

Inventory of the Banco di Chiavari Archives

by Antonella Frassinelli

Privatizations, takeovers, mergers, and incorporations: trading banks are currently facing profound changes in company structures and newly formed commercial banks.

The Banco di Chiavari e della Riviera Ligure, founded in Chiavari in 1870¹ and soon after, a solid presence in the Liguria region, has not been spared from the flow of these economic changes, which began to unfold in the mid 70s. In 1968, the bank became part of the group "Banca Commerciale Italiana". The group leader, COMIT, first took over around 80%; which was subsequently reduced to 69,62%. Over the following years, working constantly to widen the operating network, the Banco increased its presence significantly in the region. With the take-over of the Banca Galleani in Alassio in the early 1980s, the Banco di Chiavari e della Riviera Ligure grew in number to 11 branches in the Savona province.

In December 1999, following the merger between Comit and Banca Intesa, the Banco di Chiavari became part of the Intesa Group, which became Intesa BCI in 2001. The majority shareholding of the Banco di Chiavari e della Riviera Ligure passed to Intesa BCI which was renamed Banca Intesa in 2003.

In 2003, with a purchase of shares equal to 69,621% of the joint stock, the Banco di Chiavari e della Riviera Ligure became part of Bipielle Bank Group which, in June 2003, owned 87,26% of the shares of the Banco di Chiavari.

With the buyout by the Banca Popolare di Lodi, now known as Banca Popolare Italiana, the historic archives of the Banco di Chiavari e della Riviera Ligure², previously reorganized and available for consultation, was closed to the public and temporarily stored in premises inadequate for its safekeeping.

In order to make the archives accessible once again and, above all, to avoid its dispersion, the Archival Superintendence office of Liguria³ several meetings took place with the BIPIELLE management –the new holder of the archives – where a possible transfer of the archives was hypothesized with a bailment to a local cultural institution.

¹ For an in-depth study of the history of the Banco see M. DORIA, *Il Banco di Chiavari e della Riviera Ligure. Storia di una banca. (1870-1954)*, Genoa, Sagep, 2001

² The 14th December 2000, the Archival Superintendence Office of Liguria (<http://archivi.beniculturali.it/SAGE/index.html>) declared this archives of "outstanding historical value and therefore subject to the Legislative Decree of 29 October 1999, n. 490" for the preservation of cultural and environmental assets.

³ The Archival Administration cooperated with the Banco di Chiavari by providing scientific monitoring of the reorganization and inventory project and checking the repositories built in Genoa in the headquarter in Piazza De Ferrari 4/1.

This idea became reality on 12th December 2006 when the order was given to transfer the archives to the Ansaldo Foundation⁴.

The order of compulsory custody was issued in order to “ensure its preservation, but also (article 127)...to ensure access to all interested researchers.”⁵ This operation was possible thanks to the previous agreement (November 2005) between Ansaldo Foundation and the Department for Cultural Assets, based on the joint activity for the recovery, safekeeping and valorization of the archives produced by business in Liguria. Thanks to this unprecedented public-private cooperation based on the sharing of theoretical principles and methodologies, it was possible to guarantee adequate custody and valorization of a valuable documentary testimony to the economic and financial role played by the Banco di Chiavari.

The historical archives of the Banco di Chiavari e della Riviera Ligure, whose records add up to about 700 items (envelopes and registers), documents the activities of the bank from 1870 up to the present.

The records, once they arrived at the Ansaldo Foundation with no accompanying equipment, were well arranged and in a good state of preservation with labels attached on the back of every envelope and every register. This enabled our team to quickly compile a detailed checklist⁶ thus making the archives immediately accessible to researchers. We found records regarding five branches (Chairmanship and Board of directors, General Management, Shares and Stock Exchange Office, Treasurer’s Office, Legal Office) which were each divided in seven sections and more than seventy archival series from 1870 to 2003. The minutes of the shareholder’s meetings, of the board of directors and the inventory books date uninterruptedly from 1870 to the half of the 1990. Moreover, there are also interesting records regarding the accounting (1870-2003), the employees (1903-1972) and the secretary’s office (1872-1970), as well as the records concerning the SOE – Executive Organization Service (1905-1981) and two envelopes containing legal paperwork (1898-1952). In addition, there are the aggregate archives regarding: Consorzio di Bonifica Agraria Chiavari, The Anglo American Agency Bank, Soc. An. Chiavarese per Costruzioni ed Esercizio Tramvie Ferrovie economiche e complementari and Nicola Giuseppe Dallorso Foundation, which include 17 items (envelopes and registers) and a single envelope containing the personal records of Nicola Giuseppe Dallorso, chairman of the Banco di Chiavari from 1936 to 1954.

At present, we are working on the analytic filing of the records with the goal of publishing the inventory by the beginning of 2008.

⁴ This according to article 43 of the Legislative Decree of 22 January 2004, n. 42, the Code for the Preservation of Cultural Assets, which declares that “the Department for Cultural Assets has the authority to order the transfer or to temporarily preserve in public institution of movable properties in order to guarantee their safety and to ensure their preservation according to article 29”.

⁵ Letter of the Archival Superintendence Office of Liguria addressed to Banca Popolare di Lodi, region Liguria, protocol n. 1756-34.19.00/2, 07/09/2006

⁶ The checklist that follows is based on the information written on the back of registers and bundles verified by a large sampling.

Consistency

Banco di Chiavari e della Riviera Ligure - Historical Archives

1. Chairmanship and Board of Directors

1.1 Chairmanship

Deed of incorporation and Statutes

1870, 1886, 1900, 1906, 1909, 1919, 1921, 1923, 1925, 1928, 1930, 1936-1938, 1940, 1942; 1946-2002; 2 envelopes (35 booklets)

Regulations

1905, 1907, 1920, 1933, 1979, 1981, 1987, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1997, 2000-2002; 1 envelope (15 booklets)

Shareholder's meetings – Minutes

1870-1995, 12 registers

Shareholder's meetings – Enclosures

1875, 1881, 1887-1891, 1902, 1905-2003; 101 envelopes

Shareholder's meetings – Enclosures. Stenographic Reproductions

1948 - 1980; 3 envelopes

Shareholder's meetings – Enclosures. Tape recordings

1989 - 1995; 1 envelope

Shareholder's meetings – Correspondence and various

1870 - 1922; 1 envelope

1.2 Board of Directors

Board of Directors – Minutes

1870-1994; 69 registers

Board of Directors – Enclosures

1975-1977, 1979-1996; 44 envelopes

Books of the Attendance to the Board of Directors meetings

1879-1911, 1930-1982; 11 registers

Agendas of the Board of Directors

7 December 1870 - 1994; 3 registers

Minutes of the Board of Directors concerning the personnel
1920-1931, 1936-1941; 3 registers

Attendance Sheet of the personnel to the Board of Directors meetings
15 December 1936 - 31 July 1937; 1 register

List of authorized signatures and enclosures

1920, 1922-1937, 1939-1943, 1945-1946, 1950, 1952-1954, 1956-1958, 1960-1963, 1965, 1967-1975, 1977-1980; 22 envelopes

Board of Auditors minutes

1909-1910; 1936-1980; 22 registers

Board of Auditors minutes – Enclosures

5 October 1998 – 16 December 2002; 1 envelope

Executive Committee - Minutes

1946-1994; 38 registers

Executive Committee – Meetings Attendance Books 25 June 1946 - 30 July 1953; 1 register

Executive Committee – Meetings. Enclosures

1987-1999; 21 envelopes

1.3 Shareholders' Office

Shareholder's Ledger

1920-1947; 5 registers

Shareholder's Index

1921-1922; 1937-1951, undated; 4 registers

Shareholder's Lists

1921, 1925, 1940-1941, 1947-1948, 1980; 1 envelope, 1 register

Dividends Books

undated, 1907-1941; 7 volumes

Stock Certificates of the Banco

- **Talons:** 1870, 1872, 1876-1879, 1882, 1891-1906, 1925, 1931-1959, 1961-1976; 24 envelopes

- **Receipts:** 1872, 1905-1907, 1925; 1 envelope

- **Certificates:** s.d.1871, 1873, 1880, 1883-1905, 1918, 1925-1926, 1935-1937, 1939, 1942-1959; 17 envelopes

- **Transfers and successions:** 1898-1902; 1882-1909, 1920-1923; 2 envelopes

- **Issues of new certificates:** undated [1942], 1960-1961; 1 envelope

- **Compulsory Stocks Registration:** 1925-1959; 1 envelope
- **Capital Increase from 5 to 12,5 million. 1921. Exercise of the Option:** 1921; 4 envelopes
- **Capital Increase from 12,5 to 25 million. 1925. Exercise of the Option:** 1925; 4 envelopes

2. General Management

2.1 General Accounting

Inventory Books (1871-1961) and abstracts (1905-1940)

1871-1962; 18 registers, 1 envelope

Day Books

1870-1876, 1879-1883, 1887-1906, 1976 -1979; 13 registers

Ledger Day Book

1906-1969; 34 registers

Ledger

5 December 1870 - 28 June 1878; 1 register

General Ledger Day Book

1919-1932; 2 registers

Genoa Ledger Day Book

17 November 1919 - 19 April 1934; 1 register

Increase and Decrease Books

1956 - 1965; 3 registers

Administration Expense Books

1946 - 1957; 3 registers

Diverse Debtors Books

1967 - 1970; 2 registers

Diverse Creditors Books

1967 - 1970; 3 registers

Printed Company's Annual Reports

1871; 1874-1875; [1902-1904]; 1906-2003; 16 envelopes

Half-yearly Reports

1986 - 2003; 2 envelopes

Quarterly Reports

2000 - 2003; 1 envelope

Profits and losses accounts

1899-1906, 1944, 1947-1949; 6 items (1 envelope and 5 registers)

General Expenses

1944, 1947, 1949; 3 registers

Copies of invoices and receipts

9 December 1870 - 2 July 1872; 1 register

Taxes and levies: Personal Property

1912-1943 1 envelope

Cash Books

16 March 1878 - 9 November 1878; 1 register

Monthly Statements of the Accounts

1911-1920; 1 envelope

Statements of the term deposit yields in the different agencies

1937-1944, 1 envelope

2.2 Secretary's Office

Service Orders of the Management

1906-1926; 2 registers

Service Orders of the Management – Chiavari Headquarters

1960-1961; 1 envelope

Letter Book of the Management – Genoa Headquarters

1923-1943; 9 volumes

Letter Book of the Management – Chiavari Headquarters

1942-1970; 7 volumes

Advertising and published material

1872 - 1943; 1 envelope

2.3 Employees

Employees' Registration Books

1903-1972; 6 registers

Insurance Contracts for employees and administrators
1909-1910, 1913-1914, 1916, 1919; 1 envelope

Job Applications, Hiring, Dismissals, Other Actions
1907-1909, 1911-1914-1920; 1 envelope

Employees: Miscellaneous
1908-1909; 1911-1920; 1 envelope

Wages and salaries: assorted files
1916-1917; 1920-1926; 1928; 1943-1951; 4 envelopes

Military Exemptions
1917-1918; 1 envelope

Payrolls
1934; 1941-1943; 1945; 6 registers

Strike
1920; 1 envelope

2.4 Executive Organization Service

Memos
1968-1978; 4 envelopes

Circular Letters
1930-32; 1936; 1943-45, 1959, 1961-1978; 8 envelopes

Opening of Service Counters
1905-1980; 5 envelopes

Branch Correspondence
1920, 1926, 1932-1934, 1936-1937; 1 envelope

Telegraph Keys
1908-1931; 1 envelope

Monthly Accounting Statements of the Rapallo Branch
1933-1980; 6 envelopes

Monthly Accounting Statements of the Lavagna Branch
1959-1981; 4 envelopes

Black Books – warnings – records – reprimands: Lavagna Branch
1 January 1928-30 June 1950; 1 register and 16 records

Client Signature Specimen Varese Ligure Branch
1909-1922; 1 register

3. SHARES AND STOCK EXCHANGE OFFICE

Italian and foreign stock and shares
undated; 3 envelopes

Miscellany
1906 - 1953; 2 envelopes

4. TREASURER'S OFFICE

Charitable organizations, nursery schools, rest homes (etc)
1874-1980; 1 envelope

Revenue stamps
undated; 2 envelopes

5. LEGAL OFFICE

Legal Files
1898-1903, 1906, 1931, 1937-1950, 1952; 2 envelopes

Aggregated Archives

Consorzio di Bonifica Agraria Chiavari (1931 – 1965; 1 envelope)

An agency set up in 1931 aimed at, according to its Statute "...the creation, the employment and the maintaining of whole reclamation works among the owners of lands in the commune of Chiavari and S. Rufino di Leivi.". In reality, it was used in order to build a road to link the two municipalities, carried out thanks to two loans granted by the Consorzio Nazionale Credito Agrario. The Treasury Service for the collection and the payment of the installment of the loan were entrusted to the Banco in 1940. The two loans were paid off in advance in 1961 and the treasury service ceased in 1965 with the payoff of the remaining balance.

1. Statute; 1931
2. Payment orders regarding different expenses; 1932, 1942-1965
3. Payment orders; 1938-1940
4. Cash journals; 1942-1948
5. Budget plans; 1940-1944
6. Financial accounts (final balance sheets); 1933-1939, 1942, 1943
7. Collection Receipt books; 1942-1953

8. Contracts

The Anglo American Agency Bank, Alassio (SV) (1908 – 1945; 12 registers)

This was a small branch operating in Alassio at the beginning of the 20th century that subsequently became Banca Galleani and then, in 1979, was taken over by the Banco di Chiavari.

- 1.** “Cash-book and cash journal from 1st October 1908 to 31st August 1909”; 1st October 1908-31st August 1909
- 2.** Cash-book; 1 September 1909 -24 September 1913
- 3.** Ledger of the current accounts; 1908-1912
- 4.** Book Ledger; 9 April 1909-15 June 1913
- 5.** Cash Journal; 27 August 1910- 11 March 1912
- 6.** Ledger n. 1; 1908-1909
- 7.** “Profits and losses account of the business 1930”; 1930; 1 register
- 8.** “Profits and losses account 1932”; 1932; 1 register
- 9.** “Profits and losses account 1933”; 1933; 1 register
- 10.** “Portfolio”; 1938 - 1949; 1 register
- 11.** “Ledger of the current accounts. 18”; 1936 - 1938; 1 register
- 12.** “Ledger journal”; 1922 – 1945; 1 register

Soc. An. Chiavarese per Costruzioni ed Esercizio Tramvie Ferrovie economiche e complementari (3 registers; 1898 – 1911)

A body set up in 1898 in order to finance the study and building of a railway junction between Chiavari and its hinterland. After years of meetings and discussions, the project was judged unfeasible due to a lack of adequate funds. The company was gradually liquidated starting in 1903.

- 1.** Board of directors minutes; 7 April 1898-19 February 1902
- 2.** Ledgers; 1 June 1898-1 December 1902
- 3.** Liquidation book; 23 March 1903-3 June 1911

Nicola Giuseppe Dallorso Foundation (1 envelope)

A body set up in 1940 by the chairman of the Banco di Chiavari, Nicola Giuseppe Dallorso, with funds coming from his personal estate, on the occasion of the celebration for his appointment as Senator of the Reign of Italy. It has the aim of conferring, through a contest, nine annual prizes to the children (of male employees) attending junior high schools and high schools earning high marks. It was dissolved in 1997 because of insufficient funds.

Personal Archives

Nicola Giuseppe Dallorso (1940-1941, 1945; 1 envelope)

- 1.** Honors bestowed from the personnel of the Banco di Chiavari e della Riviera Ligure to their chairman, the Cavaliere del lavoro⁷ Nicola G. Dallorso on the occasion of his appointment as Senator of the Reign, Genoa, 1940-XVIII
- 2.** In the Jubilee of Labor of the Chairman Cavaliere del Lavoro Senior Officer Nicola G. Dallorso senator of the Reign, Genoa, 1941-XIX
- 3.** Nicola Giuseppe Dallorso. Profile.
- 4.** “Memoria defensionale” presented by Nicola Giuseppe Dallorso to the High Court of Justice in Rome.

⁷ A particular institution of the Italian Republic given by the President of the Republic to all the Italian citizens, also living abroad, who were “particularly well-deserving in the fields of agriculture, industry, commerce, handicrafts and insurance companies”.