

"He is seventeen and he's very cultured in an enormity of branches of knowledge, he's an integral Zionist, he perfectly knows Hebrew, he studies agriculture, in two or three years, just graduated, he went to Palestine to till the ground. Even if this return to the land could appear utopian, with more or less communist colonies, like in Palestine, we have to admire these young boys favourably disposed towards the sacrifice of their intellectual and material life to achieve an ideal, which in my opinion is unattainable."

*(Carlo Rosselli, 1924)*

"Mr. Sereni is an able scientist in every field."

*(Palmiro Togliatti, 1950)*

"He was a man with a particular pedagogical ability, with a sparkling and tender communicative competence, his formidable possession of knowledge in every field, until erudition, impressed; he transmitted every kind of intellectual curiosity...I'm grateful to Mr. Sereni for the affection, for the confidence, for intellectual training and for the encouragements that I received from him; his great talent and his cultural level emerge today from his most demanding works; he always stands out for his originality and the love for History of Italian agricultural landscape."

*(Giorgio Napolitano, 2005)*

Translation made by students of Linguistic High School "Matilde di Canossa", Reggio Emilia

art:maus&muttley

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 THE LIBRARY CAN BE VISITED IN OTHER DAYS AND HOURS, ONLY BY APPOINTMENT.

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# Biblioteca - Archivio Emilio Sereni

BIBLIOTECA  
E. SERENI

18.04  
2008

Emilio Sereni was born in Rome in 1907 and he died in 1977. Until the end of the 20's, he was one of the most active representatives of the struggle against fascists, in Italy and in France too; for this reason he was imprisoned from 1930 to 1935 and then from 1943 to 1944. He was one of the protagonists of Milan Resistance and Liberation and President of the National Liberation Committee in Lombardy. After the war he became a member of The National Consult and the Constituent Assembly; from 1946 to 1947 he was minister of Postwar Assistance and Public Employment; after that he was senator and deputy until the first half of the 70's.



In 1955 he was President of the National Peasant Alliance - today called Italian Farmers Confederation - and he directed the review "Marxist Critique" from 1966 until the end of his days. Thanks to his many studies, Emilio Sereni provided an important contribution of theoretical elaboration and of empirical research about the different historic-social sciences, regarded by him with methodological severity. In 1970s he committed his heritage of books, documents and archives to CIA and to the Cervi Institute, which he was one of the charter members.



*A view of the Park*



*Consultation and reading Room*



*Conference Room*



*Bar / Rest stop*

The Library-Archive Emilio Sereni collects and organises a heritage of books and documents of great value for the history of agriculture, of rural society and of peasant labour in Italy, in Europe and in extra-european countries.

The building houses:

- \_ *Emilio Sereni Library*
- \_ *Cervi's Museum Library*
- \_ *National Historical Archive of Peasants Labours*

*Emilio Sereni Library* contains about 22.000 volumes, 200 reviews, both current and ceased, more a little section of bibliographic rarities with 170 volumes (XVI-XVIII centuries), the most of agriculture interest. The classification scheme, as Mr. Sereni wanted, is divided into four big sections: agriculture, economy, history and anthropology. Every section is arranged in undersections: the agriculture section includes history of peasant labour, sociology and rural ethnology, history of country landscape, the broad works of agricultural history both regional and local, the cultivations and yield technique. In the historical section, the works about: fascism, the Resistance, the 1st and the 2nd world wars and the history of Italy are particularly interesting, notably the varied regional stories and the brigandage. In the section of economy we can find sectors with publication of economic theory and others where economy is faced in its different realities, for example: labour, emigration and economic programming. In the end, the anthropology section presents particular undersections dedicated to popular traditions, to folklore culture, to literature, to folk songs and to dialects.



*Cervi Museum Library* was created in the course of the last thirty years. It is the result of Institute purchases and of many donations, which every year affiliations, companies, institutions and visitors give to the Museum, In order to update the section of modern history, the local history, the landscape and the history of Resistance. It comprehends 6000 volumes.

*National Historical Archive of Peasant Labour* collects documents in 1600 folders (in all about 63000 pieces) as donation or as fund from political, trade-union or private organizations, pertaining to the peasant movement, from the beginning to our days.

*Emilio Sereni's fund* is the most important and the most consistent. It includes:

- \_ *The documentation Archive*
- \_ *The bibliographic Card Index*

*The documentation Archive* reflects the enormity of Mr. Sereni's interests, who used to gather and catalogue many books and periodical publications (booklets, books, specialized articles, clippings and autograph documents). It is divided into two sections: the political-economical one and the agricultural one.

*The bibliographic Card Index* is a large collection of thousands of items, bibliographical notes and more than 300.000 file cards. It is a full-blown "private depot of knowledge", ordered on the basis of scrupulous and personal references. All the publications are about Italian agriculture, its history and its techniques, not only in Italian, as well in Russian, in English, in French and in Greek, was recorded in these file cards. A lot of notes about many branches of knowledge make Mr. Sereni the last of the encyclopedists.



*The others funds of National Historical Archive of Italian peasant movements are:*

\_ *Fund of the Federazione Nazionale mezzadri e coloni (CGIL 1944-1977)*

\_ *Fund Alleanza Nazionale dei Contadini (1955-1977)*

\_ *Fund Associazione Nazionale Assegnatari (1954-1958)*

\_ *Fund Pietro Grifone*

\_ *Fund Ruggero Grieco*

\_ *Fund Attilio Esposto (documenti dal 1968 al 1983)*

\_ *Fund Lino Vinsani*

\_ *Fund Costituente Contadina (1974-1977)*

\_ *Fund Mario Lasagni*

\_ *Fund Carte dei Dirigenti contadini*

*(by Angelo Compagnoni, Demetrio Costantino, Armando Monasterio, Giovanni Rossi, Michele Russo, Duccio Tabet, Antonio Volino) more about eighty agricultural contracts from 1932 to 1961, collected by Mr. Tabet.*



*The front of the Library*



*The Library building*



*The porch of the Library*



*The Park*