

TUNING IN ACTIVITIES

Signature objects (English)



The Madonna with angels

What type of object is it?

Why was it brought to Australia?

Where might it have been placed in the home?

What does it tell us about the Italian migrants' culture?



Antique coffee machine

Is this a typical coffee machine? Why or why not?

Are you familiar with other types of coffee makers?

Why were such items important for Italian migrants?

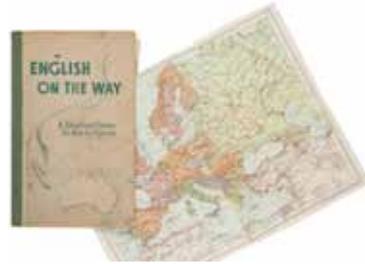


Mandolin and accordion

If a migrant had to choose a musical instrument to take with him/her, what would he/she choose today?

With which Italian city is the mandolin associated?

What is the name of the popular Italian dance music played on instruments such as the violin, clarinet and accordion?



English on the way – a shipboard course for New Australians

Did this book come from Italy?

What purpose did it serve?

Do you think it is one of the most important items?



Barber tools

Can you name the objects?

Would you find them in a modern hairdresser's shop? Why?



Typewriter

Is the typewriter a typical object that migrants would have packed in their luggage?

What might it tell us about the person who brought it?



Boxing gloves

Do these represent a typical Italian sport?

What Italian sporting objects are not included in the images?

Have Italian sporting habits changed over the years?



Polenta paddle

What was the purpose of this object?

In which area of Italy was polenta a staple?

Do you know of other typical Italian carbohydrates?

Do you know of any other typical Italian cooking utensils?



Chestnut furniture

Of what is this toy furniture made?

Can you find a reason for the use of such materials?

Is it a rich child's toy? Why?

If you were a child, what toy would you take with you?



Female shoes

What are the shoes made of?

Do you think that they are everyday footwear? What occasion may they have been worn?



Commedia dell'Arte mask

What type of comedy used these masks?

Name some of its characters.

Research who was Carlo Goldoni and what is the play 'The Servant of Two Masters'.



Medal for the Balilla uniform

What material is this medal made of?

What meaning did it have for its owner?



Mostarda moulds

Do you know what 'mostarda' is?

What significance did these objects have for their owner?

Writing Activities

- Now place each object in its correct category. Some objects can be placed in several columns.

daily life	entertainment	sport	work	children

- Choose two objects and write approximately 100 words about them.
What were they used for?

Why were they brought to Australia? Did they have emotional, cultural or family significance?

(Refer to the background notes for each object)

3. Write 100 – 150 words on what you would take with you if you had to leave Australia for a another country about which you knew little. Why did you choose these objects?

What is their importance for you?

4. To conclude, explain the differences between objects brought out by migrants in the 50s and 60s and the items you have chosen. There may also be similarities.

Why do these differences and similarities exist? How has society changed?

SIGNATURE OBJECTS BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Background information

- 1) **la Madonna con gli angeli** / Madonna and angels
- 2) **l'antica macchina da caffè** / antique coffee machine
- 3) **il mandolino e la fisarmonica** / mandolin & accordion
- 4) **il corso d'inglese** / English on the way – a shipboard course for New Australians
- 5) **gli attrezzi da barbiere** / barber tools
- 6) **la macchina da scrivere** / typewriter
- 7) **i guantoni da pugilato** / boxing gloves
- 8) **il mestolo per la polenta** / polenta paddle
- 9) **i mobili di castagne** / chestnut furniture
- 10) **le scarpe da donna** / female shoes
- 11) **la maschera della Commedia dell'Arte** / Commedia dell'Arte mask
- 12) **la medaglia per la divisa da Balilla** / medal for the Balilla uniform
- 13) **gli stampi per la mostarda** /mostarda moulds

la Madonna con gli angeli

Madonna and angels (lender Tamburrino)

It was given to the original owner as a wedding gift. It hung above the marital bed and was brought to Australia in 1958. The religious picture includes Our Lady and Jesus and they are surrounded by angels. The angels are wearing garlands of flowers.

Manufactured in 1947-1948. Place of Origin – Varapodio, Reggio Calabria, ITALY

l'antica macchina da caffè

Coffee machine (lender Mecca)

This electric espresso coffee machine and water warmer (for tea) was produced by the Italian company SIMERAC from Ferrara in the 1920s.

It was distributed by the Italian company ZEROWATT. It was a model designed for use onboard yachts and small ships. Its strong and thick wooden base allowed it to be anchored on top of a bench. It is made of plated brass.

It belonged to the lender's grandfather who was director of Genoa's Main Post Office and a journalist for a leading newspaper in Genoa. He was keen on anything innovative and of unusual design. The machine was hardly used and is still in excellent working condition.

il mandolino e la fisarmonica

Mandolin & Accordion (lender Cramerì)

The lender remembers that both instruments were played by her father on family and social occasions. Place of origin – Lipari (Italy) Year of transportation to Australia: 1921 for the accordion. The mandolin was brought in Australia.

il corso d'inglese

English on the way – a shipboard course for New Australians (lender Moppi)

The English course book was distributed onboard the ship *Roma*, for immigrants coming to Australia, in 1958.

The book contains notes written in by the lender and the lender attributes his knowledge of English to this book. The donor spent some time in Bonegilla Reception Centre and he studied the book often during his time there.

gli attrezzi da barbiere

Barber tools (lender Angerame)

The barber tools include a neck clipper, thinning scissors, lacquer sprayer, shaving cream container, brilliantine container, hand razor and cigarette case.

Ernesto Angerame came from Viggiano, Basilicata. He opened the Sportsmen's Saloon, a barber/tobacconist shop at 330 Lygon Street, and operated the business from 1949 to 1984.

He arrived in Melbourne in 1937 to join his brother Giovanni, who migrated in 1927. Ernesto learnt the trade from his brother and after experience in various barber shops he opened his own. His shop attracted many Italians in the area and he became the official barber for the Carlton Football Club.

la macchina da scrivere

Typewriter (lender Mangiamele)

The Olivetti Studio 44 Typewriter was light and compact. It was introduced in 1952 around the same time as the Olivetti Lettera 22 which was the prototype of the portable typewriter. Conceived in 1950 as Italian society was engaged in post-war reconstruction, it was quickly adopted above all by journalists, who particularly appreciated its ease in handling.

The Olivetti Studio 44 Typewriter and case manufactured in Italy was used by Giorgio Mangiamele to type film scripts. Giorgio typed numerous film scripts on this typewriter and also took it with him to Papua New Guinea in 1979-1982, when appointed to the office of information.

i guantoni da pugilato

Boxing gloves (lender Greco)

The boxing gloves belong to prize winning kick boxer, Sam Greco. He gained respect from his peers in part because it was a contact sport. He says "At school I felt second-rated irrespective of how I did, because I was Italian. This changed when I got involved in contact sports." He now runs Don Camillo's, an Italian caffè/bar with a long history in the Italian community.

il mestolo per la polenta

Polenta paddle (donor Bartolomè)

Made in Italy during 1948-1950.

i mobili di castagne

Chestnut furniture – replica (donor Mannelli)

The chestnut toys are replicas of dolls house furniture made by migrants when they were children in Italy. They were unable to afford toys and often used fruit and nuts to make objects to entertain themselves. They also made soccer balls out of newsprint and fashioned spinning tops from twigs and boys especially fashioned marbles from clay which were then baked in ovens. Other games they enjoyed included hopscotch and board games like Tombola.

le scarpe da donna

Female shoes (lender Pinzone)

These shoes belonged to a bride, who's family came from the Aeolian Islands. These bridal clothes were expensive and fashionable in the 1920s.

la maschera della Commedia dell'Arte

Commedia dell'Arte mask (donor Mangione)

The Commedia dell'Arte mask was created by artist Tessa Wallis for the production of *Arlecchino* by Carlo Goldoni. Commedia dell'Arte is an Italian Comedic form involving full on theatre madness, improvisation and satire. The Italian Theatre Company in Melbourne has been staging regular productions of classical and contemporary plays for 25 years.

la medaglia per la divisa da Balilla

Medallion for the Balilla uniform (lender Maneschi)

An aluminum medallion given to the lender in the eighteenth year of the Fascist regime (AD 1940) whilst a Balilla. The lender was a member of Mussolini's youth (GIL- Gioventù Italiana del Littorio).

The intended purpose of the medallion was to wear it as part of the Balilla uniform on Saturday afternoon parades.

"The *Balilla* program was mandatory in all secondary schools... Associations like the Boy Scouts were dissolved at the start of Fascism and replaced by Balilla paramilitary squadrons. Uniforms were worn and military drill was compulsory every Saturday afternoon in Italian schools. There was some choice of 'corps', however, and the Istituto Leone XIII's Balillas were of the Navy persuasion. We all dressed up as *marinaretti* (little sailors) and attended our weekly *adunate* (parades) in the courtyard...

To show we were Balillas we wore the regulation fascist steel medallion, with the helmeted head of il Duce, chin jutting forward as was his wont. The head was surrounded by one of the Regime's favorite slogans: Credere- Obbedire-Combattere (to believe, to obey, to fight) and the letters G.I.L., which stood for Gioventù Italiana del Littorio (Italian Lictorial Youth)."

From 'Giovinezza' – Wartime Memories of an Italo-Australian schoolboy – Gimminnderra Press, 2007 – pp. 20-22.

Year of manufacture 1940.

gli stampi per la mostarda

Mostarda moulds (lender Bonacquisto)

Moulds, used to dry jelly which was created by cooking prickly pears. Manufactured during the 1800s. Made of terracotta. Country of Origin: Militello Val di Catania (Catania) Sicily ITALY.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Image slideshow – (English)

Children

What aspects of children's lives do you see in the images?

Are there objects or situations in the images you would not find today?

How different were children's lives in the 50s / 60s from those of today?

Daily life

What aspects of daily modern life are not shown in the images?

What are the people in front of the house doing? Why did they meet?

Do you think such gatherings were common in the 50s / 60s?

Find typical items from the 50s/60s in the image of the woman making ravioli.

One of the pictures is an 'odd man out'. Which one and why?

Work

List the jobs shown in the images.

Do you think they were typical migrant jobs?

Do the images leave out other common migrant occupations?

What do you think they might be?

How have occupations undertaken by Italians and their descendants changed since the 50s?

Entertainment

Some of the images have a common theme. What is it?

One photo is different from the others. Which one and why?

What do the photos tell us about migrants' leisure time activities?

If you were asked to add other activities, which would you choose?

Sport

Which of the pictures depict typical Italian sports?

Was it important for Italians and their children to participate in sporting competitions?

Sort the objects into the categories below.

15 pairs of socks	quilt	shoes	rug
3 picture frames	scarf	4 mattresses	colander
tablecloths and napkins	coffee service	brazier	a throw
shirts	a pair of cushions	pillowcases	a small pillow
antique coal iron	pullover	underwear	a tray

Clothing	Household linen
Objects for the table/ kitchen	Other objects

If you had to immigrate what would you put into your trunk?
Why would you choose these objects?
