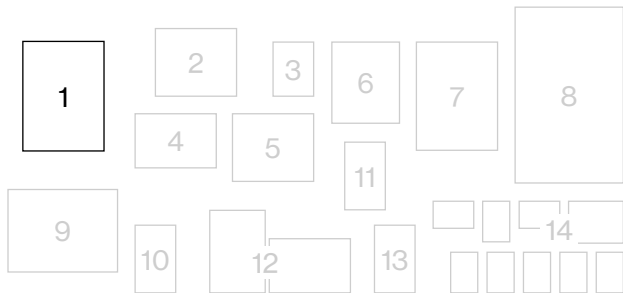
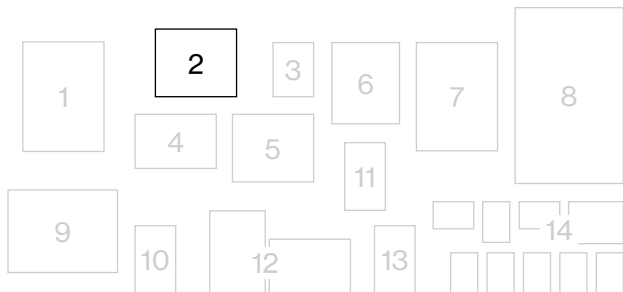


Archive documents 1–14



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- 1 *La Domenica del Corriere*
Milan, July 5–12, 1908, Anno X, No. 27
“A sword duel with bloodshed between two ladies in the Bois di Boulogne in Paris”
Illustration: Achille Beltrame
Archivio Unione Femminile Nazionale

La Domenica del Corriere (1899–1989), a hugely popular periodical, was the weekly supplement to the *Corriere della Sera* newspaper. The front and back covers were always illustrated with the most pressing news events of the week.



2 Anna Maria Mozzoni

Un passo avanti nella cultura femminile.

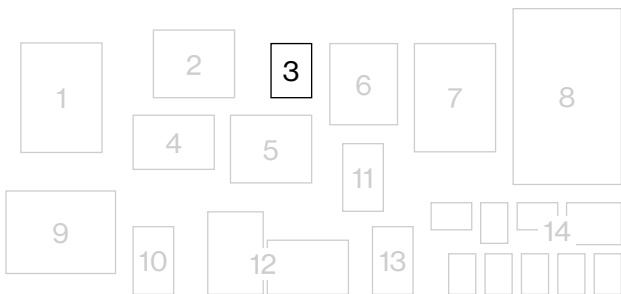
Tesi e Progetto

Published by Tipografia Internazionale,
Milan, 1866

Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, Milan

In this 1866 text, Anna Maria Mozzoni addresses the issue of female education: a field that constituted the main terrain in the process of women gaining autonomy. Women, in fact, were excluded from the public system of higher education: this recognition was gained between 1874 – with the possibility for women to enroll at university – and 1883 – with women’s admission to public lyceums, gymnasiums, and technical institutes. Thus, this text appears extremely progressive, for after a detailed examination of the condition of women’s education internationally, Mozzoni proposes the creation of an International Higher Institute for the education of women, the program of which she outlines in detail.

Among the subjects to be studied is philosophy, which was normally precluded in girls’ schools of the time, being predominantly vocational. Mozzoni herself taught philosophy in 1870 in a private girls’ lyceum.



3 Anna Maria Mozzoni

I socialisti e l'emancipazione della donna

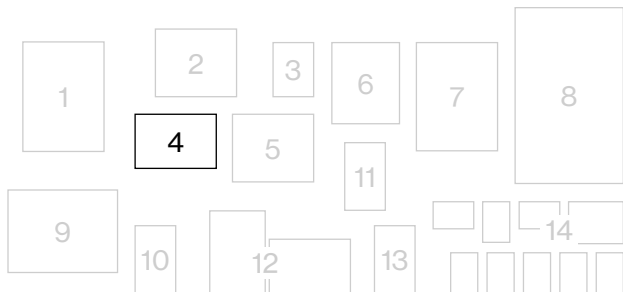
Published by Tipografia sociale,

Alessandria, 1892

Anna Kuliscioff Foundation

The lecture, delivered by Anna Maria Mozzoni in 1892 for the Società Mutua e Miglioramento fra le sorelle del lavoro di Alessandria (the “Mutual Improvement Society among the Sisters of Labor of Alessandria”), offers a summary of her thought, matured in light of her long struggle for women’s rights. In her speech, Mozzoni called for a cultural battle to be waged against the age-old prejudices that oppose women’s emancipation and that persist even within workers’ and Socialist organizations, to affirm a new mentality according to which women and men might enjoy equal rights. In her view, the clout that working women wield within the productive system must provide the starting point for claiming not only economic emancipation but also for engaging in an outright political battle for access to the ballot box.

“Do not therefore, oh dear Sisters of Labor, fall asleep to the soporific preaching that women will come across the simple solution to the economic issue by themselves. No, she will get there only by studying, persuading, working, and struggling [...]. You will never have any other rights than those you have been able to conquer; you will never occupy any other place than that which you have been able to take; and you will never enjoy any other freedom than that which you know how to defend every day and in every moment.”



4 Anna Maria Mozzoni

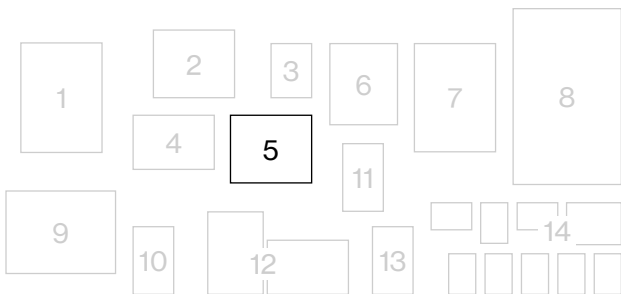
Alle fanciulle

Published by Flaminio Fantuzzi, Milan, 1891

Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, Milan

In this short propaganda pamphlet, Anna Maria Mozzoni urges young women to become aware of their condition of subjugation and to embrace the Socialist cause. The text dates from a time when Mozzoni—and the League for Women's Interests with her—was approaching the labor movement and shortly thereafter, in 1892, would be among the founding associations of the Socialist Party.

Mozzoni herself, however, never joined the Socialist Party because she considered it unconvincing in its support for women's emancipation and subordinated the issue of women to that of class conflict. An opinion she would make explicit in the 1892 lecture entitled *Socialists and the Emancipation of Women*.

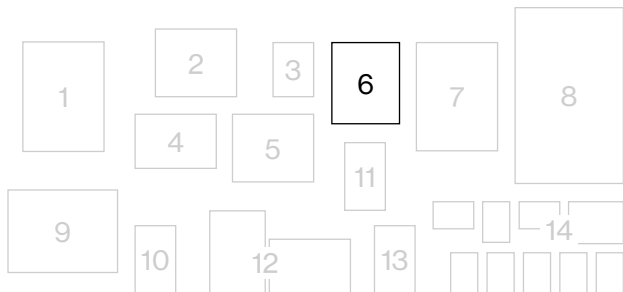


5 Anna Maria Mozzoni

L'organizzazione dei lavoratori

Published by Tipografia Sociale, Cremona, 1891
Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, Milan

In this conference, held on May 3, 1891 at the “Gruppo Socialista” and the “Unione Operaia di Cremona,” Mozzoni urged workers to come together in concrete terms to promote the spread of Socialist thought, combining “thought and action, propaganda and agitation.” A special appeal was made to women workers, in the face of the harshness of their working conditions, for them not to give in to the temptation to abandon employment. Work, with the economic independence and opportunity for comparison that come with it, is the only means of freeing oneself from one’s servitude. The theme was dear to Mozzoni’s heart and came a few years prior to the heated debate that in 1898 would see her cross swords with Anna Kuliscioff in the pages of *Avanti!* on the issue of legislation to protect women’s labor, which at the time was characterized by heavy exploitation, poor working conditions and very long working hours. According to Mozzoni, women’s labor should not be protected and limited by law, but female workers should be the ones to fight to improve their lot. This was a rather different position from that of the Socialists and of Kuliscioff in particular, who, on the contrary, argued that it was instead precisely legal protection that would allow female workers to find the time to better organize themselves in the defense of their rights. Kuliscioff was among the promoters of what in 1902 would become the first law for the protection of women’s and children’s labor.



6 Anna Kuliscioff
Il monopolio dell'Uomo
Libreria Editrice Galli, Milan, 1890
Anna Kuliscioff Foundation

On April 27, 1890, Anna Kuliscioff delivered an impassioned lecture at the Milan Philosophical Circle on the topic of the female proletariat. Kuliscioff described the condition of women through the centuries, highlighting how their inferiority arises from and is perpetuated by time-honored male privileges that had become anachronistic in the light of the changing social conditions emerging internationally. Approaching the issue from a specific political perspective, that of Socialism, she affirms the need for women to emerge from the state of subalternity that they themselves help to perpetuate, and identifies labor—paid on a par with that of men—as the essential condition for women’s freedom and the attainment of political and civil rights. The lecture constitutes one of the earliest booklets of Socialist propaganda.



7 *Avanti della Domenica*

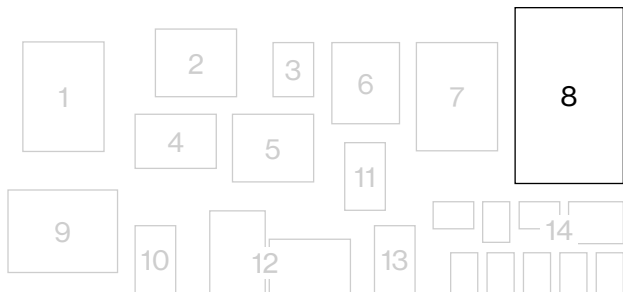
April 2, 1905, Anno III, No. 13

Illustration: Giorgio Kiernek

Portrait of Anna Kuliscioff

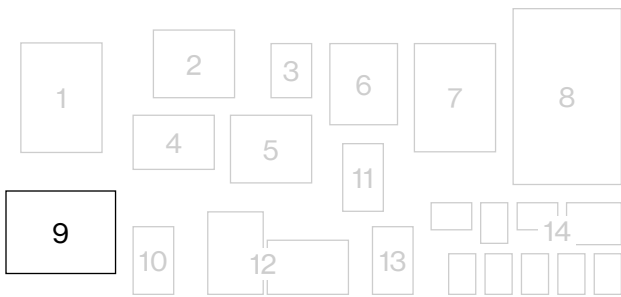
Anna Kuliscioff Foundation

Anna Kuliscioff (Crimea 1857–Milan 1920), a Russian exile and refugee in Switzerland before moving to Italy, is a key figure in the women’s movement and a leading player in the political events of the country from the late 19th century onward. A physician, journalist and passionate public speaker, in 1892—along with comrade Filippo Turati—she was among the founders of the Italian Workers’ Party (later to become the Italian Socialist Party), and throughout her life she remained in its ranks, for which she also underwent arrest. She was a tireless leader of battles for civil rights and women’s emancipation. She founded and edited the magazine *La difesa delle lavoratrici* (“The Defense of Women Workers”), the first national periodical by and for Socialist women, and in 1911, despite controversy with Turati himself, she promoted the foundation of the *Comitato Socialista per il suffragio femminile* (“Socialist Committee for Women’s Suffrage”). She also penned the text that formed the basis for the Carcano Law, the first law for the protection of children’s and women’s labor rights, which was passed in 1902. Her passionate political battles were accompanied by nonconformist life choices, such as not marrying and raising her daughter out of wedlock. After being among the first women in Italy to earn a degree in medicine, she opened a private practice—women being forbidden from practicing medicine in hospitals—and devoted herself to community service, providing care free of charge to the needy.



8 *La difesa delle lavoratrici*
November 24, 1912, Anno I, No. 20
Anna Kuliscioff Foundation

The first national periodical of Socialist women, founded by Anna Kuliscioff and published in Italy from 1912 to 1925. This issue featured an article by Clara Zetkin, International Secretary of Socialist Women, titled *Guerra alla guerra* (“War on War”), calling on all female workers—faced with the precipitous situation in Europe at the dawn of the world conflict—to espouse the cause of pacifism in the struggle against capitalism. On behalf of the Italian delegation, Anna Kuliscioff also adhered to the appeal.

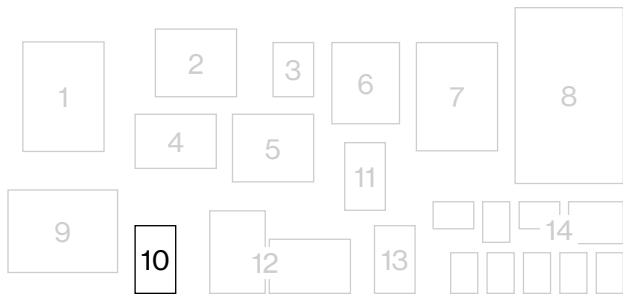


9 Cristina Trivulzio di Belgiojoso
*Osservazioni sullo stato attuale dell'Italia
e sul suo avvenire*

Published by Tipografia del dott. Francesco
Vallardi, Milan, 1868

Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, Milan

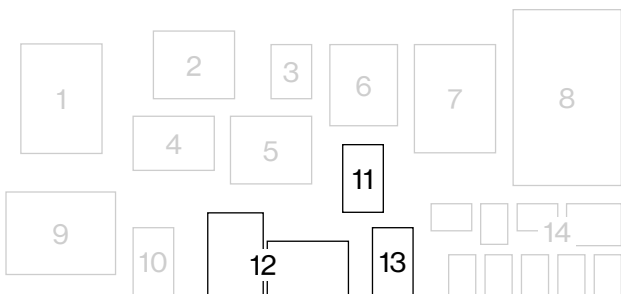
Cristina Trivulzio di Belgiojoso (Milan, 1808–1871), a member of one of the historic families of the Milanese nobility, was a patriot, journalist, publisher, writer and tireless advocate of national independence. She defied the Austrian police by making contact with the main protagonists of the Risorgimento, from Mazzini to Cavour, and took an active part in the Five Days of Milan and the defense of the Roman Republic, even enduring exile and the seizure of her property. In her parlor in Paris, Italian exiles gathered together with leading European intellectuals. Once back in Italy, she put into practice the ideas of reform she had been interested in at her estate in Locate Triulzi, building homes for agricultural workers, kindergartens, schools, and communal kitchens. Publishing and journalism in particular were always of central importance to Trivulzio. Three major works date back to her later years, the fruit of a long life of observation and reflection: *Sulla condizione presente delle donne e del loro avvenire* (“On the Present Condition of Women and Their Future,” 1866), *Osservazioni sullo stato attuale dell'Italia e del suo avvenire* (“Observations on the Present State of Italy and Its Future” 1868), and *Osservazioni sulla moderna politica internazionale* (“Observations on Modern International Politics,” 1869). Active participation in the Risorgimento cause had awakened in many women a sense of belonging to a process of collective redemption, within which the early signs of a feminist consciousness had begun to mature. Without going so far as to hypothesize the birth of a genuine movement, as was to be the case with Mozzoni and Kuliscioff, Trivulzio provided a clear-minded analysis at the social situation of the women of her time, emphasizing the degree of cultural inferiority to which women were then relegated and the importance of their education.



10 *Bandiera Bianca. Almanacco Illustrato per la pace, Anno XI*

Printed by Tipografia Bernardoni
di C. Rebeschini e C., Milan, 1900
Anna Kuliscioff Foundation

An annual publication, issued between 1890 and 1917, founded by the Milanese Ernesto Teodoro Moneta (Milan, 1833–1918). Moneta was a Renaissance patriot and journalist, one of the most important promoters of progressive and pacifist thought and action internationally. He founded the *Unione Lombarda per la Pace e l'Arbitrato Internazionale* in 1887, the foremost Italian pacifist movement, and became the only Italian to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1907. The almanac, published by the Union with the collaboration of scholars and artists, was intended to raise awareness and inform the pacifist cause by reporting updates on frequent national and international peace congresses, while also making use of humorous cartoons inspired by the horrors of war.



11 *Almanacco Socialista per il 1922*
published by Società editrice Avanti!,
Milan 1922

Anna Kuliscioff Foundation

12 *Almanacco socialista per il 1898*
Tipografia degli operai, Milan, 1898

Anna Kuliscioff Foundation

Illustration: Giovanni Segantini, *La propaganda*

13 *Almanacco socialista per il 1895*
Printed by Tipografia Pietro Faverio,
Milan, 1895

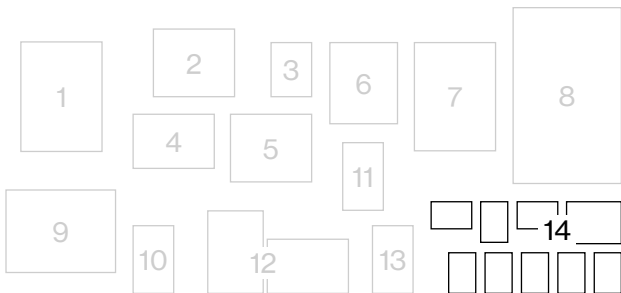
Anna Kuliscioff Foundation

Socialist almanacs, which first appeared in 1871, are connected to the tradition of civic almanacs in nineteenth-century popular literature, aimed at the affirmation of ideals and figures from the secular universe (as opposed to religious almanacs). Within Socialism, they became a propaganda tool aimed at the formation of a Socialist ideology among the masses. Especially during the early stage, publications were of an encyclopedic nature: alongside short stories and poems, photographs and drawings, curiosities and information, they carry documents on political activity and a calendar commemorating significant events in history for the emancipation of social classes. The 1895 edition was the first in a new series of almanacs edited by the weekly *Lotta di classe*: an organ of the Italian Socialist Party, (with Filippo Turati, who was the main inspiration behind it, as well as leading members of the Socialist Party, such as the writers Edmondo De Amicis and Paolo Valera, and painters Giovanni Segantini and Emilio Longoni).

In the 1898 almanac, the illustration by Giovanni Segantini titled *Propaganda*—evoking the cultural and political Socialist mobilization for the benefit of the working classes—well represents the propaganda purpose that the Party attributed to imagery.

Beginning in 1917, publishing passed to the Società editrice Avanti!, and the almanacs—given as free gifts to subscribers of the daily newspaper *L'Avanti!*—enjoyed a large circulation, becoming an exclusive vehicle for information on and documentation of the life of the Party, which by that time had developed a more articulated organizational structure.

The 1922 edition presented here shown on the cover is the work of Gabriele Galantara, who used the illustration *A Garland for May Day 1895* by Walter Crane.



14 Membership card of the Italian Socialist Party

Years: 1903–1904, 1907, 1909, 1910, 1914, 1915, 1917, 1921, 1922

Anna Kuliscioff Foundation

The Italian Socialist Party was the first structured organization of the Italian left and the first mass party in the modern sense. It was founded in 1892 in Genoa under the name *Partito dei Lavoratori Italiani* (“Italian Workers’ Party”) only to then take on its definitive name *Partito Socialista Italiano* (“Italian Socialist Party”) in 1895. In the wake of the longer-standing experiences of international Socialism, and as an evolution of early forms of associationism (mutual aid societies, associations, leagues, and voluntary mutual funds), the party was born out of the need to advance the cause of the rights of the new social class that had also developed in Italy with the Industrial Revolution and the transformation of the labor market. Social change also affected women, who were employed in manufacturing alongside men, and female workers immediately became the recipients of the propaganda of Socialist thought, thanks in part to the presence in the party’s own orbit of a female *élite*, highly advanced in terms of political reformism and open-mindedness, such as Anna Kuliscioff and Anna Maria Mozzoni. The popularization of the general principles of Socialism through the press made use of ongoing collaboration with artists, draftsmen and engravers to breathe life into imagery that would serve as visual support for the party’s propaganda needs, thus contributing to its social entrenchment. An example of this function is the early party membership cards, distributed post-1905 by the PSI leadership (an earlier card issued by the Milan section is also displayed here). From an iconographic point of view, the female figure plays a central role as an allegory of the party, and is declined with a series of attributes in which motifs from the French revolutionary tradition (such as the Phrygian cap), and those that were to become the distinctive symbols of the Socialist Party such as the red flag and the carnation are to be found.