

Vincenzo Mazza and the origin of veterinary museology in Napoli

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ABSTRACT

Vincenzo Mazza (1793-1859) is a neglected figure in the history of Italian veterinary medicine. His collection represents the first nucleus of the future Anatomical Museum of the Neapolitan Veterinary School. After the Napoleonic wars, in which he took part as a military veterinarian, he attended the School of Milano, where he learnt to prepare the anatomical specimens from Jean Louis Leroy and Giambattista Volpi. In 1816 he graduated in Medicine and Philosophy in Pisa, where he learnt Andrea Vaccà Berlinghieri's innovative surgical techniques and established a private veterinary school. In 1821, he was appointed Professor in Theoretical and Practical Clinic at the Veterinary School in Napoli, where he also directed the adjoining hospital. Here, he privately and independently produced his anatomical preparations for educational purposes and tried in vain to create a museum within the School modelled on the one in Milano and other major European schools. Unfortunately, after 1848, he fell victim to Borbonic political repression and was forced to leave teaching. Most of his specimens are still preserved in excellent condition in the "Museo di Anatomia Veterinaria" of the Federico II Napoli University.

Key words:

Vincenzo Mazza, anatomy, museum collections, veterinary school, Napoli.

RIASSUNTO

Vincenzo Mazza e l'origine della museologia veterinaria a Napoli

Vincenzo Mazza (1793-1859) è una figura dimenticata della storia della veterinaria italiana. La sua collezione rappresenta il primo nucleo del futuro Museo Anatomico della Scuola veterinaria napoletana. Formatosi alla Scuola di Milano, dove apprende le tecniche di preparazione di reperti anatomici da Jean Louis Leroy e Giambattista Volpi, dopo le guerre napoleoniche, alle quali

partecipa nelle fasi finali della Campagna di Germania come veterinario militare, si laurea a Pisa in Medicina e Filosofia nel 1816. A Pisa apprende le innovative tecniche chirurgiche di Andrea Vaccà Berlinghieri e crea una scuola privata di veterinaria. Nel 1821 viene nominato docente di Clinica teorica e pratica alla Scuola veterinaria di Napoli dove dirige anche l'amnesso ospedale. Qui realizza privatamente e in autonomia i suoi reperti anatomici a scopo didattico e cerca invano di creare un museo all'interno della Scuola su modello di quella milanese e delle altre grandi scuole europee. Purtroppo, dopo il 1848 rimane vittima della repressione politica borbonica e sarà costretto a lasciare l'insegnamento. Gran parte dei suoi reperti sono ancora oggi conservati in ottime condizioni nel Museo di Anatomia Veterinaria dell'Università di Napoli Federico II.

Parole chiave:

Vincenzo Mazza, anatomia, collezioni museali, scuola veterinaria, Napoli.

INTRODUCTION

The origin of the Neapolitan art of veterinary medicine and farriery dates back to the end of the 13th century with Giordano Ruffo (1200 ca. - 1256), however, the beginning of the veterinary scientific tradition corresponds to the foundation of the Royal School of Veterinary Medicine in Napoli. Established by the will of Ferdinando IV di Borbone and by the work of Ignazio Dominelli, a young doctor from Messina and veterinary surgeon at the Royal Stables, the School was officially inaugurated in 1798. Its first seat was in the eastern part of Napoli, in the "Serraglio delle fiere" (literally enclosure of wild beasts) near the "Ponte della Maddalena", a building nicknamed "Leonera" (litt. place of the lions), built by the well-known architect Ferdinando Sanfelice, and initially intended to house the King's exotic animals kept in captivity (Aprato, 1964; Di Mauro, 2005).

At first, the School was only intended for professional soldiers, but from 1802 onwards it was also made accessible to civilians. In 1806, after the "Borbone" fled Napoli, the School was closed. In March 1815 Gioacchino Murat, King of Napoli since 1808, assigned a new seat to the "Reale Stabilimento Veterinario" (Royal Veterinary Establishment, as the School was called in official dispatches until 1848) in the suppressed monastery of S. Maria degli Angeli alle Croci; the project was then accepted and completed by Ferdinando di Borbone, who returned to the throne at the end of the same year (Baldassarre, 1911). The new seat was inaugurated in October 1816, confirming Ignazio Dominelli as Director, with six professors and a veterinary artist (Baldassarre, 1910). The school was also associated with a Hospital entrusted to the Professor of Clinical Medicine, a "Spezieria" (pharmacy), a Botanical and Agrarian Garden and a "Convitto" (boarding school) for the students' accommodation. It is in this context that the scientific activity of Vincenzo Mazza, an eclectic and controversial character, a pioneer in the museum's preparation of comparative anatomical specimens, fits in. Mazza was one of the absolute protagonists of Neapolitan veterinary medicine in the first half of the 19th century. He was persecuted during the harsh "Borbone" repression of the revolutionary movements of 1848, and after his death underwent a *damnatio memoriae*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Archival and bibliographical research was carried out in the following institutions in Northern Italy: Archivio di Stato, Milano (ASM); archive of the Biblioteca di Medicina Veterinaria, Università di Milano, Lodi (BVM); Archivio Storico dell'Università di Pisa, in Archivio di Stato di Pisa (ASP); Biblioteca Universitaria di Pisa; Archivio Generale di Ateneo, Università di Pisa, Montacchiello Ospedaletto (Pisa); Biblioteca of the Archiginnasio, Comune di Bologna (BAB); Archivio Anagrafe, Comune di Bologna; Archivio Generale Arcivescovile, Bologna (AAB); Biblioteca di Veterinaria "G.B. Ercolani", Area Patrimonio Culturale, Università di Bologna Alma Mater Studiorum, Ozzano dell'Emilia (Bologna); Biblioteca, Archivio and Fototeca of the Accademia dei Georgofili in Firenze. And in the following institutions in Campania Region: Archivio di Stato in Napoli (ASN); Biblioteca di Anatomia (BAVN) and Biblioteca di Zootecnia (BZVN) of the Dipartimento di Medicina Veterinaria e Produzioni Animali, Università di Napoli Federico II; Biblioteca Universitaria di Napoli [Ministry of Culture] (BUN); Biblioteca della Società Nazionale di Scienze, Lettere e Arti in Napoli, Classe: Accademia di Scienze Fisiche e Matematiche (BASN); Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli "Vittorio Emanuele III" (BNN); Emeroteca-Biblioteca Tucci, Napoli (EBT); Biblioteca della Società Napoletana di Storia Patria, Napoli (BSP); Centro di Servizio del Sistema Bibliotecario di Ateneo, Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Napoli (SBA); Biblioteca di Area Agraria del Dipartimento di Agraria dell'Università di Napoli Federico II, Portici (Napoli); Biblioteca di Area Scienze, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II; Ufficio Anagrafe del Comune di Napoli; Ufficio Anagrafe e Stato Civile, Comune di Maddaloni (Caserta); Ufficio Verde Pubblico e Servizi Cimiteriali, Comune di Maddaloni (Caserta); Biblioteca del Comune di Maddaloni (Caserta); Ufficio Anagrafe e Archivio Cimiteriale del Comune di Valle di Maddaloni (Caserta); Archivio Diocesano di Caserta; Archivio storico e Biblioteche Diocesi Cerreto-Telese-S. Agata, Sant'Agata de' Goti (Benevento); Archivio Storico chiesa del SS. Corpo di Cristo, Basilica Pontificia Minore del Corpus Domini, Maddaloni (Caserta).

The following catalogues and inventories of the Museum of Veterinary Anatomy (MAVet) collections, pertaining to the "Dipartimento di Medicina Veterinaria e Produzioni Animali dell'Università di Napoli Federico II", were also consulted: "Inventario dell'Istituto Anatomico nella Regia Scuola Superiore di Medicina Veterinaria in Napoli", Vol. I (1895-1900) and Vol. II (1901-1910), abbreviated as: "Inv. Paladino"; "Catalogo dei preparati del Museo di Ugo Barpi" (1902) abbreviated: "Catalogo Barpi"; "Catalogo dei Preparati anatomici della collezione di Vincenzo Diamare" (1904-1966?) abbreviated as: "Catalogo Diamare"; "Catalogo del Museo Anatomico di Giuseppe Pagnini" (1988-1992), abbreviated: "Catalogo Pagnini"; and "Inventario del Museo Anatomico di Giuseppe Pagnini" (1988-1992), abbreviated: "Inventario Pagnini". Unfortunately, the ancient catalogues from the 19th century are lost (De Nanzio, 1848). The MAVet's collections do not yet have an official scientific catalogue, so in the present work we used the codes reported in the ancient catalogues that we were able to recover and associate with the still-preserved specimens.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Origins and training

Vincenzo (or Vincenzo as archaism) Giuseppe Francesco Gennaro Mazzi (or Mazza, the double spelling Mazzi/Mazza was common in the past) was born in Bologna on the 19 September 1793 from Giovanni Carlo, Doctor of Medicine and Philosophy, and Rosalba Rossi (baptismal register of Bologna Cathedral n. 246, paper 200r., S. Marchesani, com. pers. AAB.) (fig.1) and not in 1794 as reported by all other authors ([Schieppati], 1891; Neumann, 1896; Baldassarre, 1911; Chiodi, 1957; Barsanti et al., 1995). No information are available concerning the early stage of his life.

He moved to Milano between 1808 and 1810; in the autumn of 1810 (probably in November), at the age of 17 (Rinaldi et al., 2022a), he enrolled at the "Reale Scuola Veterinaria di Milano", which had opened only two years earlier.

His years of study in Milan were often mentioned by Mazza in his writings of the adult stage, regarding various topics of anatomy, farriery and surgery (Mazza, 1827a, 1838b, 1841, 1842, 1848c). In fact, Mazza frequently remembers all his former professors with esteem and appreciation: Giovanni Pozzi, Professor of Pathology and Director of the School, Giambattista Volpi, Professor of Surgical Practice, Jean Louis Leroy, Professor of Anatomy and the two adjunct professors, Francois Jauze (Farriery) and Louis Collaine ("Materia Medica" (Pharmacology) and Botany).

In Mazza's training, the Milanese experience was certainly of great importance, and in particular the fact that he attended a large anatomical museum such as Leroy's, as he himself emphasised: "If the veterinary schools of France and Milano acquired a high reputation in a short time, they owed it especially to their rich and superb museums, among which the Zootomic always held a distinguished place" (Mazza, 1848c). The detailed citations of some preparations from the Milanese Museum proof the fact that Mazza not only well attended Leroy's anatomical Museum in Milano, but also that his attention as a young student was attracted by some preparations, such as: a horse osteosarcoma (Mazza, 1827a) and a bovine brain (Mazza, 1843). The second one, in particular, is related to a curious episode also reported in 1841 by Prof. Patellani: following the occasional discovery of a cerebral ossification in a young bovine by a butcher in Bologna, this piece was sent to Milan directly to the attention of Viceroy Beauharnais and then delivered by a French veterinary surgeon to the School, where Leroy kept it as an anatomical preparation for the Museum (Leroy, 1810; Patellani, 1841).

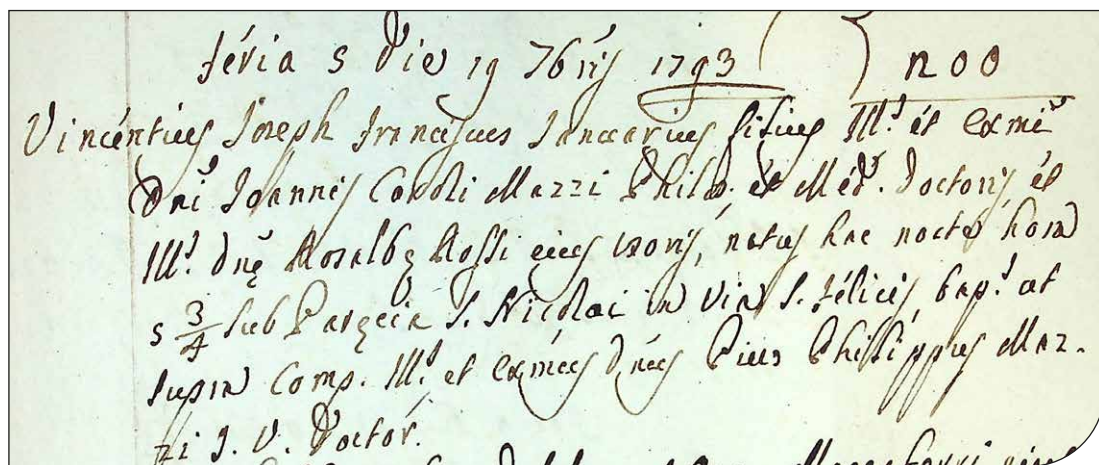


Fig. 1. Original baptismal register of the Cattedrale di Bologna which contains information on the birth of Vincenzo Mazza (courtesy of S. Marchesani, Archivio Generale Arcivescovile, Arcidiocesi di Bologna).

This specimen was probably prepared by Leroy in 1813, for this reason Mazza may have been present during its preparation and therefore was well remembered by him. Indeed, Mazza in 1843 mentioned a specimen of an ox brain "totally petrified, of which, however, the cerebellum is missing", preserved in the Veterinary School in Milano.

From documents found in the Archives of the Veterinary School of the University of Milano (BVM), we know with certainty that he participated in the Napoleonic Campaign in Germany and in particular in the Battle of Dresden took place in August 1813 (Mazza, 1838a). In early 1814, he returned to Italy with the Italian veterans of the Armata, first to Milan and then to Mantua, (Mazza, 1827b, 1841), where he remained until the end of the war in April 1814 (Mazza, 1841). Afterwards, Mazza moved to Pisa between the end of 1814 and the beginning of 1815, abandoning his studies (De Nanzio, 1848), contrary to what is reported by various authors (Lanzillotti-Buonsanti, 1880, 1891; [Schieppati], 1891; Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione, 1911; Anonymous, 1929; Paltrinieri, 1946, 1947; Chiodi, 1957; Romagnoli, 1991; Benassi, 2010). In the second half of 1815, he enrolled at the College [Faculty] of Medicine and Philosophy at the University of Pisa to become a surgeon (human medicine). To this end, he asked for the validation of his three years of studies at the veterinary school in Milano and completed the exams of the fourth and final year at the University of Pisa, graduating on 24 November 1816 with Gaetano Savi (Firenze, 13 June 1769 - Pisa, 28 April 1844), a well-known Tuscan medical doctor, physicist and naturalist holder of the chair of Botany and Plant Physiology at the University of Pisa (ASP; Barsanti et al., 1995).

Mazza attended the Hospital in Pisa as "surgeon of practice" with "l'illustre mio maestro Andrea Vaccà" (the illustrious master of mine) [Andrea Vaccà Berlinghieri, Montefoscoli, Palaia, Pisa, 3 February 1772 - Orzignano, San Giuliano Terme, Pisa, 6 September 1826], Professor of Surgery at the University of Pisa, considered the initiator of the Pisan Medical School of Surgery (Mazza, 1838a) and learnt innovative surgical techniques from him, as he himself mentions in his works (Mazza, 1827a, 1827b). Later, around 1818, Mazza obtained the position of "veterinario condottato della Città di Pisa" (veterinary officer of the Pisa Municipality), thanks to his veterinary experience in Milano and his military career (Mazza, 1836; Baldassarre, 1911). Furthermore, in 1818 or shortly before, in the Pisa district of San Martino, he set up a small private veterinary school with its own infirmary located in a room in Via La Tinta (Mazza, 1827a, 1827b; Romagnoli, 1991; Romagnoli & Romagnoli, 2001) or, according to other authors, in Via San Martino not far from Via la Tinta (Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione, 1911; Anonymous, 1929; Paltrinieri, 1946; De Somain, 1960; Romagnoli, 1991) (figs. 2-3). Mazza, given



Fig. 2. Satirical portrait of Vincenzo Mazza depicted in De Nanzio (1848).

his success with a fair number of students, attempted to combine his private teaching with the university, however this attempt failed (Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione, 1911; Paltrinieri, 1946; Benassi, 2010).

It was probably in those years that Mazza began to prepare the first anatomical specimens for teaching purposes using techniques learnt in Milano from Leroy and in Pisa probably from Vaccà Berlinghieri. However, there are no documents confirming the presence of some of those finds in the collections of the current Museo Anatomico Veterinario of the University of Pisa (Coli & Landini, 2012; Sculli, 2013; see website 1).

In Pisa he had the opportunity to meet several illustrious personalities of the city, including Cavaliere Cosimo Rosselmini, a relative of Nicolò Rosselmini (or Rossermini), who was the General Superintendent of the Imperial Races and Stables of the Grand Duchy (Mazza, 1819, 1827a, 1827b, 1841): it is not a coincidence that the final exams of his private school were held in the Rosselmini family palace in Via Santa Maria, still existing today (Anonymous, 1929). In Pisa, he also met Fabrizio Capece Minutolo (Napoli, 11 August 1791 - Torre del Greco (Napoli), 8 February 1871), a Neapolitan patrician, then Crown Prince of Canosa (from 1838 he was the 5th Prince of Canosa), who had moved to that city following his father, the well-known Antonio Luigi Raffaele (the 4th Prince of Canosa from 1817), presumably after April 1817 (Postigliola, 1975).

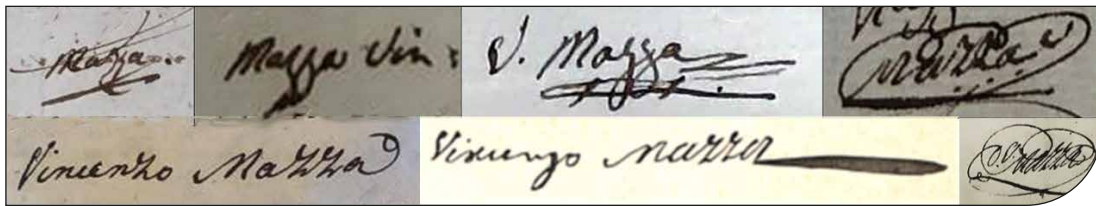


Fig. 3. Autograph signatures of Vincenzo Mazza.

The teaching in Napoli

After the political events of 1820-21, the "Scuola Veterinaria di Napoli", whose students had actively participated in the revolutionary uprisings, underwent a decisive repression and an initial reorganisation ordered by the Minister of the Internal Affairs, Giovambattista Vecchione (at that time the school was under the aegis of that Ministry) with the institution of a "Superintendent": he had command functions superior to those of the Director and controlled the work of all the school's staff, both teachers and students (Oreste, [1910]). For this position on 18 July 1821 King Ferdinando I appointed Fabrizio Capece Minutolo. Even before being appointed, Canosa requested and obtained that the Clinic chair held by Andrea Masone, an elderly professor no longer suitable for the role, was assigned to Mazza, whom he had met in Pisa. There, indeed, he had distinguished himself as a veterinary surgeon both in the city and in his private school.

By a Royal Decree issued on 31 July 1821, Mazza was recalled from Tuscany and appointed Professor of Theoretical and Practical Clinics, "with the same attributions as the other professors". In addition, he was entrusted with the management of the hospital (and related clinics) receiving overall "the annual salary of 420 ducats" (Oreste, [1910]; Baldassare, 1911; Romagnoli, 1991).

In the first four-year study programme developed from 1822 to 1826, Mazza taught Theoretical Surgery and Clinical and Surgical Operations in the summer and winter semesters respectively.

In September 1822, the School was placed under the supervision of the President of the Royal University and a Board of Public Education of the Ministry, with a clear overlap of roles. In 1823, the situation became even more complicated. More specifically, (ecclesiastical) Rector of Royal appointment was established with the task of the "Government of the School", along with a Council or "Commissione d'Instruzione" (Commission of Instruction) composed by the Director, all the professors of the school and two "among the most reputable external professors of Medicine and Surgery in the Capital" chosen directly by the Minister of the Internal Affairs (Mazza, 1830a, 1830b, [1832]). The conflict between the various governing bodies resulted in Dominelli's forced retirement and the abolition of the position of Director. Despite this, the various disciplinary and organisational problems

remained unsolved. In 1827 it was decided to reinstate the position of Director and Minister Santangelo proposed as a candidate Giosuè Sangiovanni, who had already been professor of "Comparative Anatomy and History of Animals without Vertebrae" in 1807 and then of Zoology in 1812 at the "Regia Università", but was without a professorship at that time (De Nanzio, 1848; Oreste, [1910]; Maio et al., 1995; Maio, 2009). This proposal, though, was not followed up.

On 21 of March 1835, Ferdinando De Nanzio (1802-1873), a lecturer at the School, thanks to the King's long-standing protection and, above all, to that of the Minister of the Internal Affairs Nicola Santangelo, requested and obtained in the same year the appointment as Director (De Nanzio, 1848; Oreste, [1910]). One of the new Director's first actions was the reorganisation of teaching and, on the basis of this plan, De Nanzio obtained the issuing of a special ministerial decree, with which in 1835 he obtained the teaching of Clinical medicine and the relative direction of the hospital, taking it away from Mazza. At that time, therefore, Mazza was just the teacher of Theoretical Surgery and Operative Surgery (in the summer and winter semesters respectively). This episode underlay strong disagreements between the two figures.

On 15 November 1836, Mazza also inaugurated a private course lasting two years, which he probably held in a room outside the school, located in the portico of the Basilica of S. Francesco di Paola in Piazza del Plebiscito in Napoli ([Torelli], 1836).

The epilogue and the last years

On 27 of January 1848, the first liberal movements broke out in Napoli: to curb the revolution and restore order, the King granted the Neapolitans the Constitution, that was promulgated on 11 February. During the first months of the year, Mazza published as a convinced liberal, a few articles in the periodical "L'Omnibus" (Mazza, 1848a, 1848b, 1848d) in which he proposed a reform of the school education, based on innovative ideas that were well ahead of his time. Encouraged by the events and the wave of renewal that pervaded the Kingdom, in March of the same year he published a pamphlet addressed to the new Constitutional Authorities, in order to propose a reform of veterinary education in Napoli. This proposal, however, was used as a pretext by the Director, with whom Mazza had been in open conflict for years, for

his dismissal from the School. Unfortunately, the riots in Naples came to an end after the tragic events of 15 May, with the dissolution of Parliament, the proclamation of a state of siege and the fierce repression that concluded in bloodshed. Subsequently, a harsh political control by the "Borbone" government began, which affected all cultural and scientific institutions, including the Veterinary School.

By a decree issued on 4 February 1856, Mazza was definitively forced into retirement and, by a further decree of 12 June of the same year, he was granted a retirement pension of 350 ducats per year (Baldassarre, 1911).

Mazza died on 8 November 1859 (or perhaps 5 November, according to Baldassarre, 1911) in Maddaloni (Caserta), according to some authors (Neumann, 1896; Cristin, 1861), or in Napoli according to others (Baldassarre, 1911) [unfortunately, he does not appear in the death records of the Registry of the Municipalities of Maddaloni, Valle di Maddaloni and Napoli, so his burial site is unknown].

MAZZA'S "GABINETTO VETERINARIO", THE FIRST NUCLEUS OF THE FUTURE ANATOMICAL VETERINARY MUSEUM

Mazza certainly learnt many anatomical preparation techniques at the School of Milano, where he attended the local anatomical museum as a student ("magnifico, che si aumentava continuamente", magnificent, which was constantly increasing, Mazza, 1848c). He was a pupil of two of the most important anatomical preparators working in Italy between the end of the 18th century and the first two decades of the 19th century: Giambattista Volpi and Jean Louis Leroy. The first trained at Alfort and, then, at the school of the Tuscan ceroplasts, by Felice Fontana and Clemente Susini. Volpi was repeatedly remembered as "amatissimo mio maestro" (my beloved teacher) by Mazza, who knew very well his "Compendio di medicina pratica veterinaria" (Volpi, 1813; Mazza, 1827a, 1827b, 1838a, 1838b; Aureli & Cozzi, 1984; Armocida & Cozzi, 1992). Jean Louis Leroy, on the other hand, came from the French school in

Lyon and had already been an esteemed professor of Anatomy in the schools of Ferrara and Modena (Rinaldi et al., 2022b). It should be remembered that in the Milanese school, during the Anatomy course, students were in fact required to carry out entire and multiple anatomical preparations, with the support of the professor and a chosen pupil, a so-called "ripetitore" (repeater), who was in those years Gian Antonio Zanetti, Mazza's contemporary. Moreover, autograph writings by Leroy and Zanetti himself document that even some complete myological statues (in particular a dog and a horse) were prepared in the Milanese Museum in the same years in which the young Vincenzo attended the school. Therefore, it is likely that he participated in, it or at least, observed the technique of execution. Therefore, Mazza was thus able to acquire in Milan not only good manual skills, but also a huge knowledge concerning procedures and chemicals, which he certainly treasured for his work in the following years in Pisa and Napoli.

Once moved to Napoli, from his earliest years, Mazza started to prepare by himself anatomical specimens necessary for his teaching activity. Thanks also to his position as Director of the School's Veterinary Clinics, he was able to use organs and anatomical parts that he recovered from surgeries and carcasses from the school's dissection room to make his preparations. From at least 1827, but probably even earlier, he set up a collection of "five large pieces containing the entire anatomy of the horse", some of which are still perfectly preserved today ([Castellacci], 1836; [Torelli], 1836; Christen [Cristin], 1847; De Nanzio, 1848; Mazza, 1848c). The specimens were initially kept in a room in the "Convitto" that had been used as accommodation by the Director Dominelli since 1820 (and perhaps since 1815) but had not been occupied since 1823. In 1835, as soon as Ferdinando De Nanzio was elected Director, he immediately reclaimed the flat. Also due to various complaints to the police (probably made by De Nanzio himself, because of previous frictions between the two), Mazza was forced to move the collection to a room outside the school, located in the Portico of the Basilica of S. Francesco di Paola, in Piazza del Plebiscito in Napoli ([Castellacci], 1836; [Torelli], 1836; Mazza, 1848c) (fig. 4).



Fig. 4. Portico of the Church of S. Francesco di Paola where Mazza's "Gabinetto Veterinario" was located: a) full view; b) detail (photo by N. Maio).

The specimens are described as follows by Giovanni Castellacci, Adjunct Professor of Clinical and Ophthalmology at the University of Napoli and founder of the medical journal "Il Severino" (Giucci, 1845a): "con un metodo di preparare tutto suo proprio, ha esposto nel suddetto gabinetto cinque grandi pezzi nel complesso dei quali si raccoglie tutta l'anatomia [...]. Ciascun pezzo comprendendo muscoli, nervi, arterie e vene dà il massimo della sublimità nell'arte di preparare. [...] Il metodo trovato dal Sig. Mazza è di un genere sì raffinato, e di ottimo effetto, che ogni pezzo [...] conserva a ciascuna parte, una naturalezza nelle dimensioni, nel colorito, e nella freschezza dei vasi, dei nervi, e delle carni come se dessa fosse di recente stata scoperta dalla pelle" (with his own method of preparation, he exhibited in the aforementioned museum five large pieces in which the entire anatomy is collected [...]. Each piece, including muscles, nerves, arteries and veins, gives the maximum of sublimity in the art of preparation. [...] The method found by Mr. Mazza is of such a refined kind, and of excellent effect, that each piece [...] preserves in each part, a naturalness in the size, colour and freshness of the vessels, nerves and flesh as if it had just been removed by the skin) ([Castellacci], 1836). Once again Vincenzo Torelli (1836), director of the newspaper "L'Omnibus" (Giucci, 1845b) reported: "il professore Vincenzo Mazza tiene sotto i portici di S. Francesco di Paola un gabinetto veterinario, ove con cinque grandi preparazioni zootomiche fatte sul cavallo naturale, nelle quali si vedono tutte le parti esterne che compongono la macchina di questo generoso animale scorgendovisi tutt'i muscoli, i nervi, le arterie e le vene" (the Professor Vincenzo Mazza keeps a veterinary museum under the arcades of [the church of] S. Francesco di Paola, where he has five large zootomical preparations made on the natural horse, in which one can see all the external parts that make up the machine of this generous animal, showing all the muscles, nerves, arteries and veins'.

Later on, thanks to the mediation of Giovanbattista Winspeare (or Winspeaer), General Director and Head of Veterinary Department of the Minister of the Internal Affairs Nicola Santangelo, between July 1836 and August 1837, Mazza managed to sell his collection to the School (for 500 Neapolitan ducats according to Anonymous [Cristin, 1848]), and to transfer it to the "Gabinetto Zootomico" (zootomic or anatomic) of Crescenzo (or Crescenzio) Rispoli (1776-1847), professor of Anatomy at the Veterinary School from 1817 to 1847 (De Nanzio, 1848; Baldassarre, 1911). This "Gabinetto", however, not intended as a museum but as a room/office for the use of the titular professor and for related exercises (Oreste, [1910]) was also visited, before August 1837, by Nicola Santangelo, who publicly appreciated the preparations. Probably on the same occasion as the

King's visit to the School that took place in those same years (Christen [Cristin], 1847). De Nanzio (1848) reports a letter he wrote to the Ministry of the Interior, dated 23 August 1837, in which he mentions the "five pieces purchased by Prof. Mazza" "hermetically sealed preparations in crystal plates" present in the School's "Gabinetto Zootomico". Given their importance, in June 1838, these preparations, were placed under the care of Francesco Mery (a naturalized Frenchman, Forge Instructor at the School since 1816 and formerly a farrier of the "Borbone" Cavalry Regiment), as "incaricato delle preparazioni", (an appointee of the preparations), and with the assistance of two students, "Bomba and Gentile pupils", the former assigned to the "Gabinetto", and the latter to the "Sala zootomica" (zootomical hall) (De Nanzio, 1848).

In 1840, De Nanzio added a second adjacent room to the Anatomical "Gabinetto", allocating it as the "Gabinetto patologico" (pathological room/office) (De Nanzio, 1848; Oreste, [1910]). Christen [Cristin] (1847), indeed, in 1847 still speaks of the "five beautiful pieces that complete the anatomy of the horse, made by the eminent Professor Mazza" and present in what since then was named the "Gabinetto anatomico-patologico" (Christen [Cristin], 1847; Cristin, 1861). On 20 February 1850, Pasquale Volpini, secretary of the "Commissione moderatrice delle Prigioni" (Prison Moderating Committee), who was in charge of removing the seals from the rooms that were closed after the 1848 riots, reported that in the second room of the "Gabinetto" were found the "six anatomical preparations [evidently Mazza, between 1838 and 1848, had added a new specimen] enclosed in crystal plates, four with corresponding pedestals, one on a walnut table". Further, in the first room there was a seventh specimen, the "wooden pedestal with a plaster horse on it" (Baldassarre, 1910, 1911; ASN).

In rooms adjacent to the "Gabinetto" there were also some skeletons, not better described, other minor dry preserved osteological specimens and various specimens of both normal and pathological anatomy: "bones, a few calculus and a few pieces of no account placed in the spirits [alcohol]", donated by De Nanzio and a few private collectors from 1836 onwards (Mazza, 1848c; De Nanzio, 1848). In 1840, De Nanzio also had work done on the new dissection room for preparations and practical lessons in comparative anatomy, commissioned by Crescenzo Rispoli. In addition a "Sala degli scheletri" (Skeleton Hall) was placed in the room of the "old humid, cold and poorly lit zootomical/ dissection hall" (De Nanzio, 1841, 1848; [Zarlenga], 1841; Christen [Cristin], 1847). Basically, the specimens prepared by Mazza remained the main and most important preparations of normal anatomy in the Anatomical "Gabinetto" of the School.

ANNOTATED CATALOGUE OF SPECIMENS FROM THE "VINCENZO MAZZA COLLECTION"

Pathological horse scapula – before 1827

Description. Pathological horse scapula.

Date of preparation. Before 1827.

Bibliographic data. Mazza (1827a, 1842): "questo pezzo patologico è stato rigorosamente conservato, e si vede nel gabinetto di questa scuola. La storia di questo caso trovasi, esattamente descritta a guisa di giornale nel mio registro di chirurgia, di carattere istesso dell'alunno clinico, Giuseppe Chierico, il quale, dal principio della malattia sino all'ultimo ebbe in consegna il malato". "This pathological piece has been rigorously preserved, and can be seen in the "Gabinetto" of this school. The story of this case can be found, exactly described in journal form in my surgical register, by the same clinical student, Giuseppe Chierico, who, from the beginning of the illness to the very end, took care of the patient".

Notes. Mazza prepared this specimen from a surgical operation in the clinic he directed. Unfortunately, there is no trace of this specimen in the preserved catalogues and it is not preserved today, perhaps because, after the unification of Italy, it was transferred into the collection of the Museum of Pathological Anatomy. However, this is the first evidence proving that Mazza, even before 1827, was already collecting

and preparing specimens for the "Gabinetto anatomico-patologico".

Bladder calculus of cat – 1835-1838

Description. Dry-preserved bladder calculus of considerable size of a female cat.

Date of preparation. This specimen does not appear in the catalogue of the Museum of Antonio Nanula (1780-1846), professor of "Notomia patologica" at the University of Napoli, published in October 1834, so it must have been donated between 1835 and 1838, the latter year in which Mazza reports it.

Bibliographic data. Mazza (1838b): "[a calculus] I found an equal one in the bladder of a female cat. [...] This singular calculus for such a small animal was given by me to Professor D. Antonio Nanula, so that it is part of the collection of those that now form part of the Pathological Museum of this Royal University" [Museum of General and Pathological Anatomy (Maio et al., 1995)].

Notes. Mazza knew Nanula as an external member of the "Commissione d'Instruzione (Instruction Commission) dello Stabilimento Veterinario di Napoli".

Head and neck of horse – 1835

Description. Dry-prepared specimen in which muscles, nerves, arterial and venous vessels are wax-injected, with mane, ears and part of the skin, height 80 cm; mounted on a wooden base 90 x 60 x 15 cm (fig. 5).



Fig. 5. Dry-prepared specimen of a horse's head and neck with well-preserved muscles, arterial and venous vessels and nerves dating from 1835 ([Castellacci], 1836) (photo by A. Calamo).

N. d'ordine prog. (Order progressive number)	Luogo dello stabilimento ove restano gli oggetti che si denunciano (Place of the school where the objects being denounced remain)	Denominazione e descrizione degli oggetti (Naming and description of objects)	Provenienza e titoli giustificativi (Provenance and supporting titles)	Quantità degli oggetti per ogni egual specie (Quantity of objects for each equal species)	Totalità dei prezzi £ (Total prices Italian Lire)
947	Museo. Nell'armadio 387 (Museum. In cabinet 387)	Bronchi con vasi iniettati, su base di legno (Bronchi with injected vessels, on a wooden base)	Acquisto (purchase)	1	16,15
1015	Museo. Nell'armadio 391 (Museum. In cabinet 391)	Cavallo di gesso su base di legno e ferro (Plaster horse on wooden and iron base)	Acquisto (purchase)	1	5
1200	Museo. Nell'armadio 395 (Museum. In cabinet 395)	Testa e collo di cavallo con muscoli, nervi, ecc. su base di legno (Horse head and neck with muscles, nerves, etc. on wooden base)	Acquisto (purchase)	1	300
1209	Museo. Nell'armadio 396 (Museum. In cabinet 396)	Mezza testa di cavallo con preparazione della regione parotidea (Half horse head with preparation of the parotid region)	Acquisto (purchase)	1	25
1210	Museo. Nell'armadio 396 (Museum. In cabinet 396)	Arto posteriore di cavallo, con muscolo vasi e nervi con sostegno di ferro (Horse hind limb, with muscle vessels and nerves with iron support)	Acquisto (purchase)		150
1232	Museo. Nell'armadio 398 (Museum. In cabinet 398)	Arto sternale sinistro di cavallo con sostegni di ferro (Left sternal limb of a horse with iron supports)	Acquisto (purchase)		150
1246	Museo. Nell'armadio 399 (Museum. In cabinet 399)	Apparato iniettato genito-urinario completo con aorta addominale del cavallo su base di legno (Complete genito-urinary injected apparatus with abdominal aorta of horse on wooden base)	Acquisto (purchase)	1	130

Tab. 1. "Inventario Paladino" (1895-1900).

N. Prog. Gen. (General progressive number)	N. Prog. Spec. (Special progressive number)	Descrizione dei preparati (Description of preparations)	Preparatore (Preparator)	Annotazioni (Annotations)
216	5	Dito di cavallo con vasi (Horse's finger with vases)	V. Mazza	[A secco] (dry-prepared)
217	6	Dito di cavallo con vasi (Horse's finger with vases)	V. Mazza	Id [A secco] (dry-prepared)
212 (?) (sic! recte 218)	7	Dito di cavallo con vasi (Horse's finger with vases)	V. Mazza	Id [A secco] (dry-prepared)
260	28	Vene digitali e del cerchio coronario di cavallo (Digital and coronary pad veins of horses)	V. Mazza	Id [A secco] (dry-prepared)
261	29	Vene digitali e del cerchio coronario di cavallo (Digital and coronary pad veins of horses)	V. Mazza	Id [A secco] (dry-prepared)
262	30	Vene digitali e del cerchio coronario di cavallo (Digital and coronary pad veins of horses)	V. Mazza	Id [A secco] (dry-prepared)
336	7	Albero bronchiale di cavallo (Horse "bronchial tree")	V. Mazza	A secco (dry-prepared)
407	1	Testa e collo di cavallo con muscoli, arterie, vene e nervi (Horse head and neck with muscles, arteries, veins and nerves)	V. Mazza 1835	Id [A secco] dry-prepared
408	2	Testa e collo di cavallo divisi per metà per dimostrare l'operazione della cisticgutturotomia (Horse's head and neck split in half to demonstrate the cisticgutturotomy operation)	V. Mazza 1824	Id [A secco] (dry-prepared)
410	4	Sistema genito-urinario di cavallo con aorta iniettata e mostrante i rapporti colle ultime vertebre dorsali, colle lombari, colle sacrali e col bacino (Genito-urinary system of a horse with injected aorta showing relationships with the last dorsal, lumbar, sacral and pelvic vertebrae)	V. Mazza 1834	Id [A secco] (dry-prepared)
411	5	Arto toracico di cavallo con muscoli, vasi e nervi (Horse thoracic limb with muscles, vessels and nerves)	V. Mazza 1836	Id [A secco] (dry-prepared)
412	6	Arto pelvico di cavallo con muscoli, vasi e nervi (Horse pelvic limb with muscles, vessels and nerves)	V. Mazza 1836	Id [A secco] (dry-prepared)
413	7	Cavallo miologico in gesso su piedistallo. Si veggono soltanto i muscoli superficiali (Myological plaster horse on pedestal. Only the superficial muscles can be seen)		

Tab. 2. "Catalogo Barpi" (1902).

N. Prog. Gen. (General progressive number)	N. Prog. Spec. (Special progressive number)	Descrizione dei preparati (Description of preparations)	Preparatore (Preparator)	Annotazioni (Annotations)
263	1m	Testa e collo di cavallo divisi per metà (Horse's head and neck split in half)	V. Mazza	A secco (dry-prepared)
264	2n	Testa e collo di cavallo con muscoli, arterie, vene e nervi (Horse head and neck with muscles, arteries, veins and nerves)	V. Mazza 1835	A secco (dry-prepared)
266	4o	Apparato genitale maschile di equino (mancano i testicoli) con aorta iniettata e mostrante i rapporti con le ultime vertebre dorsali, con le lombari, le sacrali e con il bacino (Male genital apparatus of equine (testicles missing) with injected aorta showing relationships with the last dorsal vertebrae, the lumbar and sacral vertebrae with the pelvis)	V. Mazza 1834	A secco (dry-prepared)
268	6	Cavallo in gesso su piedistallo: sono visualizzati solo i muscoli superficiali (Plaster horse on pedestal: only the superficial muscles are displayed)	1850 (?)	

Tab. 3. "Catalogo Pagnini" (1988-1992).

N. Prog. Gen. (General progressive number)	N. Prog. Spec. (Special progressive number)	Descrizione del campione (Sample description)	Annotazioni (Annotations)	Anno di acquisizione (Year of acquisition)	Preparatore (Preparator)	Collocazione (Collocation)
293	2n	Testa e collo di cavallo con muscoli, arterie, vene e nervi (Horse head and neck with muscles, arteries, veins and nerves)	A secco (dry-prepared)	1835	V. Mazza	Bacheca n (Showcase n)
294	1m	Testa e collo di cavallo divisi per metà (Horse's head and neck split in half)	A secco (dry-prepared)	1824	V. Mazza	Bacheca m (Showcase m)
296	4o	Apparato genitale maschile di equino con aorta iniettata e mostrante i rapporti con le ultime vertebre dorsali, con le lombari, le sacrali e con il bacino (Male genital apparatus of equine with injected aorta showing relationships with the last dorsal vertebrae, with lumbar and sacral vertebrae and with pelvis)	A secco, mancano i testicoli (dry-prepared, missing testicles)	1834	V. Mazza	Bacheca o (Showcase o)
298	6	Cavallo in gesso su piedistallo: sono visualizzati solo i muscoli superficiali (Plaster horse on pedestal: only the superficial muscles are displayed)		1850 (?)		

Tab. 3. "Inventario Pagnini" (1988-1992).

Date of preparation. According to Barpi (1902) it dates from 1835; [Castellacci] (1836) mentions it in 1836.

Bibliographic data. [Castellacci] (1836): "The first preparation shows all the parts that form the head and neck". Anonymous [Cristin, 1848]: "Sold to the school for the sum of 40 neapolitan ducats". Barpi (1902): tab. 2.

Catalographic notes. The specimen bears the acronym "2n" which corresponds to the "Special Progressive Number" of the "Catalogo Pagnini". Specimen reported in the following catalogues: "Inventario Paladino N. d'ordine Prog. 1200" (tab. 1). "Catalogo Barpi N. Prog. 407" and "N. Prog. Spec. 1" (tab. 2). "Catalogo Pagnini N. Prog. Gen. 264" and "N. Prog. Spec. 2n" (tab. 3). "Inventario Pagnini N. Prog. Gen. 293" and "N. Prog. Spec. 2n" (tab. 4).

Portion of the thorax, girdle and left thoracic limb of horse – 1836

Description. Ribs, dorsal vertebrae, girdle bones and left forelimb, with nerve, muscles, and the wax-injected arterial and venous vessels, dry prepared; still present are the original pins where the iron support was fixed, no longer present today; length 135 cm (fig. 6a). Date of preparation. Both Barpi (1902) and [Castellacci] (1836) report it for 1836.

Bibliographic data. [Castellacci] (1836): "La seconda [preparazione] dimostra la struttura di una porzione del petto coll'annessa gamba anteriore cominciando dalla sommità del guidalesco sino a terra" (The second [preparation] demonstrates the structure of a portion of the chest with the annexed foreleg starting from the top of the guidalisque to the ground). Barpi (1902): tab 2.



Fig. 6. Horse with muscles, vessels and nerves prepared by Mazza in 1836 according to Barpi (1902): a) dry left thoracic limb; b) dry left pelvic limb (Photo by A. Calamo).

Catalographic notes. The specimen bears the numbers "1232" which corresponds to the "N. d'ordine Prog." of the "Inventario Paladino" (tab. 1). The "Catalogo Barpi" lists it at "N. Prog. Gen. 411" and at "N. Prog. Spec. 5" (tab. 2).

Male urogenital apparatus with pelvis, vertebrae and vessels of horse – 1834

Description. Dry-prepared posterior part of the torso, with pelvis, the sacral, lumbar and last dorsal vertebrae, male genital apparatus (testicles missing), with bladder, aorta and main vessels wax-injected, length 45 cm; the specimen must have been mounted on a wooden base that is no longer present (fig. 7).

Date of preparation. Attributed by Barpi (1902) to Mazza, probably prepared it in 1834. [Castellacci] (1836) mentions it in 1836.

Bibliographic data. [Castellacci] (1836): "La terza [preparazione] si compone della groppe, dentro la quale si osserva l'apparato genito urinario" (the third [preparation] consists of the rump, inside which the genito-urinary apparatus is observed). Mazza (1838b): "nella mia preparazione degli organi urinarj, formante parte del gabinetto zootomico dato a questo Reale stabilimento, avendo iniettato a cera, uretra e vescica" (in my preparation of the urinary organs, forming part of the zootomical museum given to this Royal School, after injection with wax, urethra and bladder).

Catalographic notes. The specimen bears the initials "42p", which could not be traced to any catalogue or inventory. This specimen should correspond to "N. d'ordine Prog. 1246" of the "Inventario Paladino" (tab. 1), to "N. Prog. Gen. 410" and "N. Prog. Spec. 4" in the "Catalogo Barpi" (tab. 2), to "N. Prog. Gen. 266" and "N. Prog. Spec. 4o" reported in the "Catalogo Pagnini" (tab. 3) and to "N. Prog. Gen. 296" of the "Inventario Pagnini" (tab. 4).

Portion of rachis, pelvis, left girdle and pelvic limb of horse – 1836

Description. Lumbar and sacral vertebrae, pelvic girdle bones and left hind limb, with muscles, nerves,



Fig. 7. This specimen could correspond to the genito-urinary system of a horse with an injected aorta showing the relationships with the last dorsal, lumbar and sacral vertebrae with pelvis, prepared by Mazza in 1834, reported in the Barpi Catalogue (photo by A. Calamo).

and arterial and venous vessels wax-injected, dry prepared, length 135 cm; the specimen was originally mounted on an iron stand no longer present (fig. 6b). Date of preparation. Both Barpi (1902) and [Castellacci] (1836) report it for 1836.

Bibliographic data. [Castellacci] (1836): "La quarta [preparazione] è costituita dall'arto posteriore dalla sommità dalla groppa sino a terra" (the fourth [preparation] is the hind limb from the top of the rump to the ground). Barpi (1902): tab. 2.

Catalographic notes. The specimen bears the number "1210" which corresponds to the "N. d'ordine Prog." of the "Inventario Paladino" (tab. 1) and to the "N. Prog. Gen. 412" and "N. Prog. Spec. 6" of the "Catalogo Barpi" (1902) (tab. 2).

Horse "bronchial tree" – 1836

Description. Wax-injected bronchi and main vessels, mounted on a wooden base (fig. 8).

Date of preparation. [Castellacci] (1836) mentions it in 1836.

Bibliographic data. [Castellacci] (1836): "la quinta [preparazione] presentando il cuore ed il polmone riuniti dà la conoscenza del grande apparato completo della sanguificazione. [...] Un polmone di cavallo dal quale tolto tutto il tessuto celluloso lascia scorgere sino alle più sottili diramazioni tutti i vasi aeriferi, le arterie e le vene" (the fifth [preparation] shows the heart and lung joined to show the great complete apparatus of blood circulation. [...] A horse lung from which, after removing all the cellular tissue, all the aeriferous vessels, arteries and veins can be seen down to the finest branches). Anonymous [Cristin, 1848] states that the specimen was sold to

the school for the sum of 80 Neapolitan ducats. Barpi (1902): tab. 2.

Catalographic notes. Barpi (1902) reports this specimen at "N. Prog. Gen. 336" and at "N. Prog. Spec. 7" as: "Albero bronchiale di cavallo" (horse bronchial tree) and attributes its preparation to Mazza. The same specimen could correspond to "N. d'ordine Prog. 947" in the "Inventario Paladino". Compared to the original description, the heart is missing, so the attribution to Mazza needs to be confirmed.

Plaster model of the muscular apparatus of horse – before 1848

Description. Plaster model of horse muscular apparatus preserved in good condition (fig. 9). The incisor teeth are not distinguishable and appear to have been retouched and remodelled.

Date of preparation. Anonymous [Cristin, 1848] reports that "the plaster horse" was sold to the school for the sum of 30 Neapolitan ducats.

Bibliographic data. In the original preparation, the number of incisors would not have been correct (De Nanzio, 1848; Anonymous [Cristin, 1848]). In 1850, Pasquale Volpini, reported that there was a "wooden pedestal with a plaster horse on it" in the first room of the "Gabinetto" (Baldassarre, 1910, 1911). Barpi (1902): tab. 2.

Catalographic notes. Model listed in the following catalogues: "Inventario Paladino N. d'ordine Prog. 1015" (tab. 1). "Catalogo Barpi N. Prog. Gen. 413" and "N. Prog. Spec. 7" (tab. 2). "Catalogo Pagnini N. Prog. Gen. 268" and "N. Prog. Spec. 6" (tab. 3). "Inventario Pagnini N. Prog. Gen. 298" and "N. Prog. Spec. 6" (tab. 4).



Fig. 8. Wax-injected horse bronchi and vessels (photo by A. Calamo).



Fig. 9. Plaster model of horse muscular apparatus (photo by A. Calamo).



Fig. 10. Anatomical preparation of “Head and neck of a horse split in half to demonstrate the operation of the cysticgutturotomy” attributed to Mazza by Barpi (1902) dating back to 1824: a) left lateral view, b) medial view (photo by A. Calamo).

Notes. The teeth were probably remodelled to correct the mistakes, indeed the mouth of the model appears retouched, which would confirm the attribution to Mazza. In the absence of a catalogue reference confirming with certainty the attribution to Mazza, the origin of this specimen needs confirmation.

Lateral (left) projection of horse's head and neck – before 1850

Description. Anatomical dry preparation, left paramedian section of head (skull) and neck, with muscles, trachea and nerves, and part of the skin with ear; the vessels are wax-injected; probably treated with a dehydration technique; length 90 cm (fig. 10).

Date of preparation. This preparation is not mentioned in Mazza's early descriptions of the “Gabinet-

to Veterinario” ([Castellacci], 1836; [Torelli], 1836) nor by later authors (Christen [Cristin], 1847; Anonymous [Cristin, 1848]; De Nanzio, 1848; Mazza, 1848c). Therefore, if the attribution is confirmed, the specimen could have been prepared between 1848 and 1850. According to Barpi (1902) it would even date back to 1824.

Bibliographic data. In the “Catalogo Barpi” and the “Catalogo and Inventario Pagnini” there is a second specimen of the “Head and neck of a horse split in half to demonstrate the operation of cystiducturotomy” attributed to Mazza. In 1850, Volpini mentions “six anatomical preparations enclosed in glass plates, [...] and the sixth also on another pedestal” present in the “gabinetto anatomico e patologico” (Baldassarre, 1910, 1911). The sixth could be, therefore, this specific specimen.

Catalographic notes. Specimen listed in the following catalogues: "Inventario Paladino N. d'ordine Prog. 1209" (tab. 1). "Catalogo Barpi N. Prog. Gen. 408" and "N. Prog. Spec. 2" (tab. 2). "Catalogo Pagnini N. Prog. Gen. 263" and "N. Prog. Spec. 1m" (tab. 3). "Inventario Pagnini N. Prog. Gen. 294" and "N. Prog. Spec. 1m" (tab. 4).

Other unidentified and undated specimens

The "Catalogo Barpi" (1902) also lists other six dried specimens attributed to Mazza, but without any indication concerning the date (General progressive number 216-218 and 260-262 and Special progressive number 5-7 and 28-30). These are, precisely, fingers with vases and hoof of horses, but none of them have yet been traced to specimens currently in the collection (tab. 2).

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Vincenzo Mazza spent a lot of energy into the realisation of his collection and strongly desired a museum dedicated to the normal anatomy similar to that seen in the "Scuola Veterinaria di Milano", considered, at the time, one of the best anatomical museum in Italy and also in Europe. Currently, five specimens that can be certainly attributed to Mazza are still preserved in the MAVet along with two others under confirmation. However, there are six further specimens that have not yet been possible to trace back to the ones present.

Mazza repeatedly and unsuccessfully urged both the Rector and the Director of the School and the competent Ministry, to set up a real large anatomical museum in the "Reale Stabilimento Veterinario", with a dedicated room, modelled on the School in Milano where he had trained, and on the main European schools, but his appeals had no effect. Minister Santangelo, at first, seemed interested and willing to approve Mazza's idea. He even reports that the Minister "made arrangements for the premises to be used for a large museum" (Mazza, 1848c). The project, however, was not realized due, again, to the Director's opposition. It is remarkable that, after 1860, thanks to funds received from the new Italian Government, Almerigo Cristin, who appointed Director, at that time, created three museums (anatomical, pathological and zootechnical one) and a veterinary journal run by the School, just as Mazza had requested for years and in his last booklet (Zuccarelli, 1877; Anonymous, 1879).

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