Handwriting

Italian Alphabet—Note: There is no J, K, W, or Y in the Italian Alphabet.

ITALIAN ALPHABET			
Uppercase Letter	**Sample**	**Lowercase Letter**	**Sample**
A		a	
B		b	
C		c	
D		d	
E		e	
F		f	
G		g	
H		h	
I		i	
L		l	
M		m	
N		n	
O		o	
P		p	
Q		q	
R		r	
S		s	
T		t	
U		u	
V		v	
X		x	
Z		z	
If an "i" follows a vowel, it's elongated and looks like a "j."		j	
Double "ss" will have one elongated "s."		ss	

Italian Indexing Guide
Births, Post 1875

Italian Ancestors Community Project

FamilySearch and the Italian National Archives (Direzione Generale per gli Archivi) are digitizing more than 115 million images of historic birth, marriage, and death records of the Italian civil registration (see FamilySearch.org/italian-ancestors).

Your help as an online indexing volunteer will make these records easily searchable online for free. The completed indexes will become part of the most significant and relevant collection of records for Italian genealogical research. Thanks for helping us make Italian history!

The Italian Indexing Guide assumes that you are already a registered FamilySearch indexer and are familiar with the FamilySearch indexing software. Additional FamilySearch indexing assistance can be found by visiting familysearch.org/volunteer/indexing.

Italian birth records were standardized after 1875 using the form shown in Figure 1. This Guide will help you navigate and index these post-1875 historic birth records. There are six basic elements you will be extracting from the birth records—record number, child's name, gender, birth date, father's name, and mother's name.

1. Record Number — **Margin** — **Record Type** — **Indicator of Declarant** — **Registration Date**

3. Child's Given Name — **2. Birth Date** — **4. Gender** — **6. Mother's Given Name** — **5. Father's Given Name**

3. Child's Surname — **6. Mother's Surname** — **5. Father's Surname**

Figure 1. A typical post-1875 Italian Birth Record

Six Basic Elements

**1. Record Number:** A number always written in the margin, sometimes spelled out:
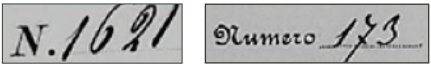
The margin is the column located on the left or right of the birth record that gives the record number, child's name, and any corrections or additions to the record.

2. Birth Date

- Records of birth aren't always recorded on the day the child was born. Don't confuse the birth date with the registration date.
- The registration date is always at the top of the record.
- The birth date is usually written lower on the record.

3. Child's Given Name and Surname

- The child's name will be listed in the margin and in the text.
- n.n. = nessun nome = no name
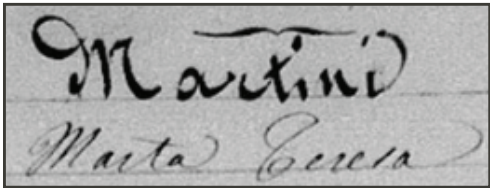
4. Gender

GENDER	
Italian	**English**
bambino	baby
maschile	male
femminile	female

5. Father's Given Name and Surname

- The father's name usually follows this phrase: **è comparso**
- The father's name could be found occasionally following the mother's name, if he's not the declarant.
- Caution: "Maria" is a common middle name for men.

Declarant: One who declares legally the birth of the child.

The declarant is usually the father. In some instances it may be the midwife (indicated by gender and occupation) or another family member.

DECLARANT	
Italian	**English**
è comparso, è comparsa	has appeared
ostetrice, ostetrica	midwife
levatrice	midwife

6. Mother's Given Name

If the father is the declarant, the mother's name follows the word "da."

If the midwife is the declarant, then the mother's and father's names follow the word "da." The mother's name is typically listed first under her maiden name.

PARENTAL PHRASE	
Italian	**English**
da sua moglie	by his wife
padre ignoto, padre sconosciuto	father unknown
genitori ignoti	parents unknown
seco lui convivente	she resided with him

Dates

In civil registers, dates are usually written out.

EXAMPLE: FEBRUARY 15, 1863	
Italian	**English**
L'anno milleottocentosessantatre il di quindici di febbraio	The year one thousand eight hundred sixty three on the day fifteen of February.
L'anno	the year
mille	one thousand
ottocento	eight hundred
sessanta	sixty
tre	three
addì quindici	on the day fifteen
di febbraio	of February

DAYS	
Italian	**English**
domenica	Sunday
lunedì	Monday
martedì	Tuesday
mercoledì	Wednesday
giovedì	Thursday
venerdì	Friday
sabato	Saturday

Months
When stating the birth month, the following terms are commonly used:

- *corrente*–current
- *scorso*–last (last month)
- *andante*–ongoing (ongoing or current month that's just beginning)
- *spirante*–expiring (expiring or current month that's drawing to a conclusion)

MONTHS		
Italian	**Abbreviations**	**English**
gennaio	genn.°	January
febbraio	feb.°	February
marzo	N/A	March
aprile	N/A	April
maggio	mag.°	May
giugno	giu.°	June
luglio	lug.°	July
agosto	N/A	August
settembre	7bre	September
ottobre	8bre	October
novembre	9bre	November
dicembre	Xbre	December

NUMBERS			
English	**Italian**	**English**	**Italian**
1	uno	1st	primo
2	due	2nd	secondo
3	tre	3rd	terzo
4	quattro	4th	quarto
5	cinque	5th	quinto
6	sei	6th	sesto
7	sette	7th	settimo
8	otto	8th	ottavo
9	nove	9th	nono
10	dieci	10th	decimo
11	undici	11th	undicesimo
12	dodici	12th	dodicesimo
13	tredici	13th	tredicesimo
14	quattordici	14th	quattordicesimo
15	quindici	15th	quindicesimo
16	sedici	16th	sedicesimo
17	diciasette	17th	diciasettesimo

NUMBERS			
English	**Italian**	**English**	**Italian**
18	diciotto	18th	diciottesimo
19	diciannove	19th	diciannovesimo
20	venti	20th	ventesimo
30	trenta	30th	trentesimo
40	quaranta		
50	cinquanta		
60	sessanta		
70	settanta		
80	ottanta		
90	novanta		
100	cento		

KEY WORDS	
Italian	**English**
anni	years
anno	year
dì	day
gemello/a	twin
giorno	day
ieri	yesterday
ignoto	unknown
mese	month
oggi	today
ora	hour
ore	hours
scorso/a	last
stesso/a	same

Help and Training