi Meneghello. Arranged into twelve paperclipped bundles containing incomplete manuscript chapters interleaved with typescript material. Several bundles are identified by chapter. Includes loose manuscript pages forming part of the wider draft sequence.

Folder 3 (ff.461-657): Manuscript and typescript drafts of 'I Piccoli Maestri' by Luigi Meneghello. Includes four paperclipped bundles containing incomplete manuscript and typescript drafts relating principally to chapters 3, 6, 7 and 10. Includes associated loose material. The majority of the surviving material relates to chapter 7.

MS 5509/6 **Manuscript and typescript drafts and working notes for 'I Piccoli Maestri' by Luigi Meneghello**

Undated [c.1964]

4 folders

Manuscript and typescript drafts and working notes for 'I Piccoli Maestri' by Luigi Meneghello.

The material in this series has been described as four files, reflecting distinct physical units indicated by separate sequences of foliation. Original bundle titles and groupings have been retained where identifiable.

MS 5509/6/1 **Manuscript and typescript drafts and notes for 'I Piccoli Maestri' by Luigi Meneghello**

Undated [c.1964]

1 folder (69 folios)

Manuscript drafts and working notes for 'I Piccoli Maestri' by Luigi Meneghello. Includes draft passages, dialogue, descriptions, notes and reflections relating to the development of the book. Also includes a bundle entitled 'Dubbi e riferimenti sulla guerra e sull'Italia' [doubts and references on the war and on Italy] (ff. 43-55).

MS 5509/6/2 **Manuscript and typescript drafts and notes for 'I Piccoli Maestri' by Luigi Meneghello**

Undated [c.1964]

1 folder (45 folios)

Manuscript drafts and working notes for 'I Piccoli Maestri' by Luigi Meneghello. The bundle is entitled 'Materiali usabili' [usable materials] and contains manuscript draft material relating to the development of the work, including draft passages, descriptions and dialogue.

MS 5509/6/3 **Manuscript and typescript drafts and notes for 'I Piccoli Maestri' by Luigi Meneghello**

Undated [c.1964]

1 folder (49 folios)

Manuscript drafts and working notes for 'I Piccoli Maestri' by Luigi Meneghello. Includes notes relating to the development and organisation of the book, including notes on characters, names and events, together with manuscript draft material.

MS 5509/6/4 **Early typescript of 'I Piccoli Maestri' by Luigi Meneghello**

Undated [c.1964]

1 folder (243 folios)

Typescript draft of 'I Piccoli Maestri' by Luigi Meneghello. The first page is annotated by Meneghello 'Prima versione del libro' [first version of the book], 'Non va stampato così' [it should not be printed in this form] and 'Metà del libro è stata rifatta' [half of the book was rewritten]. A further annotation beginning '"Malecopie" sono d'abbozzo ["bad copies" are just drafts].' The typescript is arranged in order. The final ten pages are divided into two paperclipped bundles.

MS 5509/7 **Annotated typescript of Raleigh Trevelyan's translation of 'The Outlaw', with revisions by Luigi Meneghello**

1966-1967

2 folders

Folder 1: Annotated typescript of Raleigh Trevelyan's translation of 'The Outlaw', revised by Luigi Meneghello. Includes a letter from Trevelyan to Meneghello dated 22nd November 1966, translator's note and promotional blurb, together with extensive manuscript revisions and explanatory notes. One bundles contains Meneghello's reworking of the translation and a second contains a further annotated typescript. Also includes notes relating to translation choices and Italian cultural references.

Folder 2: Annotated typescript of Raleigh Trevelyan's English translation of 'The Outlaw', with manuscript annotations and notes by Luigi Meneghello. Includes loose notes relating to specific passages in the translation.