

Giuseppe Tucci and Luigi Federzoni Unpublished Correspondence (1939-1943)

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Il contributo presenta 14 lettere inedite tra Giuseppe Tucci e Luigi Federzoni, Presidente della Reale Accademia d'Italia dal 1938 al 1943. Le lettere, provenienti dall'archivio privato di Federzoni, offrono uno spaccato dei rapporti, professionali ed umani, intessuti da Tucci a beneficio delle sue imprese di studioso in qualità di Accademico d'Italia: dalla spedizione in Tibet del 1939 ad aspetti più privati, dagli studi in onore di Carlo Formichi alle ultime lettere, significative in quanto scritte all'indomani della notte del Gran Consiglio che portò al naufragio del fascismo: una notte tanto celebre, quanto ancora piena di risvolti ancora da illuminare.

The private archive that Luigi Federzoni, a central figure in the history of Fascism and Nationalism,¹ managed to preserve and rearrange after returning to Italy, contains a small group of letters exchanged with Giuseppe Tucci, whose publication may be of interest on account of individual aspects of the biography of the great Orientalist and, more generally, due to the themes addressed and the characters involved.²

¹ Luigi Federzoni (1878-1967), writer, journalist and nationalist leader, elected deputy in 1913, was Minister of the Colonies (1922-1924; 1926-1928), Minister of the Interior (1924-1926), and President of the Senate (1929-1939). In the second phase of the Regime, the balance between monarchy and fascism to which Federzoni had dedicated much of his political initiative ("Federzoni era nel Consiglio dei ministri una sorta di notaio della corona" [Federzoni was in the Council of Ministers a sort of notary of the crown]: De Felice 1966: 501), was removed from the most strictly political roles, but he added some leading positions in the direction of cultural and academic life (for this phase see especially Vittoria 2001: 126-143): President of the Institute of Roman Studies (1929-1931); Director of the *Nuova Antologia* (1931-1943); President of the Royal Academy of Italy (1938-1943), of the Institute of the Italian Encyclopaedia (1938-1943), and of the Fascist Institute of Italian Africa (1938-1943). After the fall of the Regime, Federzoni, condemned to death in the Verona trial, lived secretly in Rome (first in the Embassy of Portugal in the Holy See and then in the Pontifical Ukrainian College of San Giosafat al Gianicolo: cf. Riccardi 2001), and then expatriated to Latin America and then to Portugal, where he dedicated himself to the university teaching of Italian literature. Sentenced to life imprisonment by the High Court of Justice for his role in fascism, he was amnestied in 1947 and was able to return to Italy permanently in Rome in 1951.

In recent years, thanks also to the archival findings, the bibliography on Federzoni has expanded considerably: cf. Vittoria 1995a and 1995b; the contributions of the various authors in Coccia, Gentiloni Silveri 2001; Federzoni 1993; 2013; 2019; Arpaia 2015; Bruscia, Vittoria 2017; Vittoria 2020. I would like to express my thanks to the Board and to the Editorial Staff for accepting the contribution and to prof. Matteo De Chiara for the fruitful comparison.

² Most of Federzoni's private archive was donated in 1996 by his daughters Elena and Maria Giovanna Federzoni and by my father, Giovanni Sciacca (son of the third-born Annalena Federzoni) to the Istituto dell'Enciclopedia Italiana Treccani (Vittoria 1995a). However, there is still a small body of documents still in order, including the letters presented here.