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Place names as intangible cultural heritage

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A cultural heritage: toponymy in Tuscany. An historical, geographical and linguistic enquiry with GIS support

GIULIANA BIAGIOLI*

In this paper we shall initially consider how place names can possibly refer to the UNESCO category of “intangible cultural heritage”, possibly in the field of “Oral traditions and expressions including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage”. We shall then report the main results of the research project finalized in the synchronic and diachronic study of Tuscan toponymy and in the creation of a digital archive using GIS co-financed by the Tuscany Region and the Interuniversity Center on Territorial Sciences (Italian acronym: CIST) in Florence and carried out by CIST and the Institute of Research on Territory and Environment - Leonardo in Pisa. After the illustration of the cartographic sources referring to three time periods (historical cadastres, topographic maps of the Italian Geographical Military Institute, cadastre in force) we shall present the research activity based on their examination and consisting of a revision and implementation of the database of Technical Regional Map (Italian acronym: CTR) by collecting and digitizing all the toponyms found in the other sources. The present research is conducted on an area of 22,994 square kilometers, corresponding to 715 quadrants of the CTR at scale 1:10,000 which covers the entire regional territory endowed with a thesaurus of toponymy and consisting of 205,625 georeferenced entities. We shall present the resulting aggregate place names which disappeared or were modified in time and/or in space; their variations in quality and/or in functions, and their distribution in the regional space. We shall see if and how our research could be a model for other Italian regions or European States having as a similar heritage the 19th century geometrical cadastre. Finally, we shall discuss the importance of the project in the safeguard of Tuscan territory through its effects on land planning and in the Territorial Plan (PIT) management.

Place names and the Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

According to the 2003 UNESCO *Convention on the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* (ICH), the “intangible cultural heritage means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage”. (UNESCO, 2003). It includes, inter alia, the following domain: “(a) oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage”. Until now, the only languages included in the ICH list are languages spoken by only a few speakers or, in any case, threatened in their existence.

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Following domain (a) above, the most included in the list are Immaterial Cultural Heritages belonging to domains such as: (b) performing arts, (c) social practices, rituals and festive events, (d) knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, (e) traditional craftsmanship. Among the factors to be included in the ICH are, in particular: “(a) the self-recognition, by the community, groups, and individuals concerned, of ICH as part of their cultural heritage [...] (c) the deep connection of the heritage concerned with the idiosyncratic identity of its creators and bearers”. (UNESCO, 2003, art. 2, subpar. 2). Action should be taken to make place names of territories, for instance those belonging to a same cultural area (latin languages? Other criteria?...) officially recognised as ICH.

The research and its sources.

The project's aim is to build an archive of all place names related to the Tuscan territory. The research is carried out either by a synchronic (integral collection of all place names from cartographic sources) or by a diachronic approach, mostly based on already existing studies. The project involves researchers from many disciplines: ancient, medieval and modern history, geography, linguistics, natural sciences, landscape and town planning following two approaches in toponymy: the typological approach (formation and evolution of place names) and the historical approach (political, cultural, linguistic evolutions of place names in history). The aim is to implement and revise the place name's patrimony lost or changed in time, starting from the historic Tuscan cadastres of the 19th century, and collecting and digitizing all names following a chronological order in the cartography. This first phase has already been completed and we are working on the second one, the analysis of the geo-database, with a multidisciplinary group of researchers with the intention of realising an e-book.

The implementation of the CTR databank started with the collection of all place names present in historical cadastres of Tuscany (CASTORE), the most important document for the present research and for the potential future application of its models to other Italian or European territories in which similar sources are available. This is the reason why we shall examine more closely this source, the way it has been built, its strengths and weaknesses. CASTORE deals with digital reproduction and geo-referencing of all geometrical maps of 19th century Tuscan cadastres: the General Tuscan Cadastre (1817- 1835), which covers over 70% of the present Tuscan region (Biagioli, 1975), the Bourbon cadastre for the Duchy of Lucca, ordered by the Duke Carlo Ludovico Bourbon-Parma in 1829 and finished a few years after the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy in 1869, the Este Cadastre for the territory of Massa and Carrara ordered by the Duchess Maria Beatrice of Este in 1820 and the cadastre of Elba island, enacted by Leopold II in 1840 with the same rules of the General Tuscan Cadastre. In CASTORE are also present some maps of the cadastre started by the French government during the annexation of Tuscany to the Napoleonic Empire (1807-1814) (Biagioli 1975, pp. 3-35). The scales of cadastres in CASTORE vary from one cadastre to another and, in the same cadastre, according to the quantity and quality of items to be represented.

In the general Tuscan cadastre scales are the same as in its French origin: 1:1,250 for towns and other important centres, 1:2,500 for smaller communes, 1:5,000 for peripheral territories, 1:10,000 or 1:20,000 for framework maps joining and representing all the cadastral sections of a given municipality. The Estense Cadastre for Massa and Carrara adopted the scale of 1:1,000 for towns, 1: 2,000 for the rest of the territory, as in the Bourbon cadastre of Lucca.

The geometrical cadastres marked a revolutionary era in cartography. They were inspired by one of the basic assumptions of the European Enlightenment, the uniformity of legal status of subjects and of territories towards kinship, thereby overcoming the political polycentric organization. There was a revolution also in the methods and instruments used: no longer voluntary declarations of landowners, but engineers and surveyors sent by the central government, and a description of land property and land use accompanied by geometrical maps drawn with scientific criteria. Each cadastral parcel was inscribed in one or more Land Registers. In the General Tuscan Cadastre the most important registers are:

- the “Campioni”, organised by community, in which all the landowners or co-landowners are inscribed in alphabetical order and by cadastral sections with all the owned parcels, their surface, evaluation and land use;
- the first “Arroti” (property devolvement by new acquisitions or alienations);
- and the “Tavole indicative” (Land use Registers) always organised by community but also by the cadastral sections, in alphabetical order. Within each section the parcels were numerically ordered according to their identity number on the geometrical maps. For each parcel the “Tavole indicative” reported also the ownership, the surface, the destination in use (arable land, wood, house, etc) but not the cadastral value.

A fundamental feature of the Tuscan Cadastre, which makes it unique among all the 19th century cadastres on geometrical bases, is that each parcel is described with its own exact land destination, and not, as in other cases, by classes of land use. We find therefore, for instance, “arable land with vines”, “arable land with olive trees”, “nude arable land”, “arable land with olive trees and vines” and so on, instead of “First class arable land”. “Second/ third class arable land”. The agrarian landscape, as well as the forest setting, the composition of the maquis are therefore much more accurate and richer in information than in any other contemporary cadastre. For Tuscany, CASTORE together with the cadastral registers preserved in the National Archives is a fundamental tool to study not only place names, but also hydrography, roads, land distribution and land use in the first decades of the 19th century.

The IGMI maps, called “tavolette”, belong to the series 1:25,000 and have a dimension of 7'30" in longitude and 5' in latitude. For the present research we made use of the “tavolette” published for Tuscany on the official portal of IGMI in which, from the several series realized in time, the most recent for each zone was chosen. For Tuscany, the chronological interval in the geodatabase covers the period from 1924 to 1985. This source, like the present Cadastre, is much more diachronic than the historical cadastres in CASTORE, with some consequences on the “age” of included place names. Moreover the scale of IGMI products is much smaller than that of cadastral maps, and the number of place names is therefore

significantly lower (more than 56,000 named places are included here, compared to the nearly 93,000 in CASTORE).

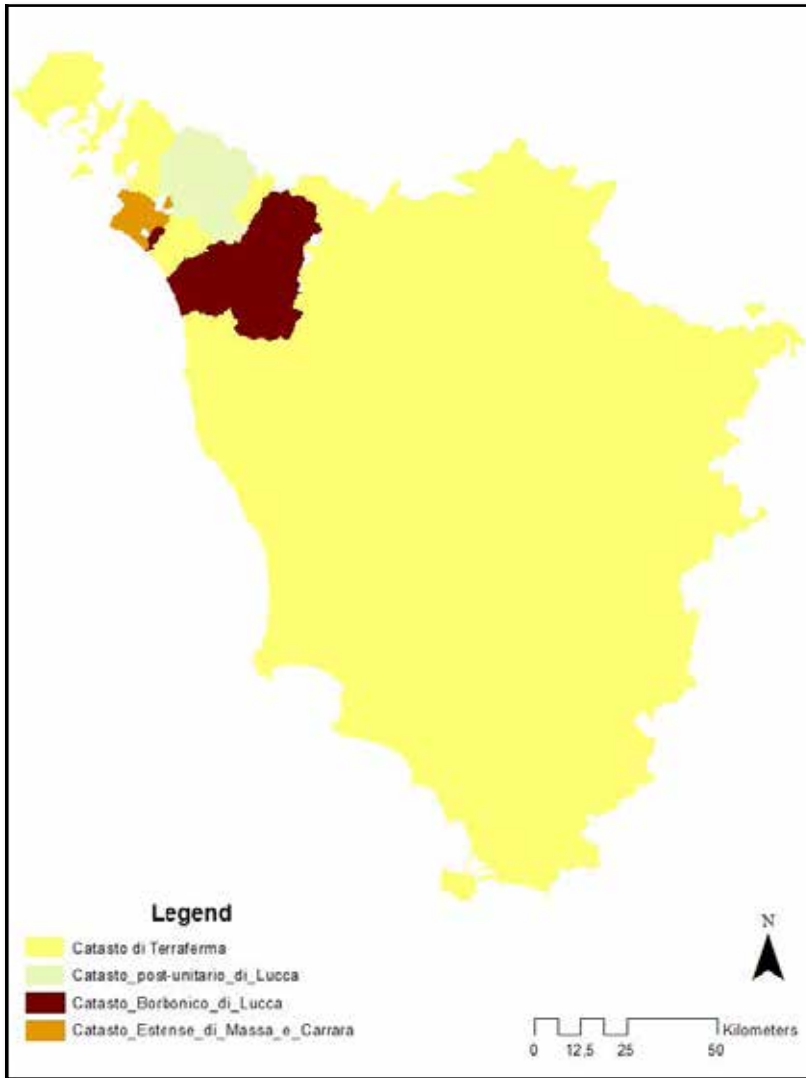


Fig. 1 CASTORE, Historical Cadastres of Tuscany Region.

The present Cadastre was promulgated with the national law on New Geometrical Land Cadastre in 1886. The law is better known by the name of its Rapporteur, Angelo Messedaglia, or by its aim, “Law on land tax equalisation”, as there was a need for a uniform cadastre either in terms of land measurement or evaluation. The “Instruction for the trigonometric operations” was published in 1889, when the Italian Geographic Military Institute was still determining the Italian general triangulation (Cannafoglia, 2007).

The operations ended only in 1956, but many parts of the Italian territory at that time already had the new land cadastre functioning. In 1914, in fact, the New Land Cadastre had already been activated in 43% of the national territory. In Tuscany it replaced the old cadastres in 1939. Its scale is mostly 1:2,000 and therefore highly comparable with 19th century historical maps.

The CTR, edition 1997 in two scales, 1:10,000 and 1:2,000, is our original document. The CTR collects 97,648 place names.

Place Names in:			
CASTORE	IGMI	CADASTRE	CTR
92,631	56,347	100,969	97,648

Place Names lost in CTR but present in:	
CASTORE	CADASTRE
47,601	39,124

The methodology: persistence, disappearance and creation of place names

To create our databank we decided to exclude for the moment two sets of toponyms: those inside modern towns, depending very often on political or cultural choices, and linear toponyms, which will be considered in a further stage of the research. The archive has been realized with place names which cartographically are either punctual or areal items.

Every place name of our documentary sources is identified in the databank by a code set concerning its linguistic, spatial and functional nature, looking for name variations in space and in time. Our questions are: which place names disappear and where are they located? Which place names change and, possibly, why? Is there a relation between names and places? Do names change because of a change in places?

Each record – a toponym – is characterised by four series of tabular fields, each corresponding to a source. Each toponym is classified through its evolution in time and space:

- a) persistent toponym (does not change);
- b) disappeared toponym: present in one of the historical sources but not in the CTR;
- c) recent toponym: absent in historical sources, present in contemporary;
- d) changing toponym: with linguistic alterations and/or change in functions.

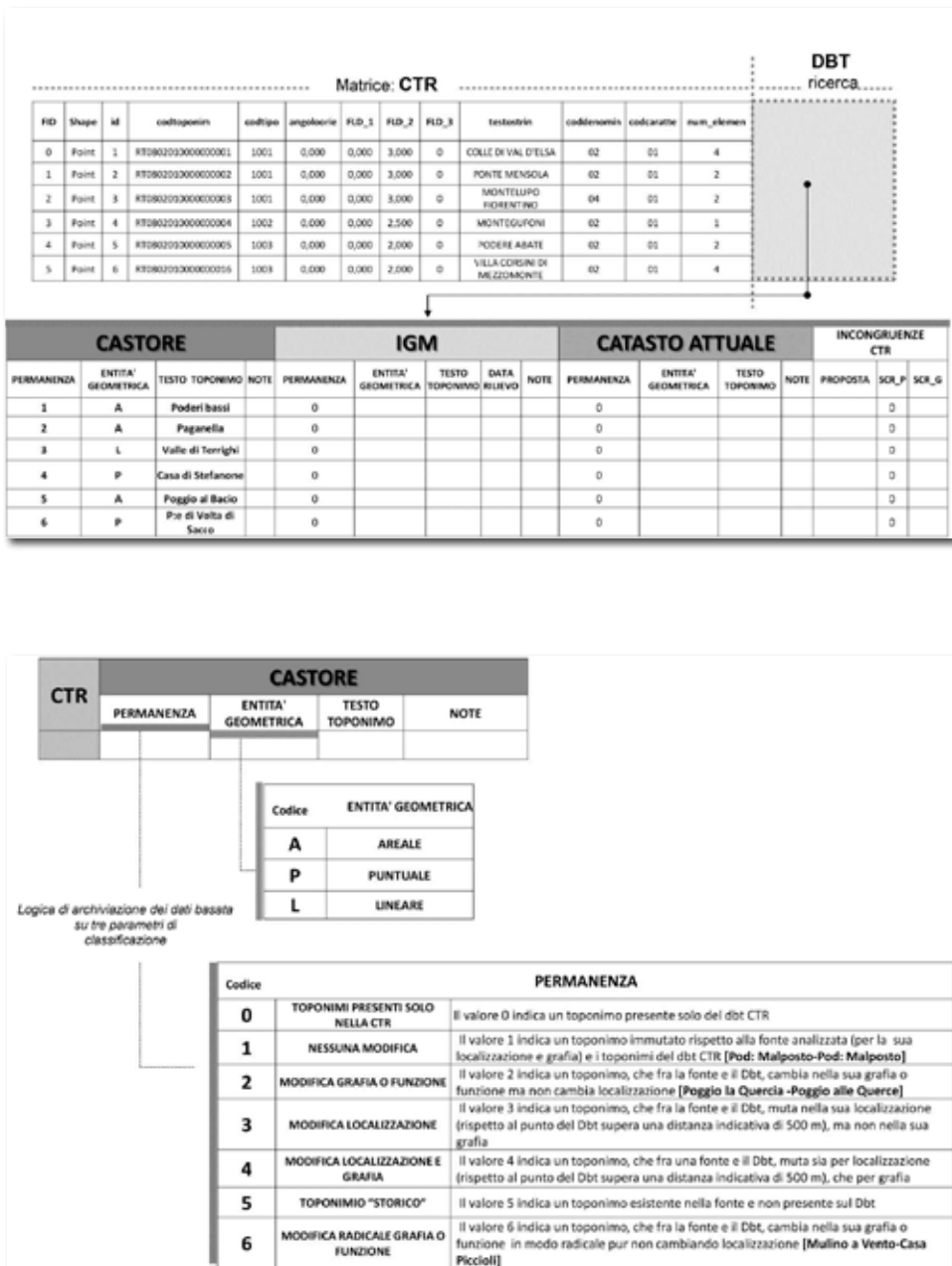


Table 1 The structure of the database of Tuscan toponyms and their classification according to the original sources.



Fig. 2 A map presentation of toponyms from the database, showing their classification according to their evolution.

Some results: toponyms surviving, disappearing, changing

The analysis of the realized databank gives some first results. There are a total of 205,625 geo-referenced toponyms. Between CASTORE in the 19th century and the CTR in 1997, 11,162 toponyms remained totally unchanged, while 47,601 were lost. Among these 57% (27,275) were areal.

If we consider all our data series about surviving and disappeared toponyms, we observe:

- a) Toponyms surviving and exactly coinciding in CASTORE + IGMI + Cadastre but which disappeared in CTR were 714;
- b) Toponyms surviving and exactly coinciding in CASTORE + Cadastre but which disappeared in CTR were 12,019 and of these 5,990 were areal (50%);
- c) Toponyms surviving and exactly coinciding in CASTORE+IGMI but which disappeared in CTR were 1238.

Areal toponyms tend to disappear mostly on the inner hills and on the Tirrenian coast. Punctual toponyms are present everywhere but with a stronger concentration in east-central Tuscany.

From place names to wider historical horizons. The organization of the agrarian space: poderi, villas and fattorie

The “podere” was the typical agricultural productive unit in central Italy (Tuscany, Emilia-Romagna, Umbria and Marche). Tuscany, with the “contadi” of Florence and Siena, was a sort of epicenter of an agrarian structure which, starting from the Middle Ages, arrived to cover, in the 20th century, 80% of cultivated land from the Tirrhenian to the Adriatic Sea.

The creation of “poderi” and the spread of the “mezzadria”, the sharecropper’s system which went along with them, is a consequence of the urban domination in the countryside, with merchants, manufacturers and bankers acquiring or conquering land in the town’s “contadi”.

According to the 1427 Florentine Cadastre, urban holdings in the countryside have been estimated to be three times more valuable than peasants' property. At that time, the majority of Tuscan peasants were still independent land owners or land possessors, as the “livellari” (peasants with a contract similar to a copyholder), but the sharecropping system was already a strong presence in the Florentine “contado”, especially in the most cultivated and densely populated areas, where sharecroppers’ families represented 30% of the total population. During the following centuries the sharecropping system progressively extended to include new territories through the penetration of urban property throughout all central-western Tuscany and in the State of Siena. The process was always the same: the acquisition – sometimes parcel by parcel – of enough land to create one or more organised production units, i.e. the podere. Other capital was invested to put the land under cultivation, often to plant grape vines and olive trees, to build a house, and finally to settle a sharecropper’s family there, where by contract they would have to work exclusively for the podere all year long. This contract clause was crucial and was respected until the last decades of the 20th century. The extent of the urban property in the countryside in 1830-35 can be calculated exactly from the Land Registers of the 19th century Tuscan general Cadastre: the city-dwellers, or “citizens”, as they were known, accounted for 55% of the total income taxes and 0.9% of all landowners inscribed in the cadastral “Campioni delle proprietà” owned 41.5 % of the surface area in the Tuscan Grand Duchy.

Sharecropping “created” in time its families: documents of the 15th century Florentine cadastre testify that they were already larger than other peasant families, and their structure was more complex as they had to respond to the needs for work, all year long, of a manifold agricultural/breeding farm. Sharecroppers often remained on a podere or in a fattoria for generations.

From the start of the Modern Era to the 20th century, Tuscany increasingly became a region of great estates, divided into small production units (poderi). The efficiency of the system increased, starting from the 16th century through the creation of an intermediate organisation, the “fattoria”, by grouping from 6 up to 30-40 poderi belonging to the same landlord. The agent, the “fattore”, initially had only administrative duties: those controlling and collecting the landowner’s share of production, selling them in the local or town markets, and arranging contracts. From the 19th to 20th centuries the fattoria assumed more than a technical management role, as new agricultural practices were introduced and sharecroppers were forced, often reluctantly, to adopt them. The fattoria also became the site of more advanced rural manufacturing practices, such as in wine production, when wine quality became more important than quantity. The fattore was also in charge of controlling not only the professional, but also the moral behaviour of the sharecroppers’ families: as the demand for poderi grew more rapidly than the number of sharecroppers, the competition among peasants enabled landlords to be more selective in choosing their work force.

Landlords continued their practice of living in town, but as they had to share half of the agricultural products with their sharecroppers and, since the Renaissance, to extend to the countryside the urban family “splendour” shown in family palaces, they built villas to spend some weeks in the countryside during the summertime. The magnificent Medici villas inscribed in 2013 in the World heritage list have this same origin.

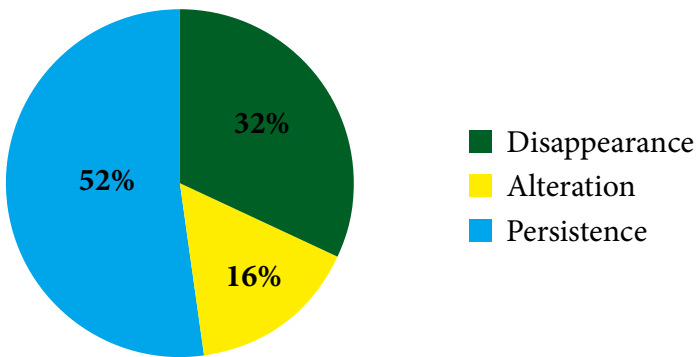
Poderi, fattorie and villas are therefore central issues in any mapping of the Tuscan territory and their presence in cadastral sources is absolutely relevant. Place names are certainly useful to map their diffusion in space and in time. In CASTORE a podere is variously indicated: p./p:ri/pod/pod./pod:/pode/poder/podere/poderino/, generally before its name but sometimes after. Starting from their toponyms we have tried to count them, to analyse their distribution, their persistence or their disappearance. A first analysis concerns their relation to altitude: only 5% of poderi are over 600 m which was the limit of vine and olive cultivation: an evident proof of the importance of wine and olive oil production for the creation of a podere by a landowner; bread, wine and oil were the staple food for the Tuscan population.

In CASTORE we find 8329 toponyms related to poderi, 7835 in IGMI, 14232 in today's Cadastre, and 14050 in CTR. Did the number of poderi increase from the Lorraine cadastre, ended in 1835, to the most contemporary sources? Certainly many new poderi were created in the 19th century and in the first decades of the 20th, particularly in western Tuscany and in the South-West coast (provinces of Livorno [Leghorn] and Grosseto) after the marshland drainage, but also in the old sharecropping territories former poderi were divided to form smaller productive units, as also the farm accounts testify (see the diffusion of toponyms with specification: “di sotto” (low), “di sopra” (high), “di là” (here), “di qua” (there), or “podere di...”, “podere I, II, III di...”). Still, we are far from solving the problem of how many were these essential cells of the Tuscan economic, social and demographic life in the last two centuries. None of our cadastral sources with their rich toponymy can entirely solve this problem.

The first element to be considered is that there were no instructions on how to represent on a map the poderi and their most visible and distinctive architectural element, the isolated peasant's house which was, nearly everywhere, part of its premises. A sampling research made combining together different sources including the general Tuscan Cadastre maps plus two series of its Registers, the “Campioni dei proprietari” and the “Tavole indicative”, together with farm accounts of the same period, reveals an underestimation of the number of “poderi”, as well as of the “fattorie” and “villas” in the Tuscan cadastral maps. The most important control on this field has been made between cadastral maps and the Registers of landowners (“Campioni”) in which every parcel drawn on a map is described with the tax to be paid. The sharecroppers' houses were the only houses tax-free, so we can count the number of poderi identified as such in cadastral maps of a commune and compare this number with the number of tax-free (“poderal”) houses present in the corresponding named Register “Campioni”. For the Commune of Fauglia, for instance, we have 4 indications of “podere” in its maps, but 332 tax-free houses in the “Campioni”. A control with the results of the first general Census in Tuscany, 1841, gives for Fauglia a result of 355 sharecropper families.

For the Commune of Lari there are 54 place names “podere” on its maps, but 386 tax-free houses in the “Campioni” and 393 sharecropper families in the 1841 Census. The Commune of Lorenzana has no indication of “podere” in its maps, but there were 69 tax-free houses and 69 sharecropper families in 1841. We get the same result from controls between cadastral maps and farm accounts. For instance, in the estate accounts of the Ricasoli family, the Chianti property of Baron Bettino Ricasoli, first Minister of the Kingdom of Italy after the Italian unification, at the moment of the Tuscan General Cadastre, Bettino possessed 2,000 ha of land which was organised in three “fattorie”, each divided in 42 poderi and with three “fattoria houses”. The contemporary cadastral maps signal nearly all toponyms of the 42 existing poderi, all the pertinent buildings (mostly sharecroppers' houses) but no graphic mention of “podere”, nor of “fattoria”, in the maps. The same happens for fattorie in other parts of Tuscany, as in Mugello and Val d’Elsa belonging to other landowners whose history has been studied through the fattorie accounts. Since there was no compulsory indication, in our opinion much was left to the directives of the engineers which led to different local results (the same phenomenon seems to happen for industrial buildings).

Even if we cannot count all the existing poderi in 1835, we can count how many of those officially existing in the General Tuscan Cadastre survived, or disappeared, in our reference databank, CTR. The number of those that disappeared totals more than 2500.



Graph.2 Presence of “poderi” in CASTORE and in the CTR.

The disappearance is more concentrated in the inner part of Tuscany, on the hills which were also less vital in economic change and demographic growth.

Documentary cadastral sources offering further place names patrimony

Among the historical cadastres of CASTORE, the Registers of “Tavole indicative” in the Bourbon cadastre for Lucca, whose results were inscribed in the post-Unitarian cadastre, is the richest in toponyms. The “Tavole indicative”, in this case as well as in the Leopoldine Cadastre, are important because they are the only

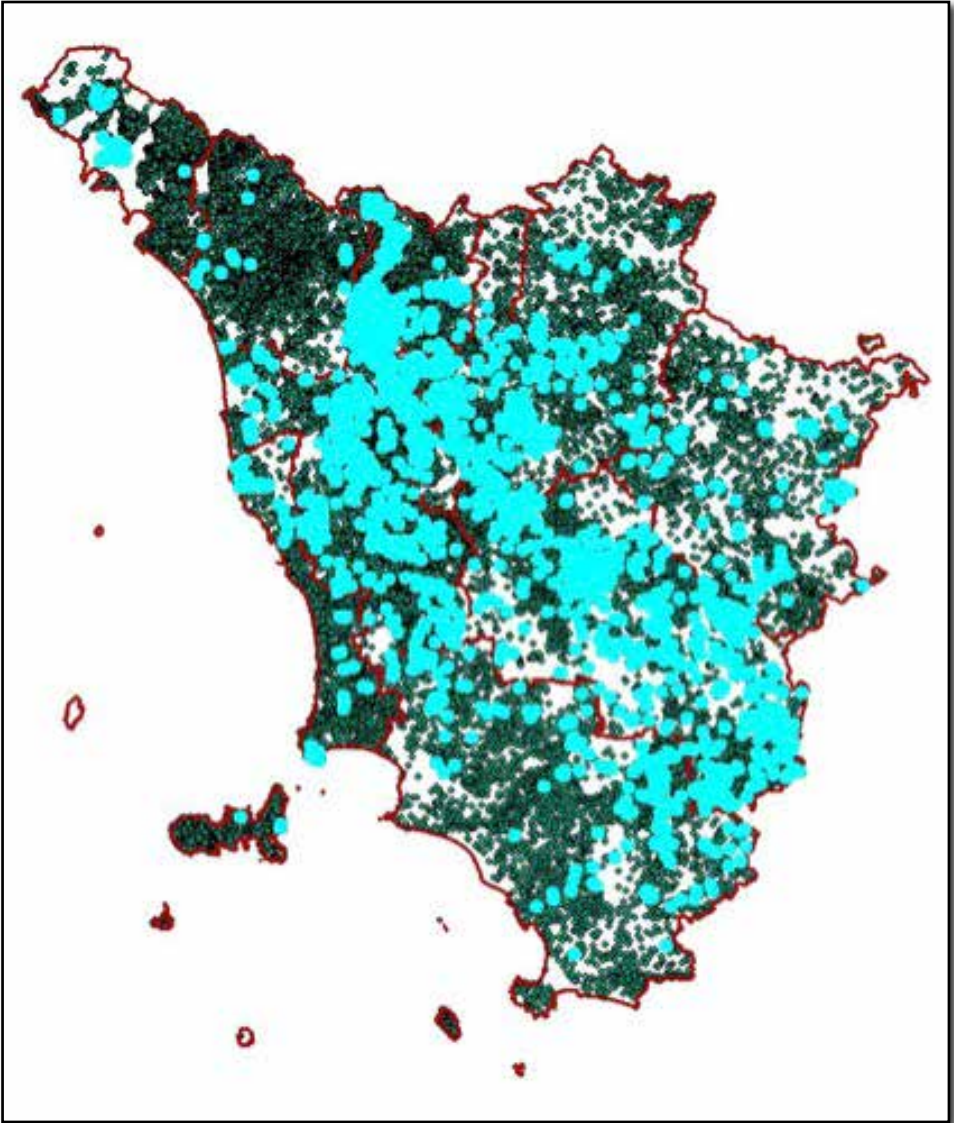


Fig. 3 "Podere" toponyms present in CASTORE and disappeared in CTR.

final cadastral documents to give us information about the use of the soil, either for the soil under cultivation (fallow arable, arable with vines and/or olive trees, vineyards, meadows) or for woods, pastures, marshes and for any other cultural destination of each parcel. The only indication about the use of the soil at the moment of the Cadastre is revealed indirectly in the maps through the forms of the parcels. In the plains, arable lands are characterised by regular parcels, resulting, as often in Tuscany, from hydraulic works to drain marshes. Regular parcels in the majority of cases identify arable lands; woods or pastures were present in the plains only in the marshy and malaria infected Maremma.

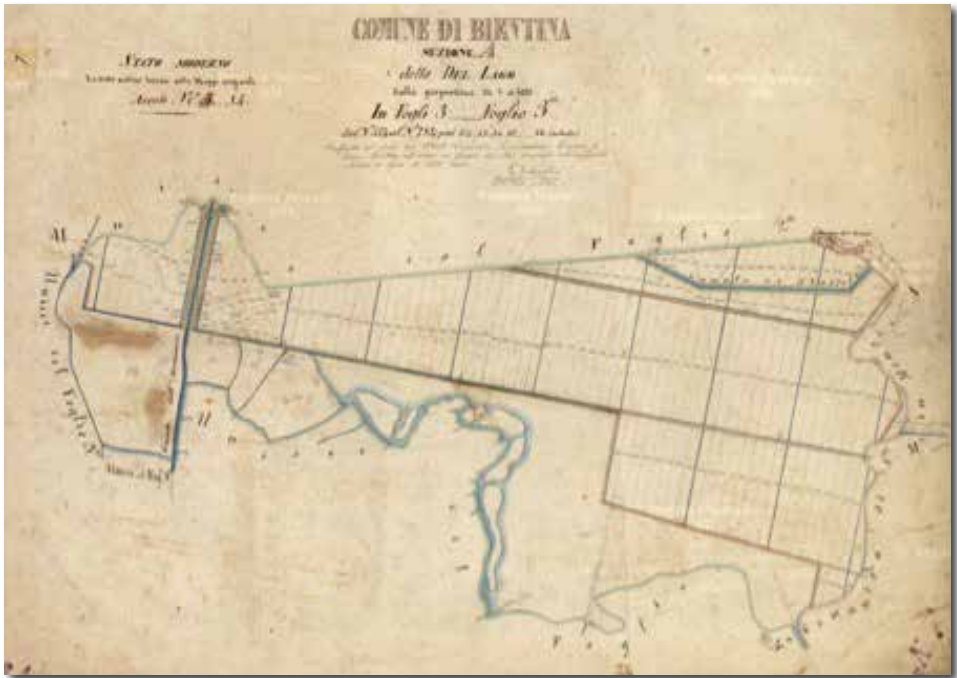


Fig. 4 Comune di Bientina, Sez. A Foglio 3°. Arable parcels created after drainage of marshes.



Fig. 5 Comune di Buti, Sez. A Foglio 2°. Irregular parcels of chestnut woods on the hills.

In the hills and mountains, representing the majority of the Tuscan territory, parcels are irregular, due to the uneven soil morphology; in this case it is more difficult to identify parcels under cultivation from other possible land uses.

The Bourbon cadastre for Lucca represents also, with its “Tavole indicative”, a precious source for place names. Generally speaking, the Bourbon cadastral maps are very poor in toponyms if compared not only with the other historical cadastres, but also with the following sources. The “Tavole indicative”, instead, are very rich in this field, much more than IGMI, CTR and the current Cadastre. In fact, a special column, different from the “Tavole indicative” of the General Tuscan Cadastre, is dedicated to the “vocabolo” (toponym) of each inscribed parcel. The practice of the old descriptive cadastres, in which each piece of land was described with its boundaries and its place name, was transferred in this case to the geometrical cadastre. This source can therefore offer much supplementary information either for the place names or for the global territorial history. There are, in fact, relics of industrial archaeology (place names like “paper mill”) or linguistic (the Lombard toponym “sala”) traces of a “castrum” (“al castellaccio”) which widen the research horizons. We shall give here only a few, but significant, examples of important knowledge elements offered by this source in various fields of scientific interest for the community of Capannori (belonging to the “Six miles” of Lucca).

An interesting element emerging from all the cadastral sections of Capannori is a specialised vine cultivation (in vineyards) not only no longer present in the 19th century, but in many cases abandoned in favour of woods. In the Matraia section, a parcel with the toponym “alla vignaccia” (“at the old vineyard”) meaning, in Italian, a vineyard in already bad condition, had, as a cultural destination, a chestnut wood.

Let us begin with the section A, Matraia. Here the “Tavole indicative” allows us to recover place names absent in historical maps, such as “Al dubbione” (i.e. “Al debbione”) testifying the practice of slash and burn agriculture in the marginal agrarian systems on the hills (the Matraia territory reaches 900 metres). Other toponyms testify pre-industrial activities which had disappeared at the moment of the Cadastral survey: a parcel named “alla Fornace” (“at the Furnace”) where the soil use was at the moment of the survey a chestnut wood or, “alla gora del Molino di Saccone” (“at the Saccone’s mill race”) where there was no longer any evidence of a mill. But the most interesting element is related to the toponym “al Castellaccio” (“at the old Castle”, but in Italian with a pejorative meaning). The toponym is present in all our sources, but only the “Tavole indicative”, with their supplementary information on place names, allow us to reconstruct the rich, interesting history of this “castellaccio”. The parcel 234 of section A of Capannori is dedicated to a Church of “sant’Andrea di col di pozzo, con Romitorio” (“a church dedicated to Saint Andrew in Col di pozzo, with a hermitage”). The church and the hermitage are not marked on any map of our database. Nevertheless, the information emerging from the “Tavole indicative” is essential to reconstruct some important historical pages of the territory. In the Middle Ages, since the 12th century, the place hosted an autonomous community, called “Col di pozzo”, living in a fortified village around the homonymous castle that the noble family of the Avvocati from Lucca received in fief from Frederick Redbeard in 1155. Adjacent to the castle (“castrum Putei”) there was a chapel dedicated to apostle Saint Andrew. When Castruccio Castracani in 1320 became Seigneur of Lucca, some “Guelfi” family members, among them the Avvocati, plotted a conspiracy against him, but they were discovered and murdered or banned. The Avvocati took refuge in Col di

pozzo, but Castruccio's troops in 1327 besieged and destroyed the castle, deporting to Lucca all the inhabitants of the community. Nonetheless, St. Andrew's church remained officiated and after the plague of 1630-32 the cult of Our Lady of Grace appeared, with the chapel remaining until 1855 under custody of hermits.

The section is rich in the toponym "alla polla" ("at the spring"), an abundance of water from the mountains as we can find in other sections, too. For example, in section D of Sant'Andrea in Caprile, parcels of chestnut grove 13 to 18 and 31 to 35 are named "all'acqua buona" ("at the good water"). There was apparently a spring, yet not included in the list of the fifteen springs included in the project "the water ways" of the Capannori commune co-financed by the Tuscany Region; maybe a control on the current site should be made for the inclusion of a sixteenth one.

VOCABOLO	NUMERO			COGNOME E NOME DEL PROPRIETARIO E NOME DEL PADRE DI ESSO	SPECIE DELLE PROPRIETA'	SUPERFICIE DELLA PROPRIETA' Braccia Quadre
	Del Appartamento	Del Articolo di Biana	Del Corte di Complesse			
<i>Salce</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>218</i>	<i>Cioccannetti Agostino Agostini Carlo e Agostino fr. di Gio. Domenico co</i>	<i>Castagnate con vigna</i>	<i>2400</i>
<i>Salce</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>218</i>	<i>219</i>	<i>Nelli</i>	<i>Castagnate vigna e vigna</i>	<i>1839</i>
<i>Salce</i>	<i>218</i>	<i>219</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>Nelli</i>	<i>Castagnate vigna e vigna vigna e vigna</i>	<i>2550</i>
<i>Salce</i>	<i>219</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>221</i>	<i>Nelli</i>	<i>Castagnate vigna e vigna</i>	<i>1200</i>

	<i>203</i>	<i>863</i>		<i>Terra boschiva</i>		<i>228</i>	<i>882</i>		<i>Terra proprietà</i>
<i>Ala Fontane</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>864</i>	<i>2101</i>	<i>St</i>		<i>229</i>	<i>883</i>	<i>2510</i>	<i>St</i>
<i>Ala Menato</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>865</i>		<i>Terra castagnata</i>		<i>230</i>	<i>39</i>		<i>Castagna</i>
<i>Ala Mulinetta</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>866</i>	<i>2072</i>	<i>Terra boschiva</i>		<i>231</i>			<i>Casa colonica</i>
<i>Ala Prata</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>867</i>	<i>2105</i>	<i>Terra castagnata</i>		<i>232</i>			<i>Terra</i>
	<i>208</i>	<i>36</i>		<i>Capanna</i>		<i>233</i>			<i>Stalla e Capanna</i>
	<i>209</i>			<i>Prata</i>		<i>234</i>	<i>884</i>		<i>Terra boschiva</i>

Fig. 6. Structure of the "Tavole indicative" of the Bourbon Cadastre of Lucca.

Linking official sources to the territory: the micro-toponymy

All the official sources don't exhaust the richness of toponyms which can be registered in any territory. A very useful, supplementary approach to the historical and contemporary official documents is represented by a territorial micro-survey with the collaboration of local inhabitants, representatives of their age group or of their professions with a memory of places and of their local names. We are aware that caution is necessary in the use of oral sources – a term, implying also an interpretation, we prefer in agreement with Luisa Passerini to “oral history” (Passerini, 1988, p. 117) – as in the use of all, even written, sources. Some interesting research has already begun before the project on Tuscan toponymy we are presenting here, moving further on after the realisation of the databank here presented. The further step was a collection of oral sources, managed according to the technical and practical methodological suggestions of oral sources/oral history specialists (Contini and Martini, 1993). In research for the commune of Vecchiano (province of Pisa) Francesca Del Maestro has gone around the whole territory together with elderly residents. With their helps, she has enriched the cartography of Vecchiano of nearly fifty place names unknown to all the official documents we use (Del Maestro, 2008). Among them, toponyms like “al diaccio” and “le case della radio” testify in the memory of inhabitants two chronological periods in the life of this territory, the first one the multi-secular phenomenon of transhumance from the Apennines, the second the arrival of the radio, whose birth station is located nearby (the radio centre of Coltano, from which Guglielmo Marconi in 1911 sent the first radio messages). Many other examples could be given on how research on micro-toponyms can help in reconstructing the past; just one further example will be given here for the Pisan territory. We know from medieval sources that the community of Calci, Province of Pisa, hosted a castle, with no remaining traces in the official documents and maps. The Calci inhabitants, nevertheless, call a precise place of their commune “at the Castle”. The archaeologists, if interested, will know from this local memory where to start their research.

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