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Maps of the fund 'Acque e Strade' of Lucca State Archives

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- ❖ The State Archives of Lucca was founded by the democratic Republic of Lucca on 27th august 1804 and was transferred to Palazzo Guidiccioni in 1859.
- ❖ Presently the archives documents are divided into two locations: the historical head office in Palazzo Guidiccioni and the separate branch in “Pubblici Macelli”. The State Archives of Lucca holds over 16.5 shelf kilometers of records, including parchments, papers, maps, coins, medals and badges, seals and stamps...

- ❖ From 1865 Salvatore Bongi, director of the State Archives of Lucca, and Francesco Bonaini, then Superintendent of the Tuscan Archives, created for Lucca an archivistic plan which had an extraordinary development to date, thanks to the work of Bongi himself and his successors.
- ❖ The plan of both Bongi and Bonaini was focused on the urgent and priority necessity to give a general description of archives groups, and then continue with a detailed description of serial records which required an analytical inventory, in order to allow researchers to consult the documents.

- ❖ Following this plan a lot of activities of arrangement and descriptions of the State Archives record groups have been carried out to date.
- ❖ Amongst these activities we must point out the analytical registration of over 200 maps and drawings which are part of the head office of the “Acque e Strade” record group made by Beatrice Romiti. Thanks to this project most of the historical cartography of Lucca has been computerized and is now available on the SIAS software (Sistema Informativo degli Archivi di Stato). This to allow online consulting, a correct management and the preservation of documentary heritage.

- ❖ The record group “Direzione poi Commissariato delle Acque e Strade” is preserved in the State Archive of Lucca and started from 1st october 1818, after the jurisdiction of waters and roads passed from Minister Secretary of State to the new office.
- ❖ This record group consists of a complete nucleus, unique both for its organization and for its historic-geographic relevance of the Lucchesian area; it is made up of 753 record series and within there are Maps labelled by accession numbers ranging from 708 to 753.

- ❖ Documentation relating to this record group has been produced by the administration department of “Acque e Strade” from 1823, removing papers from ancient Republic Offices; then the collection was extended with other documents by its employees.
- ❖ Maps that make up a collection are included in 46 folders and classified as edited between the XVI and the XIX centuries (with some exceptions).

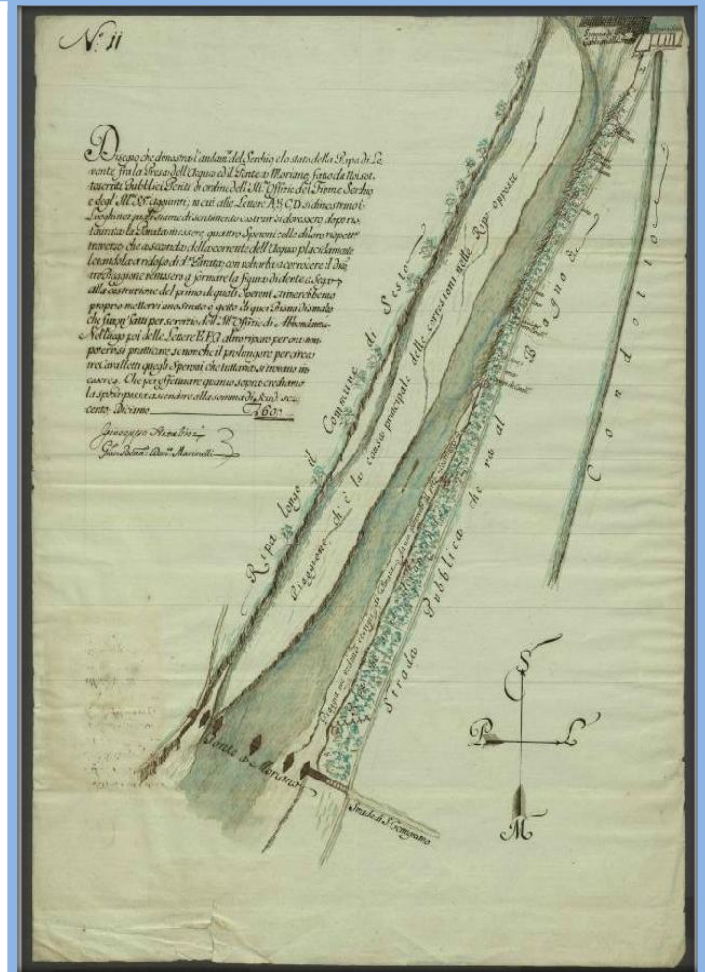
- ❖ The first 42 document boxes contain maps and drawings of rivers and roads of the State of Lucca, and glued on the back of each document there is a printed label indicating the section.
- ❖ The last three pieces (from 750 to 752) are wall maps made with dark ink and coloured watercolours, cloth-covered and rolled up on wooden poles. These maps represent the “Carta Geografica dello Stato della Serenissima Repubblica di Lucca” (geographic map of the State of the Most Serene Republic of Lucca) and were described by Fra Giuseppe Maria Serantoni.



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These maps, as you can see, are made with black ink and coloured watercolours and in most cases have detailed legends.



Among the selected maps, we can point out the map showing the development of the public road of Bagni di Lucca, drawn with dark ink and coloured watercolours.





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Map showing the road Strada dei Bagni in which the author Giovanni Battista Domenico Martinelli inserted an alphabetical legend.





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The paper map shows the development of the road Via delle Tagliate. The author Michele Saverio Fosi points out that in the legend the red colour indicates the walls.



- ❖ Finally we must underline that the computerizing project of the maps of the record group Acque e Strade, together with the latter codification of data for the internet website, allowed the Lucca State Archive to connect with other cartographic projects like the one run by the Regione Toscana which in association with the Tuscan State Archives launched in 2004 the Castore project, allowing the free consultation of more than 1.200 cadastral 18th century maps.

- ❖ The Castore project allowed the realization of an essential tool in order to study the local layout of Tuscany before the modification occurred during the XX century.
- ❖ Maps are available both as single copies of the original documents (with the exact description) and as a mosaic of georeferenced maps which are comparable with modern cartography using the WEB-GIS System.

- ❖ The maps of the record group “Acque e Strade” are available at the following links:

Lucca State Archive:

<http://www.archiviodistatoinlucca.it/ips/nodes/virtual/maps?tab=Carte+e+mappe>

Castore Project:

<http://web.rete.toscana.it/castoreapp/>