

# Correspondence Collection

Everlasting Ti Amo—Italian Love Letters Preserved

## BACKGROUND

After the death of her father, Carla Pasetti found herself responsible for a collection of letters, postcards, and translucent notes that were mostly in good condition, though it presented unique digitization challenges.

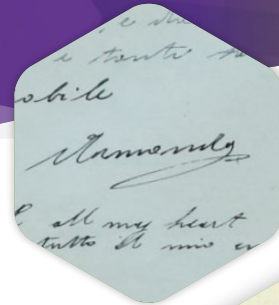
The collection included hundreds of handwritten items from her father, Armando, to her mother, Evelina, written in Italian and stored in a cigar box in their basement. In 1938, at only 14 years old, Armando left Italy to settle with his aunt and uncle in St. Louis, MO's The Hill neighborhood and built a prominent life for himself and Evelina in their community.

## Challenge

Carla's intention was to preserve the letters as they were. She hoped to make a physical book to display the letters once they were digitized but wasn't sure where to start. The collection was in good condition, but some letters had been written on thin, heavily-folded onion skin paper, which can be difficult to digitally capture even when the document isn't handwritten.

## Solution

Anderson Archival partnered with a **trusted paper conservator** who organized and stabilized the collection before digital preservation could occur. They unfolded, flattened, and cleaned each document so they could be captured accurately. Anderson Archival scanned the entire collection at a high resolution, then arranged the digital files according to Carla's specifications to facilitate the creation of her book. The letters and postcards were rehoused in archival-grade storage media so that they were safely preserved for the future—much safer than an old cigar box!

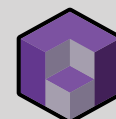


## Results

The Pasettis now have an arranged and preserved collection of letters, important not only to their legacy but also that of the St. Louis area.

### Some key outcomes include:

- An arranged collection of fragile family letters and postcards
- Physical collection restored to stable condition by a paper conservator, then rehoused in safe archival storage to prevent further damage
- High-resolution images perfect for reprinting into a shareable book
- Important insight into the relationship between Carla's parents and their journey to St. Louis from Italy

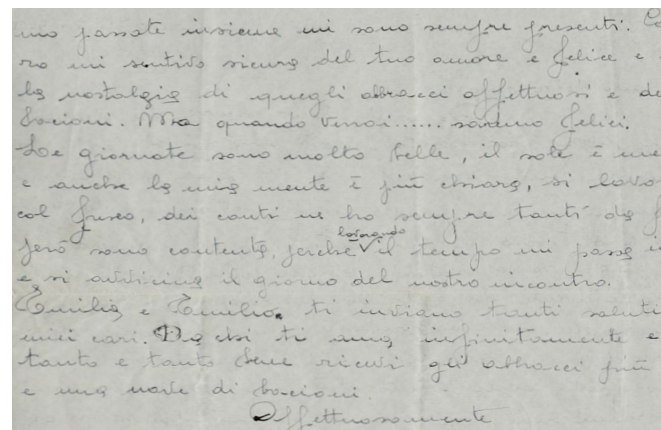




## WHAT THE CLIENT HAS TO SAY

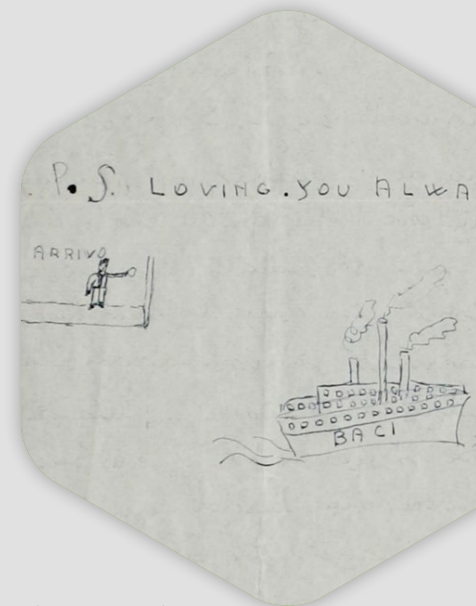
“I am happy that we are archiving them.... We always had an intention to do something with [the collection]. I wanted this to be an homage to their correspondence back and forth. I was like, ‘I’m not going to alter these or edit at all. I just really want to have a picture of each letter that is clear enough that I can read.’ I feel like you guys did a great job of doing that. Everything was just a good experience.”

—Carla Pasetti, owner



### Outcome

By partnering with both a physical conservator and Anderson Archival, Carla and her family have a collection of high-resolution images and a letter book project that was able to come to life. Now everyone in her family is asking for a copy!



Anderson Archival, a division of Anderson Technologies, provides digital preservation and archive consulting services to protect, preserve, and share what matters most. To learn more, please contact us today!