

ACC 10000/143/2695

266/02

PERITALIA SOCIETY

Feb. 1945

SECURITY DIVISION
FILE
MINUTE SHEET

No. of sheet	File No. of ans'd LTR	From whom	Subject
1.			British subjects in Italy - CRESSWELL Clavier STANSFELD - KARE Slogoth

To: 00 476 VSB
Subject: British subjects in Italy - the "Heritalis" Society

1) In connection with the AMH memorandum on the subject of British renegades, the following information on the "Heritalis" Society is reported for submission to the competent authority.

2) Sources:- Independent interrogations of:-

- a) Miss Clarice CRASSWELL, British subject, Via CLIFUNNO 18, Rome.
- b) Mrs. Elizabeth STANFIELD-VARR, Italian subject, Viale MASSIMI 4, Rome.
- c) documents in possession of a) and b), retained by this unit.

3) The "Heritalis" Association was founded in December 1935 as a result of the sanctions imposed on Italy during the Abyssinian war. by Herbert MORAN, a British or Australian doctor at present residing in England, with the object of propagandising the English-speaking countries with the Italian view-point. The idea was a personal one of Dr. MORAN and a few of his acquaintances in the Anglo-American colony in Rome.

4) The dissemination of Propaganda was left to individual members, but the common method was by personal correspondence with friends in English-speaking countries. At one time a list of some 500 such contacts existed at the offices of the Association, which appears to have been destroyed. Pamphlets and news-sheets composed by members were also forwarded; one such pamphlet dated 11 Nov 39 is written by Mrs. Ruth RICCI and entitled: "Weekly News. A Peaceful Army on the March - with the Colonists on the way to Lybia." In Italy the Association acted as a sort of tourist agency to Anglo-Saxon visitors; for example, a car would be provided by a member and a group of tourists taken to see the land settlements on the Pontine Marshes, the Colliavore Clubs, etc. Meetings were held once a month in the Association offices, and lectures regularly delivered. (See App.D).

5) Offices:- Firstly at Palazzo FIRENZE, Piazza PARLAMENTO, Rome. Later at premises lent by the Associazioni Italo-Americano at Palazzo SALVIATI, Corso UMBERTO 151, Rome.

6) Periodicals:- The Association had no periodical.

7) Funds:- The subscription was 5 Lire yearly, covering overhead expenses. Questioned as to paucity of subscription, sources stated that as the basis of activity was personal, individual members paid expenses accruing from their work for the Association from their personal pockets. No grant was received from the Ministry of Popular Culture. No banking account existed.

8) Relations:- The Association had cordial relations with the Ministry of Popular Culture. In 1936 visits were paid to ABYSSINIA by Mrs. Elizabeth STANFIELD-VARR and Miss Clarice CRASSWELL, expenses

5) The "Peritolia" Association was founded in December 1935 as a result of the sanctions imposed on Italy during the Abyssinian war, by Herbert MORAN, a British or Australian doctor at present residing in England, with the object of propagandizing the English-speaking countries with the Italian view-point. The idea was a personal one of Dr. MORAN and a few of his acquaintances in the Anglo-American colony in Rome.

4) The dissemination of propaganda was left to individual members, but the common method was by personal correspondence with friends in English-speaking countries. At one time a list of some 500 such contacts existed at the offices of the association, which appears to have been destroyed. Pamphlets and news-sheets composed by members were also forwarded: one such pamphlet dated 11 Nov 39 is written by Mrs. Ruth RIGOLI and entitled: "Weekly News. A Peaceful Army on the March - with the Colonists on the Way to Libya." In Italy the Association acted as a sort of tourist agency to Anglo-American visitors; for example, a car would be provided by a member and a group of tourists taken to see the land settlements on the Pontine Marshes, the Dopolavoro Clubs, etc. Meetings were held once a month in the Association offices, and lectures regularly delivered. (See App.D).

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6) Periodicals: - The Association had no periodical.

7) Funds: - The subscription was 5 Lire yearly, covering overhead expenses. Questioned as to paucity of subscription, sources stated that as the basis of activity was personal, individual members paid expenses accruing from their work for the Association from their personal pockets. No grant was received from the Ministry of Popular Culture. No banking account existed.

8) Relations: - The Association had cordial relations with the Ministry of Popular Culture. In 1936 visits were paid to ABYSSINIA by Miss Muriel CURRY and Miss Clarice CRESSWELL, expenses paid by the Italian Govt. Schools, hospitals, native settlements, were visited. Miss CRESSWELL on her return wrote an article for Sir Oswald HOBBLY's newspaper on "Slavery in Abyssinia". A representative of the Ministry usually attended lectures given by the Association.

Sources claim that no official relations existed with the BUF in Great Britain or Italy. The Fascio, the Foreign Press Association, the BIAR. Liaison with these bodies was incidental to the work of the Association.

The Association had no official representative in Great

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3) (cont.)

Britain. The chief contact was Mr. Victor FISHER, President of the British Union of Friends of Italy. Other contacts of note included: Sir Phillip DAVSON, M.P., Chairman of the Anglo-Italian Parliamentary Group, Sir Charles PENNIE, and a Miss Jeanne FAYTH.

Branches of the Association existed in ROSSANO, under the presidency of a certain Baronessa van ZWASSER, and in BELGIUM. Relations were also maintained with contacts in FRANCE.

9) According to sources, the Association was wound up in May 1940, as the prime objects, namely the fostering of good Anglo-Italian relations, had been rendered unobtainable by the then political situation. The documents of the Association remained in the possession of Miss CRESSWELL and Mrs. VANE, who destroyed most of them, "because they were waste-paper".

10) It may be concluded that the "Peritalian Association was formed by a right-wing clique among the Anglo-Saxon community in Rome for the purpose of dissemination of Fascist propaganda among the English-speaking peoples; there is no evidence, however, that it continued its activities after the outbreak of hostilities between Italy and the USA/GB. The most particulate members were: Lt. Col. Cyril NOCKER (Br), Miss CLARICE CRESSWELL (Br), Mrs. Ruth ANNA VANE (Br), Mrs. Ruth RICCI (It), Mrs. Elizabeth VANE (It). The majority of the members were Anglo-American residents of Rome, a few were Anglo-American residents of Naples. It is thought that the list of members (APP-3) may be of interest to the British Passport authorities.

11) Appendices (source - documents in possession of this unit).
 "A" Articles of Association
 "B" History of Association
 "C" List of members
 "D" Extracts from Minutes and Addresses.

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Appendix A Articles of Association

- 1) The name of this organization shall be Association Peritalia.
- 2) The object of this Association is: to promote in every way good feelings between Italy and other nations; to help make known and understand the various activities of Italy; to form Branch-Associations in Italy and abroad.
- 3) The patrimony of the Association consists in the amount in the bank on 1st January 1937: five of members, -5 Lire per annum; and funds deriving from beneficiary entertainments.
- 4) Applicants for Membership shall be proposed by two members of the Association to whom the application is personally known. The name of the applicant with signatures of his or her endorser shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board. No objection having been made by the Board, the name shall be proposed at the first General Meeting and voted on at that meeting.
- 5) The Chairman shall preside at all monthly meetings. He or she shall appoint all committees and shall be a member of all committees except the nominating committee. The Vice-Chairman shall in the absence of the Chairman perform all the duties pertaining to that office.
- 6) The officers of the Association and four elected members shall constitute the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Association between its meetings. The Executive Board Meeting shall be at the calling of the Chairman or upon written request of two members of the Executive Board.
- 7) The first meeting of the season shall be called according to the discretion of the Chairman.
- 8) The By-Laws may be amended at the regular meeting of the Association by a two-thirds majority vote. The amendment desired must be submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.
- 9) Any member of the Association may bring four visitors to General meetings, and the chairman has all authority to invite anyone whom he or she desires.
- 10) No member may forward propaganda in the name of the Association without the approval of the Executive Board.
- 11) Members of the Association must be of American or British nationality or origin.
- 12) Associate members who may be other than American or British nationality or origin shall be invited to take part in the activities of the Association. No annual dues are required.
- 13) The election of the officers shall take place every two years, on the first Thursday in December. No members shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive years terms. The Chairman shall appoint all vacancies on the Executive Board.

The Association has no connection whatever with any other organization. It is non-political and non-sectarian.

Appendix "B" Diary Association

1935. The Society Peritalia was founded in Rome by Dr. Herbert W. HAN in November 1935. It was composed of British subjects, American citizens, and British and American born women. It aimed at uniting English-speaking people in an effort to revive the old sympathy, threatened by sanctions. The Society recognized the justice of the reasons which moved Italy to take action in Abyssinia and realized moreover that to oppress Italy in this enterprise was to menace the peace of Europe. It was hoped that, when the clouds lifted, the Society would continue for the purpose of promoting a better understanding of Italy in English-speaking countries.

At the first meeting of the second year a majority vote decided for the Society's continuance, because: a) no other Society existed in Rome for this special work; b) our members' knowledge of Italy gave us particular facilities for that work; c) teamwork is more productive than individual effort. By-laws were drawn up and the Society re-organized under the name of Association Peritalia. It was decided to hold monthly lectures in English, to distribute informative literature, to aid tourists in Italy to see conditions for themselves, and by every possible means to spread abroad a greater knowledge of Italy, not only of her art and literature, but also of her history, her social achievements, her problems, and her contribution to the peace of Europe. The Association continued its work in making Italy better understood to the English-speaking countries. It is in this sense that it is Peritalia. Her conscience is Italian would be more informative. In no sense is it anti-American or anti-British. Only when one nation understands another can there be goodwill between them. Only when there is goodwill can there be peace. The Association took a definite stand on the side of peace. Not as the pacifists want it: "peace at any price". "peace even if you have to fight for it". "peace without justice". But peace based upon an understanding of each other's problems and a sincere desire to co-operate in a friendly spirit. The Association Peritalia has doubled its membership since the beginning of 1937. The Association has opened a new department - the "Translator's Register", for improving the translation of pamphlets and articles from Italian into English. The Association is gradually becoming better known. Organizations and individuals appeal to it from all over the world, for facts and reliable information. On June 1st, the Association was received by H.E. Signor MUSCOLINI, who expressed his thanks for what it had done to make Italy better understood abroad. He encouraged the members to continue their work for peace, so necessary for all nations, but especially for Italy.

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Appendix "G" List of members of the "SIBIRIAN" Society

Baronessa Fiorenza ALIOTTI
 Mrs. Emma ALMAGIA (née LERNOK-SIMPSON)
 Mrs. Alice AMREANI (née O'BRIEN)
 Mrs. Lilah ASBANI (née O'BRIEN)
 Mrs. Alice ASTUTO DI LUCCESI (née GORDON-WILD)
 Miss Helen H. BIRCH
 Countess Francesca TU BESE (née O'NEIL)
 Mrs. J. van SCHAIK BLANCHARD
 Miss Lida BLOOMBERG
 Mrs. Elinor BUCCHI (née RENO)
 Miss Jacqueline BROWN
 Mrs. Felicità CENCI BOLONETTI (née O'NEIL)
 Mrs. S.O. BIRCH
 Miss Grace LLOYD-BAKER
 Miss Natalie CLIFFORD-BARNEY
 Marquise Elsie CAVALLI RONDANINI (née JAMES)
 Mrs. FRASER-CROFT
 Countess Helen CIPICCO (née HIRMAN)
 Mrs. Ada CARMICHAEL (née TOSHAN)
 Marquise Miss Cassis (née FAYON)
 Miss Agnes COSTIGAN
 Miss Clarice CRASSELL
 Mrs. Gertrude CARRU (née CRUICKSHANK)
 Marquise Aréthuse DELLE CHISE (née ROSS)
 Marquise Edith BURTON (née OLIVER)
 Mrs. Eugene DAWSON
 Miss Elizabeth EDDY
 Dr. Frederick EVANS
 Miss Marjorie WYFE
 Mr. Joseph FROST
 Mrs. Habel GALLIOTTI (née ROSS)
 Mrs. Lucie GUERRAZZI (née ROSS)
 Miss Paula GLOAGUER
 Miss Helen GIFFORD
 Miss Josephine GRASSELLI
 Countess Jane GRADENIGO (née GRASSELLI)
 Mrs. Mary GIOBEI DELLA BITTA (née STANLEY)
 Miss Etzel HALLWOOD
 Mrs. HALDANE-DUNHAM
 Miss Genevieve HANCOCK HARLOW
 Mrs. Lewis Morris IDDINGS
 Miss JAGGER
 Mrs. Hermann JOHNSON
 Mrs. Annie LA DGA (née PLATT)
 Capt. Walter LUTCH
 Mrs. Frank McLEAN
 Sir Norman MacLEOD
 Lady MacLEOD
 Mrs. Elizabeth MILNER (née BADLER)
 Countess Frances MASSIGLIA (née ALBERTA RAIBAUDI)
 Mrs. R.P. MILLER
 Miss C. MILLER
 Dr. Herbert MORAN
 Mrs. MACKIE
 Miss Isobel MACKIE

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Mrs. E. S. BIRCH
 Mrs. Grace LLOYD-SALMER
 Miss Natalie CLIFFORD-BARRETT
 Miss Matilde CAVALLIETTI BONDAVINI (née JAMES)
 Marquess Elizabeth CAVALLIETTI
 Mrs. FRANK CRUICKSHANK
 Countess Helen CIMICO (née ELIZABETH)
 Mrs. Ada CARDINALE (née TORHAM)
 Marquess Isidore CASSIS (née EATON)
 Miss Agnes CASTIGAN
 Miss Clarice CRESCENTINI
 Mrs. Gertrude CAMUS (née GOURIGAN)
 Marquess Arctura DELLA CHIESA (née ROSS)
 Marquess Edith CURRY (née OLIVER)
 Mrs. Eugene DAVENON
 Miss Elizabeth EDY
 Dr. Frederick EVANS
 Miss Marjorie VYFE
 Mr. Joseph FROES
 Mrs. Mabel GALICETTI (née ROSS)
 Mrs. Lucie GUERRAZZI (née HOWES)
 Miss Paula CLOGAUER
 Miss Helen GIFFORD
 Miss Josephine GRASSELLI
 Countess Jane GRADENIGO (née GRASSELLI)
 Countess Della BITTA (née STANLEY)
 Mrs. Mary GIORBI
 Miss Ethel HALLWOOD
 Mrs. HILDA W. DUNCAN
 Miss Genevieve HANCOCK HARLOW
 Mrs. Lewis Morris IODINE
 Miss JAEGER
 Mrs. Hermann KUHLSAAT
 Mrs. Annie LA DAGE (née PLATT)
 Capt. Walter LEGER
 Mrs. Frank McLEAN
 Sir Norman MacLEOD
 Lady MacLEOD
 Mrs. Elizabeth MILNER (née SADLER)
 Countess Frances MASSICHELLA (née SIMONETTA RAYBANKI)
 Mrs. R. P. MILLER
 Miss O. MILLER
 Dr. Herbert MOHAN
 Mrs. MACKIE
 Miss Isobel MACKIE (née van der BIL)
 Mrs. Anna NUSSA (née HOLMES)
 Mrs. Edith MOLA (née HOLMES)
 Mrs. M. L. MONTOMERY
 Mrs. J. CLYDE MARQUIS
 Marquess Beatrice MARIOTTI DI MONTESCORONA (née O'BRIEN)
 Miss HOY MORRIS
 Miss OLSEN
 Mrs. Linor PASQUALI (née MERSINI)
 Mrs. Audrey FIDICINI (née WHITAKER)
 Marquess Anna FELLERINI QUARANTOTTI (née TOWNSEND)
 Major B. E. TIERCY
 Mr Charles TAMM

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Appendix "C" (cont.)

- Countess Beatrice FALLAVICINO (née HASKARD)
- Berongess Gabrielle Charles van UFFORD (née BYRNE)
- Miss Ethel RICHARDSON
- Miss Helen RICHARDS
- Miss Wilcox RALPH
- Lt. Col. Cyril ROCKE
- Mrs. Cyril ROCKE
- Miss Madie ROCKE
- Mr. Arthur READE
- Mrs. Arthur READE
- Countess Edith RUCILLAI (née BRONSON)
- Mrs. Ruth RICCI
- Mrs. Marjorie SCARFETTI (née JERR)
- Mrs. T. B. SEIBEL
- Miss Georgina SHELDON
- Mrs. Katherine SIMONDETTI (née HOBEL)
- Mrs. B. R. STANFIELD
- Mrs. Daisy SCHIAVONI (née BLACK)
- Miss Pauline SAWYER
- Mrs. SWARTZ
- Miss H. SELF
- Marquess Evelyn SCARAMI (née FINKE)
- Mrs. Ethel TOMLEY
- Marquess THEODORE (née Beatrice THAM)
- Rev. C. E. THOMAS
- Mrs. C. E. THOMAS
- Mrs. Edna TOZZI (née WALLACE)
- Mrs. Katherine TUCCHETTI (née SMOOT)
- Mr. James ULLERY
- Miss Van Lila KIRK
- Mrs. Elizabeth VARSLON (née GREENBERG)
- Mrs. Elizabeth VARE (née SANFIELD)
- Mrs. Clive VENTURI (née GRACIE)
- Mrs. Wilhelmina VITELLI (née JOENKE)
- Dr. A. CASBY WOOD
- Mrs. A. CASBY WOOD
- Miss H. WACKMAN
- Miss L. WAGMAN
- Mrs. Gofford Bethell WESS
- Mrs. Anna WARING
- Mr. R. E. WARING
- Miss Elizabeth WOODRUFF
- Marquess Gabriella Borzone COMDURRI
- Countess Margherita di CAMPILLO
- Marquess Alfredo DUMMET
- Marquess Carmen DELLA GARDARA
- Mrs. Kate HANCI PE
- Mrs. Amanda MARCHIONI RAV
- Mr. Piero SANTI
- Mrs. Anita SERVETTI
- Count RUGGERO, Viscount DI MADRONE
- Mrs. GIOCONDA
- Miss Louise BRANCH
- Miss Dorothy WATTS
- Mrs. Bill IRVING
- Mrs. DUFF
- Miss B. K. ZIDI

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- Mr. Miss Bess ROYCE
- Mrs. B. HACKETT
- Mr. Ernest DE WERTHE
- Lady HILLMORE
- Lord HILLMORE
- Mrs. WELLS
- Mrs. BERT
- Miss Ida RAYNE
- Mother Rose Anthony CLARK
- Mrs. M. L. GOGGAN JOHNSON
- Miss Madeleine LESTERMAN
- Miss Catherine LESTERMAN
- Miss Suzanne BRYANT

Countess Mich Rucellai (née Brandon)
 Mrs Ruth Ricci
 Mrs Marjorie Scanzetti (née Jebb)
 Mrs. T. B. Seible
 Miss Georgina Shelton
 Mrs. Katherine Simonetti (née Nobel)
 Mrs. B. R. Starfield
 Mrs Daisy Schiavoni (née Black)
 Miss Pauline Sawyer
 Mrs Swartz
 Miss H. Selp
 Marchess Evelyn Scarami (née Firth)
 Mrs Edna Tombley
 Marchess Wendell (née Beatrice Thomas)
 Rev. C. E. Thomas
 Mrs; C. E. Thomas
 Mrs; Edna Tombley (née Wallace)
 Mrs; Katherine Tuccimei (née Smoot)
 Mr. James Ullery
 Miss Van Lila Kirk
 Mrs. Elizabeth Varilda (née Greenberg)
 Mrs; Elizabeth Varr (née Seefeld)
 Mrs; Clive Venturi (née Gracie)
 Mrs; Wilhelmina Virelli (née Joehke)
 Dr. A. Casey Wood
 Mrs; A. Casey Wood
 Miss H. Wackman
 Miss L. Wackman
 Mrs Gifford Bethell West
 Mrs. Anna Waring
 Mr. R. E. Waring
 Miss Elizabeth Woodruff
 Marchess Gabriella Borronco Comburri
 Countess Margherita di Campello
 Marchess Alfredo Dusmet
 Marchess Carmen Della Gandara
 Mrs Kate Manti Pe
 Mrs Amanda Marchioni Rau
 Mr. Piero Santini
 Mrs. Anita Serventi
 Count Ruggero, Viscount di Medrone
 Mrs. Cosceletti
 Miss Louise Branch
 Miss Dorothy Watts
 Mrs Bull Irving
 Mrs Duff
 Miss S. I. Ridi
 Miss Deane Banks
 Mrs. Baroni
 Mrs; Lais
 Mrs. Yvonne Marcottini
 Miss Shirley Falconer Horn
 Mrs CHIARI
 Mrs Susanna Lawie
 Mrs Recla Wihar
 Mrs Scott Cator
 Mrs Florence Casagnano
 Miss RYAN

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Mr
 Miss Bess Hovvy
 Mrs B. Hackitt
 Mr Ernest De Werth
 Lady Hillmore
 Lord Hillmore
 Mrs. Hills
 Mrs; Bost
 Miss Ida Dattve
 Mother Rose Anthony Clark
 Mrs. M. L. Goggan Johnson
 Miss Madeline Lettman
 Miss Catherine Lettman
 Miss Suzanne Bryant
 Princess Elena GCS-IGIOBI
 Miss Shi
 Countess GREF-I
 Countess S. ALIETTI-TRIVELLI
 Mrs SAVELLI
 Lady Maxwell-Scott
 Countess Gwendalina S. ALIETTI
 Mrs RANNOSEH
 Mrs BILLARD
 Mrs Archibald Buchner
 Mrs GATSFIELD

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