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EUROPEAN EMIGRATION RECORDS

GEORGE R. RYSKAMP

In one of the greatest migrations the world has seen, approximately 55 million Europeans emigrated between 1821 and 1924. The vast majority went to the Americas—33 million to the United States, 5.4 million to Argentina, 4.5 million to Canada, 3.8 million to Brazil, and the rest in smaller but significant numbers to countries from Mexico to Chile as well as to Australia and other Pacific Rim countries. During that period, a large but unnumbered group migrated from one area in Europe to another. These immigrants melded with indigenous peoples and previous immigrants to enrich and forever change the recipient countries and their cultures. While Ireland, Germany, Italy, and England top the list in terms of numbers departing, every country in Europe contributed to the flow.¹ These statistics and associated studies are only a black-and-white sketch of the rich tapestry of individual experiences that make up this great migration.²

For genealogists and social historians alike individual emigrant stories, like that of Luisa Cervizzo and her husband Raffaele Ponticelli, are as important as the statistics, giving faces and a sense of reality to the emigration experience. In May 1899, Raffaele immigrated to the United States on board the ship *Massilia*, sailing from Naples, Italy to New York, where he landed at Ellis Island.³ There he stated that he had never been to the United States before, did not know how to read or write, and was going to join his brother Giuseppe in Danbury, Connecticut. His brother appears to have come from Italy a month earlier on the ship *La Champagne* sailing from the French port of Le Havre to New York.⁴

An October 1899 Naples passport application file adds many more details to the story. Raffaele moved north to Boston and worked as a construction worker to raise the funds to bring his wife and children to the United States. In a June 1899 letter addressed to his wife, but written to his sister-in-law, he expresses his regret for not having arranged to write to his wife since his departure. Later in the letter he catches his wife by surprise, because he encloses forty dollars to cover all the expenditures, including the actual fare for her and the children to make it safely to the United States. Only four months after Luisa received the letter from her husband, a passport was issued by the *Questura*⁵ of

¹ Roger Daniels, *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life* (Princeton, NJ: Harper Perennial, 1990), 23–29.

² This article is a revision of one that appeared in the *IFLA Journal*, based on additional experiences in identifying emigration records in European archives that the author has had while working as director of the Immigrant Ancestors Project at BYU. See <http://immigrants.byu.edu>.

³ Raffaele Ponticelli, New York Passenger Arrival Lists, Ship *Massilia*, Year: 1899; Microfilm serial: 15; Microfilm roll: T715_62; Line: 17 viewed at [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com).

⁴ Giuseppe Ponticelli New York Passenger Arrival Lists, Ship *La Champagne*, Year: 1899; Microfilm serial: 15; Microfilm roll: T715_53; Line: 23 viewed at [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com).

⁵ The *Questura* is a part of the National Police under direction of the Ministry of the Interior with provincial competence. Its primary task is to assure the maintenance of the order and the public security

Naples to Luisa Cervizzo, housewife, and to her four children, on October 28, 1899. That passport application tells a lot about the Ponticellis.⁶

Raffaele Ponticelli, the son of Antonio Ponticelli and Giovanna Amadio, was born in Gaeta, Naples. He married Luisa Cervizzo in the church of San Giuseppe in Naples on February 2, 1890 at the age of 30. Luisa Cervizzo, the daughter of Pasquale Cervizzo and Anna Vincente, was born in Naples on 28 January 1871 and baptized in that same San Giuseppe parish. She apparently had little education, and was listed as illiterate in the passport application. By 1899, she was a busy housewife and mother of four children:

- Ponticelli, Giovanna, a daughter, born in the Avvocata parish on the 31st of March 1892.
- Ponticelli, Antonio, a son, born in the Avvocata parish on the 4th of December 1893.
- Ponticelli, Anna, a second daughter, born in the Avvocata parish on the 27th of January, 1896.
- Ponticelli, Pasquale, a second son, born in the Porto area on the 12th of June 1898.

The 1910 United States Census shows that Luisa Cervizzo (28), Giovanna (7), Antonio (6), Anna, and Pasquale (1) all made it safely, reaching Raffaele Ponticelli in 1899 in Boston. By 1910, Raffaele and Luisa have an additional four children, born in Massachusetts, and are living in a neighborhood with other immigrants from Italy, Ireland, Sweden, and Armenia. Like many immigrants the parents speak only Italian, but all of the children speak English.⁷

A personal story such as that of the Ponticellis captures the attention of historians and genealogists alike, when a large family like that of Luisa Cervizzo and Raffaele Ponticelli is reunited through the efforts of a caring husband.

Emigrants like the Ponticellis can be found throughout Europe during the nineteenth century. Under a wide variety of circumstances—rich, poor, convict, free, single, married, seeking economic opportunity, or fleeing political or religious oppression—emigrants left homes and often families to go beyond the boundaries of their homeland, most often to the New World. The records exist to tell those emigration stories, not only collectively, but individually. This paper will look at the types of records that exist to document the story of each emigrant, and how and where to find such records. Of particular interest are those that name individuals and give details about their unique experiences. Of special value are records that give the specific place of origin of the emigrant, as these allow social historians to look at the local emigration experiences not found in statistical summaries, and allow genealogists to begin to trace ancestral lines in the country of origin.

within of the province. In the nineteenth century in addition to its role in the prevention and repression of the crimes, the *Questura* processed all applications for passports. it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Questura.

⁶ AS Napoli. Questura, 3033, Cervizzo, Luisa (1899).

⁷ 1910 U.S. Federal Census, Massachusetts, Suffolk County, Boston City, Ward 22, Precinct 2, Roll: T624_623; Page: 13A; Enumeration District: 1598; Image: 880, viewed at [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com).

ARRIVAL RECORDS

The best known records for telling the emigration story are the passenger lists prepared at the time of the arrival of the ship in the destination country. Perhaps most famous are those of Ellis Island,⁸ but many others exist, not only within the United States, but for other countries as well. The *Hotel de Inmigrantes* in Buenos Aires, where millions of immigrants to Argentina arrived, is an example.⁹ The best passenger lists in any country offer extensive detail about each immigrant, including a key piece of data: the place of birth. Many lists are accessible in published accounts¹⁰ and Internet sites.¹¹

For those tracing the story of an individual immigrant, even the best passenger lists tell only part of the story, and most do not even do that. Over half of those in the United States do not give key details such as place of birth, and few give story details such as reasons for emigrating. In Latin America, even where arrival records are preserved, less information is given. For example, in passenger lists for the years 1891–1930 for the port of Buenos Aires, Argentina, during only four years was the place of birth for the immigrant given.¹² For all of these reasons the records of emigration, generally found in Europe, need to be consulted to give a more complete understanding of the emigration process and its individual stories. Migration historian Robert Swierenga describes this need and process.

Although aggregate statistics abound in official records for the flow of immigration from the mother countries to America, there has been only minimal effort to break down the totals in the more important structural unit of analysis—the individual immigrant. Beyond raw totals and percentages, historians still have relatively little information regarding the large-scale migration of individuals from the Old World to the New World. The major characteristic of the current work in migration studies is that it is “human centered.” The goal is to describe how people acted, as well as what they said about themselves. Migration is viewed as a social process that involved the transplanting of individuals and kin groups from specific sending places to specific receiving places... In the interchange, the sending and receiving communities were linked in numerous ways.

To uncover this anatomy of migration scholars have plundered serial records on both sides of the Atlantic for names of immigrants and biographical information about them... Necessary behavioral facts include last residence or birthplace... birth date, sex, family status, occupation, religion, social class, date of emigrating, destination, and the like.

“Hard” biographical data on individuals, families, and networks of families permit one to address the pressing questions surrounding the

⁸ See www.ellisland.org.

⁹ Ochoa de Eguilear and Eduardo Valdes, *¿Dónde durmieron nuestros abuelos? Los hoteles de inmigrantes en la Capital Federal* (Buenos Aires: Centro Internacional para la Conservación del Patrimonio, 2000).

¹⁰ *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index: A Guide to Published Records of More Than 2,923,000 Immigrants Who Came to the New World Between the Sixteenth and the Mid-Twentieth Centuries* (Detroit: Gale Group, 1998); John Philip Colletta, *They Came in Ships* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1997).

¹¹ See for example: www.ellisland.org, www.stevemorse.org, www.ancestry.com, <http://home.stt.net/~wee-monster/ei.html>, www.immigrantships.net, www.olivetreegenelgy.com/ships/search_ships.shtml.

¹² See www.immigrants.byu.edu and familyhistory.byu.edu.

immigration experience. First, who migrated? Were the “steady rooted ones” more likely to remove overseas or the “restless ones”? Did farm laborers join the exodus more than farm owners? Were the poor more mobile than the upper and middle classes? Second what demographic, economic, and religious developments in the mother country and local parish “pushed” prospective emigrants to depart? Third, what was the nature of the immigration experience? Was it an individual act or did extended family patterns, kinship networks, or religious groups exist, and if so, how long did these persist in America? Fourth, did the process of migration change significantly over the decades? Finally, what happened to the people who migrated?... Biographical data on tens of thousands of migrants [must be] examined... to answer these and other questions.¹³

DEPARTURE RECORDS

As part of the Immigrant Ancestors Project, sponsored by the Center for Family History and Genealogy at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, work is done to identify records produced in Europe that document the emigration experience and provide the place of birth of the emigrant. Records have been located in municipal, provincial, state, and national government archives, as well as in university and private archives in Germany, Spain, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. This research has revealed a mosaic of laws, regulations, and practical applications that produced a wide variety of records documenting the emigration experience of individual emigrants as they worked through requirements imposed on them before they could emigrate.

Passenger Lists

Just as passengers were recorded in most ports as they disembarked, so were they often listed as they sailed from the ports of Europe. In all five of the largest mass emigration ports lists were maintained: Hamburg, Bremen, Liverpool, Le Havre, and Naples. Sadly, only those of Hamburg have survived the ravages of war and bureaucratic archival cleansing. The Hamburg records have been microfilmed and indexed.¹⁴

Existing passenger lists have been found for ports, such as Lisbon and Porto, Portugal; Llanes, Spain; Naples, Italy; and Bordeaux and La Rochelle, France, even for scattered years before mass migration. Some, such as those found in Bordeaux, Nantes, and Bayonne, France even go back as far as the late seventeenth century.¹⁵ The information in these records varies from only the name, age, and port of destination to more detailed descriptions of passengers including their places of birth, occupations, parents, stated reasons for emigrating, procedures followed, and many other facts. None of these have been indexed and many have only been recently identified and have never

¹³ Robert P. Swierenga, *Faith and Family: Dutch Immigration and Settlement in the United States, 1820–1920* (New York: Holmes and Meier, 2000), 1–2.

¹⁴ *The Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850–1934, Resource Guide* at www.familysearch.org.

¹⁵ These and other factors about existing emigration records are drawn from the personal experiences of the author and BYU Immigrant Ancestors Project student interns working in European archives during the last five years.

been the subject of academic study. Finding others that may exist will require further visits to municipal and provincial archives in port cities in each European country.

Other Port of Departure Records Associated with Passengers Leaving on Particular Ships

Passenger lists often do not answer the challenge to locate the birthplaces of immigrant ancestors, nor the challenge to give the detail that immigration historians need to fully understand the emigration process. Of the millions of Europeans who migrated between 1820 and 1920, less than fifteen percent appear in currently available passenger lists—arrival or departure—that tell their birthplace. Practically none of the 17 million who went to Latin America appear on such records. Emigration records in the home country tell much more of the story, such as in the case of the Ponticellis.

Fortunately, passenger lists were only one approach to controlling passenger departures. Other procedures that may have captured information about the emigrants after they had booked passage are found at the port of departure:

- a) **Passports.** Often prepared on printed forms or in register books, these show that the emigrant received a passport, often identifying the specific ship of departure and the emigrant's name, destination, profession, birthplace, age, and physical description. Often these passport records come in two parts, a register book of all passports issued (or applied for) and a collection of individual files, one for each applicant or applicant family, as discussed below. These collections may be merged into the passports issued by provincial authorities, as described below. In some places, such as in Rome, only the register books have survived, but certainly a researcher should determine if a file exists and not stop at the register book, even if it gives the place of birth. The file will contain the most interesting material about the emigrant, often including statements of reasons for emigrating. Records of this type have thus far been found in Germany, France, Spain, and Italy, but were likely required at some point in all continental European countries. In some cases the only extant record is the stub portion of the large book from which each passport was cut. The stub was where officials wrote key information about the emigrant to whom the passport was issued. Supporting documentation such as a previous passport or birth certificate may also have been clipped to the stubs. Passport books found in Genoa, Italy are of this type.
- b) **Passengers in transit.** In many cases ships stopped to pick up passengers at intermediate ports before sailing for the Americas. Ships' captains may have been required to file a list of such passengers, as was the case in Lisbon and Porto, Portugal and Naples, Italy, in the mid 1880s.
- c) **Health records.** In some ports the only requirement or one significant requirement was a health check performed by a port physician or by one provided by the shipping company. These checks may have resulted in a single page certificate of good health, that is to say, free from diseases such as tuberculosis or glaucoma, the same as were checked by United States port authorities before admitting immigrants.
- d) **Passenger contracts.** A unique record, so far located only in Spain, was the contract between the ship's captain or owners and the passengers. Beginning in

1853, a royal order stipulated that each of these contracts had to lay out exactly the quality of transportation to be provided, including exact quantity and quality of food and water rations, as well as the destination of the ship and what the payment terms were for each passenger. These had to be written before a notary and approved by a government official. Unfortunately, the contracts did not have to be placed in the notary's register, although many were. Each company was required to keep a copy, as was the local provincial government, and a copy was sent with the ship to be filed upon arrival. While scattered examples are found in notarial registers in port cities, in most cases the companies kept these in their own archives. The Transatlantic Company, by far the largest providing passenger service, kept its contracts filed in its central archive in Madrid. Much of that archive, including all of the contracts, was "lost" during a transfer of company headquarters in the 1970s.¹⁶

Approval to Emigrate before Departure

Governments, for paternalistic reasons or for control of population movement, enacted procedures to regulate emigration. Legal requirements to emigrate varied from time to time and country to country, but included most, if not all, of the following: (1) the emigrant had completed military responsibilities, (2) he or she was not wanted for criminal offenses and was not trying to flee any authority, (3) he or she was not trying to abandon his or her family, and (4) he or she, if under age, had permission from his or her father or other family authority. The gathering of this documentation was handled by the port authorities, the local provincial governments, or by a provincial level police authority, such as the Italian *Questura* or *Prefetur* or the French *Prefecture*.

Existing record collections in Naples, identified by this author for the pre-unification period, offer insight into the emigration procedure:¹⁷

1. A request to emigrate was made to the port authority or foreign affairs ministry.
2. The request was forwarded to the local police who registered the request and opened an investigation file.
3. The police collected documents from the emigrants, their family members, and/or government officials in the emigrants' home town to properly identify the emigrants and prove that they met the requirements to emigrate.
4. Once the investigation was complete, a letter went from the police to the foreign affairs ministry and a passport was issued authorizing emigration.

These police files differ from passports required for internal travel within most countries or issued at the port to control population movement, because they include

¹⁶ Passenger list files in the Archives of the Indies in Seville, Spain, begin as early as 1509. See Cristóbal Bermúdez Plata, *Catálogo de pasajeros a Indias durante los siglos XVI, XVII y XVIII* / (Madrid: Ministerio de Cultura, Dirección General de Bellas Artes, Archivos y Bibliotecas, 1930–1987), i-x; and "España a Cuba, Listas de Pasajeros" at <http://www.cubagenweb.org/e-pass.htm>.

¹⁷ This composite picture emerged from a review by this author of the following pre-unification collections, relating to the emigration process found in the Archivio di Stato in Naples: Ministero degli Affari Esteri, Inventario 134: 455–493 e Buste 6245–6764, Pasaporti registri, 1815 -1857 and Archivio della Prefettura della Polizia, Bundles 2831–2845, Passaporti spediti pandette, 1855–1861.

documentation proving the emigrant met the requirements discussed above. The file created for each individual emigrant or emigrant family often contained several documents from this list:

1. Certificate of Personal Identification: This is similar to identification cards used today, and included the emigrant's description, address of residence, birthplace, age, and other identifying information.
2. Parental/Spousal Authorization: Each emigrant may have been required to show authorization from his or her spouse, if married, and from a parent, if single and under the age of majority, which was usually 25 or 30 years old.
3. Baptismal Record or Certification of Freedom to Emigrate: The baptismal record might have only been required if the emigrant was under a certain age; those overage could simply have an authorized statement of eligibility to emigrate.
4. Statement Concerning Criminal Record: A certificate, by a judge or civil authority in the emigrant's home or last residence district, which clarified the nature of any criminal record or established the lack thereof.¹⁸
5. Certificate of Completion of Military Service: A man was required to have a statement by a civil authority in his home district certifying that he had met his military obligation, by service or by having stood for the draft without being selected.

Published Announcements

At certain time periods, municipal authorities were required to ascertain that the proposed emigrant was qualified to emigrate by publishing a notice of the intended emigration in the official provincial government bulletin. In Spain and Italy, where some of these have been found, the bulletins were issued weekly, if not more frequently. Again, the time period during which this procedure was used is limited and the procedure's use not fully studied.

BRITISH AND IRISH PRE-DEPARTURE RECORDS

In the British Isles the attitude toward emigration was different from that in the rest of Europe. Aside from passenger lists, other forms of emigration control used on the continent do not appear among British records. Rather than attempting to prevent the departure of those with criminal records or who were in debt, the British and Irish authorities encouraged emigration as a way of dealing with the poor and criminal elements of society. Vestry minutes and estate records exist that identify those whose passage was paid as a means of meeting local obligations imposed by the poor laws. Transportation to colonies appears regularly in quarter session records as a sentence for criminal activity. A variety of records exist relating to indentured servitude and other similar ways of acquiring passage. For these reasons the search for emigration records in the British Isles offers a series of challenges and potential solutions not found in the rest of Europe.

¹⁸ Research in Spanish, Italian, and German records has revealed that while some countries did not allow those with a criminal record to emigrate, others merely wanted the local police to evaluate that record before authorizing emigration.

AFTER-ARRIVAL RECORDS

Consular Records

All European countries maintained consulates to meet the needs and protect the interests of their citizens. Many of these consulates kept records of transactions made by their citizens residing in the destination countries. Most commonly these transactions appear to be requests for passports, proofs of identification, registration of births, or assistance with an inheritance or other legal problem in the country of origin. On occasion the consul appears to go beyond this in an effort to identify all emigrants. In either case these records identify emigrants and provide more of the story of the emigration process.



Figure 1: Puertos de Emigración

Hometown Censuses and Emigrant Lists

Even after emigration the emigrants were still considered residents of their hometowns. They were often listed as such in local censuses, with an annotation as to where they were living and the date they had emigrated. Some municipalities also kept register books of those who had emigrated. Little has been done to identify these types of records, and less to extract the information that they contain.

Records of Military Service and/or Failure to Report for Service

Both youth of the age for military service and local authorities responsible for the draft recognized that emigration was a means of avoiding military service. Although little study has been done of illegal emigration during this period, the largest group of illegal emigrants was most likely young men of conscription age. In Italy, provincial conscription lists often identify missing youth as having emigrated. An initial study of such records conducted in Rome in May 2007 by students working under the BYU Immigrant Ancestors Project revealed this as an effective but slow way to identify emigrants. In Spain, lists of those who did not report for draft registration were published in the provincial bulletins discussed above. The lists often identified the countries where the men were thought to have gone or indicated that the men were thought to be in a port city such as Cádiz, apparently a euphemism for indicating that they had emigrated or were likely trying to do so.

FINDING EMIGRATION RECORDS

Arrival passenger lists in the United States have been available on microfilm for some time. Numerous published sources have provided indexes to specific ports for

specific time periods or specific ethnicities. During the last three years, beginning with Ellis Island, online indexes to immigration records have been available. Recent developments on Internet sites, such as www.stevemorse.org and www.ancestry.com have further opened the possibilities for searching arrival passenger lists and other immigrant sources in this country. Work on Canadian immigration records has recently begun, but is limited primarily to the early years of the twentieth century. Little has been done to index arrival lists in Latin America, although the work done by the Centro de Estudios Migratorios Latinoamericanos (Avenida Independencia 20, (1099) Buenos Aires, Argentina), which has indexed arrivals at the port of Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1882–1926, offers hope that such records will be more readily available in the future. At this time, however, even a comprehensive list of where such arrival records can be found would be helpful, especially where many Latin American immigrants arrived in one country, but ultimately settled in another.

Finding European departure lists can be more challenging. The Hamburg passenger departure lists are available on microfilm with indexes currently being placed on line. No other comparable major collection of departure lists exist for ports, such as Naples, Liverpool, LeHavre, or Bremen, and only a handful of those for smaller ports are currently available or indexed. To find the wide variety of records discussed above, archives in the home country must be consulted. The magnitude of this work is evidenced by Spain. Although there was no city on the list of the top seven emigration ports during the period of mass migration, sixteen shipping companies transported emigrant passengers from fifteen different ports, as shown on the map in Figure 1.

The vast majority of the European emigration records described above can be found in the provincial level archives in Europe. For the genealogist to locate a specific emigrant, the province or department of origin or the port of departure must be known. Once that is known, perhaps from arrival passenger lists, then there must be a search through the bundles for those years. This is a task that can generally only be done on site, although records for certain German provinces are available on microfilm through the LDS Family History Library. Lists identifying the provincial level archives exist for each country, often with website addresses.

Some emigration records are found at the national level, such as consular records at the Archivo General de la Administración in Alcalá de Henares, and passenger lists at the Arquivo Nacional Torre do Tombo in Lisbon. Information for specific archives can be found at http://www.unesco.org/webworld/portal_archives/pages/Archives, which lists all the national archives in Europe.¹⁹

ILLEGAL OR EXTRALEGAL EMIGRATION

Recognition must be made that, in addition to the problems with locating records and significant missing or destroyed emigration records, there were emigrants who went without meeting legal requirements or registering on the passenger lists. The number of

¹⁹ Access to many archives throughout Europe can be made through the site mentioned above or through individual national archival sites, such as the following: http://aer.mcu.es/sgae/index_aer.jsp, www.iantt.pt, <http://www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/>, <http://www.bundesarchiv.de/>, <http://www.archivesdefrance.culture.gouv.fr/>, <http://www.pro.gov.uk/>.

draft-age youths identified as having emigrated is indicative of this problem. Likewise, in port authority or police records there are discussions of actions, such as unscheduled ship inspections taken to identify illegal emigrants on board. Ship crew members who deserted upon arrival in the Americas were another manifestation of this problem.

IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS PROJECT AT BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

Emigration records, such as passport files, vestry minutes, and consular records, are rich in genealogical information, but remain largely untouched by historians and genealogists simply because they are not easily accessible. Most are accessible only by visiting the archives containing the records, and they are rarely indexed or sorted. The Immigrant Ancestors Project (IAP) at Brigham Young University looks for emigration records in European countries.

IAP goals center on hard-to-find emigration records:

1. Identify emigration records
2. Acquire copies of those records
3. Extract data on individuals who appear in those records
4. Place extracted data in an online index/database available free on the Internet.

Work is progressing well on the first two goals. In addition to German and Belgian emigration files that were previously microfilmed, passports, passenger lists, and other emigration records have been identified and copied in over fifty different archives in Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, the Netherlands, Ireland, and the British Isles, primarily for the middle years of the nineteenth century. Extraction is progressing well. Major collections from Spanish and French consular offices all over the world have been identified and arrangements for copying are being made. In Spring 2007, student interns worked with great success finding and copying more of these collections in several archives in Spain and France, as well as in Rome and the British Isles.²⁰

The copies are then digitized and arranged in small batches. Extraction by volunteers is the key to success for the project. Utilizing software created for the project, volunteers all over the world, working via the Internet, are sent the small batches of emigration records to extract. The extracted data is then sent back to the Center for Family History and Genealogy where trained student supervisors check extractions for

²⁰ The following are some of the archives in Spain, Italy, and Portugal where students from the Center for Family History and Genealogy at Brigham Young University worked since Spring 2003 gathering records for the Immigrant Ancestors Project: Archivo General de la Administración – Alcalá de Henares, Archivo Nacional de Cataluña, Archivo del Reino de Galicia, Archivo General de la Administración del Principado de Asturias, Archivo Histórico Provincial de Asturias, Archivo Histórico Provincial de Cáceres, Archivo Histórico Provincial de Cádiz, Archivo Histórico Provincial de Cantabria, Archivo Histórico Provincial de Toledo, Archivo Histórico Provincial de Vizcaya, Archivo Histórico Municipal de Llanes, Archivo de Protocolos de Guipúzcoa, Archivo Histórico Municipal de Santa Cruz de la Palma, Spain, Archivo Foral de Vizcaya, Archivo de la Diputación Provincial de Cáceres, Archivo de la Diputación Provincial de Barcelona, Archivo Histórico de la Biblioteca de Cantabria, Hemeroteca Municipal de Santander, Archivo del Minutero degle Afari Esseri d'Italia, Roma, Archivio di Stato di Napoli, Instituto Nacional Torre de Tombo, Lisboa, and Arquivo Distrital de Oporto. A full up-to-date list can be found at immigrants.byu.edu.

accuracy before they are added to the database. The data from those small extracted batches will be continually added to create the online database until there will be millions of immigrants with their places of origin. The initial database with thousands of names is found at <http://immigrants.byu.edu>. Also found at this website are lists of archives, research tools, and an extensive bibliography of books and articles about immigrants and the immigration experience.

At present the IAP project focuses on emigrants from Germany, Spain, Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, Italy, and France, but plans are to add other countries as resources permit. The IAP needs large numbers of volunteers to extract records; volunteers receive online training in reading the records and research resources to help in the extraction process. Volunteers may sign up online at <http://immigrants.byu.edu>.

Even with generous support of time and effort from volunteer extractors and of office space, personnel, and faculty time at BYU, a project of this magnitude needs donated funds. Donations made to the Immigrant Ancestors Project pay wages for student researchers, provide copies of identified records, and support computer program development and maintenance.

CONCLUSION

To accomplish the goals for migration studies as set out by Robert Swierenga, much remains to be done. Little-used records do exist that can enable researchers to study individual emigrants and answer the myriad of emigration questions like those he raises. Those records, found in dozens—if not hundreds—of European archives, need to be ferreted out and made available to emigration scholars.

With current computer resources not available to Robert Swierenga when he compiled his major databases, biographical data on tens of thousands of migrants can be acquired, compiled, and examined in a form allowing for the study of each emigrant and his or her family. This can be done not only within any single continental European country but in comparison with similar data from other countries. With such work a composite picture of the emigrants' experiences will emerge that permits an effective microanalysis in order to place into historical context the large number of emigration stories of families like the Ponticellis.

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