

## ***The UNC Italian Opera Libretto Collection***

presentation by Renée McBride at SEMLA Annual Meeting, Oxford, MS  
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UNC-Chapel Hill University Libraries catalog: <https://catalog.lib.unc.edu/>

Reference sources in the UNC-Chapel Hill Music Library that aid in the study of the *UNC Italian Opera Libretto Collection*:

- *Preliminary catalog of librettos of operas performed in Italy, 1600-1900: a special collection in the University of North Carolina Music Library*. Ref ML136.C35 U5  
Available via the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/preliminarycatal00univ> (vol. 1), <https://archive.org/details/preliminarycatal02univ> (vol. 2), and <https://archive.org/details/preliminarycatal03univ> (vol. 3)
- Warfield, Scott, compiler. *A composer index of the Preliminary catalog of librettos of operas performed in Italy, 1600-1900: a special collection in the University of North Carolina Music Library*. 1986. Ref ML136.C35 U5 Suppl.  
Available via the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/composerindexofp00warf>
- Lasocki, David, compiler. *Catalog of librettos numbered 02561-04418 in the rare opera libretto collection of the Music Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*. 1987. Ref ML136.C35 U5 Suppl. 2  
Available via the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/catalogoflibrett00univ>
- *Italian opera libretti*. [between 1980 and 1985?] Ref ML136.C35 U5 Suppl. 3  
Description of the collection with a general note on libretti for Italian opera houses.

Useful resources for cataloging Italian opera libretti:

- *Grove Music Online*
- *Dizionario enciclopedico universale della musica e dei musicisti*. Torino: UTET, 1983-1984.
- Sessa, Andrea. *Il melodramma italiano, 1861-1900*. Firenze: Leo S. Olschki Editore, 2003.
- Sessa, Andrea. *Il melodramma italiano, 1901-1925*. Firenze: Leo S. Olschki Editore, 2014.
- Stieger, Franz. *Opernlexikon*. Tutzing: Schneider, 1975.

Other important Italian libretto collections in the United States:

- *Taddei Libretto Collection* at UC-Berkeley (as well as their *Sicilian Libretto Collection*, which didn't come into play in the cataloging of the *UNC Italian Opera Libretto Collection*)
- *John Milton and Ruth Neils Ward Collection* in the Harvard Theatre Collection

Article in which image from our collection appears: Trippett, David. "An Uncrossable Rubicon: Liszt's Sardanapalo Revisited." *Journal of the Royal Musical Association* 143/2 (2018), 361-432.