

UNIVERSITY  OF OXFORD

DELEGACY FOR EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES  
TUTORIAL CLASSES COMMITTEE

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Reply to:

80 Osborne Road,  
Windsor,  
ENGLAND.

5th December 1952.

Dear Professor Calamandrei,

I am a lecturer and tutor on the staff of the Oxford University Extra-Mural Delegacy, which, for some fifty years or so, has been trying to take the University to the people, that is, to extend University knowledge, standards and methods as widely as possible, partly as a good thing in itself and partly as a means of training citizens to play an effective role in the processes of democracy.

Now it seems to me that an exciting experiment in democracy is taking place in Italy to-day. I have in mind the experiment in Regionalism, and, more particularly, since democracy is essentially a neighbourhood matter, the "local community" movement.

Unfortunately, there are no serious studies in English of what is happening in this respect in Italy since the war. In fact, hardly anyone here knows anything at all about the actual working of Italian political institutions since 1946. We have a good deal of material for a study of political institutions in France, and some other Continental countries, but Italy is very much neglected.

I wish to try to fill a very small part of this gap in our knowledge by a serious study of local government in Italy. I am fairly well equipped for this self-imposed task. I spent nearly two years in Italy during the war and acquired a sound working knowledge of the language. (I was able, when things settled down, to employ a recognised teacher). I also obtained a good mark in the Italian translation paper for my degree at the University of London after the war. Since then, however, my knowledge has become "rusty" and I have not risked writing this in Italian, though I can still read Italian quite well. I am now beginning to revise my Italian in order to equip myself for the research which is the subject of this letter.

I have, also, specialised in the study of Government (First Class Honours in this subject in the University of London) and I have had practical experience of local government in London. As for research experience, I have recently completed nearly two years' work at the Offices of the Cabinet in Whitehall, London, for the Official History of the War. My present appointment I have already mentioned.

At this point, you will probably be saying to yourself: "This is all very interesting, but what is it to do with me?" The answer is that I have sought the

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