

SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI STATISTICA

Giuseppe Leti

ITALIAN STATISTICAL
SOCIETY:
A SHORT HISTORY

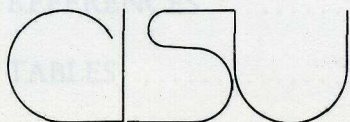
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CONTENTS

I. TOWARDS AN ITALIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY	Pag.	1
1. The first short steps of public statistics in Italy	»	1
2. The Academies and the first scientific societies in Italy	»	3
3. The journals in which the italian statisticians published their work	»	6
4. The reform of the italian statistical service during the twen- ties	»	8
5. The proposals for the creation of a national Statistical Society	»	9
6. The debate in "Barometro Economico Italiano"	»	13
7. The Consultative Committee for Population Studies and the Society for Demography and Statistics	»	14
8. The foundation of the Italian Statistical Society	»	15
II. HALF A CENTURY OF LIFE OF THE ITALIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY	»	17
1. The beginning (1939-1945)	»	17
2. Standstill and resumption (1945-1964)	»	18
3. The consolidation and development (1965-1988)	»	20
3.1 From 1965 to 1980	»	20
3.2 From 1980 to 1988	»	22
3.3 From 1988 to 1992	»	25
3.4 The last year	»	28
4. The essential elements of the development of the Society	»	29
4.1 The statutes	»	29
4.2 The evolution of the number of members	»	31
4.3 The Meetings of the governing bodies	»	31
4.4 The Congresses and Meetings	»	31
4.5 The publications	»	32
4.6 The scientific itinerary	»	32
REFERENCES	»	35
TABLES	»	37

I. TOWARDS AN ITALIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY

1. THE FIRST SHORT STEPS OF PUBLIC STATISTICS IN ITALY

In the third decade of the 19th century, national societies of statistics were founded in the United Kingdom, in Mexico and the United States of America. The example was soon followed by the most "statistically" advanced countries in Europe, but not by Italy.

Yet the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy had been one of the first states in Europe to create a Statistics Office (in 1807) and in one of the states of the Italian peninsula, the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, a statistics society had been set up (in 1826), called the 'Società Toscana di Geografia Statistica di Storia Naturale' (Tuscan Society of Statistical Geography and Natural History) (Parenti, 1969). But both the Office and the Society had only a brief existence.

The Statistics Office had been «instituted under the directorship of the statistician and philosopher, Melchiorre Gioia, only a few years after the one founded in France (1800) by Lucien Bonaparte, and well before the ones in Austria (1828), Belgium (1831), Great Britain (1832), and Denmark (1833), but it soon died out, following the adverse turn in Napoleonic fortunes» (Galvani, 1930)

In fact, in most of the reconstituted States of Italy, governments were only too ready to do without the solid bases that statistics could have offered for their acts of administration, in that, as Zuccagni-Orlandini wrote: «The Ministers ... though of pleasant and paternalistic temperament, always instinctively tried to hide the norms for their actions, regarding that mysterious veil as a privilege of their own authority.» (Zuccagni-Orlandini, 1848).

Conversely, so as to throw light onto the bad administration of those Governments, the propagandists of revolution and, in particular, «the proselytes of Giovane Italia... abused» statistical data (Pietra, 1946) and so the Governments prevented not only the production of statistics, but also the distribution of the data. The adjective "statistical" almost became a synonym of 'subversive' and its use in book-titles was even proscribed (Pietra, 1946).

If it was dangerous for individuals to dedicate themselves to statistics, it could be less so for a scientific association, which might be allowed to do what was forbidden to individuals or what might for them be a source of persecution. Presumably counting on this, «the Society» was created in Florence in 1826, «with the cautious aim of cultivating statistical studies, from which rich fruits would

be gathered; but a warning from the authorities had the effect of causing a suspension of the meetings, which were never convoked again.» (Zuccagni-Orlandini, 1848).

U. Giusti warned (1935) that there is little glory «in these record achievements that we have — and we have plenty — which had no follow-up even when there was nothing more to fear from government prohibitions, as in the present case». In spite of this warning, it is pleasant to persuade oneself that, if the government of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany had not intervened, then today, perhaps, Italy might boast the oldest scientific statistical society, older even than the Manchester Statistical Society, which came into being in 1833, the Royal Statistical Society a year later and the American Statistical Association, which goes back to 1839 (Table 1).

In support of this hypothesis there was the radical change which came over the official statistics at that time, after the lapse of very few years.

In 1832 in Palermo the Central Office of Statistics for Sicily was created from which originated, in 1836, the “Giornale di Statistica di Sicilia” (Journal of Statistics of Sicily); in 1836, in Turin, the Central Commission for Statistics for the Subalpine Kingdom was set up, followed in 1841 by a similar Commission for Sardinia. An Office of Statistics came into being in Tuscany in 1848 (which, however, lost its autonomy in 1849) one in Naples in 1851, and in Rome, for the Papal State, in 1858.

Finally, in 1861 with the birth of the Kingdom of Italy, the “Divisione di Statistica General” was born which, aided by a “Giunta Centrale di Statistica” (Central Committee for Statistics), later called the “Consiglio Superiore di Statistica” (Superior Council for Statistics), survived until 1926.

Thus statistical information, which previously had been neglected, gradually began to play an important role.

As for the statisticians, though they were enthusiastic in their practical activities, they probably did not feel any very ardent need for a scientific society in which to dedicate themselves to statistical studies — a need which was on the contrary very real, as their practical activity was either forbidden or severely proscribed. Even those who dedicated themselves principally to purely methodological studies must have hardly felt the need for a scientific association, in which to debate problems of statistics. In so far as their limited number hardly stimulated them to undertake the initiative of setting up a society of this kind and above all because opportunities for meetings and discussions were provided by the Academies, the Congresses for Italian Scientists and the International Congresses of Statisticians, in the minutes of which they had every opportunity to publish their scientific work.

These, then, must have been the reasons why, in 1867, the proposal to set up an Italian Statistical Society had so little effect. It was mentioned in a general way by Zuccagni-Orlandini (1869, page 250) and, prior to that, in detail by P. Maestri (1867, page 38) «*La troisième proposition, présentée par M. De Castro, demande l'établissement d'une société de statistique en Italie. Elle est appuyée par M. Leone Levi dans le sens d'une extension à tous les pays*». Perhaps the venue where the proposal was put forward did not favour its realization: this was in fact at an international congress for statisticians — the sixth. Even though it was held in Florence and there was naturally a preponderant number of Italians present, none of the work undertaken by this Congress, any more than by the others, was dedicated to one single country. Thus the motion was presented on an individual basis and at the very last meeting of the Congress (on October 5, 1867) and, despite the attempt by L. Levi to extend the problem to other countries, it had no effect within the Congress or, for that matter, outside it.

2. THE ACADEMIES AND THE FIRST SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES IN ITALY

The Academies, which had arisen in Italy from the Renaissance onwards, were associations of scholars and the erudite which aimed to cultivate the literary and scientific disciplines and the fine arts in collegiate fashion without being narrowed down to specialities and without having any immediate practical aims. In the course of the 17th and 18th centuries, the Academies covered large areas of Italy, but remained totally outside the realities of life and the people, so that, with the coming of the Revolution, almost all of them disappeared. With the Restoration, only those few stronger and more serious ones were able to take up their activities again, and even so they had to adapt to the needs of the times, merging with similar Academies and transforming themselves into new Institutes, and, above all, leaning towards experimental science, history, philosophy and archaeology. For their name they generally took that of Academy (or Institute) of Science, Letters and the Arts, with the indication of the city or state in which they were situated. In fact, the Academies, compared to those in existence before the Revolution, were still fairly numerous and wide-spread over the territory of Italy, on account of the many states and dominions into which Italy was then divided. Though characterized by greater seriousness than the myriads of pre-Revolutionary academies, the new ones continued to avoid the needs of real life. They therefore made little or no contribution to the formation of an independent and united Italy, nor even, in any decisive way, to the advancement of science and literature.

The work of the Academies was certainly inferior to that of the Congresses for Italian Scientists who represented the real development in the association of scientists (Leti, 1991). These Congresses had a fundamental role in the Italian Risorgimento and in the moral development of the Italian people and — as the proceedings of the Congresses show — also contributed to the progress of science. This was understood in a broad sense: indeed, at the Sixth Congress, a report was delivered on Infant Schools and on Savings Banks (which subsidized the schools) and at the Sienna Congress of 1862, the Section for Political Economy and Statistics was first set up. This section was presided over by Giuseppe Sacchi, who had made the report on Infant Schools and Savings Banks and who later, in 1886, was to be nominated Honorary Member of the International Statistical Institute. At the last Congress, held at Palermo in 1875, the Section for Political Economy and Statistics had, as President, Cesare Correnti, who 10 years later was to be among the first contingent of Members of the International Statistical Institute.

It was also at the Naples Congress that the first plan for an Italian Geographical Society was produced; but the other Scientific Associations for other disciplines appeared only at the end of the 19th century, considerably later than in the rest of Europe. Towards the end of the 19th century and during the first few years of the 20th, several societies were formed: the “Società Freniatrica Italiana” (Italian Phreniatric Society) (in 1872) which later became the “Società Italiana di Psichiatria” (Italian Society for Psychiatry); “Società Botanica Italiana” (Italian Botanical Society) (1888); the “Unione Zoologica Italiana” (Italian Zoological Society) (1890); and the “Società Italiana di Neurologia” (Italian Society for Neurology) (1907). These Societies differed from the Academies in that their fields of interest concerned a particular scientific sector and not the whole range of sciences. They were organized on a national basis and not locally. They were generally open to all scientists in the specific field. They had wider statutory aims than the Academies, in that they aimed to promote not only the advancement of the discipline, but also its diffusion and the organization of congresses. These characteristics were typical of all the scientific societies, including those like the “Società Italiana di Statistica” (Italian Statistical Society), which came into being several decades later.

The delay in the creation of scientific societies in Italy compared to the other countries of Europe was due to various factors. First of all, it was a result of the fragmentation until 1870 of the country into many small states, which also explains the multicentred tradition, which had created, in the second half of the 19th century various scientific journals, usually backed by University Institutes, to which were added the proceedings of the meetings of the Academicians in

the main cities. Thus the need was not felt to give life to new publishing ventures supported by the national scientific associations which were being formed. Furthermore, the Congresses for Italian Scientists had acquired such political and cultural prestige as to start tendencies which were in conflict with the need for more technical associations for the various disciplines (Pucci, 1986).

The aim of the Congresses for Italian Scientists had also been that of putting the accent on the unifying character of science and the "Società Italiana per il Progresso delle Scienze" (Italian Society for the Advancement of the Sciences) which was created in 1873 had the same aim. However, the Society had little active life until 1906, when, on the occasion of the Congress of Italian Naturalists, in Milan, it was reconstituted with a new Statute. Under the Chairmanship of Vito Volterra, who was elected in 1907, the organization of congresses was taken up again. These took place with the considerable participation of eminent scientists from various fields. Though its aim was to take a global view of science, the Society had to organize itself into three scientific sections: Class A was for the physical mathematical and natural sciences; Class B for the biological sciences; and Class C for the moral sciences. Each class, in its turn, was divided into sub-sections. The Chairmen of the sub-section for Economic and Social Sciences were the following statisticians, for various lengths of time during the thirty years from 1909 to 1939: Rodolfo Benini, Luigi Bodio, Ghino Valenti, Corrado Gini, Giorgio Mortara, Luigi Amoroso. The Chairmen of the sub-section for Actuarial Mathematics, Mathematical Statistics and Probability in Class A were for various periods during the Thirties: Francesco Paolo Cantelli, Paolo Medolaghi and Corrado Gini. The names of practically all these scientists crop up in the description of the developments which led eventually to the creation of the Italian Statistical Society.

The existence of the Academies and the Congresses for Italian Scientists and the Italian Society for the Advancement of Science, in which the scientists had the opportunity to discuss the problems of their own discipline, was one of the reasons why no great need was felt for a scientific association specifically for statisticians.

Furthermore, the active participation of the Italian statisticians in the International Statistical Institute first of all and later at the Conferences on Demography, and the influence exercised by the Italians within the International Statistical Institute and in part also in the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (Leti, 1991) may explain, up to a certain point, the lack of interest on the part of Italian statisticians in the setting up of an Italian association for statistics at least as long as the International Statistical Institute was dominant in all fields of statistics. Therefore, to the other reasons for the delay in

the setting up of the national scientific societies in Italy, as compared to the other countries of Europe, must be added the one that was due to the particularly privileged situation that Italian statistics was in.

3. THE JOURNALS IN WHICH THE ITALIAN STATISTICIANS PUBLISHED THEIR WORK

Italian statisticians were also in a privileged position with regard to their opportunities to publish their works.

The members of the International Statistical Institute and certain other chosen statisticians presented their work at the sessions of the Institute. The Institute then published them in the Bulletin, which, at first, also published papers that had not been delivered at the congresses.

The statisticians' work was often given space in the proceedings of meetings of the Academies and similar institutions, in the "Rendiconti della Reale Accademia dei Lincei", still to this day the most prestigious of all Italian Academies, and in the proceedings of the Italian Society for the Advancement of Science. The Annals of various Italian Universities, such as Padua, Cagliari and Palermo, accepted papers from statisticians for publication.

Then, in 1878, the "Annali di Statistica" (Annals of Statistics) first came out. These contained both the proceedings of the Committees which worked in the various statistical services, and those of the Superior Council for statistics and also the proceedings of the Congresses. They also accepted papers from individual scholars on problems regarding statistical surveys, demographic phenomena both of the present and the past, sources of economic statistics, whether past or present, comparative data at international level and so on.

The utilization of statistics in a wide variety of fields meant that statisticians' articles also appeared in journals dedicated to disciplines of many kinds: «astronomy, genetics, eugenics, political economy, physics and chemistry, financial science, history, law, hygiene and medicine, anthropology, engineering, the actuarial sciences and demography, physiology, pathology and psychology, pure mathematics, general biology, zoology and zootechny, botany and agronomy (Gini, 1920) To this list may be added the sociological journals, such as the "Rivista Italiana di Psicologia" (Italian Review of Psychology), the "Riforma Sociale" (Social Reform), "Critica Sociale" (Social Criticism), etc. Among the journals of economics which most frequently published research work by statisticians were: the "Rivista delle Società Commerciali" (Review of Commercial Companies), which later became the "Rivista di Politica Economica" (Review of Economic

Policy), the "Biblioteca dell'Economista" (The Economist's library) and, above all, the "Giornale degli Economisti" (Economists' Journal). This dispersion of work on statistics in journals covering a wide variety of disciplines was an obstacle to the progress of scientific method. The reason was that the contributions by statisticians did not always reach all the scholars in the field of statistics, which meant a waste of energy made obvious by «the rediscovery of truths and the reinvention of methods already arrived at in other fields of statistics» (Gini, 1920). To remedy this inconvenience, in 1920, Gini started the journal, "Metron", designed to take only work on statistics.

With the creation of his journal — his because he was in fact the proprietor of "Metron" for some forty years and was the Editor until his death in 1965 — Gini had taken the first step towards the realization of the main idea behind his work. This was the concept of a single statistical method from which derives the figure of the statistician as the possessor of a single statistical method for all the sciences, and thus is himself a scientist autonomous and independent of the various fields in which he worked. (The other realizations of his unifying concept were the creation of the "Istituto Centrale di Statistics" (Central Institute of Statistics) in 1926, of the "Scuola di Statistica" (School of Statistics) at the University of Rome in 1927 and of the "Facoltà di Scienze Statistiche Demografiche ed Attuariali" (Faculty of Statistical, Demographic and Actuarial Sciences) at the same University in 1935-1936. Still today, "Metron" is a prestigious journal. It has reached its 41st volume and, after a difficult period, has regained an outstanding place in the field of international publications on statistics.

"Barometro Economico" (Economic Barometer), which came into being at the beginning of 1929, and in 1933 took the name "Barometro Economico Italiano" (Italian Economic Barometer) was designed to research and follow the changes in the contemporary economic situation. It consisted of a series of tables and graphs concerning the developments of the economy in Italy and certain countries outside Italy. The information was synthesized and the data went to form the so-called "Barometer".

"Barometro Economico" stopped publication during the crucial years of World War 2, but already in 1938 it showed grave signs of crisis which presaged its inevitable demise. "Barometro Economico" made a considerable contribution to the progress of statistics in Italy, both on account of the scientific articles it published and the debates which it supported or promoted: to the International Statistical Institute, and to the modern instruments for the teaching of statistics but above all, as we shall see, to the creation of the Italian Statistical Society.

In June, 1934, the first number of the journal, "Genus", appeared, also under the editorship of C. Gini. With the appearance of "Genus", demographers, geneticists and other students of the problems of population got their own journal and have it still today, because, thanks to N. Federici, Genus is one of the few journals of demography of the highest level in the international field.

Thus Italian statisticians had a plethora of journals in which to publish their works and this constituted a further reason for their lack of interest in a national association of statistics which would produce a journal for the publication of works by scholars in the field of statistics.

4. THE REFORM OF THE ITALIAN STATISTICAL SERVICE DURING THE TWENTIES

After the rapid development in official statistics in Italy, thanks to the work of L. Bodio (Leti, 1991), the statistical service later went through a long period of crisis. Perhaps this crisis was rather more accentuated in the publications under Fascism so as to exalt the work of the Fascist government — but it was a serious crisis nevertheless. Thus wrote C. Gini, the first Chairman of the Istituto Centrale di Statistica (ISTAT) in 1932:

«In reality the governing classes of the time did not show any very exact understanding of the real importance of Statistics. The statistical service was considered neither more nor less than any other bureaucratic organ. At times, in addition it was considered with suspicion because of the ability it had to take an active interest — even if only as far as matters of a statistical nature were concerned and in a consultative role — in the services that depended on other Administrations. The low opinion of the statistical service among the ruling classes was further added to by the fact that the various state Administrations were inclined to place the immediate and concrete needs of the other services that depended on them before the more general and often remote interests connected with the reliability of statistical surveys. The already insufficient funds of the statistical services were often cut still further, to the advantage of other services and also the best of its staff were often transferred to other ministerial offices, causing serious damage to the service.

In 1923, the Central Office of Statistics had no more than a score of regular office staff and the whole of its activity was confined to the compilation, on the basis of out-of-date criteria, of the usual demographic statistics, which were published after great delay, and to the intermittent production of the Statistical Yearbook (the last volume, published in 1920, referred to the years 1917 and

1918). Of these serious shortcomings, the Superior Council for Statistics spoke with the authorities, but was not listened to as it vainly called for a speeding up of things and for radical provisions to be taken» (Gini, 1922).

The fascist government took a considerable interest in the reorganization of the Italian statistical service, which was seen as a government service for the government itself and not a public service for citizens generally. What is more, the interest was in a centralized statistical service, because management and even manipulation of information are all that much simpler if there is a single structure, rather than when the organizational structure is many-sided.

The interest of the Fascist government was immediately revealed: a year after it took power, in December 1923, a decree was made which fixed «important corner-stones for the reform of the statistics service. On account of a whole series of unfavourable circumstances, even these measures, in themselves excellent, could not bear the fruit that was expected of them. The fact is that the Statistics Office continued to function as a bureaucratic organization, no different from all the others. Thus it was subject to all the vicissitudes of ministerial and financial restrictions and the fetters of bureaucracy, all of which deprived it of the autonomy essential for its existence and above all of the financial and technical means appropriate for the vastness and the importance of its functions. The Fascist government therefore considered it indispensable to create a "new" organization, to be completely autonomous and directly responsible to the Head of the Government. On March 25, 1926, the government therefore put forward a bill on the matter, following which, with the promulgation of the Law of July 9, 1926, the existing "Istituto Centrale di Statistica del Regno d'Italia" (Central Statistics Institute for the Kingdom of Italy) was created.

The undersigned Professor at the Royal University of Rome and former member of the Superior Council for Statistics was nominated Chairman of the Council itself on July 14, 1926» (Gini, 1932).

With the creation of the Central Statistics Institute and with the subsequent Law of 1929, were resolved, at least for those times, the principal organizational problems for the public production of statistics (which received a new statute only in 1989).

5. THE PROPOSALS FOR THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY

The thrust which the new organizational arrangement gave to statistical surveys, the prediction of a growing need for statistics and the need to find solu-

tions to so many old and new problems, both theoretical and technical, brought to the forefront the need for scholars in the field of statistics to organize themselves into an association within which they could debate the themes of major interest both for the nation and for the discipline itself.

The contingent factor which perhaps favoured the first appearance of the need to create a Society for Statistics, was the loss of power on the part of Gini, following his dismissal from the post of Chairman of ISTAT by Mussolini. This was on February 7, 1932, less than thirty days after the publication, in "Barometro Economico", of the article on the Central Statistics Institute (from which the two passages quoted above were taken). Gini's removal from the Chairmanship of the Central Institute of Statistics, followed by the fact that subsequently he was excluded from the Superior Statistics Council, did not result from ideological motives. It was due to the clash between two authoritarian personalities — Mussolini and Gini — each of whom found it impossible to admit limits to his power. With Gini deprived of some of his control there was the reduced danger that a statistics association would be to all intents and purposes his Society. There was thus a chance to create a Society free of such a heavy limitation.

The first voice raised, after decades of silence, in the pages of "Barometro Economico" in the autumn of 1933, to propose the creation of an Italian Statistical Society was that of Gaetano Pietra, Full Professor of Statistics and Director of the School of Statistics in the University of Padua. The opportunity for Pietra's intervention was provided by the publication, in the numbers of "Barometro Economico" for February and March, 1932, of an ample study by Riccardo Bachi on the International Statistical Institute. This offered the opportunity to the Director of the Central Office for Statistics of the Republic of Poland, E. Szturm de Sztrem, to send a letter to the Editor of the Review to open a debate on the organization and activities of the International Statistical Institute. The following scholars took part in the debate: L. Livi, C. de Lannoy (of the University of Ghent), L.M. Kostic of the Yugoslavian University of Supiore-botica), G.F. Shirras (University of Bombay), R. Benini and G. Pietra. The debate concerned matters of an international character, but offered the chance to Pietra to openly champion the institution of a Society of Statistics and to offer the motivation for its creation. In a letter to the Editor of "Barometro Economico", written in French (which was the working language of the debate) and published in the October number 1932, Pietra listed the problems of the International Statistical Institute which, in his opinion, needed to be resolved and he indicated the respective remedies, of which the basic one was for the transformation of the Institute into a federation of national statistical societies: *«L'Institut doit se transformer en une Federation des Sociétés nationales de statistique, ou soient representes la Société*

des Nations, le Bureau International du Travail et l'Institut International du Commerce». As Italy had made such an important contribution to the creation of the International Institute of Statistics and to its activities (Leti, 1991), it was obvious that it would have to continue to take part in the life of the Institute and that it could do so only by creating a national society of statistics: «Pour commencer, on devrait constituer la Société Nationale, qui n'existe pas, tandis que des sociétés de statistique anciennes et glorieuses existent en Angleterre, en Hongrie, aux Etats-unies, au Mexique, etc. Quelqu'un devrait prendre cette initiative. Les Italiens nouveaux pourraient facilement arriver à un accord qui, dans le passé, a peut-être été tenté, mais n'a pas été en tout cas réalisé».

Pietra's idea that the International Institute of Statistics should cease to be an association of individuals and become a federation of national societies of statistics was in keeping with the tendencies of the times. After the First World War, in fact, the International Research Council had been set up, which was articulated, by scientific sector, in the International Unions, which the National Committees, constituted on the initiative of various bodies, were to join. Among these national Committees were the national scientific societies. Then in 1928, the International Union for the Scientific Investigation of Population Problems had been created as a confederation of national committees (Leti, 1991). However, it does not seem that Pietra's proposal to transform the International Statistical Institute into a federation of societies met with any acceptance. This was despite the fact that other international scientific bodies had chosen this structure, and so the motive that Pietra had adduced for the need to set up a national statistical society seemed to vanish. In any case the proposal to establish a society of statistics seemed to disappear in Italy, also because of the tensions between statisticians, the existence of which could be discerned by reading between the lines of Pietra's letter, prevented its realization.

But "Barometro Economico Italiano", which cultivated the idea of creating an Italian Statistical Society, continued to strike the iron while it was hot. It then went on with its work of persuasion among its readers with an inquiry into the organization and the activities of national statistical societies in the principal foreign countries.

Three years later, «only after a very long and cautious preparation,... as the circumstances seemed more propitious for a serene evaluation of the matter» (according to what was written in the number of June, 1935), it was calculated that the time was ripe to advance, without further qualification, the proposal to found the Italian Statistical Society. Thus the Review (number 71 of May, 1935) opened with the note "Per una Società Italiana di Statistica" (For the Set-

ting up of an Italian Statistical Society) by Guglielmo Tagliacarne, which constitutes the first stone on which the Italian Statistical Society was founded.

For the importance it had in the constitution of the Italian Statistical Society, and the response it had from all who heard about it and for the topics which it introduced into the discussion, Tagliacarne's note deserves to be known in its entirety. It began as follows:

«The excellent quarterly journal of the Institut International de Statistique, published at the Hague, from time to time carries the proceedings of the Statistics Societies which exist in many countries of Europe and other continents.

Reading these accounts, which are of the greatest interest, one is prompted to ask why we in Italy have not an Association of scholars of statistics. There are now a good many of these scholars: some with University chairs and in the schools of various levels, others in public offices both central and peripheral, in great companies and among educated people in every field, from medicine to the art of war, and we find they are endowed with first-class training and a great love for statistical research. There is thus no lack of basic material, that is, of men, just as there is no lack of subjects for study.

Statistics has undergone huge development, but what remains to be done is practically immeasurable, especially in Italy where the corporative order has great need and will have ever greater need of statistics.

Thus the constitution of an Association which assembles all the specialists in this field, just as has been done in many other branches of study, such as chemistry, geography, and mathematics, etc., would have its justification.

This Association would serve:

- to attract ever more attention on the part of the public to the usefulness of statistics;

- to furnish the official organs of statistics with that information about research-work and about the elaboration of data which are requested and required in specific fields and which otherwise, more often than not, would lack the opportunity or the means to manifest themselves and reach the qualified people;

- to maintain the accord between scholars of statistics and related subjects, thus giving rise to cooperation between them;

- to direct new research work and new studies particularly towards those sectors where they are lacking and where the greatest need is felt, thus avoiding, as far as possible the concentration of efforts on the same topics, when that would represent a waste of energy;

- to keep alive the passion for these studies by attracting young people to them;

to organize and prepare plans of works and collections of monographs, by inviting various persons to take part, so as to render far-reaching works which the individual scholars could not face alone.»

These indications as to the aims of the Association were followed by proposals as to its structure, its components, its location, its publications and other matters of less importance.

6. THE DEBATE IN "BAROMETRO ECONOMICO ITALIANO"

In the debate started by G. Tagliacarne in "Barometro Economico Italiano", eighty-eight «personalities» took part, some spontaneously, others on invitation from the Editor. Among these were: Riccardo and Roberto Bachi, Marcello Boldrini, Francesco Paolo Cantelli, Bruno De Finetti, Corrado Gini, Libero Lenti, Livio Livi, J.W.Nixon, Gaetano Pietra and Felice Vinci. The contributions appeared in the same Review, numbers 72-73, between June and November 1935 under the title: "For the Setting up of an Italian Statistical Society". In number 77 of March 1936, "Barometro Economico Italiano" summarized the results of the debate in the following terms:

«We should like to be permitted, first of all, to say, from, as it were, a personal view-point, that we cannot hide all our personal satisfaction for the outcome of the referendum: it seems to us to be incontestable that great satisfaction lies in the fact in itself of having gathered in the voices and opinions of so many eminent persons.

In the second place, from a more objective point of view, we must find a real motive for satisfaction in the circumstance that the presentation of the idea should have immediately met such a wide response.

In fact, besides the number and the authority of the contributors, also the variety of those who have wished to take a position in the debate, to affirm their ideas regarding the subject, takes away all doubt, both as to the importance of the matter, and the importance of the way it has been dealt with. Not only from Rome, but from all the major centres, qualified voices have reached us; alongside the most illustrious names of supreme masters, are to be found, as was much to be desired, those of young practitioners of the discipline and, alongside both of these, the names of those in kindred studies, the representatives of state and corporative offices, the managers of great enterprises, and of all others who are producers or consumers of statistics. Frequently the subject has been approached with care to provide such detailed indications, and often such a warm tone is heard, as to make it quite clear that the problem is deeply felt. Decidedly,

the idea that we have put forward was one of those that deserve to be sown and it must have contained within itself something fruitful and of substance, if it has succeeded in arousing such a movement of discussion, the likes of which has not been seen for a long time within the field of Italian culture.

On the other hand if we enter, no matter how temporarily, into the result of this free expression of thought and this limpid declaration of intentions, we must surely feel proud to note that the great majority of the notes published accept the thesis put forward. There is something more than this: it would be expected that the plebiscite of approvals would translate itself, at the appropriate moment into a totalitarian commitment, because the doubts which here and there have been more or less weakly expressed, as also the objections which in a few very rare cases have been put forward, do not at all affect the intrinsic substance of the initiative. They are thus limited to or aim at particular details, which are likely to be eliminated at the moment of realization of the initiative, or else they contest arbitrary conceptions which are more or less removed from, and at times have nothing to do with, what the initiative, once realized, could and indeed should be. For this reason the uncertainties or the reluctancies of the few would finish up by automatically and satisfyingly falling away as their justification would have vanished.

Finally we beg to point out that the warmth and the weight of the acceptances we have received reappears, greatly multiplied, if account is taken of the demonstrations of a private nature, which do not appear in the letters published, but which are the object of confidential written or verbal exchanges of ideas.»

The precise overall judgement that 'Barometro Economico Italiano' came to is, however, the result of individual positions and particular points of view. It would be interesting to know these analytically, because it would make it possible to grasp the situation better than the synthesis, in which the variability and differences tend to be underplayed.

7. THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR POPULATION STUDIES AND THE SOCIETY FOR DEMOGRAPHY AND STATISTICS

About a year had passed since the end of the debate in "Barometro Economico Italiano" when, in February, 1937, Livio Livi set up in Florence the "Comitato di consulenza per gli studi sulla popolazione" (Consultative Committee for Population Studies). The Committee was an outcome of the School of Statistics of the University of Florence, of which Livi was Director. As can be deduced from the name, the Committee aimed above all to supply the instruments for

an understanding, by the government of the time, of its policy regarding population. The new body was given this name because it constituted the Italian National Committee which could be accepted as the one which was representative for Italy within the International Union for the Scientific Investigation of Population Problems. The fact is that it is probable that the "Comitato Italiano per lo Studio Scientifico della Popolazione" (CISP) (Italian Committee for the Scientific Study of Population), after the affairs of 1931 (mentioned in Leti, 1991), was no longer considered by the Union to be representative for Italy. In fact, the Committee immediately joined the International Union and, in September, of the same year, 1937, took part with a considerable number of members in the Congress held in Paris by the International Union.

The constitution of the Consultative Committee provided another tangible proof of the split that existed between Italian statisticians, of whom one part was headed by C. Gini, G. Pietra, M. Boldrini and P. Fortunati, while another centred on L. Livi, F. Vinci and F. Savorgnan.

The first meeting of the Committee was held in Rome in January, 1938, and at this meeting the Statute and the programme of activities of the Consultative Committee were approved. In the following scientific meeting, held in Florence in April, 1938, and in another held in Bologna in November of the same year, it was decided to transform the Committee into a wider association which took the name of the "Società Italiana di Demografia e Statistica" (Italian Society for Demography and Statistics). Its aim was that of «contributing to the furthering of statistical and demographic studies, with particular regard to the qualitative and quantitative progress of the Italian population».

8. THE FOUNDATION OF THE ITALIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY

The Società Italiana di Statistica (Italian Statistical Society) (SIS) was constituted in Rome, on January 15, 1939, by the Assembly of promoting members. These were stimulated to take this initiative almost certainly by the foundation of the Italian Society for Demography and Statistics (S.I.D.S.). Following this event, in fact, the need to form into an association capable of counterbalancing the weight that the S.I.D.S. had acquired on the national plane must have been felt by those statisticians who had not joined, among whom there was also the most illustrious Italian statistician of the time: Corrado Gini. The prestige of these scholars, especially Gini, must however have been a deterrent for the promoters of the S.I.D.S. who evidently had scruples about founding a national society of statistics, which would have left no room for other initiatives of the

kind. In fact they had limited themselves, as we have seen, principally to the sector of the demographic sciences.

Thus there remained room for a society directed purely at statistics; and in fact this is how the 42 promoting members of the *Società Italiana di Statistica* had intended it to be when they created it by approving the first Statute. In this it was established that «The Italian Statistical Society aims to develop scientific research work in the field of the statistical disciplines, with particular regard to statistical method». The real significance of the word "method" is here to be understood in the first place by taking account of the fact that it had the instrumental function of formally separating the field of action, which was primarily statistical, of the Society from that of the S.I.D.S. and, in the second place, bearing in mind that Gini understood statistical method not as a pure and abstract science, but as a set of methods which must constantly be connected with concrete reality from which they take their justification and therefore in which they find their application.

In the list of promoting members of the Italian Statistical Society it will be noted that the name of Corrado Gini does not figure. It is considered that his failure to participate as a promoting member was due, among other things, to the conviction that his presence could have impeded the constitution of the Society, on account of the adversaries that he had among statisticians. Presumably, like a producer, he was absent from the stage, worked on events and planned to make his solemn entry later, as in fact he did, in May, 1939.

The Chairmanship went initially to Pietra, but it seems with the tacit understanding that the latter would later resign, as he effectively did in 1941, thus leaving the Chairmanship to Gini.

Shortly after its constitution, the Society received the maximum official recognition, just as it was moving rapidly towards a final form and to normal ways of functioning. In fact, with the Royal Decree of July 13, 1939, the Italian Statistical Society was set up as a non-profit-making body (*Ente Morale*) and its Statute was approved. The official recognition followed only two weeks after that of the Italian Society for Demography and Statistics.

Thus began the scientific and cultural life of the Society which was to carry it forward until it took on a primary role in the world of science and in particular in that of statistics and also that of demography. The initiatives undertaken by the Society, the promotion of research work that it carried out, the scientific contributions that have been produced within its sphere have received ample recognition in both the national and international fields and lead one to expect a bright future for the Italian Statistical Society.

II. HALF A CENTURY OF LIFE OF THE ITALIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY

1. THE BEGINNING (1939-1945)

The first Assembly of the full members of the new scientific society took place in Rome on 4th May 1939 under the Presidency of G. Pietra. Corrado Gini and Francesco Paolo Cantelli were unanimously nominated honorary members at this meeting. Both these scholars, on the occasion of the debate which had been published in the «Barometro Economico Italiano» (in 1935), had pronounced themselves against the constitution of an Italian Statistical Society, especially because the initiative to set up such a society was judged in a way premature. Instead, in their opinion, the Italian statisticians could have presented their debates within the Italian Society for the Advancement of Science. At the first General Assembly of the members, which took place in Rome on 6th May 1939, Gini and Cantelli explained the reasons for which they were now in favour of the constitution of the Italian Statistical Society and, referring to their nomination as honorary members, declared that they could not refuse such a flattering offer.

During the General Assembly the President G. Pietra announced that the first Scientific Meeting of the Society would take place in Pisa in the month of October, in concurrence with the meeting of the Italian Society for the Advancement of Science with which the centenary of the first Congress of Italian Scientists (which took place in Pisa from 1 to 15 October 1839) would be celebrated.

On 9th October 1939, the I Scientific Meeting of the Italian Statistical Society took place in the Great Hall of the University of Pisa. The Meeting began with an inaugural speech by Gini on the theme of «The dangers of Statistics», for which, given the polemical nature of the subject, there was great expectancy and lively interest on the part of the participants.

The II Scientific Meeting of the S.I.S. was held in June 1940 in Rome. Even though the position of President was still held by Pietra, the II Scientific Meeting of the S.I.S. was chaired by the honorary member C. Gini, substituting the President and Vice-President M. Boldrini, absent for personal reasons. The position of Gini's pre-eminence was the prelude to a role of greater prestige within the whole Society. In fact, in the April of 1941, Pietra presented to the Ministry

for National Education the request to be exonerated of the position held, suggesting Prof. C. Gini for the Presidency of the Society.

The III Scientific Meeting of the S.I.S. took place in Rome, from 30 June to 2 July 1941. Cantelli participated at the Meeting speaking about «The construction of mortality tables taking the instantaneous mortality rate as a basis». Gini's paper on «The concept of randomness» obtained great interest.

Gini was President of the Society until 1945; in this period four other Scientific Meetings took place at which the fervid work of the association was discussed, but which still failed to obtain the adhesion of all the Italian Statisticians.

2. STANDSTILL AND RESUMPTION (1945-1964)

At the end of the Second World War in 1945, Gini had to transfer all his power as President to Prof. Luigi Galvani, who had been appointed Extraordinary Commissar of the S.I.S. by the Education Minister with the task of studying and making proposals for the reorganisation of the society. The reason, officially recorded in the minutes of the Society, was that the nomination period (which was three years for the President) had expired, but in reality the handing-over of power was due to the fact that Gini was being subjected to the process of purge, having been accused of being Fascist. The work of the S.I.S. was reduced during these three years to what was strictly necessary to ensure the survival of the Society; the scientific work, in particular, was non-existent.

In the November of 1948, Galvani, who considered that the emergency situation which had justified the nomination of an Extraordinary Commissar had ended, set about to call the election, as according to the Statute (which had undergone various modifications with the aim of adapting it to the general new situation) for the regular constitution of the governing body of the Society. As a consequence, on 11 January 1949, at the Head Office in Rome, the votes were counted for the election of the Council. Corrado Gini was once more elected President of the Society. On 28 January 1949 the Minister of Education nominated Corrado Gini and Gaetano Pietra respectively President and Vice-President of the S.I.S.

The new Council took up office on 3 February 1949 and decided on, among other things, the convocation of the General Assembly of members and the VIII Scientific Meeting.

This opened with the sitting of 1 June 1949 and represented the resumption of work after a sterile period of imposed suspension. The opening speech of the Meeting was given by Giuseppe Pompilj on the theme: «Pure statistics» which,

according to Mr. Pompilj, was a formalisation of descriptive and inferential statistics performed by means of the instruments of the probability theory. Gini gave an important paper during the Meeting entitled «The distribution of statures is hypernormal».

During the period that Gini was President of the S.I.S., a period that ended with his death in March 1965, there was a noticeable growth in the work of the Society from a scientific point of view, which was evident for the most part in Scientific Meetings with active, positive participation, even if the number of scholars present was not enormous. A characteristic of these meetings was without a doubt the co-existence of a lot of work of an applicative nature, and in general put to practical problems together with purely methodological ones. These meetings also revealed Gini's great quality as organiser, let us say, of the Italian Statistical scene. Whether it was a question of encouraging studies in the direction of certain problems or of criticising, even positively, Gini always showed that he knew which was the right direction to take scientific research. He deeply felt that he had the duty to guide Italian Statistics along a sure and certain path, making an effort to help it acquire an identity, making it a completely autonomous science and having the ability to criticise which should have impeded the growing mathematical technicality from becoming something more than a simple instrument and separating the new discipline from the concrete problems.

The contribution given by Gini to the scientific development of the S.I.S. was considerable. He dedicated large part of his enormous production to the S.I.S., besides the constant advancement of scientific research which, within the S.I.S., comprised of 24 Scientific Meetings and the constitution of study committees (for example the Committee for Actuarial Statistics, the Committee for Economic Statistics, the Committee for Corporate Statistics, the Committee for the History of Prices, the Committee for the study of Autarchy, the Committee for Graphical Representations, the Committee for the problem of Standardisation, the Committee for Income and Wealth, the Committee for a Statistical glossary). Many of his papers at the Scientific Meetings are real mile-stones in the history of statistics. One aspect that particularly stands out, even from a superficial analysis of his work, is the enormous attention that Gini paid, not only to methodology, but also to the concrete applications; or rather, it must be considered that Gini did not attach much value to an autonomous development of the theory which had no constant dialectic relationship with the applications. This conviction is strengthened also by the consideration that Gini often contributed to the Scientific Meetings in two papers, one being principally methodological and the other of an applicative type.

3. THE CONSOLIDATION AND DEVELOPMENT (1965 - 1988).

3.1 *From 1965 to 1980*

When Gini died, unexpectedly on 13 March 1965, there was a period in which the position of Society President was empty, in so much that there were doubts concerning the procedure to follow for the substitution of the President. Finally, on 10 February 1966, some of the more influential full members sent a letter to the other full members, following which on 8 June 1966 the Assembly of the full members met, in a lecture hall of the Faculty of Demographic and Actuarial Statistics of the University of Rome, during which the senator Paolo Fortunati, professor of Statistics at the University of Bologna, was elected S.I.S. President.

The great scientist who had guided the Society for 21 years with a vertical approach, aiming above all towards scientific progress, was succeeded, in the Presidency of the S.I.S., by the famous scholar determined to widen the participation in the life of the Society as far as possible, to extend the running to all the members and to open the S.I.S. to society. In his line of action Fortunati declared his desire to increase the top echelons of the Society, recruiting new members, and to establish or resume contacts with the other scientific societies dealing with statistics in Italy, also with the aim of ensuring adequate recognition of the S.I.S. on a national basis; all this would also have to be completed by the promotion of closer relations with the International Statistical Institute.

The results of Fortunati's work were soon evident: at the first Scientific Meeting held under his Presidency, the XXVth, the Society was present with a number of members (282) which was more than double that of the previous meeting; furthermore, while there had been 6 papers given at the XXIV Meeting, there were 49 at the XXV Meeting, apart from the opening speeches, and the minutes relative to scientific work increased from 165 to over 1,300 pages. This however was only the beginning of the expansion of the Society which, due to the diffusion over the whole country and the overcoming of the divisions among scientific schools and disciplines, could finally, rightly so, adopt the attribute «Italian». There remained however a hierarchy among the members of the Society which Fortunati was not happy about and for which reason he championed a new Statute in which such differences would no longer exist. In 1974, a new Statute put together in this way, came into force.

Another novelty, introduced into the S.I.S. by Fortunati, was the abolition of the opening and closing speeches at the Scientific Meetings and the introduction of the dealing with general themes with one or more main speakers; dif-

ferent contributions were requested around these themes in order to examine the problems from the greatest number of view points possible.

The arguments discussed regarded subjects of great topical interest: the problems and contents of the 1971 censuses (1969, Florence), the labour-force and the professional and economic-social stratification of the population (1978, Bologna), the statistical models and the divisions of the economic planning and accounting (1978, Bologna), the function of statistics in regional and sub-regional economic policy (1980, Trento), the social indicators (1972, Palermo). The members were also invited to discuss the state of both the prospects and the function of statistics in Florence (1969), where a general theme was: «The present state and direction of statistics», and in Padua (1975) where the discussion was on «Today's function of statistics with reference to the moment of research, didactics and professional work». The use of round tables, or rather those conferences dedicated exclusively to particular subjects, was principally aimed at channelling research to concrete problems too: the first of the three Round Tables (1970, Frascati) organised by the S.I.S. during Fortunati's Presidency, was dedicated to the teaching of Statistics (the theme of the teaching of Statistics had also been the central topic of the General Assembly of 4 January 1942, under Gini's Presidency; the other two Round Tables concerned the arrangement and organisation of the Italian statistical services (1971, Bologna) and the labour force market in the South of Italy (1979, Bari).

The work of research promotion, carried out by the S.I.S. choosing themes along which to direct the studies of the statisticians, was greatly increased with the setting up of five study Committees on different topics, ranging from the organisation of public statistical services, the statistical analysis in the field of production technologies and the role of statistics in pre-university training to the problems of statistical inference and multiple statistical analyses.

In the international relations field, Fortunati did everything to establish closer relations with the International Statistical Institute, obtaining the affiliation of the Society to the I.S.I. in 1967.

The rapid and fruitful development of the S.I.S. during the period of Fortunati's Presidency, while on the one hand producing the positive effects mentioned, made evident on the other the pre-existing inadequacies in organisation, besides creating new ones within the Society. In particular, the sudden growth of the Society involved running problems, especially with regard to the finding of funds for the organisation of conferences.

The patrimony that Fortunati left on his death, 27 January 1980, to whoever was to succeed to the Presidency of the S.I.S., was a Society going towards a

phase of rapid expansion, which, on the other hand, was showing both the signs of organisation problems that up to then had remained latent and the problems arising from the development taking place.

3.2 *From 1980 to 1988*

During the General Assembly of the Italian Statistical Society of 11 April 1980, held at Trento, Giuseppe Leti, Full Professor of Statistics at the University of Rome, was elected President of the S.I.S.

The first problems that the new President had to face were mainly of an administrative and organisation type. First of all it was necessary to strengthen the internal structure of the Society so as to improve the running and to make the structure adequate to the expansion taking place, in such a way as to give it a further boost. In order to do this several initiatives were begun within the Society, among which that of the balancing of the accounts. This also allowed the procuring in 1988 of a fixed head office for the S.I.S. which up to then had been generously accommodated in rooms which were not exclusive and often not suitable. Under the new effects of the reform even the statute in force seemed to be obsolete in several points and therefore a new statute was necessary which came into force in 1984 and in which two important basic principles were decreed: «democracy» for which no distinction exists between the members of the S.I.S. and the non-re-eligibility to the same position for anyone elected to the society positions of the S.I.S.

A Society «Bollettino» was also published, with the intention of involving the members in the work of the S.I.S. and of keeping them updated on the initiatives of the Society and on other members' scientific work.

The internal strengthening of the S.I.S. was aimed above all at giving the possibility to Italian Statisticians to have a real and important presence in the national and international field. In fact the reforms in organisation were never kept separate, not even at the beginning, from the constant reference to this objective. According to the demand for an opening towards the outside, the necessary steps were taken to involve the S.I.S., also by means of the exchange of representatives, in conferences and the work of the ISTAT, the C.N.R., the Italian Union of Mathematics and the Italian Society for Economics, Demography and Statistics. At the same time the S.I.S. also became member of the Committee for the Co-ordination of Italian Scientific Associations (COASSI).

The continual contact, and comparison therefore, with the statistical Societies of other countries, a comparison which had to be «held on to» if a real standing

in the national scientific life was to be obtained, contributed to the internal maturity of the Society, besides naturally putting forward the necessary premises for the future of the S.I.S. in a wider and not uniquely national context. This marked the beginning of a series of activities aimed at the inclusion of Italian statisticians in the scientific debates of the international organisations, promoting the involvement of the Italian scholars interested in the international conferences with such organisations. For this purpose, the group of Italian members of the international scientific organisations of statistics and demography was set up, with the precise task of evaluating, at an international level, the contribution of the Italians to statistical and demographic disciplines, planning and co-ordinating their scientific contribution to international and foreign congresses; of preparing a common line of action for the Italians in the various organisations; of contributing to the scientific work programmes of these; of organising meetings with similar foreign groups; of facing the problems of the Italian scientific presence at an international level. Within this group, the Group of the Italian I.S.I. members was constituted with the aim of putting into motion further developments in the contacts and the collaboration with the I.S.I., encouraging the S.I.S. members to take an active part in the scientific and organic life of the International Statistical Institute. Furthermore, in the context of the work of co-operation and interchange promoted by the S.I.S., a publication was edited both on an outline of Italian experiences in the field of the teaching of demography and statistics entitled «L'enseignement de la statistique et de la démographie en Italie» (written in French to favour the distribution and the value at an international level) and on the volume «Italian contributions to the methodology of statistics» (edited by A. Naddeo), aimed at the divulgation in foreign countries of the contributions to the methodology of statistics by Italian research. The volume, to which nearly all the Italian statisticians collaborated, was presented in Tokyo during the 46th session of the I.S.I. and sent to a great number of foreign statisticians, many of whom have expressed their sincere appreciation to the S.I.S. for the initiative taken by the Society.

The intense work of scientific co-operation with abroad also gave place to a great number of meetings and exchanges of delegations (especially with France, Spain, Greece, Switzerland, Poland, and Yugoslavia) at the conventions and to the active presence of the Italian scholars at the meetings of the foreign societies and, finally, to a cultural agreement with a Polish University for the exchange of teachers and researchers.

From the point of view of the scientific research carried out by the S.I.S., the work of the society, apart from being controlled, was significantly strengthened by the promotion of other scientific work, besides that discussed at the Scientific

Meetings, the Round Tables and the Committees, by increasing the Committees and creating new occasions for scientific discussion and the presentation of work, such as Work-shops and Meetings. The meetings, usually mono-thematic, were conceived to come in the interval between the Scientific Meetings, and concerned a great number of themes and were made two-yearly so as to dilute the enormous organisation involved.

The topics discussed concerned general problems: from the analysis of the state and future of statistics in Italy (Sorrento, 1984) to the relationship between statistics and informatics and to the use of data base (Sorrento, 1984 and Siena, 1988); from statistical forecasting (in its epistemological aspects, in its methods and techniques and in the use that it makes of it) (Turin, 1982) to the quality of statistical data (Trieste, 1983 and Siena, 1988); from the organisation of the public statistical services to the statistical cultural training in compulsory school and high school (Salice Terme, 1981); from the statistical analysis in the field of technology (Salice Terme, 1981) and from the statistical control of production processes (Bari, 1986) to the evaluation of natural and environmental resources (Giardini Naxos, 1985); from the statistical analysis by regional and sub-regional areas (Perugia, 1987) to statistics in biomedical research and clinical strategies (Bari, 1986 and Siena, 1988); from the groups of transformations in statistics (Siena, 1988) to the statistical analysis of the natural sciences (Siena, 1988). There were many different themes of a strictly methodological nature: variability (Salice Terme, 1981), multivariate analysis and data analysis (Salice Terme, 1981 and Siena, 1988), inference (Bari, 1986 and Siena 1988), sampling (Sorrento, 1984 and Siena 1988), time series (Bari, 1986 and siena 1988), multi-way matrices (Bari, 1986). In the demographic-social field different topics were discussed such as: fertility measuring (Bari, 1986), the problems of the collection of data and the analysis of the presence of foreigners in Italy (Siena, 1988), the structure and cycle of the life of the family (Siena, 1988), the evaluation of the effects of social policies (Bari,, 1986), the demographic development in the Mediterranean countries (Siena, 1988) and the stochastic models in social research (Bari, 1986); in the statistics-economics field the following were discussed: statistical analysis in the insurance sector (Trieste, 1983), and in the credit and finance field (Siena, 1988), the revision and modernisation in the national accounting systems (Sorrento, 1984), index numbers (Sorrento, 1984), problems of the measuring of income and wealth (Bari, 1986), the evolution of the Italian production structure (Bari, 1986), the measuring of the submerged economy (Siena, 1988), statistical methods for econometrics (Siena, 1988) and for the evaluation of the work of the Public Administration (Bari, 1986).

The scientific Committees were divided up over a large number of themes, among which: the applications of informatics to statistics, the study of times series, the problems of the estimates in national accounting, the quality of statistical data and the organisation and co-ordination of data base for statistical purposes, etc. The work of each Committee generally concluded in the publication of a volume putting together all the results of the work of the Committee.

3.3 From 1988 to 1992

The Presidency of G. Leti ended on 29 April 1988, on the occasion of the XXXIV Scientific Meeting of the Society, during which the new President was elected and some society appointments were renewed. The Assembly of members elected Prof. Alberto Zuliani, Full Professor of Statistics at the University of Rome «La Sapienza», as President of the S.I.S. On this important occasion, the neo-President outlined the guidelines along which he intended to direct the work of the Society. The fundamental points of such lines were, in brief:

- the improvement, on the one hand, of all the specialised study sectors in the statistical context and of their relationship with other disciplines, promoting their importance and creating occasions for meetings and verifications; the facilitation and promotion, on the other hand, of all possible collaboration, over common initiatives, so as to avoid the dismemberment of the Society;
- the attention to the needs of the social and productive reality of the country so as to contribute to improve the decisional processes of the companies and to emphasise the role of scientific research in these, and, above all the availability towards the Public Administration (ISTAT, ISCO), carrying on the process that in the recent past had already been evident in important initiatives (for example, it is sufficient to think of the Convention on «The national statistical service»);
- the need to bring forward the process of promotion, successfully begun by G. Leti, of international relations, incentivating the active participation with international bodies and encouraging the inclusion of Italian representatives at the top of such institutions;
- great attention to be reserved for the pre-university teaching of statistical disciplines, trying to use any possibility to get into school syllabuses and in this way to re-orientate, in terms of an empirical method and a quantitative approach, the cultural axis of the Italian school.

During his four-year Presidency, 1988-1992, A. Zuliani, together with the governing body and with the collaboration of many members, accomplished most of the aims which he had outlined at the moment of his election.

The first scientific initiative was that of completing the organisation of the celebration, in 1989, of the first jubilee of the founding of the Society and the 50th anniversary of the first Scientific Meeting. The celebration convention was held in Pisa, in the same city as the first Meeting, and was dedicated to the discussion of the theme, «Statistics and society». The history of the S.I.S. was covered and the contributions given by it to statistical sciences were outlined with specific papers by famous scholars and by means of the publication of the indices of the papers and reports which over the fifty years had been presented to the scientific meetings of the Society and of the articles contained in the other publications of the S.I.S.. The indices, edited by G. Leti and G. Galmacci, organised both according to the publication and the author and the topic, revealed to be an excellent instrument for the work of Italian and foreign researchers.

The scientific initiatives, as can be seen from Table 4, were numerous and significant. The subjects discussed were of a general and a specific nature. Among the first can be mentioned: the relationship between statistics and society (citizens, firms, institutions) (Pisa, 1989), between statistics and environment (Padua, 1990), between statistics and the other sciences or disciplines (social sciences, demography, economics, econometrics, medicine, probability theory) (Padua, 1990, Giardini Naxos, 1991 and Pescara, 1992); the teaching of statistics at University (Anacapri, 1989). Some of the themes of statistical methodology were dealt with several times: the different approaches to statistical inference (Padua, 1990, Cagliari, 1991 and Pescara 1992), the subjects relative to sampling (Perugia, 1989 and Padua, 1990), multivariate analysis (Padua, 1990 and Pescara, 1992), the analysis of spatial and temporal data (Padua, 1990 and Pescara, 1992), the problems of classification (Erice, 1988 and Pescara, 1992); other themes had ample space devoted in the single meetings: measurements and scales of measurement (Pescara, 1992), distances in statistics (Pescara, 1992), experiment design (Pescara, 1992), statistical tests and robust methods (Padua, 1990), current censuses and statistics (Padua, 1990), the monitoring of rare events (Padua, 1990). In the demographic field diverse themes were discussed: general problems of demographic analysis (Padua, 1990), the demographic analysis for countries with a statistics shortage (Padua, 1990), changes in demographic structures and business demography (Pescara, 1992). Various meetings were dedicated to economic statistics: debates were repeated on the control of production processes (Padua, 1990, and Pescara, 1992), on the labour force (Padua, 1990 and Pescara, 1992), and the new methods of measuring economic aggregates (Pescara, 1992), on input-output models and simulation

procedures (Padua, 1990), the analysis of the public deficit (Pescara, 1992), the collecting of data on consumption (Pescara, 1992). The use of the administrative data base was also discussed (Padua, 1990) and the evaluation and work of the government and the public policies.

Considerable work was carried out by the Committees stimulating creative investigation, directing the scientific work of numerous young researchers towards the respective themes, establishing important connections with other spheres. During this four-year period the Committees for «Data quality» and «The analysis of spatial data» completed their work with pleasing results and initiatives which were coherent with the action of the Society; interesting studies on difficult frontier subjects were carried out by the Committee for «Statistical methods and econometrics»; the Committees for «Statistics and environment», «Statistics and physical and natural sciences» and «Statistics and public administration» began their work.

Various work groups worked with good results among which the one for «Statistics for technology and production», the permanent one on the didactics of statistics and demography, the group for the co-ordination of demography and the mixed S.I.S.-ISTAT (Istituto Nazionale di Statistica), to which at a later date the ISCO (Istituto Nazionale per lo Studio della Congiuntura) was added, for joint initiatives for the study of problems of data collecting and the analysis of the data within the context of official statistics.

The S.I.S. was engaged in a lot of work at an international level: close relations were kept with the Association of university statisticians in France and with the School of planning and statistics in Warsaw; there followed relations with the Chinese Society of Statistics with which there are big possibilities of collaboration. At the ISI meeting in Cairo the S.I.S. organised together with the Egyptian Society of Statistics a meeting on environmental themes, which was taken as a model during the Forum of the National Societies of Statistics belonging to the ISI.

The S.I.S. entered to take part of, together with Istat, the University of Rome «La Sapienza» and other bodies, the Association FORMSTAT for the training of the statisticians of the national statistical system.

As far as regards the publications, in the four-year Zuliani Presidency two new periodicals were issued: S.I.S.-information, which was the newsletter of the Society, and, in English, the «Journal of the Italian Statistical Society», aimed at being an instrument to help the distribution of the Italian statistical production onto an international circuit.

The S.I.S. paid particular attention to young people. On the occasion of the Scientific Meetings, short training courses were organised on advanced research

themes which had an enthusiastic welcome both from the number and the level of participants. Prizes were created for the best doctorate theses in statistics and demography. An analysis was begun of the ways in which the research doctorates are organised and work, an analysis aimed at connecting them in a network so as to guarantee among the lecturers exchanges of experience and the circulation of ideas and, for the researchers, opportunities for training abroad and therefore a high level and homogeneous training.

3.4 *The last year*

A. Zuliani's Presidency ended on 22 April 1992 during the XXXVI Scientific Meeting of the Society, when the election of the new President took place and the renewal of some society positions. The Assembly of the members elected Prof. Alfredo Rizzi, Full Professor of Statistics at the Faculty of Statistical, Demographic and Actuarial Sciences of the University of Rome «La Sapienza», President of the S.I.S. During the determined election campaign, preceding the election, the neo-President had outlined the guidelines according to which he desired to establish the work of the Society:

- to raise the role of the S.I.S. in the scientific work of the country, to increase its contribution to the development of the Italian Society and to take initiatives which would suitably show the work of the society to public opinion;
- to emphasise the importance of the sectors specialised in studies in a statistics context and increase the relations with other disciplines, strengthening the relations between bodies of research and the interaction among all the researchers working in statistics;
- to continue and increase the work of cultural updating of the members, to promote training for secondary school teachers, for researchers and Italian statisticians whose work involves the correct use of the statistical method and to organise statistical courses for those interested in developing countries;
- to strengthen the process of promotion of the relations among the Italian scientific societies, the international and foreign ones and the single scholars, and in particular among those of the Eastern European countries;
- to create a monitoring system of statistical literature which could represent an easy instrument for the scientific work of each member of the Society.

The first achievements of A. Rizzi's programme were presented to the members during the first General Assembly presided over by him in March 1993.

4. THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIETY

4.1 *The statutes*

The first Statute of the Italian Statistical Society was approved by the Assembly of the members who had promoted it, the 15 January 1939. Quite soon it underwent small variations. In fact, at the first Assembly of the full members of the Society on 4 May 1939, some proposals suggested by the President G. Pietra of modification to the Statute were approved.

With the constitution of the S.I.S. into a non-profit-making body, on 13 July 1939 the official Statute of the Society was approved but the modifications approved by the Assembly 4 May 1939 were not accepted. For this reason Gini soon proposed a second reading as various anomalies were evident. All Gini's proposals were included in the III Statute of the Society, approved in the R.D. No. 544 of 4 May 1942.

During the General Assembly of the members of 1 June 1949, the first following the war and the commissar period, in which the S.I.S. had been led by Galvani, Gini gave back to the members the amendments that during the commissar period had been taken away from the articles of the Society, with the aim of conforming it to the new political-administrative situation of the country and reported that such modifications had obtained the ministerial approval. The amendments principally consisted in: the abolition of the academic swearing-in of the President and the Vice-President; in the nomination of the President and the Vice-President by the Assembly of the full members instead of by the Education Minister; the nomination of the members of the Council by the Assembly of the full members; the abolition of the approval of the Education Minister for the nomination of honorary members or emeritus members; the abolition of the decree for the nomination of full members by the Education Minister; the giving to the Assembly of full members, instead of to the Minister of Education, the power to revoke unworthy members; the allowing of the latter the possibility to present their opinions. The S.I.S. Statute was thus conformed to the principles of democracy which took the place of Fascism in Italy.

Nineteen years later, on 10 May 1968, with Decree No. 798 of the President of the Republic, the fourth S.I.S. Statute was approved, in which were included all the amendments which had been made to the various articles of the Statute over the period from '42 to '68.

During the Council Meeting of 6 December 1969, upon proposal of the President all those present agreed to propose at the following Assembly of full members

the nomination of a Committee, with the task of formulating proposals for the modification of the Statute in force so as to make it more in keeping with the present scientific reality and to eliminate the distinctions existing among the members of the Society. The bureaucratic-administrative passage was particularly slow and difficult; it ended in the June of 1975 with its publication in the «Gazzetta Ufficiale», even though it had been approved on 18 October 1974 by Decree No. 912 of the President of the Republic.

The fifth Statute was certainly the one which, for the substantial novelties in it, stood more apart from all the others. Above all in An. 1, in which the aims of the Society were declared together with the promotion of statistical studies, the specification «con particolare riguardo alla metodologia statistica» was abandoned whereas it had always been included in previous Statutes. In fact Art. 1 of the Statute being considered stated: «La Società Italiana di Statistica (S.I.S.), organizzazione senza fini di lucro, ha lo scopo di promuovere lo sviluppo della statistica nel campo della ricerca teorica, metodologica e applicata ...» (The Italian Statistical Society, a non-profit-making organisation, has the task of promoting statistical development in the fields of theoretical, methodological, and applied research). Another fundamental innovation was the abolition of the distinctions among the categories of members, for which only the differentiation with respect to nationality remained, and the unification of all the member bodies into one single category. Also the various parts of the Society underwent radical innovations in so much that the executive Board was abolished, while the Secretary and the Treasurer became bodies and were given considerable power established by the Statute. Furthermore the Statute explicitly foresaw the constitution of the sections according to sectors of statistics and its applications, and even provided for the existence of the Committees which had already, in practice, existed since the period of Pietra's Presidency.

During the S.I.S. Council meeting on 11 April 1980, the necessity was recognised to improve the Statute in force, so as to make it more in keeping with the needs of the Society life, giving it a complete formal revision. In fact the Council found itself more than once faced with difficult problems of interpretation of the regulations of the Statute in force, while in some cases the lack was felt of the study of particular aspects of the Society life. The new statute was approved with Decree No. 1150 of the President of the Republic of 19 December 1983 and was published in the «Gazzetta Ufficiale» No. 110 of 19 April 1984. This Statute is the one which at present makes all S.I.S. work uniform.

The principle new items of the present Statute with respect to the previous one, are essentially two: the statement of a principle of democracy, implicit in

the complete elimination of the differentiated member categories, and the general principle establishing the non consecutive re-eligibility to the same position for each person elected in the statutory bodies of the S.I.S.

4.2 The evolution of the number of members

Having met in Rome, 15 January 1939, the 42 promoter members created the Italian Statistical Society. Two years later, in 1941, the members had become 130 and this number gradually grew: 282 in 1967, 428 in 1975, 874 today (Table 2). The increase in numbers of the members, due in part to the ever-growing number of students of statistics in the university and labour world, was also determined by the greater democracy obtained by the S.I.S. In fact from the first four Statutes which distinguished the various categories of members and practically entrusted all the decisional power to a handful of full members, in 1974 the member categories were reduced to two: that of the ordinary members and the foreign correspondents, and in the Statute of 1984 only that of the ordinary members.

4.3 The meetings of the governing bodies

The participation of the members in the life of the S.I.S. grew more and more in time, not only in absolute terms of course, but also in relative terms and it can be seen that corresponding with the beginning of the period of P. Fortunati's Presidency (1966) and above all G. Leti's (1980) there were two real, considerable jumps ahead in the growing trend characterising the series of values expressed by the participants at the various General Assemblies which followed in time. The cause for this can easily be seen from what has been said in the previous pages.

4.4 The congresses and meetings

The principle means by which the Society pursues its institutional objectives are the Scientific Meetings.

In the 36 Meetings that have been held up to present (Table 4) it is possible to see two distinct phases; the first which goes from the foundation of the S.I.S. to the end of Corrado Gini's long Presidency and the second which begins with

Paolo Fortunati's Presidency. In the first phase there were 24 Meetings with a yearly frequency, except for the war and post-war years, which were not thematic and the peak moment was represented by speeches of inauguration and/or closure. Other characteristics were those — with exception to the first one — of having one office only in Rome and a very low number of participants. The last 12 Scientific Meetings on the other hand had a greater participation, were more or less biennial, were held in different Italian cities and one or more themes were discussed on which the members were asked to give their contribution.

The great attendance of the members to the Meetings and their active participation in the work gave rise to slight difficulties in organisation, causing the Scientific Meetings to be held less frequently, abandoning the yearly frequency which had been a peculiarity of C. Gini's management. The need however to invite the members to discuss quite specific themes led to the inclusion of thematic meetings in between the Scientific Meetings (round tables, meetings, work-shops) (Table 4) which, due to their specific nature, were not as long as the Scientific Meetings, had less attendance and therefore an easier organisation.

4.5 *The publications*

The scientific work of the S.I.S. was published in over 100 volumes, of which 8 were published by the Scientific Committees, for a total of over 30,000 pages. 28 copies of the «Bollettino» must be added to these publications along with 4 years of «SIS information» for a total of about 5,000 pages.

The usefulness of the minutes of the Scientific Meetings has been increased lately with the publication of most of the work before the Scientific Meeting so that the members could be informed beforehand of the topics dealt with and could therefore participate with a greater knowledge of the scientific debate.

4.6 *The scientific itinerary*

The most important contributions of the S.I.S. to statistics are especially due to the work of promotion and the continuous stimulus of the research, which the S.I.S. has carried out since its foundation. These contributions have concerned a great number of subjects: Statistical methodology and its fundamentals, demography, the study of economic, social and biological phenomena. The contributions have been fundamentally of two types: those of the single members

and those due to work of the scientific Committees to which the Society entrusted the study of particular problems.

Within the context of the S.I.S. the debate on quite important problems of a general nature was given space. Discussions were held on the state and the development of statistics, the relationship between statistics and society, the instrumental function of statistics for the other sciences and, in particular, the relationship between statistics and mathematics, macroeconomics, astronomy, biomedical research and clinical strategy and environmental science. The function of statistics with regard to research, didactics and professional work was widely discussed.

The S.I.S. promoted discussions on more particular themes, of great importance to the life of the country, inviting its members to participate. The following topics were dealt with: the organisation of the national statistical services, the demographic, economic and social aspects of censuses, the labour force and the professional and economic-social stratification of the population, the labour market, the contribution of statistical models to economic planning and accounting, the use of statistics in the economic policy of the regions and the sub-regional organisms.

The contributions given within the context of the Society to the progress of statistics have been of great importance. Such contributions were not limited to statistical methodology. In fact, considerable contributions have been given to demography, economic statistics, social statistics, insurance statistics, harmoniously putting together pure research with the applications to concrete reality. Discussions were held on, for example, the relationship between censuses and current surveys, the social indicators, the problems of demographic analysis, the methods for measuring economic aggregates, the quality of statistical data, statistical analysis in the field of technology, multiple statistical analyses, the different approaches to statistical inference, classification methods, methodologies and statistical analysis in the insurance sector, the teaching of statistics at all levels, from compulsory school to university. An entire Scientific Meeting was dedicated to the problems of statistical forecasting. On more than one occasion the S.I.S. invited a number of specialists to discuss particular themes.

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TABLE 1. MEMBERS OF THE ITALIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY

	1940-1942 (1)			
	1940-1941	1941-1942	1942-1943	1943-1944
PRESIDENT	G. PIETRA (15.1.1940)	E. RINI (1.1.1941)	V. BRUNO (1.7.1942)	E. RINI (15.1.1943)
VICE	A. BACCARINI (15.1.1940)	A. BACCARINI (1.1.1941)		G. PIETRA (15.1.1943)
SECRETARY	V. CASTELLANI (15.1.1940)	(2) G. CALABRESE (15.1.1941)		A. BACCARINI (15.1.1943)
TREASURER	(3)	E. DE RUIT (30.6.1941)		E. DE RUIT (15.1.1943)
MEMBERS	A. FICCHI (15.1.1940)	A. FICCHI (1.1.1941)		A. COSTANTINI (15.1.1943)
	L. CANNONI (15.1.1940)	L. CANNONI (1.1.1941)		G. RUFFINI (15.1.1943)
	V. CASTELLANI (15.1.1940)	V. CASTELLANI (1.1.1941)		V. CASTELLANI (15.1.1943)
	A. BACCARINI (15.1.1940)	A. BACCARINI (1.1.1941)		L. SALARI (15.1.1943)
	F. BACCARINI (15.1.1940)	F. BACCARINI (1.1.1941)		F. BACCARINI (15.1.1943)
ADVISORS			1942	1943-44
			F. BACCARINI (2) G. CALABRESE (15.1.1942)	G. CALABRESE (1.1.1943)
			A. BACCARINI (1.1.1942)	
			A. BACCARINI (15.1.1942)	V. CASTELLANI (1.1.1943)
				F. BACCARINI (15.1.1943)
MEMBERSHIP		F. BACCARINI (15.1.1942)	A. BACCARINI (1.1.1943)	V. CASTELLANI (15.1.1943)

(1) The date below the surname is that of the resignation or election; the absence of any date denotes a permanent appointment due to a previous election.

(2) Assistant secretary: F. BACCARINI (15.1.1942).

(3) Assistant treasurer: A. DE RUIT (15.1.1942) until 1 July 1942.

(4) On 1.1.1942 the assembly of members authorised the election to appoint two vice-presidents, one with the task of assisting the President and the other the Secretary. L. CANNONI and E. RINI, CALABRESE were nominated for the two positions but the latter declined the offer. As CANNONI had left Rome, he was substituted by V. CASTELLANI. The second vice-secretary was never substituted.

(5) Rini during the mandate.

(6) Society registered under the Education Ministry.

TABLE 1: COUNCIL OF THE ITALIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY

1939-1952 (1)				
	1939-1941	1941-1945	1945-1949	1949-1952
PRESIDENT	G. PIETRA (15.1.1939)	C. GINI (5.4.1941)	L. GALVANI (6) (9.7.1945)	C. GINI (11.1.1949)
VICE PRESIDENT	M. BOLDRINI (15.1.1939)	M. BOLDRINI (5.4.1941)		G. PIETRA (11.1.1949)
SECRETARY	V. CASTRILLI (2) (15.1.1939)	G. CALAMANI (30.6.1941) M. SAIBANTE (4) (4.1.1942)		M. SAIBANTE (11.1.1949)
TREASURER	(3)	B. DE MORI (30.6.1941)		B. DE MORI (11.1.1949)
MEMBERS	M. PICONE (4.5.1939)	M. PICONE		A. COSTANZO (11.1.1949)
	L. CAMBONI (4.5.1939)	L. CAMBONI		G. POMPILJ (11.1.1949)
	V. CASTRILLI (4.5.1939)	V. CASTRILLI		V. CASTRILLI (11.1.1949)
	A. GIANNINI (4.5.1939)	A. GIANNINI		L. GALVANI (11.1.1949)
	P. MEDOLAGHI (4.5.1939)	P. MEDOLAGHI		F. SIBIRANI (11.1.1949)
AUDITORS			1949	1950-52
		F. PAGLINO (5) (30.5.1941) B. GRAZIA RESI (1.6.1942)	B. GRAZIA RESI (1.6.1949)	B. GRAZIA RESI (8.1.1950)
		S. ORLANDI (30.6.1941)	V. CASTELLANO (1.6.1949)	F. PEDRONI (8.1.1959)
SUBSTITUTE AUDITOR		f. BRAMBILLA (30.6.1941)	M. COPPINI (1.6.1949)	V. CASTELLANO (8.1.1950)

(1) The date below the surname is that of the nomination or election; the absence of the date denotes a permanent **appointment** due to a previous election.

(2) Assistant secretary: T. SALVEMINI (9.10.1939).

(3) Assistant treasurer: A. DE POLZER (9.10.1939) **untill** 2 July 1941.

(4) On 4.1.1942 the assembly of members authorised the **council** to nominate two **vice-secretaries**, one with the task of **assisting** the President and the other the Secretary. L. SILIPIGNI and D. MIANI CALABRESE were nominated for the two positions but the latter declined the offer. **As** SILIPIGNI had left Rome, he was substituted by P. NICOLOCCIA. The second vice-secretary was never substituted.

(5) Died during the mandate.

(6) Society **commissar** nominated by the Education Minister.

follows TABLE 1

1952-1967				
	1952-1958	1958-1964	1964-1966	1966-1967
PRESIDENT	C. GINI	C. GINI	C. GINI (11) (11.6.1964)	P. FORTUNATI (8.6.1966)
VICE PRESIDENT	G. PIETRA	G. PIETRA (10)	L. LENTI (11.6.1964)	L. LENTI
VICE PRESIDENT			P. FORTUNATI (11.6.1964)	
SECRETARY	M. FIGA' TALAMANCA (3.2.1952) F. PEDRONI (1.6.1956)	F. PEDRONI G. PISTILLI (23.4.1963)	G. PISTILLI (11.6.1964)	A. GOLINI (8.6.1966)
TREASURER	B. DE MORI	B. DE MORI	B. DE MORI (11.6.1964)	B. DE MORI
MEMBERS	A. COSTANZO	A. COSTANZO	A. COSTANZO (11.6.1964)	A. COSTANZO
	G. POMPILI	G. POMPILI	B. DE CASTRO (12) (11.6.1964)	B. DE CASTRO
	M. SAI BANTE (7) (2.2.1952)	F. COPPOLA D'ANNA (29.6.58)	F. COPPOLA D'ANNA (11.6.1964)	F. COPPOLA D'ANNA
	L. GALVANI (8)	G. OTTAVIANI (29.6.1958)	G. OTTAVIANI (11.6.1964)	G. OTTAVIANI
	F. SIBRANI (9)	B. TENTI (29.6.1958)	B. TENTI (11.6.1964)	B. TENTI
AUDITORS				
	1953-55 B. GRAZIA RESI	1956-57 F. VENANZI (1.6.1956)	R. CULTRERA (29.6.1958)	R. CULTRERA
	F. PEDRONI	A. GIANNONE (1.6.1956)	A. GIANNONE (29.6.1958)	A. GIANNONE
SUBSTITUTE AUDITOR	V. CASTELLANO	V. CASTELLANO	V. CASTELLANO (29.6.1958)	V. CASTELLANO

(7) Died on 24.4.1958.

(8) Died on 22.1.1954.

(9) Died on 1957

(10) Died on 14.4.1961

(11) Died on 13.3.1965

(12) Representative of Member Body

follows TABLE 1

1967-1980					
	1967-1969	1969-1974	1974-1976	1976-1978	1978-1980
PRESIDENT	P. FORTUNATI	P. FORTUNATI (6.12.1969)	P. FORTUNATI	P.FORTUNATI	P.FORTUNATI (13)
VICE PRESIDENT	L. LENTI (29.5.1967)	L. LENTI	T. SALVEMINI (5.4.1974)		
VICE PRESIDENT	V. CASTELLANO (29.5.1967)	G.PARENTI (6.12.1969)	G. PARENTI		
VICE PRESIDENT		V. CASTELLANO (until 10.6.1970)			
SECRETARY	A. GOLINI	A. GOLINI	A. GOLINI (5.4.1974)	L.CIUCCI (13.4.1976)	L. CIUCCI (21.3.1978)
TREASURER	B. DE MORI	B. DE MORI	R. OTTAVIANI (5.4.1974)	R. OTTAVIANI (13.4.1976)	R. OTTAVIANI
MEMBERS	A. COSTANZO	A. COSTANZO (until 10.6.1970)	G. MUTTINI CONTI (5.4.1974)	G. MUTTINI CONTI	V.B. FROSINI (21.3.1978)
	B. DE CASTRO (29.5.1967)	B. DE CASTRO	A. NADDEO (5.4.1974)	A. NADDEO	A. GOLINI (21.3.1978)
	F. COPPOLA D'ANNA	F. COPPOLA D'ANNA (until 10.6.1970)	S. VIANELLI (5.4.1974)		
		O. VITALI (7.12.1979)	O. VITALI	O. VITALI	A. HERZEL (21.3.1978)
	G. PARENTI (29.5.1967)	C. CORSINI (7.12.1969)	C. CORSINI	C. CORSINI	A. PREDETTI (21.3.1978)
	S. SOMOGYI (29.5.1967)	S. SOMOGYI		V.CASTELLANO (13.4.1976)	V.CASTELLANO
		B. COLOMBO (6.12.1969)		P. DE SANDRE (13.4.1976)	P. DE SANDRE
		G. PETRILLI (6.12.1969)		R. LEONI (13.4.1976)	R. LEONI
		T. SALVEMINI (6.12.1969)		G. LETI (13.4.1976)	G. LETI

(13) Died on 27.4.1980

follows TABLE 1

1967-1980					
	1967-1969	1969-1974	1974-1976	1976-1978	1978-1980
		1969-71	1972-73		
AUDITORS					
	G. OTTAVIANI (29.5.1967)	G. OTTAVIANI (7.12.1969)	M. COPPINI (30.5.1972)	R. CURATOLO (13.4.1976)	M. BADALONI (21.3.1978)
	B. TENTI (29.5.1967)	E. TENTI (7.12.1969)	R. CURATOLO (30.5.1972)	A. RIZZI (13.4.1976)	A. ZULIANI (21.3.1978)
SUBSTITUTE AUDITOR	S. VIANELLI (29.5.1967)		G. LETI (30.5.1972)	M. BADALONI (13.4.1976)	S. DAMIANI (21.3.1978)
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE					
MEMBERS					
			L. BERGONZINI (30.5.1972)	L. BERGONZINI (13.4.1976)	R. CURATOLO (21.3.1978)
			G. LUNETTA (30.5.1972)	G. PARENTI (13.4.1976)	A. RIZZI (21.3.1978)
			F. VIAN (30.5.1972)	F. VIAN (13.4.1976)	F. TASSINARI (21.3.1978)

follows TABLE 1

1980-1990					
	1980-1982	1982-1984	1984-1986	1986-1988	1988-1990
PRESIDENT	G. LETI (11 .4.1980)	G. LETI	G. LETI (12.4.1984)	G. LETI	A. ZULIANI (30.4.1988)
SECRETARY	L. CIUCCI	R. CAGIANO DE AZEVADO (5 .4.1982)	R. CAGIANO DE AZEVADO	V. EGIDI (29.4.1986)	V. EGIDI
TREASURER	R. OTTAVIANI (11 .4.1980)	R. OTTAVIANI	E. NENNA (12. 4.1984)	E. NENNA	C. MARULLO DI CONDOJANI (30.4.1988)
MEMBERS	V.B. FROSINI	V.B. FROSINIA (5 .4.1982)	V.B. FROSINI	P. BELLINI (29.4.1986)	P. BELLINI
	A. GOLINI	L. DI CONTE (5 .4.1982)	L. DI CONTE	L. LINDA RONDINI (29.4.1986)	L. LINDA RONDINI
	A. HERZEL	N. LAURO (5 .4.1982)	N. LAURO	D. PICCOLO (29.4.1986)	D. PICCOLO
	A. PREDETTI	U. TRIVELLATO (5 .4.1982)	U. TRIVELLATO	A. SANTINI (29.4.1986)	A. SANTINI
	A. BELLETTINI (11.4.1980)	(14) A. BELLETTINI	L. BIGGERI (12 .4.1984)	L. BIGGERI	G. BURG10 (30.4.1988)
	B. CHIANDOTTO (11 .4.1980)	B. CHIANDOTTO	A. NADDEO (12 .4.1984)	A. NADDEO	R. COPPI (30.4.1988)
	A. MINEO (11 .4.1980)	A. MINEO	A. RIZZI (12 .4.1984)	A. RIZZI	G. LANDENA (30.4.1988)
	O. VITALI (11 .4.1980)	O. VITALI	F. TASSINARI (12 .4.1984)	F. TASSINARI (resigned 8.2.1988)	E. MARUBINI (30.4.1988)
(14) Died on 19.9.1983				F. VACCINA	

follows TABLE 1

1980-1990					
	1980-1982	1982-1984	1984-1986	1986-1988	1988-1990
AUDITORS					
	M. BRANCOLI (11.4.1980)	M. BRANCOLI (5.4.1982)	M. COLI (12.4.1984)	C. CECCHI (29.4.1986)	M.G. OTTAVIANI (30.4.1988)
	S. DAMIANI (11.4.1980)	S. DAMIANI (5.4.1982)	A. PERNA (12.4.1984)	F.M. SANNA (29.4.1986)	S. TROIANI (30.4.1988)
SUBSTITUTE AUDITOR	S. MONTANARI (11.4.1980)	S. MONTANARI (5.4.1982)	S. DAMIANI (12.4.1984)	C. MARULLO DI CONDOJANNI (29.4.1986)	P. DADDI (30.4.1988)
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE					
MEMBERS					
	C. FERRERI (11.4.1980)	R. GUARINI (5.4.1982)	B. CHIANDOTTO (12.4.1984)	G. GIRONE (29.4.1986)	G. DE BARTOLO (30.4.1988)
	G. MARBACH (11.4.1980)	G. LUNETTA (5.4.1982)	A. GOLINI (12.4.1984)	M. DI PALMA (29.4.1986)	A. RIZZI (30.4.1988)
	F. PESARIN (11.4.1980)	G. MUTTINI CONTI (5.4.1982)	G. CUSIMANO (12.4.1984)	P. DE SANDRE (29.4.1986)	U. TRIVELLATO (30.4.1988)

follows TABLE 1

1990-1994		
	1990-92	1992-94
PRESIDENT	A. ZULIANI	A. RIZZI (22.4.1992)
SECRETARY	D. MAFFIOLI (20.4.1990)	D. MAFFIOLI
TREASURER	C. MARULLO D. CONDOJANNI	F.M. SANNA (22.4.1992)
MEMBERS	L. BERNARDI (20.4.1990)	L. BERNARDI
	A. BONAGUIDI (20.4.1990)	A. BONAGUIDI
	G. CICCHITELLI (20.4.1990)	G. CICCHITELLI
	D. PICCOLO (20.4.1990)	M. COLI (22.4.1992)
	G. BURGIO	A. CORTESE (22.4.1992)
	R. COPPI	E. D'ARCANGELO (22.4.1992)
	G. LANDENNA	M. FALIVA (22.4.1992)
	E. MARUBINI	C. OUINTANO (22.4.1992)
AUDITORS		
	M. MASSELLI (20.4.1990)	S. BUSCEMI (22.4.1992)
	E. VINCI (20.4.1990)	P. BUSETTA (22.4.1992)
SUBSTITUTE AUDITOR	A. TARSITANO (20.4.1990)	R. SOCCORSI (22.4.1992)
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE		
MEMBERS	B. CHIANDOTTO (20.4.1990)	V.B. FROSINI (22.4.1992)
	A. CORTESE (20.4.1990)	F. DEL VECCHIO (22.4.1992)
	A. GIANNONE (20.4.1990)	I. VISCO (22.4.1992)

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF **MEMBERS** OF THE ITALIAN STATISTICA SOCIETY
AT VARIOUS TIMES (15.1.39 PROMOTER MEMBERS: 42)

1939-1941

DATE	HONORARY MEMBERS	FULL MEMBERS	CORRESPONDENT MEMBERS	TOTAL	PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS
9. 5.41	2	15	72	79	-
31.12.41	2	15	107	124	14

1942-1972

DATE	HONORARY MEMBERS OR EMERITUS MEMBERS	FULL MEMBERS	ORDINARY MEMBERS	FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS	TOTAL	PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS
30. 5.42	2	15	126	-	143	-
14. 1.43	3	14	136	-	153	19
3. 2.49	3	13	147	-	163	17
24. 7.52	4	13	117	-	134	26
25. 6.53	4	12	124	-	140	28
30. 5.55	4	11	141	-	156	32
1.12.56	4	11	152	-	167	34
31.12.57	4	10	144	-	158	34
1. 4.65	1	28	165	-	194	47
31. 5.67	12	49	221	-	282	51
9.12.69	11	52	283	-	346	48
31. 5.72	9	48	301	-	358	48

1975-1993

DATE OR YEAR	HONORARY MEMBERS	ORDINARY MEMBERS	FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS	TOTAL	PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS
20. 3.75	7	421	-	428	50
1978	5	425	-	430	43
1980	5	474	-	479	49
28. 4.81	4	442	5	451	38
6. 4.82	4	472	5	481	50
21. 4.83	4	531	5	540	58
12. 4.84	4	565	5	574	65
12. 4.85	4	598	5	607	69
29. 4.86	3	636	5	644	75
9. 4.87	3	651	5	659	74
29. 4.88	3	681	4	688	78
20. 4.90	2	752	4	758	30
22. 4.92	2	830	4	836	108
25. 3.92	2	872	-	874	111

TABLE 3: MEMBERS PARTICIPATING AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE
ITALIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY

DATE				DATE			
		PRESENT				PRESENT	
		N.	% (*)			N.	% (*)
6 May	1939	23	-	26 November	1961	14	-
4 January	1942	16	10	29 October	1963	21	-
1 June	1942	13	8	31 October	1964	33	-
4 January	1943	21	12	29 May	1967	87	26
30 June	1943	13	8	7 December	1969	66	17
1 June	1949	19	11	30 May	1972	79	19
8 January	1950	24	13	20 March	1975	84	18
8 April	1951	19	10	17 April	1976	56	12
3 February	1952	22	-	28 April	1981	137	28
9 January	1953	18	-	6 April	1982	269	51
5 June	1954	21	-	21 April	1983	150	25
6 April	1955	14	-	12 April	1984	391	71
1 June	1956	11	-	12 April	1985	162	24
29 June	1958	12	-	29 April	1986	323	45
28 June	1959	15	-	9 April	1987	97	13
30 October	1960	11	-	29-30 April	1988	476	62
				13 April	1989	103	-
				20 April	1990	431	51
				3 April	1991	165	-
				12 April	1992	709	75
				25 March	1993	87	9

(*) percentages of those present out of a total of the members

TABLE 4: MEETINGS OF THE ITALIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY

1. SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

SESSIONS	DATE	PLACE
I	9 October 1939	Pisa
II	26-28 June 1940	Rome
III	30-June to 2 July 1941	Rome
IV	3-4 January 1942	Rome
V	30 May to 1 June 1942	Rome
VI	3-4 January 1943	Rome
VII	27-30 June 1943	Rome
VIII	1-2 June 1949	Rome
IX	7-8 January 1950	Rome
X	5-6 July 1950	Rome
XI	7-9 April 1951	Rome
XII	2-3 February 1952	Rome
XIII	8-9 January 1953	Rome
XIV	5-6 June 1954	Rome
XV	6-7 April 1955	Rome
XVI	1-2 June 1956	Rome
XVII	30-31 May 1957	Rome
XVIII	28-29 June 1958	Rome
XIX	27-28 June 1959	Rome
XX	29-30 October 1960	Rome
XXI	25-26 November 1961	Rome
XXII	27-28 October 1962	Rome
XXIII	29-30 October 1963	Rome
XXIV	31 October 1964	Rome
XXV	29-30 May 1967	Bologna
XXVI	6-8 December 1969	Florence
XXVII	29-31 May 1970	Palermo
XXVIII	20-22 March 1975	Padua
XXIX	20-22 March 1978	Bologna
XXX	10-12 April 1980	Trento
XXXI	5-7 April 1982	Turin
XXXII	11-13 April 1984	Sorrento
XXXIII	28-30 April 1986	Bari
XXXIV	27-30 April 1988	Sienna
XXXV	18-21 April 1990	Padua
XXXVI	21-24 April 1992	Pescara

follows TABLE 4

2. S.I.S. ROUND TABLES, MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, AND FORUMS

TITLE		DATE		PLACE
Round table on:	L'insegnamento della statistica (The teaching of Statistics)	4-6 June	1970	Frascati
Round table on:	Ordinamento ed organizzazione dei servizi statistici italiani (Layout and organisation of Italian statistical services)	25-26 June	1971	Bologna
Round table on:	Il mercato del lavoro nel Mezzogiorno d'Italia (The labour market of the South of Italy)	20-21 April	1979	Bari
1981 SIS Meeting		27-29 April	1981	Pavia-Salice Terme
1983 SIS Meeting		21-23 April	1983	Trieste
1985 SIS Meeting :	Statistica e risorse naturali (Statistics and natural resources)	11-12 April	1985	Giardini Naxos
Workshop on:	Il servizio statistico nazionale (The National Statistical Services)	12 November	1985	Rome
Workshop on:	L'informazione statistica nei mezzi di comunicazione di massa (Statistical information in mass-media)	9 April	1987	Rome
1987 SIS Meeting:	Informazione ed analisi statistica per aree regionali e sub regionali (Statistical information and analysis for regional and sub regional areas)	5-6 October	1987	Perugia
1989 SIS Meeting:	Statistica e società (Statistics and society)	9-10 October	1989	Pisa
Workshop on:	Nuova domanda di insegnamento universitario della statistica (New demand for university teaching of statistics)	3-14 April	1989	Anacapri

follows TABLE 4

2. S.I.S. ROUND TABLES, MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, AND FORUMS

	TITLE	DATE	PLACE
1989 Forum:	Campionamento da popolazioni finite (Sampling from finite populations)	29 May 1989	Perugia
Satellite meeting of the XXXV Scientific Meeting:	Contributo della statistica alla progettazione, gestione e utilizzazione di basi di dati amministrativi (Contribution of Statistics to the planning, management and use of administrative data base)	18 April 1990	Padua
1991 SIS Meeting :	Sviluppi metodologici nei diversi approcci dell'inferenza statistica Methodological development in different approaches to statistical inference)	3-5 April 1991	Cagliari
Workshop on:	Crisi di teorie ,crisi di indicatori (Theory and indicator crises)	24-25 October 1991	Giardini Naxos
1993 SIS Meeting:	La statistica nel mondo della produzione e dei servizi reali e finanziari (Statistics in the production, service and financial field)	25-26 March 1993	Rome

TABLE 5: PUBLICATIONS OF THE ITALIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY

1. Proceedings of the scientific sessions
of the Italian **Statistical** Society

VOLUMES NUMBER	YEAR OF SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS	YEAR OF PUBLICATION	NO. OF TOMES	NO. OF PAGES
I	1939	1940	1	237
II	1940	1941	1	369
III	1941	1942	1	415
IV and V	1942	1943	1	489
VI and VII	1943	1945	1	783
VIII	1949	1951	1	235
IX	1950	1952	1	338
X	1950	1953	1	167
XI and XII	1951-52	1954	1	429
XIII and XIV	1953-54	1955	1	303
XV and XVI	1955-56	n.i. (*)	1	394
XVII	1957	n.i.	1	241
XVIII	1958	n.i.	1	230
XIX	1959	n.i.	1	197
XX	1959	n.i.	1	311
XXI	1961	n.i.	1	323
XXII	1962	n.i.	1	284
XXIII	1963	n.i.	1	506
XXIV	1964	n.i.	1	179
XXV	1967	n.i.	2	1367
XXVI	1969	1971	3	1520
XXVII	1972	1974	2	1926
XXVIII	1975	1976	3 (1)	1449
XXIX	1978	1980	5 (2)	1710
XXX	1980	n.i.	3	892
XXXI	1982	1983	3	1363
XXXII	1984	1985	3	1429
XXXIII	1986	n.i.	3	832
XXXIV	1988	1989	4 (3)	1228
XXXV	1990	1990	3	1056
XXXVI	1992	1992	2	950

(*) n.i. = not indicated

(1) vol. I; vol. **II**: tome I and II(2) vol. 1: tome I and II; **vol II** tome I and II; **vol III**(3) vol. 1; vol. **II**: tome I and II; vol. **III**

follows TABLE 5

2. Proceedings of round tables organized by Italian Statistical Society

ROUND TABLES	YEAR OF THE ROUND TABLES	YEAR OF PUBLICATION	NO. OF VOLUMES	NO. OF PAGES
L'insegnamento della statistica(4) (The teaching of statistics)	1970	1971	1	146
Ordinamento e organizzazione dei servizi statistici italiani (5) (Layout and organisation of the Italian Statistical Services)	1971	n.i.	2	457
Il mercato del lavoro nel Mezzogiorno d'Italia(6) (The labour market in the South of Italy)	1979	1979	1	385

(4) Co-editor: Institute of statistics and social research "C. GINI" of the University of Rome

(5) Co-editor: Institute of statistics of the University of Bologna

(6) Co-editors: University of Bari, Regional Council of Puglia

follows TABLE 5

3. Proceedings of SIS Meetings, Workshops and forums

SIS MEETING OR WORKSHOP OR FORUM	YEAR OF THE MEETING OR WORKSHOP	YEAR OF PUBLICATION	NO. OF VOLUMES	NO. OF PAGES
1981 SIS Meeting	1981	1981	2	782
1983 SIS Meeting	1983	1983	2	867
Statistica e risorse naturali (Statistics and natural resources)	1985	1986	1	562
Il servizio statistico nazionale (The National Statistical service)	1985	1988	1	118
L'informazione statistica nei mezzi di comunicazione di massa (Statistical information in mass-media)	1987	1987	1	188
L'informazione e l'analisi Statistica per aree regionali e sub regionali (Statistical information and analysis for regional and sub regional areas)	1987	1989	2	595
Statistica e società (Statistics and society)	1989	1989	2	561
Nuova domanda di insegnamento universitario della Statistica (New demand for university teaching of statistics)	1989	1989	1	132
Campionamento da popolazioni finite (Sampling from finite populations)	1989	1989	1	205
Contributi della Statistica alla progettazione, gestione e utilizzazione di basi di dati (Contribution of statistics to the planning, management and use of data base)	1990	1992	1	149
Sviluppi metodologici nei diversi approcci all'inferenza Statistica (Methodological developments in different approaches to statistical inference)	1991	1991	2	488

follows TABLE 5

3. Proceedings of SIS Meetings, Workshops and forums

SIS MEETING OR WORKSHOP OR FORUM	YEAR OF THE MEETING OR WORKSHOP	YEAR OF PUBLICATION	NO. OF VOLUMES	NO. OF PAGES
--	---------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------

Crisi di teorie, crisi di indicatori (7) (Theory and indicator crises)	1991	1992	1	197
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La statistica nel mondo della produzione e dei servizi reali e finanziari (Statistics in the production, services and finance field)	1993	1993	1	244
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(7) S.I.S. Bulletin no. 26

follows TABLE 5

4. Monographs

Italian contribution to the methodology of statistics (edited by A. Naddeo)
CLUEPP, Padua 1987 pages 657 + XVI

Index of S.I.S. Publications (edited by G. Leti and G. Galuracci), Pisa,
1989, pages 312

5. Journal of the Italian Statistical Society

Vol 1, no. 1, 1992	pages 160
Vol 2, no. 2, 1992	pages 294

6 S.I.S. Bulletin

NUMBER	YEAR OF PUBLICATION	NO. OF PAGES	NUMBER	YEAR OF PUBLICATION	NO. OF PAGES
1	1981	130	15	1989	173
2	1981	172	16-17	1989	173
3	1982	193	18	1990	172
4	1982	191	19-20	1990	188
5	1983	205	21	1990	186
6	1984	221	22 (9)	1991	227
7	1985	250	23	1991	106
8	1985	216	supp. 23	1991	52
supp.8	1985 (8)	119	24	1991	135
9	1986	140	25	1992	162
10	1987	243	26 (10)	1992	197
11	1987	162	27-28	1992	362
12	1988	241			
13-14	1988	238			

(8) L'enseignement de la statistique e de la demographie en Italie

(9) Contribution of the Scientific Committee to data quality

(10) Theory and indicator crises

7 S.I.S. news letters (from 21.3.1989)

Year 1	-	1989:	9 editions
Year 2	-	1990:	12 editions
Year 3	-	1991:	12 editions
Year 4	-	1992:	13 editions

follows Table 5

8 Publications of the S.I.S. Scientific Committees

TITLE OF PUBLICATION	YEAR OF MEETING	PUBLISHER	YEAR OF PUBLICATION	NO. OF VOLUMES	NO. OF PAGES
L'insegnamento pre-universitario della statistica con particolare riferimento alla scuola secondaria superiore (The pre-university teaching of Statistics with particular reference to upper high school)	1979	Faculty of Statistical Demographic and Actuarial Sciences, University of Padua	1980	1	325
L'analisi statistica nel campo della statisticae della produzione (Statistical analysis in the field of technology and production)	1979	Faculty of Statistical Demographic and Actuarial Sciences, University of Padua	1980	1	255
L'organizzazione dei censimenti 1981 nella prospettiva della riforma dell'ordinamento statistico nazionale (The organisation of the 1981 Censuses in the prospective of the reform of the national statistical ruling)	1979	SIS Committee on the "Organisation of the public statistical services"	1981	1	136
Alcuni lavori di analisi statistica multivariata (Papars on multivariate statistical analysis)	-	SIS Committee on Multiple Statistical analysis"	-	1	208
Critical analysis of Jan Hoohing's book "Logic of statistical inference"	-	SIS Committee on "The recent tendencies of statistical methologies in the formulaion statistical inference"	1983	1	128

follows Table 5

8 Publications of the S.I.S. Scientific Committees

TITLE OF PUBLICATION	YEAR OF MEETING	PUBLISHER	YEAR OF PUBLICATION	NO. OF VOLUMES	NO. OF PAGES
Una sintesi di studi statistici sulle analisi delle serie storiche (A synthesis of the statistical studies on the analysis of time series)	-	Italian Statistical Society	1986	1	60
Atti delle giornate di studio del gruppo italiano aderente all'IFCS Erice-Trapani 24-25 ottobre 1988 (Proceedings of the workshop of Italian group belonging to the IFCS Erice Trapani 24-25 October 1988)	-	Italian Statistical Society	1989	1	245
Contributi della Commissione scientifica sulla qualità dei dati(11) (Contributions of the Scientific Committee to data quality)	-	Italian Statistical Society	1991	1	227

(11) S.I.S. Bulletin no. 22

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