

BANCA AGRICOLA MANTOVANA

The sequestration of some commercial enterprises was decided by the Head of Province of Mantua on 28 December 1943. These were two hardware shops, one owned by Emanuele Dina and the other by Edoardo Gallico, and a furrier's shop owned by Bruno Vivanti and Clelia Della Pergola, along with goods consisting of 152 bales of canvas and 24 sacks of glue found in the home of Emilio Mortara. The sequestrator nominated for the above goods was the solicitor Socrate Petazzi. The sequestration decree shows that Petazzi was obliged to exercise the powers invested in him complying both with the law of war, specifically from article 299 of rd 1415/1938, and from article 8 of the ruling for the treatment of enemy goods, approved with rd 618/1941 of 10 March¹.

The sequestrator compiled a highly detailed report of sequestration for both the Dina commercial enterprise and the Vivanti furrier's, listing all the goods and furnishings found in the shop.² The sale of some of the goods in question began from the month of February on the authorisation of the Head of Province of Mantua: 850 kilograms of waste paper were sold to the highest bidder for a total of L.2,720, while 1,420 kilograms of wood, also from the Dina hardware shop, were sold to the Provincial Consortium of Butchers. Authorisation from the Prefecture was requested for the use of the stove in the Vivanti's shop by the same consortium, granted on 25 January 1944.³ A total of L.2,000 was collected by the Mantua city council for supply of hardware to the German command,⁴ while the Mantua Federation of Republican Fascist Branches was given the use of a Lancia Augusta car and two canopies, owned by Dina and valued overall at L.45,000, by the Head of Province.⁵ The Dina and Vivanti companies were managed by the solicitor Petazzi until they were sold. At the end of the sequestration, he drew up an account of his actions during that period:⁶

¹ ASMn (State Archives, Mantua), *Egeli*, b. 3 "Year 1945 – Jewish Property Department – Urban buildings from No. 139 to No. 166", fasc. 139 "Ditta Vivanti Fratelli – furrier's (commercial enterprise)", copy, dated 21 June 1944, of the sequestration decree of 28 December 1943. The legal decrees cited are rd 1415/1938, "Approval of the texts of the law of war and the law of neutrality" and rd 618/1941, "Approval of the regulation relating to the treatment of enemy goods in state territory". Article 299 of rd 1415/1938, relating to the powers of the sequestrator, stated that he was obliged to provide for the security, preservation and maintenance of the sequestered goods, under the supervision of the Head of the local Revenue Office. In all his authorised actions, he had to "apply the diligence of a good family father". Particular attention was paid when consulting the EGELI collection at the State Archives of Mantua to the eventual fate of the commercial enterprises subject to the provision of sequestration and confiscation. A lack of time prevented a full analysis being made of what happened to all the Jewish-owned businesses in the city. However, further useful information can be found in the bank documentation that the Commission acquired.

² ASMn (State Archives, Mantua), *Egeli*, b. 3 "Year 1945 – Jewish Property Department – Urban buildings from No. 139 to No. 166", fasc. 140 "Dina Emanuele – hardware shop, commercial enterprise", Report of sequestration of Jewish goods Ditta Dina Emanuele, begun on 5 January 1944 and ended on 19 January 1944; *ibid.*, fasc. 139 "Ditta Vivanti Fratelli – furrier's (commercial enterprise)", Report of sale by private treaty, 27 April 1944 with attached Report of sequestration of Jewish goods – Ditta fratelli Vivanti, drafting completed 26 January 1944

³ *Ibid.*, fasc. 140 "Dina Emanuele – hardware shop, commercial enterprise", copy of the authorisation of the Head of Province of Mantua to Socrate Petazzi, 18 April 1944; copy of the authorisation of the Head of Province of Mantua to the Provincial Consortium of Butchers, 19 February 1942; invoice sent by the sequestrator of the Ditta Dina to the Provincial Consortium of Butchers, 1 May 1944; invoice sent by the sequestrator of the Ditta Dina to Mario De Marchi, 26 April 1944; declaration of the Provincial Consortium of Butchers, 25 February 1944; fasc. 139 "Ditta Vivanti Fratelli – furrier's (commercial enterprise)", declaration of the Prefectorial Commissioner of the Provincial Consortium of Butchers, 25 February 1944.

⁴ *Ibid.*, fasc. 140 "Dina Emanuele – hardware shop commercial enterprise", invoice sent by the sequestrator of the Ditta Dina to the German Command in Mantua, 29 August 1944; letter from Socrate Petazzi to the EGELI representative for Mantua, 23 June 1944 with Ditta E. Dina statement presented by the solicitor Petazzi, sequestrator of the Ditta Dina, 21 June 1944.

⁵ *Ibid.*, note of fees from Benito Bedotti, 1 June 1944.

⁶ *Ibid.*, letter from Socrate Petazzi to the EGELI representative for Mantua, 23 June 1944 with attached Ditta E. Dina statement presented by the solicitor Petazzi, 21 June 1944; List of outstanding liabilities, 21 June 1944; copy of the disbursements and fees

The sequestrator of Carlo Norsa's fabric shop in Mantua was the solicitor Bruno Castellini. Assisted by a representative of the Provincial Corporation Office, he drew up a detailed inventory of the business, which amounted to L.524,061.75, following the instructions given by the Head of Province and the Head of the local Revenue Office. The goods from the business were sold "shortly before the inventory and shortly after the necessary authorisations from the Head of Province", as is noted in the report on the Ditta Norsa drawn up by Castellini, to the Mantua Opera Nazionale Balilla, the local orphanage, the Federation of Republican Fascist Branches of Mantua and a group of German officers.⁷

The Vivanti and Dina companies and Carlo Norsa's fabric shop were sold by private treaty – all at different times on 27 April 1944 – at the Mantua Revenue Office. A representative of the EGELI and the sequestrator of the asset in question also took part in the operation, in the presence of the revenue officer himself. The deeds of sale for the businesses show that the Ministry of Finance had authorised the sale of Jewish-owned commercial enterprises subject to confiscation in the province of Mantua to third parties at the best offer in February 1944. A specification for the sale by private treaty was drawn up by the Provincial Corporate Economy Council, by proxy of the Prefecture.

The deeds of sale for the businesses carry the obligations the purchasers were required to meet, as already mentioned in the said specification: the goods were to be immediately released for use in the city and the sale made under the control of a not otherwise specified "special commission set up for the purpose". The latter would then in future also have the authority to check the sales and that its dispositions were observed. The deeds of sale also contain clauses that presumably applied to any type of commercial enterprise: prior to their release for use, some of the tools collected had to be given to the Civil Engineer, while the industrial items not available on the local market were to have gone to tradesmen "designated by the competent federation" and the everyday fabrics to hospitals; the prices of the sales for use were also subject to control.

The deeds of sale also show that the purchaser was obliged, at risk of immediate cancellation of the contract, to remove "the name of the Jewish firm to which the commercial enterprise, object of this contract, belonged", from the signs, the accounts stationery, documents and any other sign or indication of the firm.⁸

note, 21 June 1944; *ibid.*, fasc. "Ditta Vivanti Fratelli – furrier's (commercial enterprise)", statement from solicitor Socrate Petazzi sequestrator of the Jewish furrier's commercial enterprise F.li Vivanti, 23 June 1944.

⁷ *Ibid.*, b. 15 "Year 1945 – Jewish Property Department – Schedules – EGELI Administration, Management of Jewish assets, Legal decrees", fasc. "Ditta Norsa Carlo (Fabrics) commercial enterprise", statement of the management of Carlo Norsa's firm drawn up by the sequestrator; invoices for the goods seized sent to the Opera Nazionale Balilla, the local orphanage, the Federation of Republican Fascist Branches of Mantua, all dated 14 January 1944 apart from one undated.

⁸ *Ibid.*, copy of the commercial enterprise deed of sale, 5 June 1944; *ibid.*, b. 3 "Year 1945 – Jewish Property Department – Urban buildings from No. 139 to No. 166", fasc. 139 "Ditta Vivanti Fratelli – furrier's (commercial enterprise)", copy of the commercial enterprise deed of sale, Rep. No. 9551, 2 June 1944 (this last document does not actually carry the entire year, but it is evident that it refers to 1944). Article 320 of rd 1415/1938, "Approval of the texts of the law of war and the law of neutrality", Title V, Section 2a, confirmed, that "due to special reasons", the Ministry of Finance could order the liquidation of the "enemy commercial enterprises" placed under sequestration.

The fabric shop belonging to Carlo Norsa, sequestered on 28 December 1943 and confiscated on 21 April 1944, was sold by auction for L.455,000; the reserve price was L.450,000. The successful bidder was the only person present at the auction, Giuseppe Calmonti, who presented a bid on a secret form for that sum;⁹ on the orders of the EGELI, the sum of money had to be paid by the purchaser in cash and the proceeds of the sale, net of any disbursements or fees, had to be paid into the account for confiscated Jewish goods at the BAM (Banca Agricola Mantovana).¹⁰

Eight potential purchasers were invited to take part in the auction for the firm of Emanuele Dina, consisting of goods, furnishings and goodwill, confiscated under a decree of 24 April 1944; the reserve price was L.35,000.¹¹ The highest successful bid, of L.457,505, was made by Guglielmo Bacchi.¹²

On 3 May 1944 Arrigo Marocchi, Chairman of the farm machinery company of the same name, presented a petition to the Head of Province of Mantua asking for an explanation as to why his company had been excluded from the auction of the commercial enterprise mentioned above. He declared that at the time he had presented a request for this to the sequestrator, having intended to offer a “fairly considerable sum” for the purchase of the Dina shop. He would have been interested in using the raw materials listed in the inventory so as to “increase operations in his own workshop and the continuity of work for his workforce”.¹³ He asked that the auction be repeated or at least that a good part of the material in question be assigned to him.

On receiving the petition and turning to the Provincial Corporation Council for advice, the Banca Agricola Mantovana answered the company as follows: “We can confidentially inform you that your exclusion was due to the intention you expressed at that time, and confirmed in the above mentioned letter, to directly use a good part of the company’s materials. This was in contrast with higher directives, which, among the intended aims of the sale of Jewish firms, included that of immediately putting on the market all the available material. Regarding the request for assignment of part of the former Dina company’s materials, we can specify that we have no authority in this

⁹ ASMn, *Egeli*, b. 3 “Year 1945 – Jewish Property Department– Urban buildings from No. 139 to No. 166”, b. 15 “Year 1945 – Jewish Property Department– Schedules – EGELI Administration, Management of Jewish assets, Legal decrees”, fasc. “Ditta Norsa Carlo (Fabrics) commercial enterprise”, copy of report of sale by private treaty, 27 April 1944.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, letter from the commissioner of the EGELI to Calpurnio Moreschi, EGELI representative and assistant manager of the BAM, 9 May 1944.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, b. 3 “Year 1945 – Jewish Property Department– Urban buildings from No. 139 to No. 166”, fasc. 139 “Ditta Vivanti Fratelli – furrier’s (commercial enterprise)”, report of sale by private treaty, 27 April 1944. On the basis of art. 89 of rd 827/1924, “Ruling for the administration of wealth and the general accounting of the state”, Title II, Item III, Section IIa, the private treaty proceeded by inviting people or companies thought suitable, by means of special notices, to appear in a set place at a set date to present their verbal or written bids; the other method that could be used was to send an outline with a description of the object being auctioned with an invitation to return it with the bid. In the first case the selected bidders presented their offers in person if spoken or in writing if by secret bid.

¹² *Ibid.*, b. 3 “Year 1945 – Jewish Property Department– Urban buildings from No. 139 to No. 166”, fasc. 139 “Ditta Vivanti Fratelli – furrier’s (commercial enterprise)”, report of sale by private treaty, 27 April 1944.

¹³ *Ibid.*, b. 3 “Year 1945 – Jewish Property Department– Urban buildings from No. 139 to No. 166”, fasc. 140 “Dina Emanuele – hardware commercial enterprise”, petition from Arrigo Marocchi, chairman of the farm machinery company of the same name, to the Head of Province of Mantua, 3 May 1944.

and that your documented request should be sent solely to the Provincial Corporation Council".¹⁴

The papers available do not offer any information on how the matter was concluded.

The Vivanti commercial enterprise was sold to Silvia Blasi for L.1,000 more than the auction reserve price of L.200,000. None of the people called by the Prefecture of Mantua to appear at the auction attended, but the company was in any case knocked down to the woman, who appeared at the auction asking permission to make a spoken bid. Her bid was accepted on the immediately granted authorisation of the Prefecture.

News of the auctions held had, however, appeared in the local newspaper *La Voce di Mantova*, though it is not known how this occurred.¹⁵

The sequestration and subsequent confiscation of the haberdashery of Ebe Rossi D'Angeli took place on 28 December 1943 and 21 April 1944; the furnishings and goods of the company were valued by an expert nominated by the head of the local Revenue Office at L.41,864, to which goodwill of 10% was added. This company was also sold by private treaty, "lawful directives [having been] given by the property management corporation". The bids for this purchase also had to be made on secret forms and sent in a sealed envelope. The deed of sale of the company, of which a copy is in the files, refers, as with the other companies mentioned, to a "specification for the sale by private treaty of the commercial enterprises in Mantua formerly belonging to Jewish companies" compiled by the Provincial Corporate Economy Council of that city by proxy of the Prefecture.¹⁶

The haberdashery was sold on 31 May 1944. The auction was held in the presence of the sequestrator of the company and an EGELI representative, under the supervision of the head of the local Revenue Office. Maria Menozzi was the only one of the two potential buyers to attend, and the company was knocked down to her for L.46,500.¹⁷

The notary deed of sale for the commercial enterprise in question, signed on 1 July 1944, carried the same clauses as those referred to for the other commercial enterprises mentioned above.¹⁸

When the enterprise was handed over to the buyer, it was noted that some of the goods, valued at L.8,855, had been stolen. Although the sequestrator reported this to the local police station, those responsible were not traced and the inquiry was closed, with "the perpetrators of the crime

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, letter from the BAM to the company of Arrigo Marocchi, 23 May 1944. Few of the copies or minutes of the letters sent by the BAM carry a signature or any indication of the sender; the Jewish Assets Administration was certainly the body that dealt with questions relating to commercial enterprises belonging to Jews.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, fasc. 139 "Ditta Vivanti Fratelli – furrier's (commercial enterprise)", report of sale by private treaty, 27 April 1944; statement of Raimondo and Bruno Generali to the Head of Province of Mantua, 22 April 1944.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, fasc. 145 "Ditta Ebe Rossi D'Angeli – commercial enterprise", copy of the commercial enterprise deed of sale, Rep. N. 9577, 1 July 1944; *ibid.*, s.fasc. "Rossi Ebe D'Angeli", letter from Carlo Magri, sequestrator of the company to Calpurnio Moreschi, assistant manager of the BAM and EGELI representative, 19 May 1944; letter from the sequestrator of the company in which the sender is not shown, 5 May 1944; copy of the report on the sale by private treaty which took place on 31 May 1944.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, copy of the report on the sale by private treaty which took place on 31 May 1944.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, fasc. 145 "Ditta Ebe Rossi D'Angeli – commercial enterprise", copy of the commercial enterprise deed of sale, Rep. N. 9577, 1 July 1944.

remaining unknown”.¹⁹ The woman who had bought the company presented a petition to the bank for reimbursement of the sum corresponding to the missing goods. To this end, the EGELI commissioner advised that, as the purchase price had been based on the inventory plus 10%, she should be paid a total sum of L.9,740.50, “corresponding to the part of the purchase price relating to the goods that were removed by unknown persons”.²⁰ She was paid this sum in October 1944.²¹

A letter sent by the sequestrator of the company, the solicitor Carlo Magri, to the Jewish Assets Administration of the Banca Agricola Mantovana shows the procedures used for the sale of commercial enterprises in Mantua. The sale price was fixed on the basis of the value of the furnishings and goods “placed under sequestration”. In approving the methods and conditions of sale, the commission nominated by the Head of Province, which included a councillor from the Prefecture, the head of the local Revenue Office, the director of the Provincial Economy Council and the sequestrators, thought that the companies in question should be sold with a surcharge of 10% corresponding to goodwill. The potential buyers, who could view the list of furnishings, goods and relative prices on the sequestration report, were given the assurance that the sale was of the goods described in that report, apart from any that may have in the meantime been entrusted to third parties.²²

On 19 September 1945, the BAM, in its role as EGELI representative, paid the sum of L.9,768.70 to a procurator of the legitimate owner of the company, Ebe Rossi D’Angeli, “as cash balance resulting from the sale of the commercial enterprise confiscated by the pseudo government of the RSI”.²³ Exactly one year later, the procurator of Ebe Rossi D’Angeli, “having seen the statement officially shown to her”, asked the bank to reimburse the expenses of the valuer, the liquidator’s assistant and the fee paid at the time to the solicitor sequestrator. The request for this last sum gave rise to some correspondence that seems to have ended with the woman withdrawing her claim: according to the EGELI Commissioner the sum in question was at the owner’s cost, on the basis of dlgt 393/1946 of 6 May; the owner maintained, on the contrary, that the solicitor should have been included in the fees due to the administrators and therefore, according to art. 8, Magri should not be considered as a manager but rather as simply the sequestrator, in that his work was limited to drawing up an inventory and selling the company.²⁴

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, s.fasc. “Rossi Ebe D’Angeli”, copy of the letter from the Jewish Goods Administration of the BAM to the EGELI, 23 August 1944; letter from the solicitor Carlo Magri to the Jewish Assets Administration of the BAM, 25 September 1944; *ibid.*, fasc. 145 “Ditta Ebe Rossi D’Angeli – commercial enterprise”, petition of Maria Menozzi, nee Begatti, to the EGELI, 30 July 1944; copy of the report of theft presented by the sequestrator solicitor Carlo Magri, 10 July 1944.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, fasc. 145 “Ditta Ebe Rossi D’Angeli – commercial enterprise”, receipt signed by Maria Menozzi, 4 October 1944, petition of Maria Menozzi Begatti to the EGELI at the BAM, 30 July 1944; *ibid.*, s.fasc. “Rossi Ebe D’Angeli”, copy of the letter from the Jewish Assets Administration of the BAM to the EGELI, 23 August 1944; the Commissioner of the EGELI to BAM, 12 September 1944.

²¹ *Ibid.*, fasc. 145 “Ditta Ebe Rossi D’Angeli – commercial enterprise”, receipt signed by Maria Menozzi, 4 October 1944.

²² *Ibid.*, letter from the solicitor Carlo Magri to the BAM, 5 August 1944.

²³ *Ibid.*, receipt signed by Ebe D’Angeli, Rossi’s widow, 19 September 1945.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, petition of Ines Rossi, procurator of the Ditta Ebe Rossi D’Angeli, to the BAM, 5 September 1946; letter from the Special Commissioner of the EGELI to the BAM, 12 October 1946; letter from the procurator of the Ditta Ebe Rossi D’Angeli to the BAM,

A letter from the Ditta Rossi D'Angeli says that: "I continue to claim that I would certainly not have paid such expenses if I had remained in possession of my company, and that is in accordance with the real spirit of art. 8 of dlgt 393/1946, which cannot be given any other interpretation".²⁵ Some days later the Special Commissioner of the EGELI confirmed the instructions already given.²⁶

Maria Norma Menozzi had bought the company in 1944, and on her part requested reimbursement of L.15,271.30 in February 1947 "representing the value of the goods returned to the owner at the time of his return". Before granting authorisation to make the requested payment, the EGELI asked the BAM for a declaration from the owner of the company stating that he no longer had any claim to the sum in question.²⁷

The procurator of the company issued the requested declaration, but at the same time requested the return of the sums at the time requested by the valuer and the liquidator's assistant, amounting to L.650, a sum the EGELI itself had established was not chargeable to the owner. No further mention of the sum paid to the sequestrator solicitor Magri was made.²⁸ The correspondence shows that the sum to be paid to the owner was deducted from the total of 15,271.30 owed to the buyer of the company as being equivalent to the goods returned to Ebe Rossi D'Angeli on his return.²⁹

The Ditta Dirce Coen Vitali was confiscated on 21 April 1944, but when the sequestrator visited the company's shop there were no goods present, as the owner had sold them all in the summer of 1943. The shop, which sold retail items and had a fairly modest turnover, had been subsequently used by the Shopkeepers Union for the sale of goods taken from the black market.

The company was sold with the necessary authorisations on 26 April 1944 by private treaty for L.31,500; on 6 October 1945 the haberdashery shop and its relative equipment was returned to its owner.³⁰

The papers relating to the Vivanti furrier's are interesting for what they show happened immediately after the War. The copy of a letter sent to the EGELI by a not otherwise defined official of the "Clearance Office for Management of Confiscated Jewish Assets", suggests that a regular, ratified restitution "with the usual report" of the Jewish commercial enterprises had not

16 October 1946. On the basis of art. 8 of dlgt 393/1946, *Claims for assets that were confiscated, sequestered or in any case seized from racially persecuted citizens under the rule of the self-styled government of the Social Republic*, the fees due to the managers were also charged to the management account.

²⁵ ASMn, *Egeli*, b. 3 "Year 1945 – Jewish Property Department – Urban buildings from No. 139 to No. 166", fasc. 145 "Ditta Ebe Rossi D'Angeli – commercial enterprise", letter from the procurator of the Ditta Ebe Rossi D'Angeli to the BAM, 16 October 1946.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, letter from the Special Commissioner of the EGELI to the BAM, 30 October 1946

²⁷ *Ibid.*, petition of Maria Norma Menozzi to the BAM, 13 February 1947; letter from the Special Commissioner of the EGELI to the BAM, 5 March 1947.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, petition of Ines Rossi, procurator of the Ditta Ebe Rossi D'Angeli, to the BAM, 5 September 1946; letter from the Special Commissioner of the EGELI to the BAM, 12 October 1946; declaration of the procurator of the Ditta Ebe Rossi D'Angeli to the EGELI, 11 March 1947.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, copy of the receipt signed by Maria Norma Menozzi on 24 May 1947; letter from the BAM to the EGELI, 30 April 1947.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, fasc. 154 "Ditta Coen Dirce Vitali – commercial enterprise", statement drawn up by the sequestrator of the company, 18 August 1942; Report of return of Jewish goods previously subject to confiscation on the basis of dlgt 2/1944 of the defunct government of the RSI and managed by the EGELI, 6 October 1945; declaration of Dirce Coen Vitali, 7 October 1945; *ibid.*, s.fasc. "Coen Dirce Vitali (haberdashery)", copy of the commercial enterprise deed of sale, Rep. No. 9628, 25 September 1944; report of sale by private treaty, 26 April 1944.

been made as had been the case for the real estate, in that the owners had “resumed possession of their enterprises and were reimbursed with the uncollected management balances, apart from some adjustments made by agreement between the parties”.³¹ The legitimate owners of the company in question regained possession of the enterprise from 14 August 1945 and were given back objects and goods to a value of L.68,437.

Silvia Salvagni Blasi, who had bought the Vivanti furrier’s, had been requesting repayment of the value of the goods returned since December 1945. These came to a total, according to other documentation, of L.67,637. On 4 January 1946 the Milan representative of the EGELI replied that he was not authorised to make the requested reimbursement, as he was awaiting higher rulings regarding the reconveyance of Jewish-owned goods.³² The credit balance of the sequestration management came to L.67,449.86 in August 1946 and in the same month the bank asked the EGELI if it were possible to reimburse the “the available cash surplus of the stock to the transferee company”.³³ The EGELI requested as guarantee that no claims relating to the return of the enterprise on the part of the owner company should be made. At first it seemed that the owners of the Ditta Vivanti intended taking legal action to claim all the objects purchased by Blasi, and at the end of September the special commission of the EGELI advised that the payment was subject to the outcome of the possible action.³⁴

In July 1950 a further request was made by the Mantua bank to resolve the matter. The EGELI asked for the management position in question to be ended and the resulting sum, updated with interest, be transferred to an account held at the Rome branch of the Istituto di San Paolo di Torino, which the BAM carried out some days later. The files also contain an undated but contemporary declaration by Blasi, in which she declares that she is prepared to accept the sum corresponding to the credit balance of the sequestration management with interest from the date of the sale of the company.³⁵

At the end of the War, Carlo Norscia complained to the Allied Military Government that on his return from enforced exile he had discovered that most of his possessions had disappeared: of his large wealth, valued according to him at a figure of more than 100 million, nothing remained “but a paltry sum of little more than L.400,000 under EGELI administration [...] managed by the local

³¹ *Ibid.*, fasc. 139 “Ditta Vivanti Fratelli – furrier’s (commercial enterprise)”, letter from the BAM, Clearance Office for Confiscated Jewish Assets to the EGELI, 26 October 1950.

³² *Ibid.*, Silvia Salvagni Blasi’s petition to the BAM, 27 December 1945; letter from the BAM to the Vivanti Furrier’s, 27 December 1945; letter from Virgilio Dell’Aringa, consultant to Silvia Salvagni Blasi, to the BAM, 27 December 1945; letter from the first deputy secretary of the Rome **Head Office** of the EGELI to the BAM, 4 January 1946.

³³ *Ibid.*, letter from the BAM, Management of Jewish assets to the EGELI, 14 August 1946.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, letter from the BAM, Management of Jewish assets, to the EGELI, 12 September 1946; letter from the **Special Commissioner** of the EGELI to the BAM, 30 September 1946; letter from the solicitor Alfonso Michelotto to the BAM, 11 September 1946.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, letter from the BAM, Clearance Office for Confiscated Jewish Assets, to the EGELI, 8 July 1950; letter from the EGELI **Commissioner** to the BAM, 9 December 1950; declaration of Silvia Salvagni Blasi, undated; letter from BAM, Clearance Office for Confiscated Jewish Assets to the EGELI, 11 December 1950.

Banca Agricola”³⁶. He was paid the sum of L.354,000 by the bank on the basis of a directive from the Mantua Prefecture, which allowed companies of Jewish ownership to withdraw three quarters of the available credit balance,³⁷ awaiting “that relations deriving from provisions detrimental to Jewish citizens [be] resolved by higher directives”.³⁸

Norsa pointed out his state of need in that the company he owned had to be completely rebuilt, and sent a claim to the Allied Military Government. He asked for the return of the remainder owing him, amounting to about L.110,000, which the BAM initially refused to pay him. It was decided in a meeting between a BAM official and EGELI officials that such withdrawals, to be considered irregular, should be suspended.³⁹ The Allied Military Government on its part had returned the request with the note “approval for release”.⁴⁰ On 23 July the EGELI Commissioner confirmed that it was not possible at the time to meet the requests of the owners of Jewish companies “when it is a question of making reimbursements of sums that [were] credited to the EGELI”.⁴¹ The following day he advised that payment of the residual balance could be made if the proceeds of the Norsa company were still in a current account distinct from the EGELI current accounts. If the sum had been credited to EGELI accounts, however, it was necessary to wait for general directives “of imminent issue”.⁴²

The remainder of the cash balance owing to Norsa, amounting to L.116,381.20, was not however entirely paid out at first, because the bank deducted a sum corresponding more or less to the value of the material returned to Carlo Norsa by the buyer who had taken over his company. In May 1945 Norsa had in fact been given back four show window displays, along with an imprecise number of sales counters and “shop and store shelves”. A declaration made also shows that the successor to the company was not present at its handing over, given that the legitimate owner was forced to enter with the aid of the police.⁴³

On 23 October the BAM paid Carlo Norsa L.90,000 as an advance on the cash balance from the sequestration management. The following day he signed a declaration absolving the bank of all responsibility in the case of the buyer claiming any sum of money for the returned material.⁴⁴ On 29

³⁶ *Ibid.*, b. 15 “Year 1945 – Jewish Property Department– Schedules – EGELI Administration, Jewish Assets Administration, Legal decrees”, fasc. “Ditta Norsa Carlo (Fabrics) commercial enterprise”, claim presented by Carlo Norsa to the Allied Military Government of Mantua province, 15 July 1945.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, Carlo Norsa’s declaration to the BAM, 15 May 1945.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *Ibid.*, claim presented by Carlo Norsa to the Allied Military Government of Mantua province, 15 July 1945; copy of letter from the BAM to the EGELI, 17 July 1945; letter from the EGELI Commissioner to the BAM, 23 July 1945.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, claim presented by Carlo Norsa to the Allied Military Government of Mantua province, 15 July 1945.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, letter from the EGELI Commissioner to the BAM, 23 July 1945.

⁴² *Ibid.*, letter from the EGELI Commissioner to the BAM, 24 July 1945.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, internal note from the Management of Jewish Assets at the BAM to the management, 18 and 26 October 1945; declaration made by Carlo Norsa to the BAM, 24 October 1945.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, declarations made by Carlo Norsa to the BAM, 23 and 24 October 1945.

October 1945 the bank as EGELI representative paid Norsa the sum of L.26,314.20 as settlement for management of his company.⁴⁵

On 16 July 1945 Carlo Norsa asked for the cancellation of the sequestration and confiscation decrees regarding the company on behalf of his brother Giulio, deported to Germany and at the moment “nowhere to be found”, so that such assets could be returned to their legitimate owner.⁴⁶

Giulio Norsa, his wife Amalia Zamorani and their sons Mario and Sergio had not in fact ever returned from Auschwitz.⁴⁷ Research carried out shows that the office furnishings had been consigned by the sequestrator of assets to the Motor-vehicle Instruction Office (UDA), while a typewriter had been taken by the Germans. Some of the furnishings in question were at the time in the Allied Military Government’s transport office, while others were found in the rooms of the company itself.⁴⁸ Unfortunately it is not known what subsequently happened to the above assets.

Emanuele Dina received the sum of L.312,000 from the BAM on 27 July 1945, corresponding “to about three quarters of the credit balance resulting from the proceeds of the sale of his commercial enterprise previously sequestered by the pseudo government of the Italian Social Republic”.⁴⁹ On 5 October 1945 the report of the return of the goods was signed.

In November 1947 Dina sent the BAM a request for reimbursement of expenses, debited in the management statement, relating to inspections made of the shop goods and furnishings; the EGELI confirmed that such a sum was not “recoverable from the owner”. The corporation refused, however, to reimburse the sum of L.33,000 relating to fees at the time paid by the Prefecture to the sequestrator of the company; on his part, Dina had shown the “greatest reservation” about the said expenses. The EGELI did not authorise repayment of the sum because, on the basis of art. 8 of dlgt 393/1946, it was a management fee to be charged to the owner.⁵⁰

The correspondence relating to the archive documentation of the Mantua Jewish Community is interesting. It was confiscated, along with other goods belonging to the Community, on 3 November 1944 by the Head of Province. This documentation should have been transferred to the General Inspectorate for Race at the office of the President of the Council of Ministers in Desenzano sul Garda, on the direction of the Prefecture. But the BAM, complaining to the EGELI that it did not

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, declaration made by Carlo Norsa to the BAM, 29 October 1945; letter from the manager of the BAM to Carlo Norsa, 28 December 1961.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, statement by Carlo Norsa to the Prefect of Mantua, 16 July 1945.

⁴⁷ L. Picciotto Fargion, *op.cit.*, p. 448 and p. 625.

⁴⁸ ASMn, *Egeli*, b. 15 “Year 1945 – Jewish Property Department– Schedules – EGELI administration, Jewish Goods Administration, Legal decrees”, fasc. “Ditta Norsa Carlo (Fabrics) commercial enterprise”, letter from Carlo Norsa to the Prefect of Mantua, 17 August 1945; letter from the manager of the BAM to Carlo Norsa, 28 December 1961.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, b. 3 “Year 1945 – Jewish Property Department – Urban buildings from No. 139 to No. 166”, fasc. 140 “Dina Emanuele – hardware commercial enterprise”, receipt signed by Emanuele Dina, 27 July 1945.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, report of return of **property** previously subject to confiscation on the basis of dlgt 2/1944 of the defunct government of the **RSI** and managed by the EGELI, 5 October 1945; petition of Emanuele Dina to the BAM, Management of Jewish assets, 25 November 1947; letter from the BAM, Management of Jewish assets to the EGELI, 25 November 1947; letter from the Special Commissioner of the EGELI to the BAM, 16 December 1947.

have staff qualified to make an inventory, asked that a person capable of carrying out the task be made available, or that such material be sent without being inventoried.⁵¹

A typed sheet among the files, presumably an internal BAM note with no heading, date or signature, notes that there were “some shelves” containing both the accounts archive of the local [Jewish] Community and the genealogical one of its members “at the Jewish concentration camp in Via Gilberto Govi”. Because of the difficulty of taking full stock of the documentation, it was proposed that the latter be left where it was or sent to the city library so it could be kept with greater care.⁵²

Following the EGELI’s letter to the General Inspectorate for Race regarding the difficulty of making an inventory of the files, the latter gave its consent to the material being sent without being inventoried as previously requested. An official of the Prefecture and a representative of the bank were to have presented themselves with vehicles used for its transport.

In order to arrange the transfer of the documentation, the BAM asked the Mantua Prefecture to provide the means necessary for transporting it to Desenzano.⁵³ On its part, the General Direction of the Inspectorate expressed its interest again on 30 March 1945 to the Head of Province of Mantua, and its “keen urgency” in receiving the said documentation, imploring it to ensure that the delivery was made “as soon as possible”. On 4 April 1945 the BAM asked the Provincial Corporation Council to be assigned 1.5 cubic metres of wood to build cases in which to pack the documents and on 24 April forwarded the request to a sawmill for consignment of the material.⁵⁴ Considering the dates of these last communications, it seems doubtful that the documents were ever delivered.

A trunk deposited at the BAM by the treasurer of the Jewish Community, Giuseppe Norlenghi, was opened in the rooms of the bank on 14 June 1945, on the instructions of the Head of Province. The operation was attended by the sequestrator of the Jewish Community’s assets, a representative of the Prefecture and one from the bank. When the seals were broken, the trunk was shown to contain religious vestments and objects such as crowns, censers, ornaments and lamps, all in silver, along with cloaks, sashes, an illuminated parchment and a book.

The assets in question remained on deposit in the BAM until August 1944 when, presumably following instructions relating to the concentration of assets, they were moved to the Cassa di

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, fasc. 165 “Jewish Community (accounts archive of the Jewish Community and historic genealogical archive of the members of the Mantua Community)”, letter from the BAM to the EGELI, 27 December 1944; report of restitution of Jewish property, 28 December 1945.

⁵² *Ibid.*, typed sheet, undated. The address noted is probably that of a Jewish rest home, briefly used as a provincial concentration camp; on 5 April 1944 44 of the 60 prisoners were deported directly from here; L. Picciotto Fargion, *op. cit.*, p. 833.

⁵³ ASMn, *Egeli*, b. 3 “Year 1945 – Jewish Property Department– Urban buildings from No. 139 to No. 166”, fasc. 165 “Jewish Community (accounts archive of the Jewish Community and historic genealogical archive of the members of the Mantua Community)”, letter from the EGELI to the General Inspectorate for Race, 5 January 1945; letter from the EGELI to the BAM, 10 February 1945; letter from the BAM to the Republican Prefecture of Mantua, 28 February 1945.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, letter from the Director General of the General Inspectorate for Race to the Head of Province of Mantua, 30 March 1945; request from the BAM to the Provincial Corporation Council, 4 April 1945; letter from the BAM to Attilio Bruti, sawmill, 21 April 1945.

Risparmio delle Provincie Lombarde in Milan.⁵⁵ On 15 December 1945 the trunk was returned to the BAM in Mantua and on 28 December the report of its restitution to the representatives of the local Jewish Community was signed.⁵⁶

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, copy of the report on the opening of the trunk at the BAM by the Jew Dr Giuseppe Norlenghi, 14 June 1944; management statement sent by the Jewish Goods Administration of the BAM to the Mantua Jewish Community, undated; copy of the invoice sent by the Ditta Pasino, Speedy Transport, to the Jewish Goods Administration of the BAM, 8 September 1944; List of objects found in the sealed trunk deposited by the Mantua Jewish Community through its treasurer Giuseppe Norlenghi, undated; letter of debit from the BAM to the EGELI, 25 January 1946; letter from the Prefect of Mantua to the BAM, 11 May 1945.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, Expenses note from the Milan express public transport service, 16 December 1945; report of restitution of Jewish goods previously subject to confiscation on the basis of dlgs 2/1944, of the defunct government of the Italian Social Republic and managed by the EGELI, 28 December 1945.