Finding aid for the Gentili - Barnabei archive, ca. 1660 - ca. 1920

Finding aid prepared by Teresa Morales.
**Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Gentili - Barnabei archive  
**Date (inclusive):** circa 1660-circa 1920  
**Number:** 880209  
**Creator/Collector:** Barnabei, Felice, 1842-1922  
**Physical Description:** 275.0 items  
**Repository:**  
The Getty Research Institute  
Special Collections  
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100  
Los Angeles, California, 90049-1688  
(310) 440-7390  

**Abstract:** Principally records relating to the production and decoration of ceramics, especially majolica, by three generations of the Gentili family, ca. 1650-ca. 1813. Included are some 19th and 20th century papers of Barnabei and his family relating to the history of potters in Castelli. The archive was formerly owned by historian Felice Barnabei.

**Request Materials:** Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the catalog record for this collection. Click here for the access policy.

**Language:** Collection material is in Italian and English.

**Biographical/Historical Note**

Members of the Gentili family were, for more than three centuries, potters in Castelli, and painters of majolica ceramics, circa 1650-circa 1813.

**Access**

Open for use by qualified researchers.

**Publication Rights**

Contact Library Rights and Reproductions.

**Preferred Citation**

Gentili - Barnabei archive ca. 1660-ca. 1920, Getty Research Institute, Research Library, Accession no. 880209.  
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa880209

**Acquisition Information**


**Scope and Content of Collection**

This collection, formerly owned by the historian Felice Barnabei, consists principally of records relating to the production and decoration of ceramics, especially majolica, by three generations of the Gentili family --Bernardino II (d. 1683); Bernardino’s son Carmine (1678-1763); and Carmine’s sons, Giacomo II (1717-1765) and Bern[ardino] III (1727-1813). Included are design drawings, pounced drawings, and prints and pounced prints of subjects for the decoration of ceramics. The archive also contains reports and agreements relating to the manufacture of pottery in the town of Castelli (Teramo), with lists of pieces made and objects sold.

Some Gentili family records, as well as Barnabei papers from the early 20th century, and Barnabei family papers from the late 19th century, relate to the traditions and history of the potters of Castelli.

Each item in the archive is numbered. One file holds typed transcriptions of some documents (21 pp.).

Note: the inventory, as translated by Catherine Hess (curator, J. Paul Getty Museum), has been used in processing this collection.

**Subjects - Topics**

Majolica--17th century--Italy--Castelli  
Majolica--18th century--Italy--Castelli  
Pottery, Italian

**Genres and Forms of Material**

Design drawings  
Prints
Contributors
Barnabei, Felice, 1842-1922
Gentili, Berardino, 1727-1813
Gentili, Bernardino, d.1683
Gentili, Carmine, 1678-1763
Gentili, Giacomo, 1717-1763

Box 1, Folder 1-16
Documents, drawings and cartoons, 1578-1900
- Documents regarding glazes, ceramists meeting minutes, kilns, and maiolica production, 1862, undated
  Physical Description: 7.0 items

Box 1, Folder 2
Pricked cartoon, print and sketches, undated
  Physical Description: 3.0 items

Box 1, Folder 3
Pricked cartoons on letters, letter fragments and small notebooks, 1676-1763
  Physical Description: 18.0 items

Box 1, Folder 4
Assorted documents, letters and lists, 1708-1816
  Physical Description: 14.0 items

Box 1, Folder 5
Assorted documents, letters, pricked cartoon on letter, lists and fragments of same, 1634-1793
  Physical Description: 20.0 items

Box 1, Folder 6
Letters and lists regarding various supplies, expenses and mortgages, some with pricked cartoons, 1650-1801
  Physical Description: 30.0 items

Box 1, Folder 7
Letters and lists regarding orders, expenses, matrimonial information and duties, some with pricked cartoons, 1666-1859
  Physical Description: 21.0 items

Box 1, Folder 8
Letters, lists and printed pages regarding health, education, ceramics and religious matters, some with pricked cartoons, 1578-1764 (or 1799?)
  Physical Description: 24.0 items

Box 1, Folder 9
Pen and ink sketches/drawings of putti, mythological and religious characters, some with pricked cartoons, undated
  Physical Description: 24.0 items

Box 1, Folder 10
Pricked drawings and cartoons, sketches of animals, putti, mythological and religious characters, undated
  Physical Description: 9.0 items

Box 1, Folder 11
Pricked cartoons, ink drawings and washes of figures, mythological characters, shields and partial letters, 1688, 1735
  Physical Description: 15.0 items

Box 1, Folder 12
Pricked cartoons (one on letter) and prints of figures, animals, mythological & religious characters, 1629, 1711, 1788
  Physical Description: 17.0 items
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Pricked prints and cartoon of figures, animals, allegorical and religion scenes, 1598-1649  
|                 | Physical Description: 16.0 items |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Pricked cartoons and drawing of putti, mythological and religious characters, figures and animals, 1872, undated  
|                 | Physical Description: 6.0 items |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Drawings (2 painted) and pricked cartoons of putti, mythological and religious characters, urns and framing motifs, figures and animals, 1869, 1874, 1898-1900  
|                 | Physical Description: 19.0 items |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Typed transcriptions of some of the documents in the archive, scattered numbers 31-137, undated  
|                 | Physical Description: 21.0 pp. |
| Box 2, Folder 1-2 | Oversized material, 1715, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 1  | Document on vellum, pricked cartoons, drawings of mythological and religious characters, undated  
|                 | Physical Description: 14.0 items |
| Box 2, Folder 2  | Sketchbook of rag paper with ink and pencil drawings, 1715  
|                 | Physical Description: 10.0 items |