

# Emilio Dubbiosi and the Fondo Dubbiosi

by LORENZO DECLICH

Nel 1990 i familiari di Emilio Dubbiosi (1890-19??), ufficiale medico che dal 1926 al 1938 diresse la Missione sanitaria italiana di Ṣan‘ā’, donarono alla biblioteca dell’IsMEO, l’ormai spento Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente, i documenti da questi collezionati durante il periodo di servizio in Yemen. Questo articolo offre un primo strumento di analisi del Fondo a questi intitolato, collegando i documenti in esso contenuti con ciò che sappiamo delle sue attività di medico, informatore, scienziato e bibliofilo.

Emilio Dubbiosi (Vico Equense 30/6/1889-19??) was a medical officer—Captain and later Major—and a zoologist.<sup>1</sup> From 1926 to 1938 he directed the Italian Health Mission in Ṣan‘ā’ and served as personal doctor to the Mutawakkilite Imām Yaḥyā Muḥammad Ḥāmid al-Dīn (1869-1948). In 1990 his family donated the documents he had collected during his time of service to the library of IsMEO, the former Italian Institute for the Middle and the Far East. The Fondo Dubbiosi is currently kept in the “IsIAO Library,” in the African and Oriental Collections room of the National Central Library in Rome, and consists of:

1. 223 Arab manuscripts;<sup>2</sup>
2. 4 lithographs;<sup>3</sup>
3. 3 printed books;
4. An incomplete series of the monthly *Al-Īmān yamān wa al-ḥikmat yamāniyya*;<sup>4</sup>
5. A series of maps, printed and hand-drawn, of the colony of Eritrea and Yemen.<sup>5</sup>

## *Protection, Preservation and Promotion Efforts*

In 1995 the Fondo Dubbiosi was transferred to the newly established IsIAO, the Italian Institute for Africa and the Orient, a merger between IsMEO and the Italo-African Institute (IIA). In 1999 IsIAO renumbered the documents and established their degree of integrity, particularly concerning the hand-written portion. Asked for her opinion, Dr. Rossana Rotili of the Central Institute for Book Pathology replied:

<sup>1</sup> For example: “Durante la permanenza nello Yemen, a Sana nei periodi Agosto-Ottobre 1928 e Marzo-Luglio 1929 il Cap. Medico Emilio Dubbiosi, volle, nonostante numerose difficoltà, eseguire una raccolta di rettili e questi, donati alla Scuola di Sanità Militare di Firenze, dalla quale mi vennero inviati per lo studio” (Scortecci 1932). See also Scott, Britton 1939.

<sup>2</sup> Manuscript 34 comprises a printed work and hand-written texts.

<sup>3</sup> Nos. 19, 21, 35 and 228; 19 and 21 are copies of the same work on Yemeni history.

<sup>4</sup> From the series 1-137 (1926-1938), nos. 10-33, 35-40, 42, 46-48, 60-61, 90, 100, 108, 127-129, 132, and 135 are missing.

<sup>5</sup> These are in addition to those in manuscript 186, see below.