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# Gabriele D'Annunzio Collection

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1919-1920

15 items (0.1 linear foot)

Call no.: MS 763



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An Italian poet, journalist, novelist, and dramatist, Gabriele D'Annunzio enjoyed a flamboyant career in international affairs after the First World War when he raised a small army and seized the port of Fiume (now Rijeka, Croatia). Failing in his attempts to annex his territory to Italy, D'Annunzio reigned as Duce over the micro-state for over a year before being forced to relinquish control.

The fifteen imprints comprising this collection of scarce broadsides, all printed in the short-lived Free State of Fiume. During the

brief period of his reign in Fiume, D'Annunzio issued propagandistic broadsides, proclamations, and leaflets almost daily, often distributing them by airplane drop over the city. Included is a rare first edition of D'Annunzio's most famous piece from the Fiume period, *Italia e vita*.

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## Background on Gabriele D'Annunzio

Renowned as a poet and novelist, journalist and dramatist, Gabriele D'Annunzio was considered one of Italy's brightest lights in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Born into a wealthy family of Dalmatian extraction in Pescara (Abruzzo) in 1863, he enjoyed a life of intrigue and adventure, earning laurels as a powerful and original writer and dipping into politics while still in his thirties. At the peak of his literary fame during the years immediately preceding the First World War, however, he soon carved out a new role for himself as a hypernationalist and proto-Fascist.

Volunteering for wartime service as a fighter pilot, D'Annunzio lived up to his self-proclaimed status as Superman. As a squadron commander, he lost an eye in an accident, but his often outlandish bravado and dramatic gestures were cited as helping to raise the spirits of his fellow Italians during bleak times, winning him a hero's reputation. But that reputation was not sealed until the delicate task of dismembering the Austro-Hungarian empire came to pass after the end of the war, when D'Annunzio's already ardent nationalism was inflamed and he took direct political action.

Incensed by the proposed transfer away from Italy of the port of Fiume (now Rijeka, Croatia) at the Paris Peace Conference, D'Annunzio raised a small force of Royal Italian army veterans, nationalists, and irredentists, and on September 12, 1919, seized the city and expelled the allied occupiers. When his plans to annex the territory to Italy were rebuffed, earning a blockade instead, he declared independence and established the Regency of Carnaro (Reggenza Italiana del Carnaro) with himself as Duce. The government formed drew on a mix of anarchist and proto-Fascist ideas, but D'Annunzio's efforts to gain support for this quixotic enterprise were unavailing both internationally and regionally. After the Treaty of Rapallo in November 1920 resolved the dispute between the Italians and Serbs by declaring Fiume a Free State, D'Annunzio declared war on Italy, surrendering only after Fiume was bombarded by the Italian navy in December 1920.

Often seen as a harbinger of the Fascism to come in Italy, D'Annunzio retired to his home after the affair in Fiume, surviving an assassination attempt in 1922. Although never again directly involved in politics, he was lauded by Mussolini and cited as a source and inspiration for the distinctive Fascist style in Italian politics. D'Annunzio died of a stroke in 1938.

## Scope of collection

The fifteen imprints comprising this collection of scarce broadsides, all printed in the short-lived Free State of Fiume. During the brief period of his reign in Fiume, D'Annunzio issued propagandistic broadsides, proclamations, and leaflets almost daily, often distributing them by airplane drop over the city. Included is a rare first edition of D'Annunzio's most famous piece from the Fiume period, *Italia e vita*, and *La Reggenza Italiana del Carnaro*, a frame for the new government.

## Inventory

D'Annunzio, Gabriele, 1863-1938: **Agli Italiani degli Stati Uniti**

1919 ottobre 12

4p.

Box 1: 1

D'Annunzio, Gabriele, 1863-1938 and Luigi Rizzo: **Comando dell'esercito Italiano in Fiume d'Italia**

1919 ottobre 18

1p.



Seal of the city of Fiume.

Box 1: 2

Zoll, Corrado: Comando dell'Esercito italiano in Fiume d'Italia

ca.1919

1p.

Box 1: 3

D'Annunzio, Gabriele, 1863-1938: Italia e vita

1919 ottobre 24

4p.

Box 1: 4

D'Annunzio, Gabriele, 1863-1938: L'urna inesausta

191[9] dicembre 20

2p.

Box 1: 5

D'Annunzio, Gabriele, 1863-1938: Alle donne di Fiume

ca.1919

1p.

Box 1: 6

D'Annunzio, Gabriele, 1863-1938: Il sacco di Fiume

1920 gennaio 11

4p.

Box 1: 7

D'Annunzio, Gabriele, 1863-1938: Saluto aereo alla Trieste di Ernesto Gramaticopulo e di Egidio Grego

1920 gennaio 11

4p.

Box 1: 8

D'Annunzio, Gabriele, 1863-1938: Le brache di Cagoia

1920 gennaio 18

2p.

Box 1: 9

D'Annunzio, Gabriele, 1863-1938: Nella chiesa di San Vito per l'offerta del pugnale votivo

1920 gennaio 20

1p.

Box 1: 10

D'Annunzio, Gabriele, 1863-1938: Il cavallo dell'apocalisse

1920 aprile 27

2p.

Box 1: 11

D'Annunzio, Gabriele, 1863-1938: La riscosso dei Leoni

1920 giugno 15

1p.

Box 1: 12

D'Annunzio, Gabriele, 1863-1938: La reggenza Italiana del Carnaro: disegno di un nuovo ordinamento dello stato libero di Fiume

1920 agosto 27

11p.

Box 1: 13

Fiume sola contro la tirannia e la nequizia del mondo delibera di resistere con le armi: la solenne seduta al Consiglio Nazionale il

24 gennaio 1920

ca.1920

3p.

Box 1: 14

Druscovich, Marco: Un accordo segreto del 1915 tra la Serbia e l'Austria-Ungheria: la documentazione del tradimento

ca.1920

2p.

Box 1: 15

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Acquired from Stephen Resnick, January 2013.

## Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, January 2013.

## Digitized content

All material in the collection has been scanned and are available online through our digital repository, Credo.

## Language:

Italian

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## Search terms

### Subjects

Free State of Fiume--History--20th century.

Italy--History--1914-1922.

Rijeka (Croatia)--History--20th century.

World War, 1914-1918--Baltic States.

World War, 1914-1918--Italy.

### Contributors

D'Annunzio, Gabriele, 1863-1938 [main entry]

Zoll, Corrado.

### Genres and formats

Broadsides.

Fliers (Printed material).

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