

Main Entry: Vincent Raschella

Title: Papers 1889-1905

Size: .07 linear ft; 2 archival boxes

Source: Gift of Vincent Raschella, 1940, 1953 and 1955.

Biographical Statement: Vincent Raschella, artist and inventor was born at Caulonia, Province of Reggio Calabria, in southern Italy in 1863. Raschella developed an interest in aerial flight during his teenage years via the study of kites, balloons, butterflies and related matter. He studied the works of other inventors such as Leonardo Da Vinci and Cardani; Raschella also studied art in Rome. By 1886, Raschella built his first [hang] glider. This invention and several other gliders were not entirely successful. Raschella continued to design and in 1889, with a redesigned glider named "The Falcon" Raschella flew 200 feet. In 1894, Raschella designed a dirigible with an aerial bomb attached to it to be used during wartime. This idea was presented to the Minister of war in Italy, but this official dismissed it as being impracticable. Discouraged and lacking funds for production of his designs, Raschella emigrated to the United States in 1899. He returned to his career as an artist and made a living as a portrait and fresco painter and, as a embroidery manufacturer. Raschella eventually continued with his inventions and he developed an automatic shoe shiner. During the latter part of his life, Raschella designed commuter planes.

Description: The papers (c1890-1895; .07 linear ft.) written mainly in Italian, reflect Vincent Raschella's career as an artist and inventor via correspondence, writings (including an autobiographical sketch "Dreams of Pioneering), sketches and blueprints of aeronautic designs. The drawings in pencil and ink include sketches of the glider "The Falcon", dirigible, motors, dams and windmills. The remainder of the papers consist of some patents, newspaper clippings and photographs of Raschella and a automatic shoe shiner.

Special format: Photographs and sketches

VINCENT RASCHELLA PAPERS

Container

- Box 1                    Letters to Vincent Raschella 1889-1896 (in Italian).  
  
                          Essay on Method of Conserving Antique Paintings  
                          1895.  
  
                          Dreams of Pioneering. original draft; revised copy.  
  
                          Ricerche Sul Fenomeno Del Vol. A Vela Degliucelli;  
                          applicate Per Un Aparechio Volante 1895.  
  
                          Notebook in Italian regarding inventions.  
  
                          Sketches of inventions "The Falcon", dirigible,  
                          aeroplanes.
- Box 2                    Sketches of inventions motors, dams, turbine wind  
                          mills.  
  
                          Newspaper clippings; photographs of automatic shoe  
                          shiner and biographical data.