

CASSA DI RISPARMIO DELLE PROVINCIE LOMBARDE

In accordance with rdl 126/1939 of 9 February, the quota of Jewish goods considered “excessive” was to be transferred to the EGELI, the body appointed to “provide for the purchase, management and sale” of such assets; the Land Bank of the Cassa di Risparmio delle Provincie Lombarde [Cariplo]¹ was one of the banks delegated by decree of 9 June 1939 to manage the real estate assigned to the EGELI, specifically that located in the Lombardy region. The minutes of the 27 December 1938 meeting of the Central Charitable Commission, Cariplo’s administrative body, record that the chairman, Giuseppe De Capitani d’Arzago, senator from 1929, had on a previous date proposed to the government that the management of such assets be entrusted to the *Casse di Risparmi* (Savings Banks); but the request could not be granted, say the minutes. However, “thanks partly to the kind intervention of the Head of Government himself”, the chairman of the Cariplo was “sure that the management of such buildings [would have been] entrusted to the *Istituti di Credito Fondiario* (Land Banks), which have suitably equipped offices and which inspire confidence for the administration of such enormous real estate holdings with the most scrupulous rectitude and remaining well aware of the interests of the Treasury”.²

The bank would have taken over management of the “expropriated” asset or assets as representative of the EGELI only after the individual Jews had reported it to the Revenue Office, the reports had been sent to the Land Revenue Assessment Office, the real estate holdings checked and divided by the latter office, the quotas and valuation consigned to the EGELI, the person concerned notified of the division of his property by the EGELI, any possible appeal had been launched by the owner and the decree for transfer of the ownership rights to the EGELI had been issued by the Revenue Office – in the case of the appeal having a negative outcome.³

Management of the expropriated assets was identified by a position sent by the EGELI, comprising a number – possibly progressive at a national level – accompanied by the letter D.⁴ The various files seen at the Cariplo contain not only the report of appropriation of the “excess quota”, but also a copy of the report made by the individual Jews to the district Revenue Office, a copy of the division of the property between “excess quota” and “allowed quota”, including a valuation of the land,

¹ The *Egeli* collection at the Cassa di Risparmio delle Provincie Lombarde is very large and consists of more than 200 envelopes comprising both general paperwork and personal files. As it was not possible to inspect all the envelopes, the work was limited to analysing some specific cases and details. The Cariplo archive is currently being reorganised and is not easy to consult. Some associated data were found concerning only the restitutions and starting from 1948. It is quite likely, however, that among the 90-odd folders of general papers there are various kinds of list, but these could not be further investigated due to the limited time.

² ASCariplo, minutes of Central Charitable Commission, meeting of 27 December 1938.

³ Rdl 126/1939; F. Levi (edited by), *Le case e le cose. La persecuzione degli ebrei nelle carte dell'Egeli 1938-1945*, Compagnia di San Paolo, Quaderni dell'Archivio Storico, Turin 1998, p. 52.

⁴ ASCariplo, *Egeli*, fasc. “F 19816 Segrè Allegra Documenti”, Cariplo Land Bank.

taxable income for the buildings and the value in lire of the asset, a copy of the property summary and a copy of the size and value of the individual properties exceeding the allowed quota.⁵

In accordance with rdl 126/1939, Jews who had the “excess quota” expropriated were given a special, thirty-year bearer certificate issued for the purpose by the EGELI, which would have earned annual interest of 4%. According to art. 36, this payment should have been made “90 days after publication of the decree of attribution of the property to the EGELI in the *Gazzetta Ufficiale* of the Kingdom of Italy”.⁶

Regarding this last point, the Director General of the EGELI informed the Cariplo in September 1941 that this article did not set a term within which payment had to be made, but solely that the sum should not have been paid “before the starting date of 90 days”. In general, the organisation could then have provided for payment “as soon as the state of each procedure [would have allowed], and confirmation of the deductions, and subject to compliance with the prescribed form of the statute regarding the issue of special deeds to be released by the organisation”.⁷

Although not able to precisely define the real spread of the phenomenon, or the extent to which it was a consolidated procedure, some Land Charges Registries officially registered mortgages against the EGELI in favour of the expropriated when the special certificates had not been paid. Four mortgages were registered at the Mantua Land Charges Registry on 20 April 1943 in favour of Umberto Norsa for L.175,500, of Emanuele Dina for L.98,277.02, of Enrico Dina for L.98,277.02 and of Emanuele Colorni for L.200,500.⁸

The EGELI had previously informed the management of the Cariplo Land Bank in January 1942 that it was aware of the fact that the Milan Land Charges Registry “used to” officially register mortgages in favour of the “Jewish owner”. In communicating its intention to ask the Ministry of Finance to put a stop to such registrations, the organisation asked the bank to inform the Registry that it ought not to make the registrations in question, partly because “the EGELI [...] gives certain assurance of fulfilling the obligations arising from the execution of its activities”.⁹

In the case of the mortgage being taken out, consignment of the special bearer certificate depended on the Jew issuing a receipt with consent for cancellation of the officially registered mortgage, as

⁵ *Ibid.*, fasc. “F 19816 Segrè Allegra Documenti”; fasc. “F 19837 Treves Ernesto fu Aron Milano”; fasc. “F 19832 Pisa Cantoni Vittoria”; fasc. “F19815 Norsa Umberto fu Moisé”, s.fasc. “Egeli F19815 Norsa Umberto”.

⁶ Art. 36 of rdl 126/1939.

⁷ ASCariplo, *Egeli*, “F 19837 Treves Ernesto fu Aron Milano”, letter from the Director General of the EGELI to the management of the Cariplo Land Bank, 30 September 1941.

⁸ *Ibid.*, “F 19815 Norsa Umberto fu Moisé”, s.fasc. “Egeli F19815 Norsa Umberto”, ins. “Norsa Curtatone”, letter from the manager of the Cariplo branch in Mantua to the Cariplo Land Bank, 21 April 1943; draft of the letter from the Director General of the Cariplo to the EGELI, 26 April 1943.

⁹ *Ibid.*, “F 19837 Treves Ernesto fu Aron Milano”, letter from the EGELI to the management of the Cariplo Land Bank, 15 January 1942.

also specified by the EGELI for the procedures relating to the assets of Alma Foà and Eugenio and Silvia Colorni.¹⁰

It is also evident that some special bearer certificates were never consigned: two pieces of land and a farm were expropriated from Allegra Segrè, domiciled in the province of Mantua. The transfer decree was issued by the Revenue Office on 21 April 1941 and the appropriation report was dated 15 September 1941.¹¹ But according to some cadastral maps, a wealth level in favour of the State Property Administration was registered. Establishment of the capital value of the level was decisive to the EGELI for release of the certificates, so this could be deducted from the figure that the same organisation owed to Segrè and redemption or termination of the level itself proceed. The situation was fairly complicated in that, as the deeds were very old, it was difficult to understand and define the situation; Segrè herself did not remember, according to what her solicitor wrote, that either she or her father had ever paid money to the State Property Administration.¹² In September 1943 the certificates had still not been consigned, as is also shown clearly by the notarial deed concerning the reconveyance of the assets. Despite the question of the value of the level not having been determined, on 13 March 1942 all the “former Segrè” assets had been sold by negotiations conducted directly between the EGELI and the purchasers for the sum of L.1,350,000. To make up for the non-payment of the bearer certificates, after the War the EGELI agreed to pay interest of 5% gross from the date it had appropriated the assets.¹³

The special certificates were never consigned to Umberto Norsa, either, as on 20 April 1943 a legal mortgage for the sum of L.175,500 was registered in his favour against the EGELI. Payment of the equivalent sum, as always occurred, depended on the balance of income and costs being calculated on the date the EGELI had taken possession of the “excess quota”, which was 16 April 1942. Although Norsa had died in the meantime, the EGELI advised of its intention to in any case issue the paperwork, the special certificate in his name “being urgent”. Norsa’s heirs, documenting their rights to the inheritance, subsequently asked for the issue of other deeds. In December of that year the organisation once again asked them, through the Cariplo Land Bank, to produce the inheritance documents, but in the meantime they had become untraceable.¹⁴

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, fasc. “F19822 Foà Alma Milano”, letter from the Director General of the EGELI to the management of the Cariplo Land Bank, 24 April 1942; fasc. “F 20563 Colorni (Gestione beni ex Colorni), letter from the Director General of the EGELI to the management of the Cariplo Land Bank, 9 November 1942.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, fasc. “F 19816 Segrè Allegra Documenti”, EGELI, copy of the size and value of the individual properties exceeding the allowed quota, 24 May 1940; letter from the Director General of the EGELI to the management of the Cariplo Land Bank, 26 June 1941; report of the appropriation of assets constituting the excess quota of Allegra Segrè, daughter of Riccardo, 15 September 1941.

¹² *Ibid.*, letter from the Director General of the EGELI to the management of the Cariplo Land Bank, 14 February 1942; letter from the solicitor Luigi Pasotelli to the Cariplo, 7 March 1942.

¹³ *Ibid.*, s.fasc. “F9816 Segrè Allegra”, Reconveyance Deed Rep. NO. 6806/3560, 20 February 1947. Art. 13 of dlgt 222/1945 of 12 April allowed for the interest rate on EGELI certificates to be raised from 4 to 5% from the day the certificate was issued.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, fasc. “F 19815 Norsa Umberto fu Moisè”, s.fasc. “Egeli F19815 Norsa Umberto”, letter from the Director General of the EGELI to Umberto Norsa, 21 December 1942; *ibid.*, ins. “Norsa Curtatone”, letter from the Director General of the EGELI to the management of the Cariplo Land Bank, 10 April, 25 June and 7 December 1943; the Director General of the Cariplo to the EGELI

The amount of the special bearer certificate was based on the value of the expropriated assets, which was in turn calculated according to art. 20 of rdl 126/1939 of 9 February. Such valuation, as can be clearly seen in the table below, differed considerably from the market value.

After the assets had been “expropriated” and taken into possession by the Cariplo, the latter, as EGELI representative, began to receive purchase requests for them through the Land Bank from individuals or companies. In addition to making written requests, these also paid the managing bank a tenth of the sum to guarantee the offer. The EGELI never set a starting price, but usually depended on the Land Bank to obtain a valuation for the asset or assets at the market price. If the sum offered by the potential buyer was judged too small, an increase was requested, though without any indication being given as to what this should be. The Cariplo usually sent the offers to the EGELI, which assessed them and sent its reply to the Land Bank. The latter then directly informed the potential buyers.

The following is a summary table of the assets expropriated and sold of which we have information:

TABLE 1. *Assets expropriated and sold.*

Owner/s of the property/properties

valuation according to art. 20 rdl 126/1939

market valuation

sale price

*date of sale*¹⁵

Ernesto Treves	100,000	200,000	215,000	27.5.1943
Umberto Norsa	175,000	760,000	1,200,000	27.4.1943
Eugenio and Silvia Colorni				
bldg. in via G. d'Arezzo				
Milan	425,000	1,045,000	1,115,000	12.6.1942
Eugenio and Silvia Colorni				
bldg. in via Costanza				
Milan	498,240	1,250,000	1,450,000	19.6.1943
Allegra Segrè ¹⁶	470,754.40			
	93,798.40		1,350,000	13.3.1942

management, 26 April 1943; letter from the manager of the Mantua branch of the Cariplo to the Cariplo Land Bank, 8 May 1944; reconveyance deeds and receipt, Rep. No. 10160, 21 May 1946.

¹⁵ The date of the notarial deed is always shown.

¹⁶ A farm in the municipality of Bozzolo and two pieces of land in Acquanegra sul Chiese, both in the province of Mantua, were expropriated from Allegra Segrè; *ibid.*, fasc. “F19816 Segrè Allegra Documenti”, EGELI, copy of the size and value of the individual properties exceeding the allowed quota, 24 May 1940; EGELI, copy of the division of the real estate holding, 24 May 1940; *ibid.*, s.fasc. “F19816 Segrè Allegra”, letter from the assistant manager of the Cariplo to Vito Cantoni, 8 November 1945.

	30,303.20			
Alma Foà	132,000	320,000	375,000	31.5.1943
Vittoria Pisa Cantoni ¹⁷	520,000	600,000	875,000	13.7.1943 ¹⁸

The “excess quota” expropriated from Ernesto Treves consisted of the fourth floor of a building with residential accommodation in Milan with a total of 11 rooms, which the EGELI appropriated on 24 September 1941. The raised ground floor of the building, along with the first, second and fifth floors remained in Treves’ ownership, while the third floor belonged to the Società Anonima Immobiliare di Golasecca (Golasecca real estate company). The part of the building expropriated was valued by the Cariplo at L.200,000. In April 1942 Golasecca offered L.170,000 for the property transferred to the EGELI, then increased this the following month to L.215,000.¹⁹ Another potential buyer, Emilio Perrucconi, at first offered L.185,000 for the property, but then, urged by the EGELI through the Cariplo to “appreciably” improve his offer, raised this to L.200,000.²⁰ The director of Golasecca was informed on 15 September 1942 that his offer had been accepted. He was also advised that the fees and taxes of the transfer would be charged to him; he would also have to pay the sum in cash. The preliminary sale contract was dated 9 November 1942 and the sale approved by the Ministry of Finance on 19 April 1943. The notarial deed, which ratified the preliminary contract, was signed on 9 May 1943.²¹

It is also evident that negotiations to sell properties were carried out directly by the EGELI, which restricted itself to informing the Milan bank of its decision to sell. A few days after the report of the appropriation of assets previously owned by Allegra Segrè had been drafted by the Cariplo, the first requests to buy them began arriving at the bank.²² On 31 January 1942 the Cremona branch of the Cariplo informed the Milan Head Office that Paolo Baratta of Parma, following agreements made with the EGELI, had paid L.135,000 as a guarantee of his offer for the purchase of all the Segrè assets. The Director General of the Cassa di Risparmio, reminding the EGELI that article 10 of the

¹⁷ The woman had another building that was also transferred to the EGELI but not sold; *ibid.*, fasc. “F19832 Pisa Cantoni Vittoria”, reconveyance deeds, Rep. NO. 20008/7041, 14 November 1944.

¹⁸ The figures are taken from various personal files; *ibid.*, fasc. “F19816 Segrè Allegra Documenti”; fasc. “F 19837 Treves Ernesto fu Aron Milano”; fasc. “F 19841 Colorni Eugenio fu Alberto”; fasc. “F 19815 Norsa Umberto fu Moisè”, fasc. “F 19832 Pisa Cantoni Vittoria”; fasc. “F19822 Foà Alma Milano”.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, “F 19837 Treves Ernesto fu Aron Milano”, Cariplo Land Bank, report of appropriation of the excess quota of Ernesto Treves, son of Aron, 24 September 1941; offer from the director of the Società Anonima Immobiliare di Golasecca, Carlo Gentili, to the EGELI, 10 April and 30 May 1942; draft of letter from the Director General of the Cariplo to the EGELI management, 20 April 1942.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, offer from Emilio Perrucconi to the Company Services Department of the Cariplo, 28 April and 19 June 1942; letter from the Director General of the Cariplo to Emilio Perrucconi, 12 May 1942.

²¹ *Ibid.*, “F 19837 Treves Ernesto fu Aron Milano”, preliminary sale contract, 9 November 1942; letter from the Cariplo to the solicitor Arrigo Jona, 29 April 1943; letter from the assistant services manager of the Cariplo to the EGELI, 20 March 1946, with enclosed authentic copy of the reconveyance deed, Rep. NO. 9448/3288, 20 March 1946.

²² The report of the appropriation is dated 15 September 1941, the first request is dated 23 September. *Ibid.*, fasc. “F19816 Segrè Allegra Documenti”, Cariplo Land Bank, report of appropriation of assets constituting the excess quota of Allegra Segrè, daughter of Riccardo, 15 September 1941; offer from Francesco and Ernesto Saviola to Faustinelli, 23 September 1941.

agreement drawn up between the latter and the bank concerning the management of Jewish goods stated that the Cariplo had to be informed from the start of any negotiations conducted between the EGELI and potential buyers, complained that it had not been told anything.²³

But this was not the only example: the same purchasers of Allegra Segrè's assets, the Baratta brothers, were sold the "Tombolino" property in Curtatone, previously owned by Umberto Norsa, directly by the EGELI. The Cariplo Company Management Department had already taken in several purchase offers, all strictly forwarded to the EGELI for appraisal, when the latter informed the bank in a concise telegram dated 28 April 1943 that the "former Norsa" property had already been sold.²⁴ The tone of the letter sent "confidentially" a couple of weeks later to Anselmo Guerrieri Gonzaga, Director General of the EGELI, presumably from the Director General of the bank, is very sharp: in obvious contrast with the mutual agreements stated, Cariplo had not been informed of the negotiations in progress, "when its own negotiations were so far advanced as to suggest that the offers under consideration would have been increased to exceed the stipulated definitive price".²⁵ A similar case had occurred about a year earlier with regard to a property whose former owners were Eugenio and Silvia Colorni. On 24 April 1942 the Cariplo Head Office complained to the EGELI of what had happened, declaring itself "upset", both "for obvious reasons of prestige in the eyes of the buyer", and because the bank no longer knew how to act with regard to the other negotiations under way.²⁶

Along with a house in Forte dei Marmi, the Colornis owned two buildings in Milan, one in via Guido d'Arezzo and one in via Costanza. The latter was entirely expropriated by the EGELI, while 34 rooms in the former, divided into five flats, were transferred to the EGELI, along with the lavatories, cellars and share of the common areas.²⁷ The Cariplo had already started taking in offers to purchase the properties when the EGELI informed it of the completed sale of the property in via Guido d'Arezzo to the Società Anonima Immobiliare San Giuliano for L.1,115,000. This company

²³ *Ibid.*, letter from the Cremona branch of the Cariplo to the Cariplo management, 31 January 1942; letter from the Director General of the Cariplo to the EGELI management, 2 February 1942.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, fasc. "F19815 Norsa Umberto fu Moisè", s.fasc. "Egeli F19815 Norsa Umberto fu Moisè", offer from Rita Maria Serra to the EGELI, 5 February 1943; *ibid.*, ins. "Norsa Curtatone", purchase offer from Vittorio Cantini to the management of the Cariplo Land Bank, 3 and 25 March 1943; the general director of the EGELI to the management of the Cariplo Land Bank, 8 March 1943.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, Affari Generali, b. 46, unsigned letter, possibly from the Director General of the Cariplo, to Anselmo Guerrieri Gonzaga, Director General of the EGELI, 15 May 1943.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, letter from the Director General of the Cariplo to the EGELI management, 24 April 1942.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, "F 19841 Colorni Eugenio fu Alberto", EGELI, copy of the division of the property holding, 28 June 1940; EGELI, copy of the size and value of the individual properties exceeding the allowed quota, 26 and 28 June 1940.

then sold it to the Società Immobiliare Guido d'Arezzo, a limited liability cooperative.²⁸ The other property was sold in June 1943 for L.1,450,000.²⁹

Immediately after the War, Jews who had had their property expropriated could request its reconveyance in accordance with articles 3 and 6 of rdl 26/1944 of 20 January, implemented with dllgt 252/1944 of 5 October. According to these articles, Jewish owners of assets transferred to the EGELI, or their heirs, had one year “from the conclusion of the peace” to ask for the property to be returned to them, on return of the special thirty year certificates issued by the EGELI. The property was returned to its legitimate owner even if it had been sold to third parties.

The restitution request made by Jews had to be sent to the new owners if the property had already been sold by the EGELI, otherwise to the EGELI itself in that it was then still the owner. The reconveyance deed for one of Vittoria Pisa Cantoni's properties, which had remained under EGELI ownership, shows that the organisation had paid the woman interest on the special certificate up to the date of the reconveyance request; charges and income on the property were also in the name of the legitimate owner from that date. The costs of the reconveyance deed and any authenticated copies would also be charged to Pisa Cantoni, who would have received the concessions provided for in art. 15 of rdl 26/1944 of 20 January.³⁰

The deeds concerning the reconveyance of the Colorni properties were dated 13 May and 20 December 1942. Those who had bought the properties, including the last purchaser of the property in via Guido d'Arezzo, returned them in exchange for the figure they had at the time paid to the EGELI; Silvia Colorni and the heirs of Eugenio, in the meantime deceased, in turn returned the special bearer certificates, on which they had been paid interest up to 30 June 1943.³¹ The subsequent interest, of 5% gross, in accordance with art. 13 of dllgt 222/1945 of 12 April,³² was to have been paid up to the date of reconveyance; furthermore, as a settlement, they were to have been paid 1% interest on the sum paid up to 30 June 1943.³³

²⁸ *Ibid.*, fasc. “F20563 Colorni (Gestione beni ex Colorni)”, s.fasc. “Vendita immobile ex Colorni”, offer from the **Company for the management and administration of property** to the Cariplo, 26 March 1942; letter from the Director General of the EGELI to the Cariplo Land Bank, 20 April 1942; *ibid.*, fasc. “F 19841 Colorni Eugenio fu Alberto”, reconveyance deeds, Rep. NO. 956, 13 May 1946.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, fasc. “F20563 Colorni (Gestione beni ex Colorni)”, s.fasc. s.fasc. “Vendita immobile ex Colorni”, draft of letter from the Director General of the Cariplo to the EGELI management, 15 September 1942; *ibid.*, fasc. “F 19841 Colorni Eugenio fu Alberto”, reconveyance deeds, Rep. NO. 43392/8170, 20 December 1946.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, fasc. “F 19832 Pisa Cantoni Vittoria”, reconveyance deeds, Rep.NO. 20008/7041, 14 November 1947. Art. 15 of rdl 26/1944 of 20 January, implemented with dllgt 252/1944 of 5 October, stated that deeds relating to the reinstatement of property rights to Jews should be exempt from stamp duty and registry and mortgage charges; notaries' fees were to be reduced by half.

³¹ *Ibid.*, fasc. “F 19841 Colorni fu Alberto”, reconveyance deeds, Rep.NO. 43392/8170, 20 December 1946 and Rep.NO. 956, 13 May 1946. Eugenio Colorni, philosopher, anti-Fascist since the 1930s, was arrested in 1938 and condemned to 5 years' prison, served in Ventotene and then at Melfi, from where he escaped in 1943. He joined the underground struggle and was killed in Rome in 1944 by members of the Koch gang; A. De Bernardi and S. Guarracino (edited by), *Il fascismo. Dizionario di storia, personaggi, cultura, economia, fonti e dibattito storiografico*, Bruno Mondadori, Milan 1998, p. 222.

³² Art. 13 of dllgt 222/1945 of 12 April stated that the interest on EGELI certificates should be raised to 5% from the date of issue of the certificate.

³³ ASCariplo, *Egeli*, “F 19841 Colorni Eugenio fu Alberto”, reconveyance deeds, Rep.NO. 43392/8170, 20 December 1946 and Rep.NO. 956, 13 May 1946.

The EGELI promised to pay 5% gross interest on Allegra Segrè's properties, which had been sold to the Baratta brothers, from the time it had taken possession to the date of reconveyance (20 February 1947) in the case of the building, and to the date of the request (25 February 1946) in the case of the land. Segrè and the Baratta brothers subsequently arranged to settle the accounts regarding taxes and charges.³⁴ Ernesto Treves requested the EGELI and the Società Anonima Immobiliare di Golasecca to return his expropriated assets on 13 August 1945. The reconveyance deed shows that the EGELI paid 5% gross interest on the special bearer certificate up until 20 August 1945 and from that date Treves was responsible for the charges on the property and entitled to the income.³⁵

In March 1946 the EGELI informed the Cariplo that the representatives of the Aziende Agricole Baratta, purchasers of the assets of Allegra Segrè and Umberto Norsa, had several times asked the EGELI to be able to settle the return of the assets bought and be paid the sum of L.2,550,000 at the time paid for the properties. Such delay in the operations would have caused them not inconsiderable damages.³⁶ Although the Treasury had already set aside the sum, the EGELI did not yet have the funds and the special commissioner of the EGELI sent the Cariplo a request that the money be advanced to it. The Director General of the bank consented to the request, though pointed out that this should be considered "quite exceptional". The general correspondence account "Jewish assets 1939" had a debit balance of almost L.4,000,000, partly due to other payments made, which the bank did not want to exceed. A note at the bottom of the letter of request sent by the EGELI highlights the relative debit balance, presumably, in various current accounts relating to Jewish management positions: "sequestered" 295,842.39; "confiscated" 1,940,732.12, sums to which compensation had then to be added.³⁷

The Alma Foà file does not contain a reconveyance deed.

Some events that took place in various Lombard provinces from September 1943 are of particular interest among the considerable documentary material relating to the assets sequestered and/or confiscated from 1943.

Various assets presumably taken from Jews trying to cross the border were confiscated by the border police in the province of Sondrio. On 29 December 1943, in what would seem from the

³⁴ *Ibid.*, fasc. "F19816 Segrè Allegra documenti", s.fasc. "F19816 Segrè Allegra", reconveyance deeds, Rep. NO. 6806/3560, 20 February 1947.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, fasc. "F 19837 Treves Ernesto fu Aron Milano", authentic copy of the reconveyance deed, Rep.NO. 9448/3288, 20 March 1946.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, fasc. "F19816 Segrè Allegra Documenti", s.fasc. "F19816 Segrè Allegra", letter from the **Special Commissioner** of the EGELI to the Cariplo Land Bank, 7 March 1946. A representative of the Aziende Agricole Fratelli Baratta wrote in a letter: "For some months now we have been asking the EGELI for the return of the assets in question [those of Allegra Segrè ed.] and we do not conceal the fact that the delay, certainly not caused by ourselves, is causing us considerable damage for which we are forced to make very significant reserves" *ibid.*, letter from the Aziende Agricole Fratelli Baratta to the Cariplo Land Bank, 28 December 1946.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, letter from the **Special Commissioner** of the EGELI to the Cariplo Land Bank, 7 March 1946; draft of the letter from the Director General of the Cariplo to the EGELI, 13 March 1946.

minimal paperwork seen to have been a cumulative consignment, the objects of value were sent to the Revenue Office. It then forwarded them to the Sondrio branch of the Cariplo where they were placed in two safe-deposit boxes. The sums of money sequestered, however, were deposited by the border police on 17 December 1943 at the Sondrio branch of the Banca d'Italia. The confiscation decrees issued for these assets are all dated April 1944.³⁸

Jewellery and money were sequestered from Giacomo Sacerdote, arrested in Grosotto in the province of Sondrio on 10 December 1943, and from his brother-in-law Sergio Giuli and wife Enrica, both captured on 10 December 1943 in Tirano in the same province. A silver tobacco case was taken from Odorico Piperno, stopped in Tirano on 15 December 1943.³⁹

The documentation found does not show what became of the money deposited at the Banca d'Italia. It is known that the valuables belonging to Enrica and Sergio Giuli that came to the Cariplo were consigned to their mother with a report dated 22 April 1949, while Odorico Piperno's silver tobacco case was given to the trustee of the assets of the sons of the deceased on 2 March 1946.⁴⁰ Federico Sacerdote, who was undoubtedly a relation of Giacomo Sacerdote, requested the return of the assets of his loved ones on 26 July 1946, "still nourishing a faint hope that our loved ones, martyrs of Fascist Nazi savagery, may return to us".⁴¹ The Cariplo replied that the assets could only be transferred in the case of him being nominated trustee "of the three absentees", informing him that small sums of money belonging to two of the people in question were being held in the Milan branch of the Banca d'Italia. There is no further information showing how the matter ended.⁴²

The story of what happened to the assets of some Jews in the province of Como is interesting. Their names, more than 20, are contained in a local police document.⁴³ Most of the names are listed in *Il*

³⁸ *Ibid.*, fasc. "F 22474 Piperno Odorico", copy of the confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Sondrio, 17 April 1944; encl. No. 9 with the report of the transfer of valuables confiscated from Jews between the Sondrio Revenue Office and the Sondrio branch of the Cariplo, same date; the Sondrio Revenue Office to the Cariplo, 28 February 1945; *ibid.*, "F22478 Sacerdote Giacomo", copy of the confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Sondrio, 21 April 1944; encl. No. 5 with the report of the transfer of valuables confiscated from Jews between the Sondrio Revenue Office and the Sondrio branch of the Cariplo, same date; the Sondrio Revenue Office to the Cariplo, 28 February 1945; *ibid.*, "F22476 Giuli Sergio", copy of the confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Sondrio, 19 April 1944; encl. No. 7 with the report of the transfer of valuables confiscated from Jews between the Sondrio Revenue Office and the Sondrio branch of the Cariplo, same date; the Sondrio Revenue Office to the Cariplo, 28 February 1945; *ibid.*, "F22476 Giuli Sacerdote Enrica", copy of the confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Sondrio, 18 April 1944; encl. No. 6 with the report of the transfer of valuables confiscated from Jews between the Sondrio Revenue Office and the Sondrio branch of the Cariplo, same date.

³⁹ *Ibid.*; L. Picciotto Fargion, *Il libro della memoria. Gli ebrei deportati dall'Italia (1943-1945)*, Mursia, Milan 1991, p. 518, p. 305, p. 478.

⁴⁰ ASCariplo, *Egeli*, fasc. "F 22474 Piperno Odorico", Land Bank of the Cassa di Risparmio delle Provincie Lombarde, report of the return of assets previously owned by the Italian citizen of Jewish race, Odorico Piperno, son of Vittorio, 11 March 1946; *ibid.*, "F22476 Giuli Sergio", Cariplo Land Bank, report of the return of assets in the city of Milan previously owned by the Italian subject of Jewish race, Sergio di Angelo Giuli, 22 April 1949.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, "F22478 Sacerdote Giacomo", postcard from Federico Sacerdote to the Cariplo, 26 July 1946.

⁴² *Ibid.*, letter from the Cariplo to Federico Sacerdote, 13 August 1946. *ibid.*, "F22476 Giuli Sacerdote Enrica", Cariplo Land Bank, report of the return of assets in Milan previously owned by the Italian subject of Jewish race, Enrica Giuli Sacerdoti, 22 April 1949.

⁴³ ASCo, *Questura*, fasc. "Morpurgo Oscar", Public Security Officer Attilio Asella to the Como police headquarters, May 1945. The assets reported are of: Nives Servadio Bassani, Edgardo Bassani, Oddone Pesaro, Ida Foà, Aldo Pacifici, Emilio De Disegni, Viterbo Levi, Arrigo Levi, Mario Foà, Margherita Hanan, Massimiliano Carpi, Alessandro Sacerdoti, Carlo Servadio, Emilia Rosenkolzp, Rels Meyer, Guido Levi, Aldo Levi, Raffaele Sacerdoti, Leonardi and Jolanda De Benedetti, Emilio Hanan, Oscar Morpurgo and family, and Anna Del Monte, née Leni.

Libro della memoria. They had been arrested in the Como area, in the province of Varese at Ponte Tresa, or in general on the Italian-Swiss border and then deported.⁴⁴

At the time of their arrest, on 1 December 1943 by the Como border police, L.77.70, L.260 in stamps, a metal clock, a fountain pen, documents and photographs were taken from Alessandro Sacerdote; L.77,641.70, a wristwatch, a fountain pen, a pocket knife and a pendant were sequestered from Edgardo Bassano, and various jewels and L.4,700 in cash taken from his wife Nives Servadio. Their two sons, 14 and 20, who met the same fate as their parents, were found in possession of a Comit cheque for L.500, L.9 in cash, a fountain pen, two clocks, cuff-links, a cigar lighter, a small chain and two pendants. Aldo Pacifici was relieved of L.2,000.⁴⁵

Some of these items were certainly consigned to two officials of the Como Prefecture by a Public Security Commissioner on 3 January 1944. The cash sequestered from the Jews was converted into several Banca d'Italia money orders made out to the Head of Province of Como.⁴⁶

The latter issued the corresponding decrees for confiscation of the assets only some months later, noting how they were already at the Prefecture. The Cariplo representative charged with taking consignment of them noted in the various reports, always repeating the same explanation, that he was unable to complete the task assigned him. On going to the Como police headquarters, he had been told that the assets in question had been consigned on 16 June 1944 to two "chief accountants of the Ministry" and an official of the General Inspectorate of Public Security, Dr Carlo Alberto Rossi.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ L. Picciotto Fargion, *op. cit.*, p. 547, p. 129, p. 278, p. 469, p. 457, p. 371, p. 519, p. 508 (shown with the surname Rosenholz), p. 377, p. 369, p. 207, p. 430. In *Il libro della memoria* the name of the Pole Meyer Relles, for example, whose assets were taken at the time of his arrest, does not appear. ASCariplo, *Egeli*, fasc. "F 22173 Mayer Relles", copy of the confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Como, 9 June 1944.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, fasc. "F 21848 Sacerdoti Alessandro", s.fasc. "Egeli F 21848 Sacerdoti Alessandro", confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Como, 2 June 1944 with enclosed copy of the list of objects and valuables found on the person named Alessandro Sacerdoti; fasc. "F 22196 Bassani Edgardo, Bassani Franco, Bassani Tina", s.fasc. "Egeli F 22196 Bassani Edgardo, Bassani Franco, Bassani Tina", confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Como, 10 May 1944 with enclosed list of assets; fasc. "F22282 Servadio Bassani Nives", Cariplo Land Bank, report of failure to take delivery of assets previously owned by the Jew Nives Bassani, née Servadio, daughter of Giacomo, confiscated in favour of the state in accordance with dl 2/1944 of 4 January and deposited with the Como Prefecture, 9 February 1945; fasc. "F 22369 Pacifici Aldo", confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Como, 10 May 1944 with enclosed copy of the report of delivery to officials of the Como Prefecture, 3 January 1944 L. Picciotto Fargion, *op. cit.*, pp. 129-130, p. 519, p. 547.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, fasc. "F 21848 Sacerdoti Alessandro", the commissioner of the EGELI to the Cariplo Land Bank, 1 August 1944 with enclosed copy of the report of consignment to officials of the Como Prefecture, 3 January 1944; *ibid.*, fasc. "F 22369 Pacifici Aldo", confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Como, 10 May 1944 with enclosed copy of the report of consignment to officials of the Como Prefecture, 3 January 1944.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, fasc. "F 21848 Sacerdoti Alessandro", Cariplo Land Bank, report of failure to take consignment of assets previously owned by the Jew Alessandro Sacerdoti, son of Mario, confiscated by the state in accordance with dl 2/1944 and deposited at the Prefecture of Como, 9 February 1945; *ibid.*, s.fasc. "Egeli F 21848 Sacerdoti Alessandro", confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Como, 2 June 1944; *ibid.*, fasc. "F 22196 Bassani Edgardo, Bassani Franco, Bassani Tina", s.fasc. "Egeli F 22196 Bassani Edgardo, Bassani Franco, Bassani Tina", confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Como, 10 May 1944; Cariplo Land Bank, report of failure to take consignment of assets previously owned by the Jews Edgardo Bassani, son of Giacomo - Franco Bassani, son of Edgardo - Tina Bassani, daughter of Edgardo, confiscated by the state in accordance with dl 2/1944 and deposited at the Prefecture of Como, 9 February 1945; *ibid.*, fasc. "F22282 Servadio Bassani Nives", Cariplo Land Bank, report of failure to take consignment of assets previously owned by the Jew Nives Bassani, née Servadio, confiscated by the state in accordance with dl 2/1944 and deposited at the Prefecture of Como, 9 February 1945; *ibid.* s.fasc. "Egeli F22282 Servadio Bassani Nives", confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Como, 10 May 1944; *ibid.*, fasc. "F 22369 Pacifici Aldo", confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Como, 10 May 1944, with enclosed copy of report to officials of the Prefecture of Como, 3 January 1944; *ibid.* s.fasc. "Egeli F 22369 Pacifici Aldo",

The folders of the various files carry the note “Report of failure to take consignment due to removal of valuables by three Ministry of the Interior officials”.⁴⁸

The previously cited document, drawn up in May 1945 by a Public Security officer appointed by the Como Police Chief “to recover objects belonging to Italian and foreign citizens of Jewish religion”, states that the assets of more than 20 people, among whom the above-mentioned Jews are also noted, were “confiscated”⁴⁹ at a different time between October 1943 and April 1944. Such valuables were placed in 23 parcels, 21 of which contained jewellery and two with money orders, cheques or foreign currency. The parcels, duly sealed and accompanied by reports, were given to two chief accountants by an Inspector General of Public Security, Dr Carlo Alberto Rossi, on 6 June 1944. The document also states that, despite the repeated complaints made by the EGELI, as competent body for the management of Jewish assets, to the Head Office for Public Security at the Ministry of the Interior, such assets were not consigned to the Cariplo. According to the documentation relating to the assets sequestered from Oscar Morpurgo, one of the names on the list, the above-mentioned valuables remained for some time at the Head Office for Public Security in Valdagno after the War, before being deposited at the Vicenza branch of the Banca d’Italia.⁵⁰

In December 1943 the Head of Province of Cremona had nominated Francesco Rossi as sequestrator and administrator of Jewish goods on the suggestion of the director of “the Fascist Regime”, Roberto Farinacci. As the said assets should have been transferred to EGELI management, according to dlgs 2/1944 of 4 January, Farinacci wrote to the Commissioner of that body asking that it administer the assets in question directly, through Rossi. The Commissioner of the EGELI, sending the Land Bank a copy of the letter, advised that it intended using the person indicated as representative in matters concerning industrial and commercial companies.⁵¹ He also wrote: “We ask that your bank urgently advise whether, regarding real estate assets,⁵² there is a way of not altering the normal procedure of future EGELI management, to be carried out by yourself, and at the same time satisfying the wishes of Minister Farinacci as far as possible, using Dr Francesco Rossi in the context of the organisation that the bank will operate for Jewish assets in the province of Cremona”.⁵³

Cariplo Land Bank, report of failure to take consignment of assets previously owned by the Jew Aldo Pacifici, son of Davide, confiscated by the state in accordance with dl 2/1944 and deposited at the Prefecture of Como, 9 February 1945.

⁴⁸ For the files, see the two previous notes.

⁴⁹ ASCo, *Questura*, fasc. “Morpurgo Oscar”, Public Security officer Attilio Asella to Como Police Headquarters, May 1945. The officer who wrote the report in my opinion gave the word “confiscated” the meaning of “sequestered”, “taken”.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, fasc. “Morpurgo Oscar”, report by Public Security officer Attilio Asella to Como Police Headquarters, May 1945; letter from the Como Police Chief to the Ministry of the Interior Head Office for Public Security, 29 September 1945; the Acting Prefect of Como to the Ministry of the Interior, Head Office for Public Security, 5 October 1945.

⁵¹ ASCariplo, *Egeli*, b. 46, fasc. 1, letter from the Commissioner of the EGELI to the Cariplo Land Bank, 3 April 1944 with enclosed copy of Roberto Farinacci’s letter to the Commissioner of the EGELI, 22 March 1944.

⁵² *Ibidem*.

⁵³ *Ibidem*.

A letter from the Head of the Company Management Department of November 1944, presumably to the manager of the Cremona branch of the Cariplo, states that the bank administration, faced with the large quantity of work related to the management of Jewish assets, had followed the directive to facilitate possible agreements between the local banks and the EGELI, particularly on matters regarding the provinces furthest from Milan. Considering the significant difficulties that had arisen regarding communications and the need there would have been to send engineers and agricultural technicians to make inspections, the idea of taking on the management of assets in Cremona had seemed “undesirable”. The Cariplo, however, “readily” agreed that the work be entrusted to the Banca Agricola Mantovana for matters pertaining to that province, to Francesco Rossi and to the Banca Popolare di Cremona for the Cremona area. It would seem that the latter bank, also after the intervention of the Head of Province, had agreed to take charge of it.⁵⁴

The house owned by Acher Alhadeff at Porto Ceresio in the province of Varese was requisitioned on 20 September 1943, to be put at the disposal of the German Military Command stationed in that town as it needed rooms. In January 1944 the Head of Province of Varese, Mario Bassi, issued the sequestration decree for the property and the confiscation decree in May.⁵⁵ The Cariplo representative charged with appropriating the property complained that, on going there, he had been denied a permit and access to the house by the German Military Command. Both the EGELI and the Prefectorial Authority were informed of the situation, and some days later the Cariplo representative, Silvio Colombi, was granted one hour on a specific day to carry out his assigned task.⁵⁶

The rent on the building, set at L.2,500 per month, was charged to the town council of Porto Ceresio, which was also bound to pay for 4,000 kilograms of firewood at the house for heating. Part of the costs were paid, but immediately after the War there was a remaining balance due of L.7,720.50. The local body, however, said it was not authorised to make the payment, advising the bank to apply to the Prefecture. But it would seem that the latter said the sum had to be recovered from the Italian government.⁵⁷ In the absence of other documentation on the matter, it is not possible to say what the conclusion was.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, letter from the Head of the Company Management Department to the manager of the Cremona branch of the Cariplo, 9 November 1944. The sender and addressee are inferred from the correspondence.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, “fasc. F 21192 Alhadeff Acher fu Salomone”, requisition order signed by the Prefectorial Commissioner, 20 September 1943; sequestration decree and confiscation decree issued by the Head of Province of Varese, dated 21 January and 4 May 1944; letter to the Cariplo Company Management Department from Silvio Colombi, appointed by the Cariplo to take possession, 2 March 1944.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, letter from the Director General of the Cariplo to the Head of Province of Varese, 4 March 1944. The document contains a handwritten note of the permission granted; *ibid.*, s.fasc. “Alhadeff Acher fu Salomone Varese (contabilità)”, report of appropriation of assets formerly owned by the Italian subject of Jewish race, Alhadeff Acher, son of Solomon, in Porto Ceresio, 16 March 1944.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, “fasc. F 21192 Alhadeff Acher fu Salomone”, letter from the Cariplo to the Porto Ceresio town council, 27 June and 25 October 1944; letter from the Cariplo to the Prefecture of Varese, 7 November 1945; memo to Vassallo (procurator of the owner of the house – ed.), 7 March 1946.

The house was badly damaged during the occupation, as noted in an inspection by the property administrator. It was then occupied by Allied and Italian forces from 15 May 1945. It remained under Cariplo administration until December 1945, when the report of return was signed, as the owner, who had been abroad for some time, did not authorise acceptance of it until such time as it was made available.⁵⁸ The administrator of the property paid the sum of L.23,290.05 to cover the management deficit.⁵⁹

The assets confiscated from Gerardo Picher valued at L.320, consisting of used clothing, books and a ceramic bottle, already held prior to confiscation by the Ente Comunale di Assistenza (Municipal Welfare Agency) of Castelvaccana, were sold to the Varese Prefecture, which returned them to that same Welfare Agency. The sum had to be paid by the Agency itself, which then included the amount in the monthly statement of accounts to be sent to the Prefecture. The file folder has the note: “Exactly L.320 from the sale of goods to the Prefecture”.⁶⁰ Picher’s name is on a list of confiscated Jewish goods under management on 29 December 1948: the studies carried out on him were inconclusive and the sum was not repaid. In 1949 the amount was credited to the EGELI current account.⁶¹

The above mentioned list contains fairly brief notes on the assets not yet returned, specifically jewellery, cash, securities, furniture, clothing, Jewish books and three flats. Nothing more had been heard of many of the owners, while the assets of others had already been returned – and their relative positions therefore cancelled – or were being returned; in other cases relations or heirs had been traced. The management positions still open included a sum of L.34,600.30 taken on consignment at the time from the publisher Mondadori. It corresponded to the total owing in royalties on works by Jakob Wasserman, Margherita Sarfatti and Stefan Zweig. The money went into the EGELI current account in 1949.⁶² The cash still on deposit at the Land Bank included the proceeds of the sale of goods, mainly clothing, consigned to the Prefecture of Varese.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, Observation of the condition of the property, 8 May 1945; letter from the Cariplo to the manager of the Cremona branch of the Cariplo, 28 November 1945; memo to Vassallo, 7 March 1946; report of the return of the property located in the Porto Ceresio town council district (Varese province) formerly owned by the Italian subject of Jewish race, Alhadeff Acher, son of Salomone, 4 December 1945. EGELI informed the Cariplo that there was no obligation on the part of the legitimate owners to take consignment of formerly sequestered properties, but solely “a faculty that may be exercised on demand by the interested party”; *ibid.*, letter from the deputy first secretary of the Milan Delegation of the EGELI to the Cariplo Land Bank, 22 November 1945.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, internal Cariplo note, 7 March 1946.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, fasc. “F21563 Picher Gerardo”, confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Varese, 1 May 1944; Cariplo, report of assessment and sale of assets previously owned by the subject of Jewish race, Gerardo Picher, son of Maurizio, held by the Fascist Municipal Welfare Agency of Castelveccana, at the Prefecture of Varese, 17 July 1944; directive of the Head of Province of Varese sent to the Municipal Welfare Agency of Castelveccana and to the Cariplo, 8 August 1944; letter from the Head of Province of Varese to the Cariplo, 21 October 1944.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, b. 40, fasc. 4, s.fasc. 2 “Management of unclaimed confiscated Jewish assets. Compensation for management period 1948-1952 cc. 50: tutte”, Cariplo Land Bank, list of confiscated Jewish goods under management on 29 December 1948; letter from the Cariplo to the EGELI, 30 May 1949.

⁶² *Ibid.*; fasc. “Zweig Stephen (Zweig Arnold) A.I. 1944 -1945”, report of consignment, in accordance with comma V of art. 8 of dlg 2/1944, of the sum owed by the publishing house A. Mondadori to the Jew Zweig Stephan, 13 April 1945.

Two of the positions mentioned related to assets from Cremona. A savings account in the name of Dino Jesi, with an apparent credit balance of L.12,392.10, had been taken on consignment at the time by Dr Rossi, while 25 gold coins owned by Aldo Basola, also taken by Dr Rossi, had been surrendered to the Banca d'Italia. The note relating to the latter carries the sentence: "the proceeds of L.5,028.80 are in this bank", suggesting that the coins had been sold. Aldo Basola engaged a solicitor after the War to supervise the return of his assets, while nothing more was heard of Dino Jesi, such that the savings deposit account at the Cremona branch of the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro was among the securities consigned by the Cariplo to the EGELI in 1951.⁶³

A considerable amount of clothing, furs and silverware belonging to Enrichetta Topper Pollack was taken on consignment by the Prefecture of Brescia and placed in the custody of a woman. When the legitimate owner regained possession of her assets, she found that some of these had been taken by a relation of the woman to whom they had been given in custody. Only some of the stolen goods were traced. Mrs Topper Pollack presented a compensation claim for a sum of L.2,584,000, but in December 1948 the claim was still suspended.

The same list shows that on a date prior to 14 December 1944 some industrial shares and a sum of L.1,125,879.90 owned by Pia Cabibbe Polacco had been paid to the Cariplo by the General Inspectorate for Race. At the end of that year, following directives made by the EGELI, the sum of L.435,567 was consigned to Dr Martelloni, while the remaining balance was put at the disposal of the EGELI on 13 April 1946. The shares, subject to legal sequestration by the Milan Court, were still on deposit at the Cariplo on managed investment.⁶⁴ A document of a later date provides more precise information on the matter: on 11 October 1944 the sum of L.1,125,879.90 had been deposited in a current account in the name of "Company Management by Prefectorial Commission of Florence". The account was closed on 13 April 1945 and the balance of L.697,296 was credited to the EGELI current account.⁶⁵

The story of the assets belonging to Cadum Cohen and her mother Rachele Avigdor is an interesting one. The two women of Turkish nationality were arrested in Milan in 1944 according to *Il libro della memoria*.⁶⁶ On 13 January 1944 the Head of Province of Varese issued a sequestration decree for Cadum Cohen's assets, consisting of L.500, a ring, a chain, a watch and "miscellaneous objects

⁶³ *Ibid.*, cart. 40, fasc. 4, s.fasc. 2 "Management of unclaimed confiscated Jewish assets. Compensation for management period 1948-1952 cc. 50: tutte", Cariplo Land Bank, list of confiscated Jewish goods under management on 29 December 1948; Cariplo Land Bank, report of consignment to the EGELI of confiscated jewellery and miscellaneous objects previously owned by various Jewish companies, 3 October 1951.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, Cariplo Land Bank, list of confiscated Jewish goods under management on 29 December 1948.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, letter from the Head of the Company Management Department to the EGELI, 3 November 1951.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, fasc. "F21187 Cohen Cadum di Moisè", s.fasc. "Cohen Cadum di Moisè Varese (contabilità)", letter from the Varese Police Chief to the Varese Prefecture and the Cariplo, 14 March 1944; L. Picciotto Fargion, *op.cit.*, p. 122 and p. 190. The name that appears here is Caden Cohen.

and valuables”, all held by the Varese police headquarters.⁶⁷ According to what was communicated by the latter in March 1944 to the Cariplo and the Prefectorial Authority, the two women had been subsequently released “following the undertaking of the Turkish Consulate in Milan to repatriate them as soon as possible” and the assets in question returned to them “considering their limited value”.⁶⁸ But the mother and daughter were actually deported on 19 May 1944 from Milan to Bergen Belsen, from where they were liberated in March 1945.⁶⁹ The sequestration decree issued in January 1944 was repealed on 14 August 1944.⁷⁰

Other assets owned by Cohen – clothing, shoes, utensils and more than 90 boxes containing 554 pairs of socks – found in the home of a woman, were sequestered on 11 April 1944 by officials of the Police Headquarters. The confiscation decree was issued on 10 June and the Cariplo representative went to the police offices to take possession of the goods, but there was no sign of them.⁷¹

The matter became clearer when the Varese Police Chief stated that 88 boxes containing 513 pairs of socks had been sent to the provincial textile stores on the orders of the Prefecture, while the remaining goods, consisting of “used personal garments, clothing items and other objects”, had been consigned to the Provincial Agency for Aid to Refugees and the Protection of the Interests of Invaded Provinces. The Cariplo also asked that the proceeds of the sale of the goods be confiscated and the Head of Province ordered the Police Headquarters to have them valued and to pay the amount into the bank.⁷² The provincial office of the Agency for Aid to Refugees said it was unable to establish the value of the goods, because most of them had already been distributed. However, the valuation was carried out on the basis of the assets “still in the stores”, and a payment of L.4,431 made. The Varese Prefecture paid the Cariplo L.14,166 for the goods consigned to the National Textile Agency.⁷³ The Head of Province of Varese made the assurance that episodes of this kind

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, sequestration decree issued by the Head of Province of Varese, 13 January 1944.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, letter from the Varese Police Chief to the Varese Prefecture and the Cariplo, 14 March 1944; copy of the repeal of the sequestration decree, 14 August 1944; Cariplo Land Bank, report of appraisal of assets previously owned by the subject of Jewish race, Miss Cadum Cohen, daughter of Mosè, 20 March 1944.

⁶⁹ L. Picciotto Fargion, *op.cit.*, p. 122 and p. 190.

⁷⁰ ASCariplo, *Egeli*, fasc. “F21187 Cohen Cadum di Moisè”, copy of the repeal of the sequestration decree, 14 August 1944.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, copy of the sequestration report, 11 April 1944; confiscation decree issued by the Head of Province of Varese, 10 June 1944; letter from the manager of the Varese branch of the Cariplo to the Varese Prefecture, 26 September 1944; letter from the manager of the Varese branch of the Cariplo to the Varese Police Chief, 9 October 1944.

⁷² *Ibid.*, letter from the Varese Police Chief to the Varese branch of the Cariplo, 26 October 1944; letter from the Cariplo to the Varese Prefecture, 14 November 1944; letter from the Head of Province of Varese to the Varese Police Chief, 15 November 1944; s.fasc. “Cohen Cadum di Moisè (contabilità)”, letter from the Varese Police Chief to the Varese branch of the Cariplo, 5 November 1944.

⁷³ *Ibid.*, fasc. “F21187 Cohen Cadum di Moisè”, letter from the Provincial Agency for Aid to Refugees to the Varese branch of the Cariplo, 5 March 1945; the Varese branch of the Cariplo to the Head Office of the Company Management Department, 20 March 1945; Cariplo Land Bank, report of the delivery of assets and relative sale to the Varese office of the National Agency for Aid to Refugees – previously owned by the “Jewish subject Coen Cadum son of Mosè”, 7 March 1945. The report includes the text of a letter sent by the Varese office of the National Agency for Aid to Refugees and the Protection of the Interests of Invaded Provinces to the Varese Police Headquarters, 13 January 1945.

would not be repeated in future, “it being [his] intention that, in accordance with the law, no asset of originally Jewish ownership would escape the control of the EGELI.”⁷⁴

The name of Cadum Cohen appears in the list drawn up in 1948. Investigations were made with regard to the woman, but without result. The note alongside her name, however, shows only the sum of L.14,167, paid at the time for the sale of a batch of socks taken. Unfortunately there is no information on the remaining figure paid for the sequestered goods. It is known that the balance of the management position in her name was paid into the EGELI current account, as was the case with many others, prior to 30 May 1949.⁷⁵

Seven batches of confiscated chattels still under management referred to property at the time entrusted by the Cariplo to the Monte di Credito su Pegno of Milan, and some of the relative notes refer to legal disputes that had arisen. Alberto Ascoli sued the Monte Pegni after the War for compensation of L.220,000, as not all the furniture and objects taken from his company had been returned to him. The EGELI, the Ministry of Finance, the Police Headquarters and the Credit and Insurance Confederation had been given the use of his assets on the orders of the Prefecture. Some of the furniture consigned to the Credit and Insurance Confederation was not recovered because, it seemed, it was taken by a person who had since become untraceable.

Leone Calef refused to sign the reconignment report, despite taking back his remaining goods, as he complained that some were missing, though without further specification. His assets had been taken on consignment by the bank and deposited in a cellar. Felice Supino, who had had furniture with an estimated value of L.136,240 confiscated, seemed intent on bringing legal action against the Monte Pegni because in his opinion the company had made an illegal sale of his books. Guglielmo Morpurgo had asked for compensation of L.100,000 because some of his furniture had been consigned to the Milan Police Chief on the orders of the Prefecture and subsequently taken by the Allied Command. After the War, despite investigations being made, nothing was found.

Notes relating to the assets held in the stores of the Monte Pegni are interesting. Some of the people whose furniture had been taken by the bank turned out to be “untraceable” (sic). They had been requested during 1948 to reclaim their assets, otherwise these would be sold. Anneris Castelletti responded saying she was unable to do so as her flat had been requisitioned and was still occupied.⁷⁶ Nathan Sciaki, deported from Milan to Bergen Belsen,⁷⁷ had reached Turkey after

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, Cariplo Land Bank, report of the delivery of assets and relative sale to the Varese office of the National Agency for Aid to Refugees – previously owned by the “Jewish subject Coen Cadum son of Mosè”, 7 March 1945 with the text of the letter from the Head Of Province of Varese.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, cart. 40, fasc. 4, s.fasc. 2 “Management of unclaimed confiscated Jewish assets. Compensation for management period 1948-1952 cc. 50: tutte”, Cariplo Land Bank, list of management positions of confiscated Jewish assets at 29 December 1948; the Cariplo to the EGELI, 30 May 1949.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, Cariplo Land Bank, list of management positions of confiscated Jewish assets at 29 December 1948.

⁷⁷ L. Picciotto Fargion, *op. cit.*, p. 534.

liberation. Given the impossibility of contacting the person in question, the Cariplo asked the EGELI for instructions on what to do.

The 12 positions listed regarding people defined as “untraceable”, or those of whom nothing had been heard, include the name of Mazluom Berhamin. He had left for Egypt after liberation but without collecting furniture valued at L.453,680 and 15 closed crates, presumably containing paintings, crystal and other items. Five of these 12 people, of whom there are no further personal details allowing more precise identification, are noted in *Il libro della memoria*. That book does not, however, mention Jacheli Jeida and Elisa Landau, who also, according to the list, never returned “from Germany”.⁷⁸

In January 1949 the EGELI informed the Milan Revenue Office that it had to proceed to sell furniture sequestered and confiscated by the Cariplo and placed in safe keeping at the Monte di Credito su Pegno of Milan, following directives from the Treasury and subject to appraisal by the Land Revenue Assessment Office. Despite numerous checks having been made at the various Jewish communities and city councils of previous residence, it had not been possible to trace their legitimate owners. The sale, to be carried out without “further delay”, had been decided to avoid further deterioration of the assets and the enormous cost of their storage.⁷⁹

There was a constant flow of goods that had been stored at the Cariplo Land Bank to the EGELI starting from 1949. This was probably also stimulated by a desire to resolve the high cost of their management.⁸⁰ A note from the Land Bank to the EGELI of 30 May 1949 shows that at the end of that month the management positions of confiscated Jewish assets still current would be closed. The crediting of about 25 cash items to the EGELI current account had already been made and the relative statements were to have been sent to the organisation.⁸¹ The “managements of transferred assets”⁸², all consisting of cash, were to be closed on 31 May and the balance of the individual accounts credited to the EGELI. The management of jewellery and securities held in the vault or on

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 294, p. 390, p. 420, pp. 579-580, p. 590. ASCariplo, *Egeli*, b. 40, fasc. 4, s.fasc. 2 “Management of unclaimed confiscated Jewish assets. Compensation for management period 1948-1952 cc. 50: tutte”, Cariplo Land Bank, list of management positions of confiscated Jewish assets at 29 December 1948.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, “Management of unclaimed confiscated Jewish assets. Compensation for management period 1948-1952 cc. 50: tutte”, the EGELI to the Milan Revenue Office, 29 January 1949.

⁸⁰ An EGELI circular of July 1949 sent to all management banks contained new directives intended to simplify the accounting of the management positions, as the Treasury Minister had complained several times about the high cost of the services “whose costs remain, as known, mainly charged to the State”. According to what was stated by the banks themselves, up until that time they had continued “to provide numerous, complex accounting services, not only for the management positions still current, but also those ended”. *Ibid.*, letter from the EGELI to the managing banks, 5 July 1949.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*, letter from the Cariplo Land Bank to the EGELI, 30 May 1949.

⁸² The denomination “transferred assets” presumably refers to those securities, sums of money and jewellery confiscated, stopped or sequestered from Jews on deposit at banks in the Lombard provinces, in Modena, Parma, Piacenza, Reggio Emilia, Bologna, Forlì, Ancona, Florence, Pistoia, Pisa, Lucca, Apuania, Arezzo, Siena and Livorno. Such valuables were to be concentrated at the Cariplo or the Head Offices of other banks in Milan, on orders issued by the Ministry of Finance towards the middle of 1944; *ibid.*, b. 49, f. 1, letter from the Commissioner of the EGELI to the Cariplo Land Bank, 3 July 1944; letter from the Commissioner of the EGELI to the Cariplo Land Bank, 12 August 1944 with enclosed list of confiscation decrees for deposits, securities and valuables at banks or other credit institutes, issued “by the following Prefectures, transferred or to be transferred to banks or other credit institutes in Milan”.

bills administered by the Cariplo was to end on the same date; regarding which the Land Bank advised where the assets in question were to be transferred. Authorisation was then requested to sell furniture and clothing deposited with third parties whose owners had not been traced, as had been the case with the assets deposited at the Monte Pegni.⁸³

The Jewish management positions whose balance had already been credited to the EGELI included that relating to Sofia Scheirer Hornreich, arrested in Varese on 31 January 1944 by Italians, deported to Auschwitz and who died at an unknown place on an unknown date.⁸⁴ Mario Bassi, Head of Province of Varese, had issued the confiscation decree on 1 April 1944. The assets consisted of L.3,125 and a black leather purse and were held at the Varese Police Headquarters. The manager of the Varese branch of the Cariplo had informed the Head Office in March 1946 that no request for their return had been made. The assets taken on consignment by the bank came from the Varese Police Headquarters, so it was probable that they were valuables taken from a person who had tried, unsuccessfully, to leave the country. The confiscated sum, in the meantime increased by interest to L.3,289, was credited to the EGELI current account.⁸⁵

Although the Cariplo had sent further requests relating to the method of transferring securities and jewellery to the EGELI, the consignment was not made until 1951, due to the obligation of that body to concentrate unreclaimed Jewish assets. On 3 October 1951 documents and jewellery still deposited with the Cariplo Land Bank were consigned to two officials appointed by the EGELI. The consignment note shows that the assets in question included coins, shares, jewellery – such as watches, rings, necklaces and cuff-links – cheques, expired bills, documents, two bearer passbooks, a deposit passbook and even a PNF [National Fascist Party] badge, along with four provisional certificates for 58 Sarca shares worth L.5,800, confiscated from Edgardo Bassani.⁸⁶

At the end of October a parcel containing jewellery confiscated from Bice Ottolenghi and consigned to the Cariplo representative at the Como Police Headquarters on 13 April 1945 was also consigned to the EGELI.⁸⁷

⁸³ *Ibid.*, b. 40, fasc. 4, s.fasc. 2 “Management of unclaimed confiscated Jewish assets. Compensation for management period 1948-1952 cc. 50: tutte”, letter from the Cariplo Land Bank to the EGELI, 30 May 1949.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, the name is Sofia Schreier Kornreich in *Il libro della memoria*, cfr. L. Picciottoi Fargion, *op. cit.*, p. 531.

⁸⁵ ASCariplo, *Egeli*, fasc. “F 21314 Scheirer Hornreich Sofia”, s.fasc. “F 21314 Scheirer Hornreich Sofia”, confiscation decree of the Head of Province of Varese, 1 April 1944; letter from the manager of the Varese branch of the Cariplo to the Company Management Head Office of the Cariplo, 14 March 1946; *ibid.*, “F22143 Sinigaglia Orefici Carolina”, letter from the Cariplo Land Bank to the EGELI, 13 July 1950.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, b. 40, fasc. 4, s.fasc. 2 “Management of unclaimed confiscated Jewish assets. Compensation for management period 1948-1952 cc. 50: tutte”, Commissioner of the EGELI to the Cariplo, 29 September 1951; Cariplo Land Bank, report of consignment to the EGELI of previously confiscated jewellery and miscellaneous objects owned by various Jewish companies, 3 October 1951.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, fasc. “F22901 Ottolenghi Bice”, letter from the Head of the Company Management Department to the EGELI, 30 October 1951; solicitor Setti of the Rome office of the Cariplo to the Cariplo Company Management, 2 November 1951; *ibid.*, s.fasc. “F22901 Ottolenghi Bice”, Cariplo Land Bank, report of acceptance according to comma V of art. 8 of dlg 2/1944, of assets belonging to the Jew Bice Ottolenghi, son of Moisè, deposited at the Como Police Headquarters, 13 April 1945.

At the time of the arrest of the Sacerdote family,⁸⁸ consisting of father, mother and two daughters, Laura and Luciana, and of Enrichetta Rimini Fubini and her son, Mario, by Italians on the Italian-Swiss border in December 1943,⁸⁹ L.17,112 in cash, jewellery and Swiss francs with a total value of L.25,250 were taken from them.⁹⁰ The only person who survived the deportation was Luciana Sacerdote, liberated in the district of Ravensbruck. Having been informed in September 1948 by the Jewish Community of Genoa that her name had been included in a list sent by the Milan Community of people from whom “the Germans” had taken assets, she turned to the Cariplo as holders of the valuables for information. A little later the woman sent the bank a copy of the decree issued by the Genoa court naming her special trustee of her mother and sister. However, from what can be inferred from a note added by a clerk of the Land Bank to the bottom of the letter, she did not have the decree nominating her as special trustee of her father, though this had been issued. The assets were still under management by the Cariplo in 1951, so the Head of the Company Management Department wrote to the woman reminding her that, in order to claim the items, she needed to produce a copy of the death certificate, the will and the decrees nominating her special trustee.⁹¹

Mario Fubini’s sister-in-law, Ida Lattes Fubini, also asked the bank what paperwork had to be completed in order to reclaim the assets of her relation, as her sons were the sole heirs. The Cariplo replied that, as the confiscation decree and taking of the items occurred at the same time, it would be possible to divide the valuables only in the presence of heirs or those of the various names entitled to them. One of the woman’s sons then had to have himself named as special trustee on behalf of his brothers.⁹² In October 1951 the assets in question were consigned, along with others, to the EGELI.⁹³ In December 1990 Luciana Sacerdote’s solicitor sent a letter to the Head Office of the Cariplo, explaining that his client had found information relating to the matter among some old

⁸⁸ The folder and some files incorrectly carry the name Sacerdoti; *ibid.*, fasc. “F 21756 Sacerdoti Borghetti consorti, Sacerdoti Laura e Luciana, Rimini Fubini consorti”.

⁸⁹ The file at the Cariplo is cumulatively registered to all these people; *ibid.* The Sacerdote family was captured on 18 December, the Fubini family on 15 December 1943; L. Picciotto Fargion, *op. cit.*, p. 152, p. 289-290, p. 504, pp. 517-518.

⁹⁰ The assets in question were appraised in Varese by an officer of the Monte di Credito su Pegno of Milan; ASCariplo, *Egeli*, fasc. “F 21756 Sacerdoti Borghetti consorti, Sacerdoti Laura e Luciana, Rimini Fubini consorti”, Cariplo Land Bank, report of receipt of assets previously owned by subjects of Jewish race, Messrs Claudio Sacerdoti, Ernestina Sacerdoti, nee Borghetti, Laura and Luciana Sacerdoti, Mario Fubini and Enrichetta Fubini, née Rimini, in Varese, 23 September 1944; Cariplo Land Bank, report of appraisal of assets previously owned by subjects of Jewish race, Messrs Claudio Sacerdoti, Ernestina Sacerdoti, née Borghetti, Laura and Luciana Sacerdoti, Mario Fubini and Enrichetta Fubini, nee Rimini, held by the treasurer of the Varese Police Headquarters, 26 September 1944.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, letter from the president of the Genoa Jewish Community to Luciana Sacerdote, 9 September 1948; letter from Luciana Sacerdote to the management of the Cariplo, 10 September 1948 and 10 November 1948, with enclosed copy of the decree from the Genoa court nominating her special trustee, 19 October 1948; letter from the Head of the Cariplo Company Management Department to Luciana Sacerdote, 19 June 1951. L. Picciotto Fargion, *op. cit.*, p. 518.

⁹² *Ibid.*, letter from Ida Lattes, Fubini’s widow, to the Cariplo, 16 September 1948; letter from the deputy head of the Cariplo Company Management Department to Ida Lattes Fubini, 21 September 1948.

⁹³ *Ibid.*, b. 40, fasc. 4, s.fasc. 2 “Management of unclaimed confiscated Jewish assets. Compensation for management period 1948-1952” cc. 50: tutte”, Cariplo Land Bank, report of consignment to the EGELI of jewellery and miscellaneous objects previously confiscated from various Jewish companies, 3 October 1951.

papers, but of which she no longer had any memory. Despite research carried out by the bank, no trace of the deposits was found. Thanks to some notes, it is known only that on 3 October 1951 the assets had been consigned to the EGELI.⁹⁴ Further elements to establish how the matter was resolved cannot be provided.

On 13 October 1951 instructions were given regarding the sale of furniture never returned to its owners and held at the Monte Pegni. Indeed, the Treasury had given instructions for all management positions relating to confiscated and sequestered Jewish assets still held by the banks, organisations or offices to be closed by the end of the year and the remaining assets and liabilities transferred to the EGELI. In order to arrange for the transfer to Rome of the securities still held and administered by the Cariplo because never returned, the bank sent seven numerical schedules of securities.⁹⁵

There were still ten management positions of Jewish goods at the Land Bank on 31 December 1957. On 18 November 1957 the Treasury had by decree given itself responsibility for winding up the EGELI, and procedures were under way to liquidate the lots of goods resulting from the confiscation of securities and deposits.⁹⁶

On 31 March 1961 there were still three management positions at the Cariplo, two of which concerned used clothing and miscellaneous objects, left on consignment to third parties, whose owners were untraceable. Procedures were also under way for the reconveyance of a small building site in Saltrio in Varese province, owned by Giacomo Pergua, who died at Auschwitz.⁹⁷

⁹⁴ *ibid.*, fasc. "F 21756 Sacerdoti Borghetti consorti, Sacerdoti Laura e Luciana, Rimini Fubini consorti", letter from the solicitor Alfredo L.L. Belli Paci to the Cariplo Head Office, 17 December 1990; letter from the deputy head of the Mortgage Department to the solicitor Alfredo L.L. Belli Paci, 16 April 1991. The cover of the file is marked "3.10.1951: Beni trasferiti all'Egeli con verbale in data odierna" [Goods transferred to the EGELI with report on same date].

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, b. 40, fasc. 4, s.fasc. 2 "Gestione beni ebraici confiscati non reclamati per la restituzione. Compensi per la gestione 1948-1952 cc. 50: tutte", letter from the commissioner of the EGELI to the Cariplo Land Bank, 18 October 1951; letter from the Head of the Company Management Department to the EGELI, 3 November 1951.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, reports and balance-sheet for the year 1957.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, *Egeli*, b. 39, fasc. 6 "Dati statistici beni Egeli", Memorandum of 31 March 1961; L. Picciotto Fargion, *op. cit.*, p. 467.