

ANGELO PACE TAGLIACOZZO, ENGINEER AND PRESIDENT OF THE JEWISH HOSPITAL IN ROME

10TH FEBRUARY 1847 – 26TH JUNE 1926

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Angelo Tagliacozzo, born in 1847, was the first Jew from Rome to be awarded a degree in engineering at Pisa. He fought with Garibaldi and was a founder of the Jewish hospital in Rome as well as its first President. He was a collaborator of Ernesto Nathan, the Jewish mayor of Rome and the benefactor of the Jewish infant schools, who was portrayed in the sonnets of S. Fornari and C. Del Monte. His life story has been reconstructed by reference to documents formerly in his possession, to family reminiscences and to university archives together with records held by the Hebrew community in Rome, by the Freemasons and by the Hebrew Museum in Jerusalem, together with the register of national honours maintained by the Mauritian order. The family's business activities and investments in the years following 1870 converge in the extraordinary story of the Tagliacozzo building located in today's Piazza Sant'Andrea della Valle, which was demolished in the course of the urban redevelopment programs initiated by the Fascist regime.

Abram Tagliacozzo lived, together with his wife Grazia, his son Angelo Jacob and daughter-in-law Rachele, parents of little Grazia and of Hanah, in the house "right next to the schools", in the words of the 1733 census of the Jewish Community. Despite the patchy nature of the records for the following decades, evidence is found for the continuing occupation, on the part of the Tagliacozzo family, of the residence where Leone Tagliacozzo, the paternal grandfather of Angelo Pace, the future engineer, served as *shammash* and as *moel* in the Castigliana school, living with his wife Gentildonna in that same house in via Scola at number 234, not far from Piazza delle Scole.¹

¹ See *Stato della popolazione ebraica di Roma, cognomi e nomi età professioni e domicilio*, in Rome National Archive, *Archivio Medievale e moderno, Università degli ebrei di Roma, Censimento del 1868, Scola Castigliana*, the Historical archive of Rome's Jewish Community.(ASCER) Documents concerning A.T. derive from a donation to Bruno Piperno of a dossier whose origins were apparently as follows: the first to start assembling the documents was Clotilde Costanza Tagliacozzo, A.T.'s daughter, who passed them on to her son Guido Di Capua who in turn left them to Bruno Piperno as being descended from A.T. on both his father's and on his mother's side. Other information concerning A.T. is derived from written memoirs and from anecdotes told by the great-grandchildren, including Mariella Piperno Milano, Rosina Levi Bonfiglioli, Costanza Di Capua (née Di

The 30th of January 1807 saw the birth of Daniel Isacco Tagliacozzo who followed in the footsteps of his father Leone in the performance of the *shammash* and *moel* rites at the Scola Castigliana. He also continued to live under the paternal roof with his wife Paziienza Citone, born in 1806 to Isaac and Ester Moro. Daniel and Paziienza (referred to as Costanza in some family accounts) had two children in the space of two years. Giacobbe was born on the 8th of October 1831 and Leone Mosé on the 1st of December 1833. Both were identified as shopkeepers in the Jewish Community census of 1866. In 1847, on the 10th of February, the 40-year-old parents Daniel Isacco and Paziienza together with their other children, now adolescent, celebrated the birth of Angelo Pace, who was circumcised by his father on the 17th of February, as attested in the Jewish Community register of births.

The site where, in the period between the end of the 19th century and the early 20th century, the Tagliacozzo building rose, being soon demolished to make way for the urban redevelopment of the area, is now marked by the fountain placed in Piazza Sant'Andrea della Valle following its removal from Piazza Scossacavalli during the redevelopment of the Borgo quarter. Another fountain, which had stood in Piazza Giudea in the Roman ghetto neighbourhood, was moved at the end of the 1800s to Via del Progresso, now Piazza delle Cinque Scole, in the vicinity of the site where Angelo Tagliacozzo, together with his father Daniel and his grandfather Leone had been born, in the modest residence adjacent to the Scole and belonging to the Scola Castigliana.

“Grandad Angelo lived in Corso Vittorio opposite the church of Sant'Andrea della Valle, in a magnificent building which was demolished when they opened Corso Rinascimento”, remembers Mariella Piperno Milano, the granddaughter. Great-granddaughter Luciana Ascarelli adds “I was born there and Rosa Levi Bonfiglioli lived there too”. Rosa herself remembers that the building had been equipped with a hydraulic lift. The richly decorated window-shutters from the Tagliacozzo building are now conserved at the Italian museum in Jerusalem, as a gift of the Ascarelli heirs and hence catalogued as coming from the Ascarelli rather than the Tagliacozzo building. The door knocker, instead, has been retained by the heirs and is decorated with a palm and a lion rampant.

Capua) and her daughter Annarosa Di Capua Kohn, Marco Di Capua, Miriam Ascarelli Piperno, Simonetta Ascarelli Di Castro, Luciana Ascarelli and Margherita Ascarelli.

Other details regarding the building can be learnt thanks to a poem in the Roman Jewish dialect. A.T. was a client and friend of the silversmith Alberto Fornari, whose son Salvatore, in a composition in the style of Crescenzo Del Monte, pictures himself once again as a boy in his father's workshop in via della Scrofa, and then climbing up the stairs of the Tagliacozzo building. The personality of A.T. emerges from these verses, an astute businessman and a hard bargainer in the purchase of silverware for the house or for his daughters' dowries, but generous in bestowing tips on the young assistant performing the deliveries.

'Nzor Angel

Pur'io me t'arecordo Tagliacozzo
 C'ò paltone grigetto e o bastoncino,
 in mmocca o sigheretto fino fino,
 e camminava a sbalzi c'ò signozzo.
 Quant'anno so' passati ? D-o lo sa...
 Quando veniv'a ppied'a casa tia
 Lassù a portartt' un po' d'argenteria
 Comprata bene a forza de tirà.
 De contra a Sant'Andrea de la Valle
 La bella casa su all'urtemo piano
 Li scali me pesavano pe falle.
 Ma la speranza mia gira e riggira
 Pure se faticavo e me stroppiavo
 La mancia era sicura mezza lira. ²

The sequence of odd numbers in via Corso Vittorio is interrupted today from number 109 where piazza Sant'Andrea della Valle now begins, continuing after the square from number 127. At the centre of that span was formerly located the Tagliacozzo building. The building had been assigned number 119, corso Vittorio Emanuele. The 1886 plans for the renovation of the Tagliacozzo building bear the signature of Giulio Crimini. On the ground floor it extended

² Mr. Angelo "How could I forget Tagliacozzo, with his grey coat and little stick, a thin cigarette in his mouth, walking along in little hops as if with hiccups? How many years have passed? Lord knows, since I used to come on foot to bring you a bit of silverware bought for a knockdown price through hard bargaining, up there to your house in front of the church of Sant'Andrea de la Valle, that nice house up on the top floor where the stairs were hard work but my head was spinning with hope, despite the exhausting effort, for I could count on the 2-lira tip" Salvatore Fornari, *Cento Sonetti Giudaico-romaneschi*, Rome, LITOS, after 1993, p. 212.

into via dei Sediari next to the Fabiani property, also demolished in the 30s for the opening of Corso Rinascimento.³

The period of Angelo Pace's youth corresponded with a difficult moment for the Roman community. The Jewish population had shrunk progressively during the pontificates of Gregory XVI and Pius IX. In 1847 the community's expenditure was the same as it had been centuries earlier. Only 109 families in the ghetto were able to pay the taxes for the synagogue, the hospital, the schools and the hospice.⁴ In that period the poor children of the ghetto were sent at a very young age to work as porters, rag-collectors, match-sellers and water bearers. Gradually, thanks to historical and political changes such as the Roman republic of 1849, Jews had been permitted to inhabit other areas of the city but, in 1864, all the shops run by Jews under Christian names were closed and it was ordained that in businesses run by a Jew in association with a Christian, the former would have no part in the sale.

Angelo's brother Giacobbe married Grazia (daughter of Isacco Samuele Ascarelli and Fortunata Genazzano). They named their first male child, born in 1856, Daniele Isacco and the first daughter, born in 1860, Costanza, thus perpetuating the names of the paternal grandparents. Between these two was born Samuele in 1858 followed by Leone Mosé in 1862, Fortunata in 1864, Ester in 1866 and Mosé Gabriele in 1869. To the eighth of their ten children

³ The demolitions for the construction of Corso Rinascimento are documented in *Fonti documentarie per la storia urbanistica di Roma dopo il 1870: l'apertura di Corso Vittorio Emanuele II*, Padua, 1982; Alberto M. Racheli, *Urbanistica e architettura a Roma dopo il 1870 Corso Vittorio Emanuele II – Quaderni*, 7, p. 90, in http://www.ufficiostudi.beniculturali.it/mibac/export/UfficioStudi/sito-UfficioStudi/Contenuti/Pubblicazioni/Documenti/Dossier/visualizza_asset.html_2137957629.html, Ufficio Studi Ministero per i Beni e Attività culturali. See also *Catasto urbano, rione S. Eustachio; Il quartiere e il corso del Rinascimento*, edited by G. Spagnesi, Rome, Istituto dell'Enciclopedia Italiana 1994. Dossier 148 of Notifiche Municipali e Decreti prefettizi for the year 1886 contains the pre-existing land reference and building coordinates for the planning permit issued to the Tagliacozzo family. The building was located in proximity to the Bufalo della Valle building in the block located between via del Teatro Valle, piazza di Sant'Andrea della Valle and via dei Sediari, now incorporated into piazza di Sant'Andrea della Valle. The postal address, prior to the redevelopment of corso Vittorio, was piazza di Sant'Andrea della Valle 89-92, with an extension into via dei Sediari numbers 98-100. The architect's plan for the rebuilding displayed 5 doors along the main facade with 5 corresponding windows on each floor looking onto the square. The façade was all in ashlar masonry with decorated stringcourses, a running balcony at the top floor and windows surmounted by marble gables on the main floor, while the 5 windows on the mezzanine displayed ornate balconies with railings.

⁴ Giacomo Blustein, *Storia degli ebrei in Roma. Dal 140 Av. Cr. fino ad oggi*, Rome, P. Maglione & C. Strini 1921, pp. 263 and following.

they gave the name Angelo Pace, who was born in 1871, to be followed by Gabriele Sabato and Abramo.

The other brother, Leone Mosé Ezechia, married Donna, the daughter of Angelo Raffaele Levi, on the 26th of December 1859. In May of 1864 Paziienza Costanza was born, followed by Angelo Raffaele in 1865 and Emilia in 1874.

In the period when his brothers Giacobbe and Leone Mosé, who were respectively 16 and 14 years older than him, were choosing their spouses, Angelo followed his lessons at the Scuola de' Putti, sponsored by the Talmud Torà confraternity which occupied the third floor of the Scole building. In this lay school he also studied "the alphabet and spelling, as well as basic arithmetic". In 1859, at the age of twelve, Angelo was accepted into the fourth year of the *Sacro* school where he had also studied in the first three years with the teacher Angelo Citoni. At the end of that year's lessons, the word "departed" was shown against the names of 23 or the 31 pupils in Citoni's class. In the class register for another class the phrase "left and transferred to Livorno" appears beside the name of a pupil.

It is difficult now to ascertain whether the decision to send promising young pupils to free cities where they would be able to follow a lay curriculum at junior high school level covering physics, mathematics and literature was associated with the first annexations by the Kingdom of Savoy. Parents from wealthier families, of whom there were few, were already sending their children outside the Vatican State to continue their education. It was only in 1867, in fact, that a certain number of Jewish pupils were accepted at the Junion High School in Rome.

A.T.'s father Daniel Isacco Tagliacozzo died on the 15th of October 1864 at the age of 57, when his thirdborn had just begun his studies in Pisa. The decision to complete his studies there can be traced back to the enlightened 18th-century reformer Gaspare Cerati, Education Superintendent for Pisa, who had authorised the admission on degree courses of Jews and of non-Catholics in general, where previously this had not been allowed except for specific cases sanctioned by the Livornine Laws.

Thus from 1864 A.T. embarked, seemingly with the financial support of his brothers Giacobbe and Leone, on his studies of engineering, which fell within the faculty of Mathematics. It is likely that he sat his final school-leaving exams

in Pisa, where the local Jewish community had, for the Junior and Senior High School level, opened the Pareyra Institute, counting 65 pupils in the 1860s.

For studies outside the Papal territories a foreign passport was required, which had to be renewed each year. Among the papers handed down to A.T.'s descendants passport number 4639 has been conserved, showing the insignia of Cardinal Antonelli, Pope Pius IX's Secretary of State, together with "issued in Rome on the 26th day of January in the year 1867". As stated in the text, this document required

All civil and military authorities of the Papal State to allow free passage to Mr. Angelo Tagliacozzo in his journey to Pisa and to supply him with assistance in case of need. Foreign Civil and Military Authorities are requested to do likewise, on assurance of perfect reciprocity. This passport is valid for one year.

The reverse of the passport bore the stamps of "entry and exit visas" from Civitavecchia.

On this type of document, as yet with no photograph attached, Pope Pius IX's Secretary of State listed the features serving to identify age, stature, physique, complexion, beard, etc., with A.T. being described as "aged twenty, with a good stature and slim build, fair brown hair, good forehead, brown eyes and eyebrows, straight nose and mouth" with no beard or other distinguishing traits of chin, face or complexion, described as being a native of Rome, occupation student, with no information concerning the bearer's religion shown in the passport. As documented in the State Archives of Pisa, Jewish immigrants were welcomed by their fellow-Jews and were assisted in seeking accommodation and employment. The Jewish community was expanding in that period and the Pisa synagogue was renovated in 1865. A good number of Jews left Pisa to join the campaigns for the unification of Italy.⁵

A.T. enrolled in the Faculty of Mathematics, where courses in applied engineering were taught, since no independent Faculty of Engineering existed as yet. It should be added that, although not open to the zealous A.T., since 1817 a School of Engineering had in fact existed in Rome which did not form

⁵ See also *History of the University of Pisa*, edited by the Chancellor's Commission for the History of the University of Pisa, Pisa, 2000, pp. 129-; Bruno Di Porto *Gli ebrei a Pisa dal Risorgimento al fascismo tra identità e integrazione*, in *Gli ebrei di Pisa (secoli IX-XX)*, Proceedings of the International Convention, Pisa, 3rd-4th October 1994, edited by Michele Luzzati, Pisa, Pacini, Pisa 1998, pp. 283-340; Società Storica Pisana, *Studi sulla Storia dell'Università di Pisa*, Pisa, ETS, 1994.

part of the *Studium Urbis* but operated directly under the Prefecture for water and roads. Apart from Rome, this school also had a branch in Ferrara, although this was short-lived.

If the choice of place of study was to some extent obligatory, the choice of faculty seems to have been influenced by incipient family interests in the mineral sector.

The volumes containing the Directives establishing the curriculum at the Regia Università di Pisa (Royal University of Pisa) for the academic years 1866-1867 and 1867-1868 illustrate A.T.'s experiences at Pisa, where he encountered figures of considerable intellectual substance. The professor of algebra was Ulisse Dini and of mechanics Luigi Pacinotti. It was indeed a golden age for the study of science. The Pisan academy has conserved in good order the records relating to students subsequent to the year 1875. A.T. has remained a shadowy figure - which we have sought to illuminate with some difficulty - from a period of reorganisation of the university, now no longer a Tuscan entity but of the Kingdom of Italy. Some documents from prior to 1875 are to be found, but the yearbooks for the period in which A.T. was pursuing his studies are missing.

A.T.'s name does however appear in the transcripts of examinations and degrees (*Processi verbali degli esami e delle lauree*). The first reference relates to the Analytical Geometry examination of 15th June 1864. The exam sessions from 1864 and 1865 are suggestive of early difficulties, while in 1866 he did not sit any exams, the result of a decision which was to have a profound influence on his future. The last exam is recorded in the transcript for the 7th of July 1871. This was a special exam in the physics of technology reserved for students of mathematical and physical natural sciences. No evidence has survived regarding the final examination itself which no doubt took place, as customary, in the following month of August. However, family papers record his professional apprenticeship as an engineer.

The spirit of the *Risorgimento* prevailed at the University of Pisa. Patriots and students from Pisa, including Isacco Artom, took part in the Tuscan expeditionary force during the first war of independence. A number of these students lost their lives on the 29th of May 1848 in the areas of Curtatone and Montanara near Mantua where the battle took place. Among family papers are conserved the enlistment papers for the 7th artillery regiment, 19th battery, identification number 7487, issued to gunner A.T., "son of the late Daniele and Costanza Citone", described as "1 metre 67 tall, with fair brown hair, sunken

eyes and a broad forehead, small nose and mouth, sunken chin and regular features, natural complexion, of Jewish faith, profession student, living in Rome”.

The Italian Volunteer Corps which Angelo had enrolled in was a military unit of the Royal Italian army composed almost exclusively of volunteers and commanded by General Giuseppe Garibaldi, which in 1866 was operating in the Trentino region in the course of the third war of independence against the Austrian army. The 7th Regiment was commanded by Colonel Luigi Bossi, later replaced by Lieutenant Luigi La Porta. During this period of voluntary service, as documented in his personal log book, the record of sums in and out appear up to the 16th of October 1866. In that year Angelo then abandoned his examination programme in order to contribute to the cause of the Risorgimento. The 7th Artillery Regiment into which he had enrolled as a volunteer on the 4th of July 1866 discharged him with a certificate of good conduct issued in Pisa on the 20th of September 1866, in accordance with the provisions of the ministerial circular n° 30 dated 7th September 1866, Bassa Forza Division, Section 2.

In expectation of war with the Austrian empire, the Italian Volunteer Corps had been created on the 6th of May 1866 by decree of King Vittorio Emanuele II, and placed under Garibaldi's command. Special military commissions made up of officers from the regular army and from Garibaldi's previous army oversaw recruitment. The Ministry of War designated its composition at 20 battalions, to be grouped into 10 regiments. These 10 regiments, following Garibaldi's proposal, were then formed into 5 brigades.

A.T. took part in the battles of the second half of July 1866. His regiment, the 7th regiment of Italian volunteers, was engaged in the decisive battle of Bezzecca on the 21st of July 1866. Garibaldi considered control of the town of Bezzecca to be indispensable and committed the 9th regiment, the 7th regiment, the remains of the 5th and the riflemen to the engagement. However, the operation could not be completed with sufficient speed and the Austrians had time to reinforce the positions they had occupied. Garibaldi's artillery, which had served to counter the Austrian advance, remained in Bezzecca, along with the young artilleryman A.T.

Giuseppe Garibaldi's Italian Volunteer Corps emerged victorious from the battle after halting the Austrian advance. On the 31st of July a truce was declared between Italy and Austria until the 10th of August 1866. On the 9th of

August Garibaldi received the order to withdraw from the Trentino area by the 11th while an armistice was finalised between Austria and Italy. The Italian Volunteer Corps was disbanded on the 25th of August and on the 17th of September peace was declared between Italy and Austria. On the 20th of September 1866 A.T. was discharged.

Participating in the battle of Bezzacca were a number of Jews such as Giacomo Levi Civita, in later life a lawyer, who had accompanied Garibaldi at Aspromonte and had rejoined him for the 1866 Trentino campaign, earning a commendation at the battle of Bezzacca. Thereafter, he became mayor of Padova and a Senator. Also at the battle in 1866 was the volunteer Pio Foà, a student at Milan's Beccaria High School who later held the Chair in Anatomical Pathology at various universities.

Angelo Donati from Modena also figured among the volunteers in the Italian Volunteer Corps during the third war of independence, likewise in the 7th regiment, 3rd battalion, 17th company.

The positions adopted by the young A.T. at the time of the Risorgimento also determined his choices in later life, as well as the destiny of other family members, following the promulgation of the Race Laws in 1938. During the years of persecution, certain descendants were able to lay claim to exemption from discrimination on the basis of A.T.'s deeds at the time of the Risorgimento. This fleeting benefit of exoneration had its basis in the certificates issued by the central Committee of war veterans 1848-1870, established in 1878, confirming participation in the wars of independence.

Returning to the theme of professional life it should be added that from 1862 the study of engineering was governed by new regulations which applied to all Italian universities. A specific ministerial decree established that these studies were to constitute an additional programme of study to be undertaken after obtaining a degree in pure mathematics, after which the title of Engineer would be conferred following a period of apprenticeship.

Thus it was that, in a document dated 30th May 1872 and signed by G. Veneziani, chief engineer of the hydraulic section of the state civil engineering body in Pisa:

It is hereby certified that Mr. Angelo Tagliacozzo completed his internship in this Government Technical Office from the month of July 1870 to the end of January in the following year, assisting staff members

in the development of a number of projects and demonstrating a lively intelligence as well as considerable aptitude for the profession which he intends to pursue.

Following this apprenticeship A.T. sat the last of his university exams. In the complete list of exams, despite the many difficulties associated with his departure from Rome and residence in Pisa, examinations missed or uncompleted for reasons we have seen, his final score of 30/30 with Honours in the exam of Minerology and Geology should be underlined. This was a subject which A.T. knew well, due to the minerals business which the family was involved in, initially presumably assisting in the activities of a fellow-Jew. Later a concession for mineral prospecting at Allumiere was issued in the name of the firm Fratelli Tagliacozzo & Co.

With the passing of law n° 33 of the 3rd of February 1871 Rome became the capital of Italy and the engineer Tagliacozzo returned there definitively. The 24-year-old “certified engineer” found work as an assistant engineer with the Ministry of Public Works, Government section, for the construction of the new Finance Ministry building. At the conclusion of the work, on the 1st of November 1877, the Engineer-in-chief and the section chief engineer testified as follows:

During the whole period he exhibited dynamism, zeal, intelligence and dependability in the performance of the tasks assigned to him. The undersigned is therefore happy to release this declaration in recognition of the excellent services rendered in the course of this work.

This declaration of commendable service was further confirmed on the 3rd of December 1877 by the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Public Works.

Immediately thereafter, for a period of two years:

i.e. from October 1879 to October 1881, Mr. Angelo Tagliacozzo was assigned the tasks of supervision and on-site management of works in connection with the conversion of the former Vittoria convent into a headquarters for the Geological Committee and Agrarian Museum, with specific responsibility for the metallic sections and the related financial accounts. In the performance of the diverse tasks he gave a continuing demonstration of intelligence, competence and industry in relation to the priorities which had been entrusted to him, so that the undersigned is very happy to issue, at his request, this certificate of commendation.

This was signed once again by the Chief Engineer Raffaele Canevari.

The following wedding invitation is preserved among the family papers:

Costanza Tagliacozzo, widow, together with Sabatino and Rebecca Di Porto are pleased to inform you that next Sunday 7th June 1874 the wedding of their respective son and daughter Angiolino and Fortunata will be celebrated. They therefore request you to do them the honour of visiting them on the morning of the specified day at their residence in Piazza delle Scole n°. 224.

Thus, on the 7th day of June 1874, the 27-year-old Angelo Pace married Fortunata who was born on the 28th of January 1855 and was thus less than twenty years old at the time. In the register of marriages for 1874, the amount of her dowry was stated as 50,000 Lire (the Scudo having been replaced by the Lira). In the 18 years from 1875 to 1892, 5 sons and two daughters were born to their union:

- Clotilde Costanza, born 30th July 1875 and died 8th August 1949, married to Mosé Angelo Piperno and resident in via Arenula n° 53;
- Daniele Isacco (known as Dario), born 22nd August 1877 and married to Celia Di Capua;
- Sabato Pio, born 28th August 1879, married to Laura Uzielli of Florence;
- Sofia, born 9th November 1881, married to Arnaldo Rossi;
- Beatrice (Bice), born 14th October 1884, died in Rome 4th May 1969, married to Umberto Modigliani, also resident in via Arenula 53;
- Luigia/Gina Tagliacozzo, a spinster who had been sick since childhood and who lived in her father's house in Corso Vittorio Emanuele 119 and who was confined to a care home in her later years prior to her death in Rome on 26th February 1955;
- Elvira Tagliacozzo, born in Rome on 24th April 1892, died in Quito, Ecuador on 14th March 1984 and married to Sabatino di Capua, who was born in Rome on 27th June 1887 and died in Rome on 12th February 1974.

Attilio Di Porto, in his book *Il Ghetto di Roma*, records Sabato Di Porto's flourishing business ventures, supplying furniture and fittings to high-born customers. Shabbatai / Sabato or Sabatino, Tranquillo Di Porto, in partnership with A.T.'s brother Leone Tagliacozzo, dealt in church assets in Rome and was a well-to-do individual from the Scola Tempio, son of

Samuele and Fortunata. His elder brothers were Graziaddio (1807-1840) and Aron (1809-1885), the latter married to Fortunata Mieli, daughter of Samuele and Iole Fiano. Sabato Tranquillo Di Porto was married to Rebecca Giuseppina Levi, the daughter of Mosé and Sara Morselli.

Sabato Di Porto's comfortable circumstances and his generosity are attested to on a stone monument placed in the main synagogue in Rome listing the names of benefactors contributing to the new building. Sabato Di Porto had made the greatest contribution. On the 26th of April 1875 the Di Portos and the Tagliacozzos had acquired some lots of church property put to auction by the liquidator of church assets. Among these was a whole tenement in via Vittoria which had belonged to the regular clerics of San Lorenzo in Lucina. Receipts dating from the following years attest to the payments made by Di Porto and by the Tagliacozzo enterprise which by this time had been established.⁶

Angelo's granddaughter Mariella Piperno Milano recounts, in words oft repeated within the family, that upon his return to Rome, "Fortunata Di Porto, daughter of Shabbatai, was offered to him in marriage, bringing with her a considerable fortune which included properties in via Vittoria".

A.T. maintained a very close relationship with his father-in-law, in business, in his sentiments and in the life of the community. Sabato Di Porto, who lived for the latter years of his life in the Tagliacozzo building, died on the 5th of December 1898, providing for his heirs as follows:

I have always loved all my daughters and all my sons-in-law equally and have never harboured any preference between them, so that I wish for all the various goods and chattels in my possession to be divided between them in equal parts in accordance with the stipulations of the law, with the proviso that in recognition of the debt of gratitude I owe to my daughter Fortunata and to my son-in-law Angelo Tagliacozzo for the assiduous care they gave to me and to my siblings, receiving us into their house and furnishing us with every possible consideration, I would like to make a small distinction, my aforementioned son-in-law having supplied me with the means, since in 1886 he included me in a business transaction which generated a net profit for me of Lire 54,850.64. For

⁶ See Vittorio Vidotto, *Roma contemporanea*, Roma-Bari, Laterza 2001, p. 60.

my funeral arrangements I make no specific request, being certain that all will be performed in keeping with our ties of family.

Marco Di Capua, son of Costanza Di Capua, daughter of Elvira Tagliacozzo, Angelo's lastborn child, remembers: "My mother Costanza spoke of excursions to Tolfa in the area of Civitavecchia to visit grandfather's Kaolin mines. She accompanied me there in the early 2000s and my aunt Ada Ascarelli, daughter of Dario Tagliacozzo, had already taken me there in the late 1990s".

The Tolfa fireclay, which was considered particularly suitable for the production of porcelain, was extracted from 1856 to 1871 by Crescenzo Bondi on the basis of an exclusive concession with the intention of setting up a ceramics factory in the vicinity of the quarry, seemingly with the collaboration of the Tagliacozzo family. This mining concession in the locality of La Bianca near Allumiere was acquired by the Tagliacozzo & Co. Roman Kaolin company in the period around 1876. During the years of the Great War, the firm Tagliacozzo & Co., with its offices in corso Vittorio Emanuele number 119, in the same building where the families had their residence, began collaborating with the Iron and Steel department of the Ministry of Armaments and Munitions for the supply of fire clay.

The post-war years saw a decline in the family's involvement with the mines. In a 1925 report on mining in the Tolfa area, it emerges that Tagliacozzo & Co. had abandoned the mines in the La Bianca locality in order to focus on the kaolin, kaolin ore and fireclay deposits around the alumite mines west of Allumiere. The Roman Kaolin Company run by the Tagliacozzos produced kaolin in powder form which they exported for paper and soap production, as well as fireclay in quantities broadly similar to those of the period 1896-1913. The number of workmen fell from 20 to 15 and production from its high point of 1,500 tonnes to 900, as early as 1913. These figures reveal the stagnation of the industry, largely due to the execrable road system connecting the sites to Civitavecchia and Rome and to the unsatisfactory infrastructure, such as possibly to induce the company:

in the light of the modest rewards derived from this activity, not to undertake any more thorough investigations at the old mines where the fireclay is found [...] or to introduce any small improvements at its still

modest and rudimentary plant, or to collaborate with the local administration in improving the conditions of transportation.⁷

On the 7th of June 1888 King Umberto I, in his capacity as Grand Master of the Ordine della Corona d'Italia, signed the nomination of the engineer A.T., resident in Rome, to the rank of Knight. This was registered the same year at the Chancellery of the Order and at the general Records Office of the Mauritian order. Six years later, on the 14th of June 1894, on the 14th of June 1894, the monarch was to confer the much more prestigious title of Cavaliere della Sacra Religione and the Military Order of Saints Maurizio and Lazzaro on A.T., President of the Jewish hospital, even if this was formalised in the general official roll of the Mauritian order only on the 28th of September 1894. His Jewish faith did not constitute any impediment.

On the 1st of January 1901 A.T., described as an ex-provincial counsellor of Rome, was decorated with the title of Officer in the order of the Corona d'Italia and ultimately, twenty years later, via a decree issued by the King of Italy Vittorio Emanuele, with the remaining honour of the Corona d'Italia, i.e. elevation to the rank of Knight Commander "with the right to display the insignia corresponding to that rank", "on the proposal of the President of the Council of Ministers, the Secretary of State for Internal Affairs, in recognition of his extraordinary merits", which was the same formula used for all the previous decorations. The decree, signed by the King on the 24th of April, was registered officially on the 27th of July 1921.

His faithful friend Crescenzo Del Monte, the writer of verses in Roman Jewish dialect, "good-natured satire which strikes without injuring stings but does not bite and smiles indulgently on human weaknesses and passions", in his desire to celebrate the elevation of his friend, now the honorary President of the hospital, to the rank of Knight-Commander, produced a sonnet in the vernacular which is highly descriptive of Angelo Pace's character as he strides with his walking stick but with no coat amidst the rigours of winter. The only coat he would willingly wear was the formal dress coat with tails (now known in Italy as a 'tight', but then referred to by the Germanised term of 'craus', 'craussino' or, in Del Monte's dialectal version, 'cravusetto') which best

⁷ *La Tuscia Romana e la Tolfa* (Proceedings of the Royal Academy of the Lincei), Roma, Tipografia della Regia Accademia dei Lincei 1918, later reproduced by Innocenzo Moretti in *L'avvenire economico dei subappennino Tolfetano e la ferrovia Civitavecchia Tolfa Manziana*, Roma, Stabilimento Tipografico Romano 1925.

showed off the decorations of which he was so proud. But there was nothing murky about him, or arrogant either, and he wore his decorations when serving as a guard of honour, as a war veteran, at the Pantheon.⁸

In the sonnet Crescenzo Del Monte bears witness to A.T.'s commitment to serving as guard for the royal tombs, a service now performed by the national institute for the guard of honour at the royal tombs of the Pantheon. The sonnet *Li patacchi de 'nzor Angelino* intimates that his medal chest also contained, apart from the decorations already mentioned, a medal for this service as guard of honour at these royal tombs, thus demonstrating the lasting nature of his links with the Risorgimento.

Li patacchi de 'nzor Angelino

Aveti visto mmai nzor Tagliacozzo
 quanno che va, che fa venì lo freddo,
 lindo lindo col quello cravusetto
 e 'o bastoncino e li patacchi addòsso?
 l' 'un lo pozzo vedello, nun lo pozzo!
 Solamènte a guardallo me refreddo!
 E 'un zaccio com' 'un piglia un mal de pètto!...
 Ma è stato 'n guèra, e là cià fatto l'osso.
 È un omo senza fumi e senza boria
 Ma 'i si' patacchi 'unn è cosa strana
 Se s' 'eè ben gvadagnato e se ne gloria
 E mo ha àuto qvest'altra monna monna
 E se la vo' 'ngegnà st'altra stimana
 Ch' ha da montà' de guardia a la Retonna.⁹

Following the unification of Italy, the cultivated, professional Jewish bourgeoisie had started to play a role in public life. Ernesto Nathan arrived in Rome in 1879, together with his Italian mother Sara Levi and his father Moses

⁸ Mr. Angelino's medals: "Have you seen Mr. Tagliacozzo, out walking, it makes you feel cold! Spotless in his thin topcoat with his stick and the medals on his breast? I can't look, I just can't, it makes me cold just to see it, and I don't understand how he doesn't catch pneumonia! But he has been in the wars, so he's used to it. He's a man who doesn't give himself airs, but there's nothing strange about the medals, he earned them and he's proud of them, but now he's just received another, and he wants to show it off next week when he's on guard duty at the Pantheon", Crescenzo Del Monte, *Sonetti giudaico-romaneschi, sonetti romaneschi, prose e versioni*, unabridged edition edited by Micaela Procaccia and Marcello Teodonio, Florence, Giuntina, 2007.

⁹ C. Del Monte, *Sonetti*, op.cit., p. 421. The sonnet is dated 29th April 1921.

Meyer Nathan, German by birth but naturalised English. Despite the fact that his nationality had been English until only a few years before, he was elected mayor in 1907 and re-elected in November 1911, retaining the position until 1913.

He was one of the best mayors that Rome has ever had, working constantly to modernise the city while paying special attention to the urban infrastructure, to health provision and to education, areas which provided the context for his collaboration with A.T., who worked tirelessly at mayor Nathan's side.¹⁰

Mariella Piperno Milano remembers: "I also seem to remember hearing that, like all the important people of that time, A.T. was a member of a Masonic Lodge, although I can't say which! I do know that my grandmother Clotilde, who was the special darling of the family, hoarded all these papers very jealously".

The archives of the library of the Grande Oriente d'Italia lodge in the Giustiniani palace indeed reveal his masonic allegiance: "Tagliacozzo Angelo, formerly Daniele, born in Rome and an engineer by profession, was initiated into Freemasonry at the age of 45 in Rome's Universo all'Oriente lodge on the 31st December 1892 with matriculation number 9575". Ernesto Nathan, who held the position of Grand Master of the Grande Oriente d'Italia from 1896 to 1904 and from 1917 to 1919, officiated at the civil ceremony marriage of Angelo's daughter Elvira to Sabatino Di Capua, grandfather of Marco Di Capua, who has preserved this family memory.

Crescenzo Del Monte, recognised for his knowledge of Roman and other antiquities, had a predilection among the sciences for mathematics which he patiently sought to impart to his firstborn son, although the vocation for it was inherited by his second son, as we learn from biographical notes made by his son, Carlo Del Monte.¹¹ This unusual aspect of his character perhaps explains the understanding he forged with A.T. , despite the difference in their ages, in the course of the numerous charitable enterprises they engaged in together, poring over balance sheets and accounting minutiae.

¹⁰ Fulvio Conti, *Nathan, Ernesto*, in *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani*, vol. 77, Rome, Istituto dell'Enciclopedia Italiana 2012; Nadia Ciani, *Da Mazzini al Campidoglio. Vita di Ernesto Nathan*. Rome, Ediesse 2007.

¹¹ Information from the booklet *Crescenzo Del Monte, 2nd May 1868 – 27th July 1935*, undated and with no indication of place, but probably Rome 1955.

After having been for many years counsellor and treasurer of Rome's Jewish community, Crescenzo Del Monte became the fourth President of the Jewish Hospital in the critical years around the time of the First World War and, in 1926, decided to set down the hospital's history, acknowledging A.T.'s contribution and the "qualities which provided his foundation and his buttress, propelling him on towards new fortunes".

Published by the Board of Directors, the history of the Jewish Hospital was written by Crescenzo Del Monte in a single sitting to honour the memories of A.T. and of Achille Passigli, with a necessary look back to the past. It is an especially valuable document since a large part of the hospital's historic archive was lost in a fire.¹²

Prior to the foundation of the Jewish Hospital there had been the Pio Istituto Ghemilut Chasadim (Pious Works) which included among its functions Bicur Cholim (aid to the infirm), particularly for the spiritual support of the poor and the sick. On the prompting of a younger group who were more attuned to the needs of modern medicine, this foundation was merged with the Pia Confraternità Zedacà Vachessed (Charity and Mercy) whose young members took turns visiting the infirm in their houses to provide comfort and assistance. The administrators of the Ghemilut Chasadim confraternity in the period 1865-1870 included Sabato Di Porto, A.T.'s future father-in-law, as well as his brother Leone Tagliacozzo. All of this was symptomatic of the shared goals and friendship (extending even to future family bonds) which grew up in the soil of these pious associations.¹³

The spirit of the new age, together with the need to modernise the administration and the management of the private bodies which had arrived after 1870, inspired the volunteers of the pious institution to seek a suitable setting for the care of the infirm, which was found in via della Fiumara n° 26 and equipped with four beds. On the 28th of September 1881, the via Fiumara Association for the Shelter of the Poor and Sick and the Jewish Society for the Assistance of the Sick (Zedacà Vachessed) merged their operations and, led by

¹² Crescenzo Del Monte's original manuscript, which formed the basis for the first printed history of Rome's Jewish hospital, was rediscovered by Aldo and Eugenia Segre and donated via the Daniela Di Castro Association to the Jewish Museum in Rome. We thank the Di Castro family for this knowledge and for having given us the opportunity to consult the manuscript as well as other private papers.

¹³ The original Hebrew terminology has been transliterated in accordance with the current practice of the time in Rome.

A.T., initiated the activities of private benefactors and volunteers which led to the birth of Rome's Jewish Hospital.

A.T. was a driving force and a sponsor of these two charitable enterprises, working in the Jewish Society for the Assistance of the Sick and later lending his name to the development of the Jewish Hospital. The loss of part of the archives of the hospital unfortunately prevents a detailed reconstruction. Crescenzo Del Monte describes him as "a perfect exemplar of the new age, he who had completed his studies and his civil education in the free environment of Tuscany". Angelo was esteemed and sought after in the counsels of the community for his qualities as an administrator and his character as a natural organiser, becoming the first president of the new hospital. In the early stages of his 30-year presidency he was faced with the need to proceed with the introduction of legislation applying to hospital institutions which had been promulgated by the newly-formed Kingdom of Italy and also with the 1884-1887 cholera epidemic which raged on in the city of Rome, prompting the council, led by Leopoldo Torlonia, to set up a lazaretto in the Dominican convent of St. Sabina all'Aventino. The epidemic reached its peak in 1887 and patients who had been cured in time were placed in quarantine in the nearby area of St. Saba.

The position of president brought A.T. into direct contact with the city authorities, to the point that he effectively took on a major role in the provincial council. He was able to conclude an agreement with the mayor Luigi Pianciani to take over part of the St. Bartolomeo all'Isola convent which was (and still is today) the site of a hospital and home for aged and infirm Jews. With the entry into effect of the Crispi law of 20th July 1890, charitable institutions could be brought under state ownership. To protect the assets of these bodies it was necessary to demonstrate the specifically religious character of Jewish charitable activities so that they could be considered an aspect of worship. A.T.'s group of untiring collaborators included his son Pio, a lawyer. In 1911, Pellegrino Ascarelli took over the helm at the hospital, but wished A.T. to retain the role of President of the executive council and later Honorary President. By royal decree, on the 21st of May 1911, during Ernesto Nathan's term as mayor, the Pia Opera Ospedaliera became a Moral Entity, tasked with the provision of hospital care free-of-charge and treatment for impoverished adult Jews who were sick.

The Jewish bourgeoisie of Rome had transferred their commercial and residential property away from the Ghetto, buying real estate and sending their children to the schools. Civil liberty, for Roman Jews, meant being able to feel themselves Italian and citizens of a realm where they enjoyed political rights. Crescenzo Del Monte claimed that for newborn citizens there were no longer:

Semitic or otherwise old-fashioned names hallowed by longstanding custom and tradition passed from generation to generation. The euphoria of liberty began to spread, together with an obsessive desire for assimilation which engendered a frenzy of renewal. [...] People no longer wished to pay their quotas for religious education and few of them continued sending their children, by now engrossed in their studies at the normal state schools, to the schools of the Talmud Torà.¹⁴

The task of “uprooting this torpor and these departures from the spiritual roots of the Jewish faith” had been taken on by the Società di Fratellanza del Progresso Civile degli Israeliti Poveri di Roma, founded in 1874 by Vittore Ravà, Marco Alatri, Mosé G. Ascarelli and Pellegrino Pontecorvo, who, together with other worthies, had had the support of the young A.T., in memory of his father’s teachings and those of the schoolteacher Citoni as well as possibly of his straitened childhood circumstances. The Società di Fratellanza worked to direct the young itinerant tradesmen and rag and bones sellers into workshops and studios, evening classes and training schools, while also encouraging the circulation of good quality popular books.

The key question, however, was the infant schools. In 1874 the Società degli Asili Infantili Israelitici had been founded, with the merging of the boys’ and girls’ kindergartens. A school for working-class children was opened in via Rua, offering ample scope for the expression of A.T.’s philanthropic spirit in the company of Tranquillo Ascarelli, Giacomo Alatri and other benefactors. In perfect keeping with Nathan’s policy of promoting education in Rome, in 1922 A.T. took over the presidency of the Asili Infantili Israelitici in their new headquarters in the Sanzio promenade by the river Tiber.

¹⁴ C. Del Monte, *Brevi cenni sull’Ospedale Israelitico di Roma, dalle sue origini ad oggi*, Roma, private printing 1926, p. 4; s.c., *Le confraternite ebraiche, Talmud Torà e Ghemilut Chasadim premesse storiche e attività agli inizi dell’età contemporanea*, Roma, Centro di Ricerca pergamene medievali e protocolli notarili 2011, p. 107.

For many years, right from the time of his return to Rome from Pisa, he had continued to support the development of popular education. In this case, however, despite his advancing age, he was placing himself at the helm of an institution which was in need of renewal and reform.

Festivals with readings and sometimes dancing had been organised to help finance the costs of the new seat of the Asili Infantili Israelitici. The character of these first festivals constituted a novelty for Rome's Jewish population and was greeted with caution by the older population. Crescenzo Del Monte's 1908 sonnet entitled *Festa dell'Asili* showcases the ready participation of those enthusiasts who, having adopted the fashions of the high society of the time, flaunted them at the social events of the community. The simple gesture of offering an arm could, however, still appear excessively audacious:

La festa dell'Asili

"Ooh...bonasera a lèi, signora Stère!

Venga, venga..." "Chi si', tu? " "Salamòne!"

"Ma noo..qua cosa si'?" "Sono braccere."

"Cosa saria?" "Che porto alle poltrone
le signore, e le colloco a sedere."

"Cos'è, so' stroppi, so'?" "Non è questione! ma l'uso vòl così! venga a vedere!
mi prenda il braccio, entriamo nel salone..."

"No, no, vaio da mi, no, bello mio!

Io, m'è da mètte sott'a braccio a uno!

Che mai pe' mattità, Signore Dio!

In quarant'anni ch' è, posso vantamme,

d' 'un' èsse stata mmai sott' a nisciùno...

altro ch' a for-m'- ii sia lo male Abbramme!"¹⁵

A.T., Fortunata and their seven children lived in a spacious and sunny apartment on the top floor. Elvira, the lastborn, was for many years to have the task of looking after her invalid sister Luigia, following the premature death in 1910 of their mother Fortunata at the age of 55, after 36 years of marriage.

¹⁵ The festival at the kindergartens: "Oh, good evening to you, Madam Ester! Come in, come on in..." "Who are you?" "Salomone!" "Nooo, what are you doing here?" "I'm offering my arm" "I don't understand" "I accompany the ladies to their seats, and sit them down" "Why, are they lame?" "No, it's not that. It's the modern way, come and see! Take my arm, we'll go in..." "No, no, I'll go on my own, no my friend! Me, cling onto someone's arm, it's crazy, oh Lord! In all my forty years, I can say proudly, I've never needed anyone's support, except, no scurrility intended, for Abraham", C. Del Monte, *Sonetti*, op. cit., p. 115. The sonnet is dated 31st October 1908.

Today her epitaph can be read in Rome's Verano cemetery: "Fortunata Tagliacozzo née Di Porto, admirable exemplar of all virtues, prematurely carried off from her adoring loved ones (28.4.1855-7.9.1910)". After the closure of the Santa Sabina Jewish cemetery and the opening of a Jewish section at the Verano one, the Tagliacozzo family had acquired grave plots there. Another sad incident is recalled, among family memories, of the tragic death aged 55 of Mosé Marco Piperno (born 20th December 1861) who was A.T.'s son-in-law, having married his daughter Clotilde. It has not been possible to reconstruct the events which took place on that 26th of February 1914. A.T. took over the running of the textiles store in via Monte della Farina n° 19 to assist his daughter Clotilde, now a widow with five young children (Giacomo, Adolfo, Mario, Rosina and Ugo) and also with a view to shielding them from certain disloyal members of staff.

The premature death from septicemia of his son Dario (22.8.1877-24.7.1925) at the age of 48 was a severe blow to A.T., who wished to place, as for his wife Fortunata, an epigraph which can be consulted at the Verano: "Dario Tagliacozzo, civil and naval engineer, distinguished by his rare modesty and widely esteemed, the soul and the pride of the family, now a sacred memory". Clelia Di Capua, Dario Tagliacozzo's widow, offered the sum of 500 lire to the hospital in her husband's remembrance.

His advancing years, the deaths of his wife, of his son-in-law Marco and his son Dario, his daughter's serious disability and worries regarding the textiles shop which he ran together with his daughter Clotilde, all appear to have contributed to his progressive decline. Nevertheless, when, in the difficult post-war years, Crescenzo Del Monte, the new president of the Jewish hospital, instituted a public relations committee in order to promote the hospital, A.T., as the honorary president, was among the first to join the new administration (presided over by Professor Angelo Di Nola) and, in 1921, at the time of his nomination as Knight-Commander, donated 1000 lire to the hospital.

A.T. died on the 26th of June 1926, less than a year after the death of his son. His epigraph describes him as "Engineer with an unblemished conscience, he devoted himself entirely and with zeal, kindness and wisdom to his country, to his family and to good works". In his will:

he left a property in the grounds of the former San Bartolomeo convent to the Jewish hospital in order to provide a more decorous entrance to

the institute, if ever ongoing negotiations with the municipality allowed it to take possession definitively, or, failing that, an equivalent sum in money to be put aside and to be used in due course for the same end.

His donation provided the foundation for the building which was to be raised many years later. Additional donations to the hospital in the names of Gabriele Tagliacozzo and others were added in 1934.

In the words of Crescenzo Del Monte, the farewell to *Nzor Angelino* was in the old style, that he might benevolently spread the *talled* prayer shawl, still used today for the solemn benediction of descendants, over those seeking to re-tell his story.

Robba d'altri tèmpi

(A 'nzor Angelino Tagliacozzo)

Monna Malcà bonànema, lo dì
 che portà a 'nzor Achille qu' 'oo pappié
 dove se li faceva conzapé
 tutto 'o bene che n'àvemo da dì.
 m'arecordo...e 'sto fatto me colpì...
 che per tutta 'ncompetenza nun volé
 altro, che èsse degna de poté
 bacialli 'a mano!...e se ne ì così.
 'Nzor Angelino mio, e allora mo,
 noi per Voi, cos'mavristemo da fa'?
 da baciavvela tutti! è vero o no?
 Ma cèrti usanzi mo so' antichità!
 mo 'a gente se vergogna...eppuro, ahò!
 lo voglio annà' a l'antica! dati qua!¹⁶

¹⁶ Other times (to Mr. Angelino Tagliacozzo) "Mrs Regina, that good soul, the day she brought to Mr. Achille that document informing him of all the good things we must say about him. I recall, and this struck me, that the only thing he wished for in reward was to be worthy to kiss her (hand)! And off he went. My dear Mr. Angelino, so now, for you, is that all we should do? All kiss your hand, is that right? But such customs now are considered old world gallantry! Now people are embarrassed... and yet, hey! I wish to be old-fashioned! Come on, let's have it!": op. cit., p.416. The sonnet is dated 23rd January 1920.

