

Russia & Naples : **a Long-Standing Relationship** **Rooted in and Nurtured by Culture**

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Russia & Naples

Neapolitan-born **Ettore Lo Gatto** is deemed as the founder, together with Giovanni Maver (1891-1970) of Slavic Studies in Italy.

Besides his most notable books on Russian Art, Literature and History,

- *Poesia Russa della Rivoluzione*, Roma, Alberto Stock Editore, 1923.
- *Letteratura russa*, Paolo Cremonese Editore, Roma, 1928.
- *Vecchia Russia*, Istituto per l'Europa Orientale, Roma, 1929.
- *Storia della letteratura russa*, 1927-1945 (ora [Sansoni](#), Firenze, 2000). [ISBN 8838318654](#) [ISBN 9788838318658](#)
- *Gli artisti italiani in Russia*, nella raccolta "L'opera del genio italiano all'estero", Roma, Libreria dello Stato, 1932-1943.
 1. I. Gli architetti a Mosca e nelle province, Roma, Libreria dello stato, 1932.
 2. II. Gli architetti del sec. XVIII a Pietroburgo e nelle tenute imperiali, Roma, Libreria dello Stato, 1933.
 3. III. Gli architetti del secolo XIX a Pietroburgo e nelle tenute imperiali, 1943.
- *Puskin: storia di un poeta e del suo eroe*, Mursia, Milano 1959, [Premio Viareggio 1960](#)^[3]
- *Il mito di Pietroburgo. Storia, leggenda, poesia*, Milano, Feltrinelli, 1960.
- *I miei incontri con la Russia*, Torino, Mursia, 1976

he translated into Italian the whole *corpus* of works of Aleksàndr S. Puškin (Mursia Editions, Milan 1939).



Ettore Lo Gatto
1890-1983



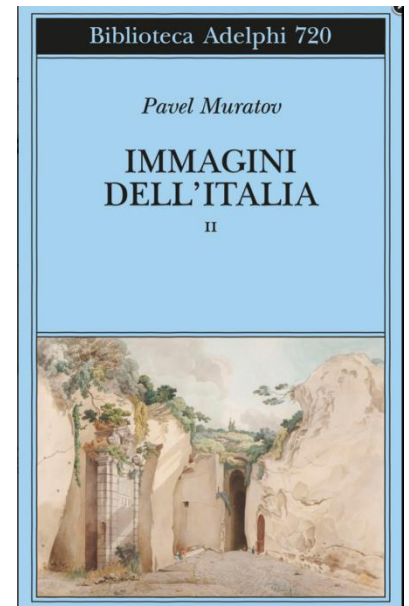
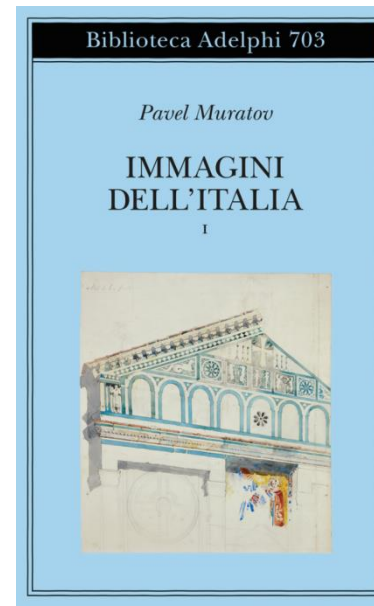
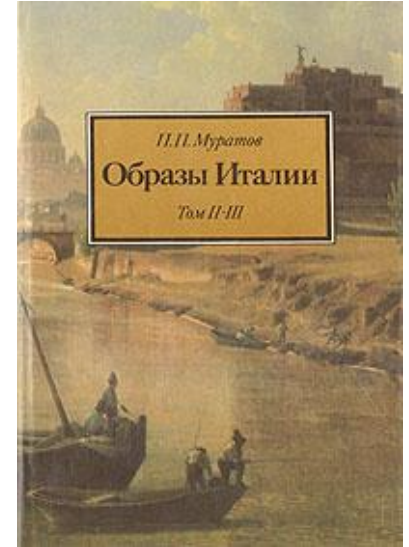
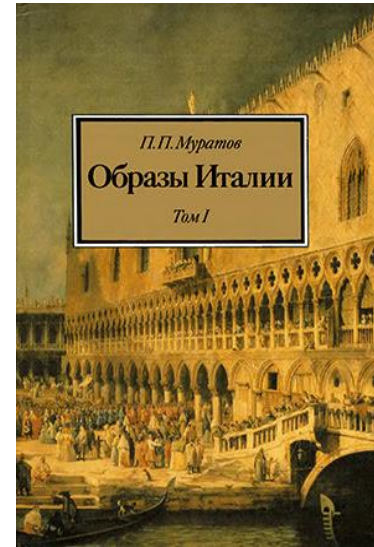
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Pavel Pavlovic Muratov
Павел Павлович Муратов
(1881-1950)

A close friend of Ettore Lo Gatto, and a prominent fine-art connoisseur, P. Muratov visited Italy since 1922.

His book *Образы Италии* (Impressions of Italy) is among the finest ever written on Italy, its Heritage, people, and sightseeing (Naples in vol. II).



Russia & Naples

The list of Russian Artists, Writers, Philosophers related to Naples is very large !

Poets, Writers:

Евгений Абрамович Баратынский (1800-1844);

Андрей Бёлый (1880-1934)

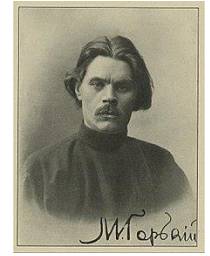
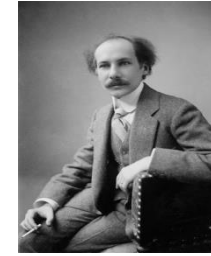
Максим Горький (1868-1936)

Painters:

Сильвестр Феодосиевич Щедрин (1791-1830)

Карл Павлович Брюллов (1799-1852)

Иван Костянтинович Айвазовский (1817-1900)

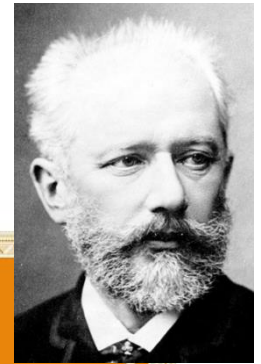


К. П. Брюллов, Последний день Помпеи, 1830



.... and other neapolitan sketches

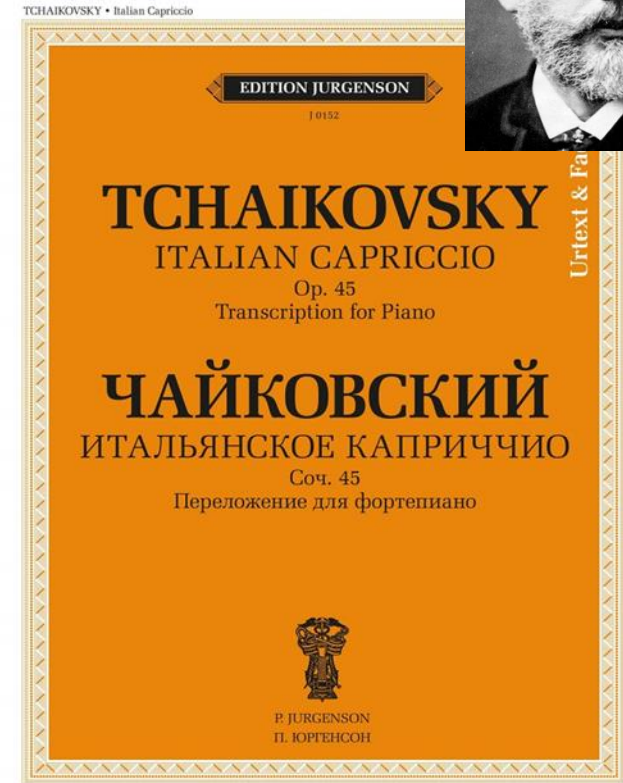
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С. Ф. Щедрин, Лунная ночь в Неаполе (1828)



І.К. Айвазовський, Неаполитанський залив в лунну ніч (1842)



Пётр Ильич Чайковский (1840-1893) visited Naples repeatedly, between 1874 and 1882. His *Capriccio Italiano* (1880) ends with a swirling *tarantella*, a popular neapolitan street dance.

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Francesco Domenico Araja
Франческо Арайя
(1709-1770)

1st Italian Composer at the Court
of Empress Анна Ивановна Романова
in Санкт-Петербург (St Petersburg)



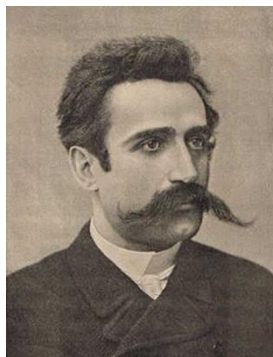
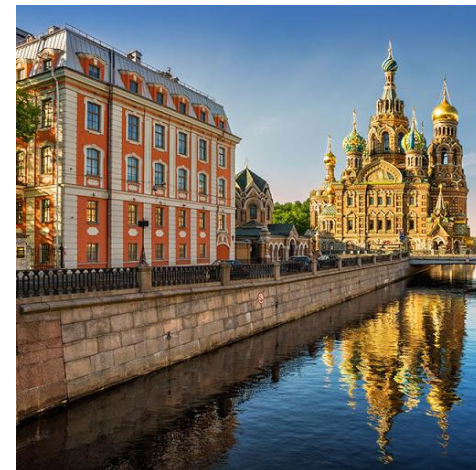
Giovanni Cataldo Paisiello
Джованни Паизиелло
(1740-1816)

Director of the Court Theatre (1776-1784)
of Empress Екатерина II Алексеевна
in Санкт-Петербург (St Petersburg)



Domenico Cimarosa
Доменико Чимароза
(1749-1801)

Court Kappelmeister (1788-1791)
under Empress Екатерина II Алексеевна
in Санкт-Петербург (St Petersburg)



Beniamino Cesi (1845-1907)

Beniamino Cesi (Бениамино Чези) neapolitan pianist, and Author of a famous piano method, was invited by Антон Григорьевич Рубинштейн to teach piano in the newborn St. Petersburg Conservatory that he had founded.



Anton Rubinstein (1829-1894)

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Caffè Gambrinus – Piazza del Plebiscito – Sala Michele Sergio
a favourite meeting venue for Russians in Naples



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Stazione
Zoologica
Anton Dohrn
Napoli



Another “pole of attraction” for Russian Scientists and Intellectuals was the *Stazione Zoologica Dohrn* (among the oldest Aquariums worldwide, established in 1872). Anton Dohrn was of German-Russian family; his spouse Marija Egorovna Baranovskaja was also Russian. They hosted many Russian personalities in their home; and the tradition continued through decades.

The Neapolitan Nativity scenes (Presepio)

December, 20, 2010 – March, 15, 2011

The Moscow Kremlin Museum (Front Hall of the Armoury Chamber)



... a deeply felt popular representation of Christ Nativity ...



... part of the 2011 Russia-Italy Cultural Exchange Year, that also included a large exhibition of masterpieces on Naples in the works of Italian and Russian artists of XVIII-XIX century at Moscow Tretyakov Gallery ("*O dolce Napoli*", December 9 2011).

<https://www.tretyakovgallerymagazine.com/articles/4-2011-33/o-dolce-napoli-naples-through-eyes-russian-and-italian-artists>



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Masterpieces from the *National Museum of Capodimonte of Naples*, that holds the largest collection of European paintings in Italy, including works of Simone Martini, Botticelli, Mantegna, Michelangelo, Rafael, Titian, Giovanni Bellini, Caravaggio, Bruegel the Elder, and other Masters were shown in Moscow at the Pushkin Museum in 2019 (01 Feb – 31 Mar).



Artemisia Gentileschi - Юдифь и Олоферн. 1612

Artemisia was an outstanding member of the Caravaggesque (or tenebrist) School. She painted her masterwork, *“Judith Slaying Holofernes”* in her 20’s.

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Umberto Nobile was the founder of the Federico II Aeronautics School. He was an eminent aeronautical designer, an aviator, an explorer and a member of the Constituent Assembly of the post-war newborn Italian Republic (1946-1948).

His second polar expedition ended up in a tragedy, due to the crash of the *Italia* airship on the Spitsbergen ice pack (1928).

The odyssey of the survivors is narrated in a famous Russian movie, *Красная палатка*, (*The Red Tent*) directed by Михаил Георгиевич Калатошвили (1969).

He worked in Russia (1931-1935) participating in the design of the long-haul semi-rigid airship Осоавиахим (СССР-V6). His pupil Luigi G. Napolitano (1928-1991) succeeded him in the direction of the Federico II Aeronautics School, founded the Italian Center for Aerospace Research (*CIRA*) and was a pioneer of Microgravity Research within ESA and AIAA.



Umberto Nobile
(1885-1978)



Russian icebreaker *Красин* (1917) and its Commander Рудольф Л. Самойлович (1881-1940) who rescued the last *Italia* crew survivors in 1928.



The *Italia* airship (1927)

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A picture from the family album of the University of Naples Federico II *Institute of Mathematics* in the 50's of the XX century. In 1984 the Institute became the *Department of Mathematics and Applications*, and entitled to the memory of Renato Caccioppoli



From left: sitting: E.R. Caianiello, D. Greco;

Standing, lower row: R. Vinciguerra, A. Vacca, R. Caccioppoli, G. Scorza-Dragoni, A. Colucci

Standing, upper row: G. Stampacchia, F. Cafiero, unknown, C. Miranda, L. Paone, E. Moreno, C. Ciliberto

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Renato Caccioppoli was an outstanding personality, not only in the field of Mathematics, where he contributed a wealth of new ideas, following highly original approaches, and focusing on fundamental, yet non-mainstream problems; but also a free spirit, and a master of thought for a whole generation of intellectuals in Italy.

- G. Pugliese-Carratelli, *Renato Caccioppoli*, Napoli, Istituto italiano per gli studi Filosofici, Città del sole, 1987, ISBN 88-8292-019-4.
- Renato Caccioppoli, *Opere, I, II*, UMI (Un. Mat. Ital.), 1996.

His mother was the daughter of Михайл Алекса́ндрович Баку́ни; his aunt Maria Bakunin was a famous chemist, who also taught in the University of Naples. Caccioppoli was fluent in Russian language and a fine connoisseur and performer of Russian piano music.



Renato Caccioppoli
(1904-1959)



Michail Bakunin (1814-1876)



Marussia Bakunin (1873-1960)

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Eduardo Renato Caianiello gave seminal contributions in Theoretical Physics (QFT, Statistical Mechanics, and Cybernetics).

His papers feature an outstanding blend of physical insight and mathematical ingenuity. He played a fundamental role in the birth of the post-war Neapolitan School of Physics, and gave birth to the University of Salerno, the *Laboratorio di Cibernetica* of CNR, in ArcoFelice, in the outskirts of Naples, together with his closest Collaborators (including Aldo De Luca and Luigi Maria Ricciardi), and the *IASS* Institute in Vietri.

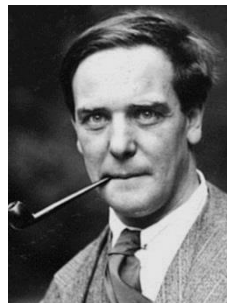
He had strong scientific ties with several outstanding Russian scientists, including М.А. Айзерман (Nonlinear Control Theory), П. Л. Капица (Theory of Superconductivity) and Н. Н. Боголюбов (Statistical Mechanics).



Eduardo R. Caianiello (1921-1993)



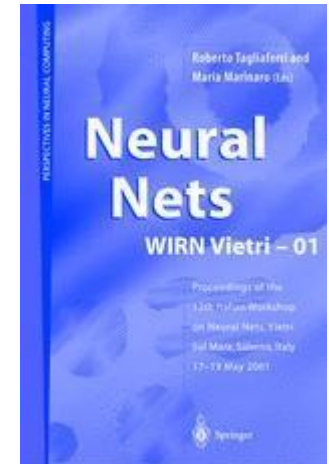
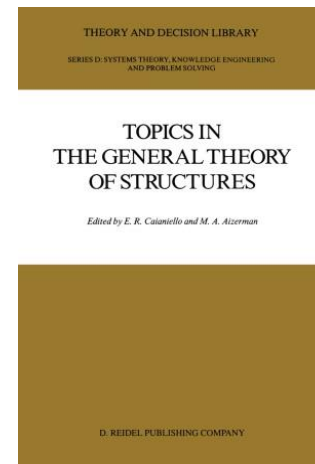
M.A. Aizerman
(1913-1992)



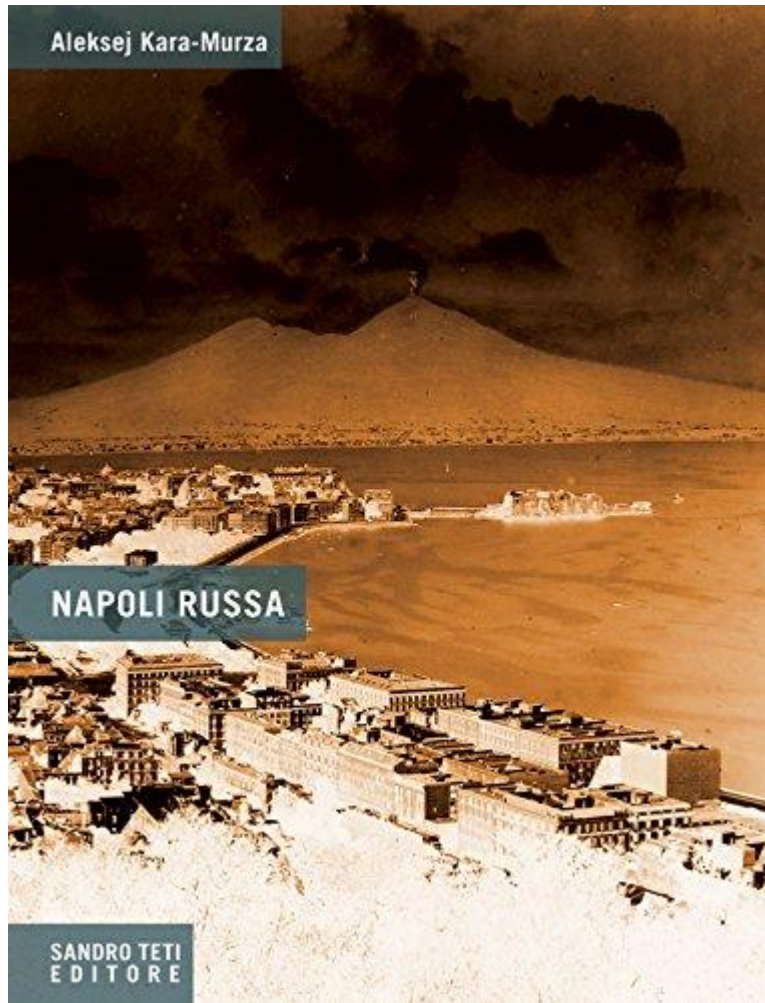
P.L. Kapitza
(1894-1984)



N. N. Bogolyubov
(1909-1992)



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(2018)

... and there would be many more to mention !..

Other interesting references/links :

A. Kara-Murza, *Napoli Russa*, Sandro Teti Editore, 2018
(one in a series of books, including *Venezia Russa*, *Firenze Russa*, *Roma Russa*)

<http://www.russinitalia.it/index.php>
https://iicmosca.esteri.it/iic_mosca/ru
<https://www.unive.it/pag/41386/>

P.A., *Россия и Италия. Встреча культур*
[Russia and Italy: The Encounter of Cultures], Hayka, 2000, 2003.

https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architetti_italiani_in_Russia
<http://www.saint-petersburg.com/famous-people/great-italians/>
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<http://www.comuni-italiani.it/statistiche/stranieri/ru.html>
https://roma.mid.ru/it/kultura_i_obrazovanie/

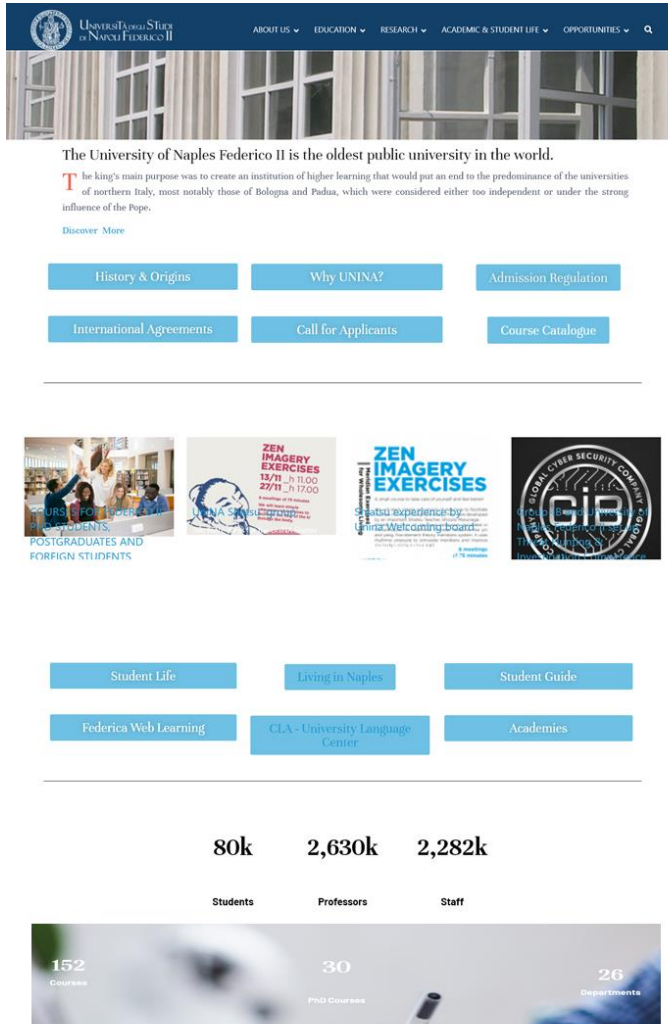
... And we do have snow from time to time !



November 30th 2021

Reference UniNA website for Foreign Visitors

<http://www.international.unina.it/>



The University of Naples Federico II is the oldest public university in the world.

The king's main purpose was to create an institution of higher learning that would put an end to the predominance of the universities of northern Italy, most notably those of Bologna and Padua, which were considered either too independent or under the strong influence of the Pope.

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Pulcinella, the neapolitan sibling of ПЕТРУШКА