



Let's investigate...

Teaching shorthand on the web: An Italian example

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The Italian Research and Study Centre "Scripturae Munus", based in Rome, has been founded in order to spread Shorthand and other means of speed writing, and keep them alive in the future. Its main aim is not only to qualify professional reporters, but to let people understand and appreciate the intrinsic value of Shorthand as a never-ending form of writing, despite all the new technological devices.

"Scripturae Munus" has already gathered prestigious memberships and has activated different study and research sections. One of them in particular, "*Proposito in Media*", has the task of dealing with on line information, thanks to the website www.stenografando.it in which you can find a forum for discussions, and a FAQ section which answers specific questions asked by the users to get a thorough knowledge of Shorthand and of its history, in connection with today's modern world of communication.

Founders of this Research and Study Centre are Paolo Antonio Paganini, Angelo Maria Quitadamo and Anna Maria Trombetti. She is also the President of the Centre who has published the first on line Gabelsberger-Noe Shorthand course in Italian language, available at the following website: <http://www.stenografando.it/DidatticaFormazione.html>

The course contains 28 teaching units, and the reading pages used are those originally written by Gabelsberger, so that it was possible to reproduce real Shorthand masterpieces in the website, considering the fact that these publications are no longer available at bookshops. Anna Maria Trombetti has also revised these units and has applied a new teaching method in the shape of an *atelier* of the Italian language, just to show how Shorthand is still alive and can be used in everyday's contexts, not only in professional ones.

Here are a few examples, taken from unit one (we can distinguish between vowel and consonant symbols).

VOCALI

a isolata	a iniz./media	a finale	e	è	o
•	•	•	•	•	•
ò/ho	i	ì	ù		

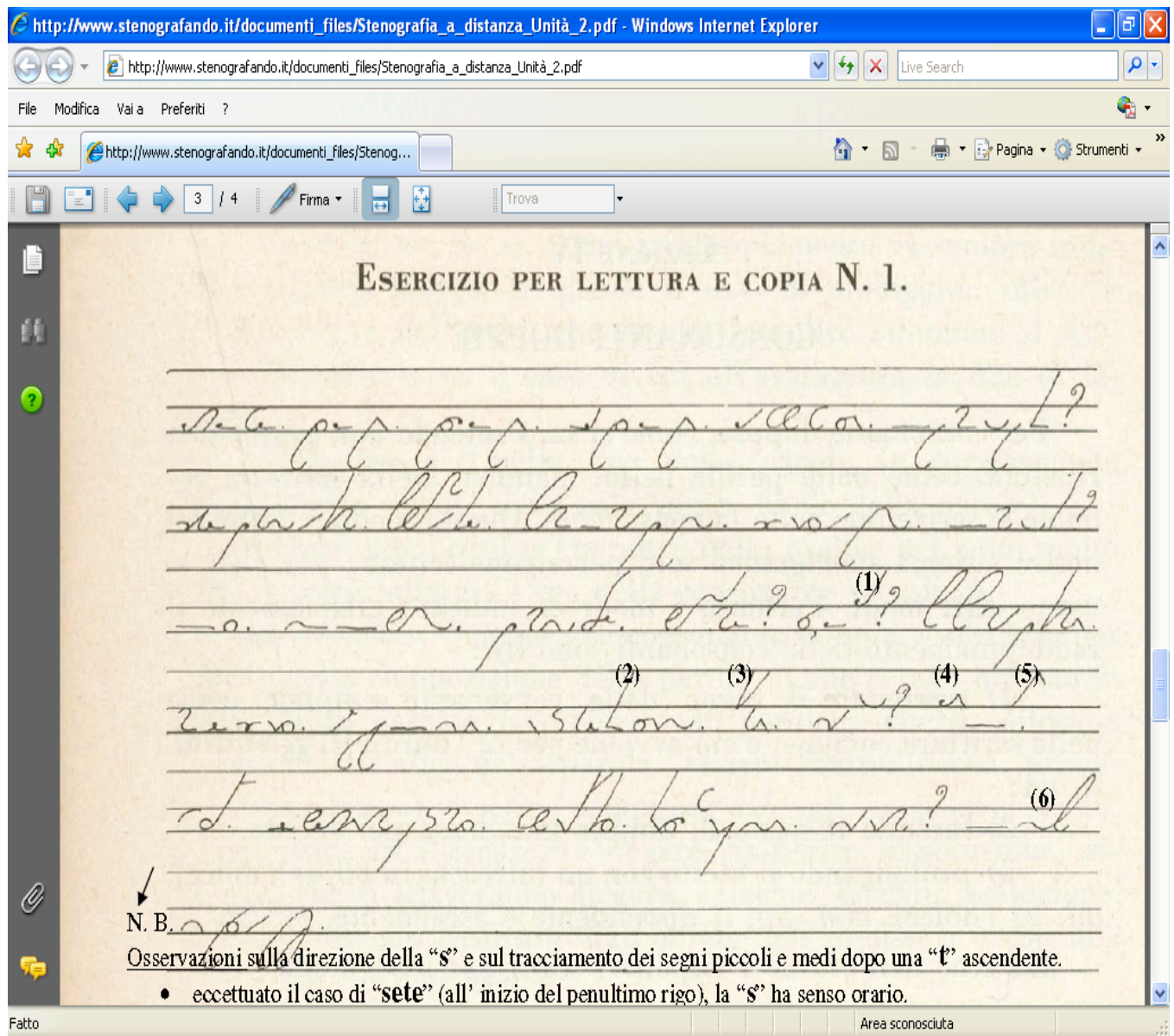
N.B. La *a* presenta tre forme: è un punto fermo quando è usata isolatamente; è provvista di due filetti quando è vocale iniziale, media di parola, finale accentata, oppure quando indica *ha*, 3^a p. ind. del verbo avere; ha un filetto che la precede se si trova alla fine della parola. La *i* è ascendente, mentre *ì* è discendente. La *ò/ho* parte da metà corpo di scrittura per toccare la 2^a ausiliare.

CONSONANTI

b	c dolce	c forte	d	f	g dolce	g forte	l	m	n
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
p	r	s	t	v	z	gn	sc dolce	gli	

N.B.

Here is another example, in which a teaching unit, taken from an old Shorthand book, is presented with useful comments specifically adapted for distance learning.



This slide shows how the same Shorthand rule must be applied differently according to sound changes. The original text taken from a traditional Shorthand handbook is integrated with appropriate remarks, all coming from professional experience in the reporting field.

http://www.stenografando.it/documenti_files/UnitàIV.pdf - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.stenografando.it/documenti_files/UnitàIV.pdf

File Modifica Vai a Preferiti ?

http://www.stenografando.it/documenti_files/UnitàIV...

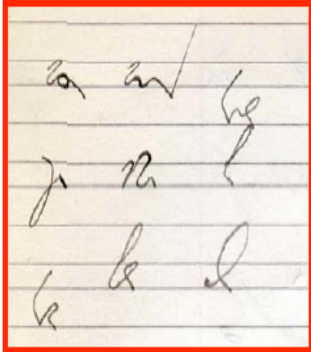
2 / 6 Firma Trova

Esempi di uso consentito

Maschero, mancherete, prendere

Sperare, gambero, cero,

prémere, cédere, lèggere

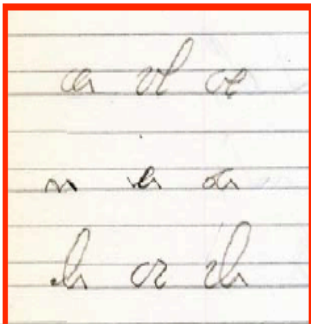


Esempi di uso negato

Vedere, merce, verde,

caro ràdere, severo,

leggero, verme, megera



Fatto Area sconosciuta

In this *atelier* all these adjustments have been made necessary for those who wish to know and understand all the features of fast handwriting. Learning to write requires specific rules and learning Shorthand needs some important pre-requisites. The following figure should be displayed in all primary school first classes. It says: “To write well it is necessary to guarantee a proper posture of the body, as well as of the notebook and the pen.”



In the following slide we can see an example of how an exercise should be read and copied.

http://www.stenografando.it/documenti_files/Stenografia_a_distanza_Unita3.pdf - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.stenografando.it/documenti_files/Stenografia_a_distanza_Unita3.pdf

File Modifica Vai a Preferiti ?

http://www.stenografando.it/documenti_files/Stenog...

3 / 5 Firma Trova

ESERCIZIO DI LETTURA E COPIATURA

t, r, p, f, t, h, f, j, j, p, p, p, h,
 n, a, t, p, p, f, t, t, p, h, h, t, t, a, n, p,
 p, h, t, n, t, t, f, t, t, f.

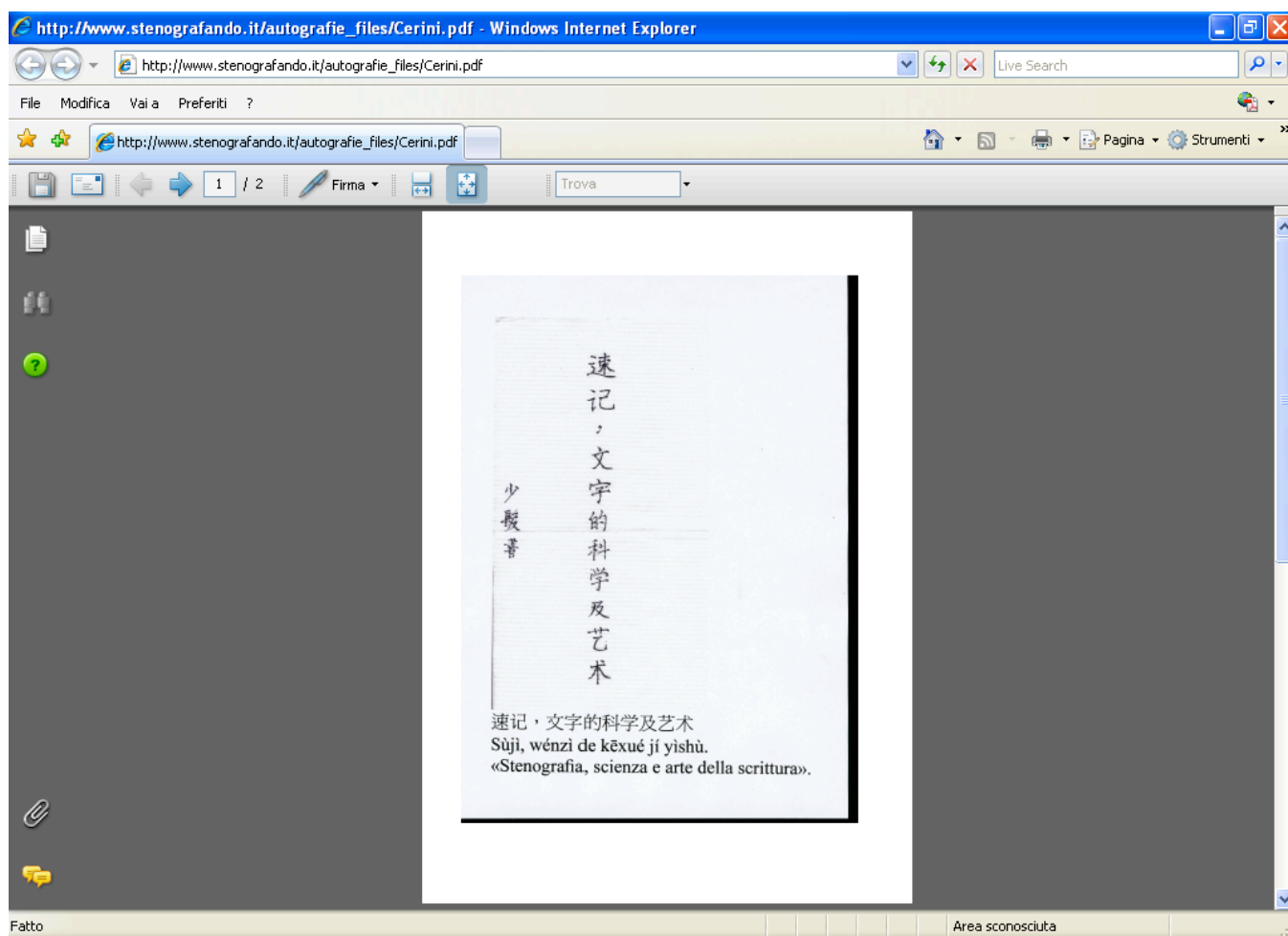
- t, p, p, d, t, p, p, p, p, p, p, p, p,
 p, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t,
 t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t,
 t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t, t.

Area sconosciuta

The present on line teaching method, that we'd like to qualify as "Noah's Ark" for the Italian Shorthand, makes the discipline accessible to everybody, in the form of distance and blended learning, since everybody can get in touch with our Centre to have complete assistance during the FREE study of each unit.

The Centre has uploaded a few files to practise and improve writing speed (*from sixty to hundred and twenty words per minute*), for all those who would like to use Shorthand professionally. Another section we are particularly fond of concerns autographical Shorthand writings. This section includes a range of publications that focus on the scientific research that livens up the Centre. The founders have shared the aim to publish a first Shorthand anthology, by gathering materials from different Shorthand systems. We started it by introducing a text (about a speech given by the President of the Italian Republic) which was written using Cima Shorthand symbols. Cima is one of the four Italian Shorthand systems recognised by the Ministry of Education for Italian Shorthand Teaching in State Schools.

In the same way, any Shorthand transcription in other languages is particularly appreciated. As a tribute to the presence of our Institute at the Beijing Intersteno Congress, we have welcomed an autograph in two languages, Chinese and Italian (Gabelsberger-Noe Shorthand), written by a Shorthand writer and sinologist, member of the Institute Steering committee.



We know how important it is to foster Shorthand studies and research, not only for a strictly professional use. As a matter of fact, we don't learn our native language to become perfect linguists just like we learn maths without the need to become scientists or bank clerks.

We are aware of the fact that we still must consider Shorthand as a useful personal writing tool, but never an end in itself. This new concept of Shorthand can find its proper place in the global network, and thanks to its cultural potentialities we are sure that new developments are on the horizon.

As many of you might know, Shorthand hasn't been taught in Italian State High Schools since the last twenty years. Despite this negative shift in education, in 2012 a few Shorthand courses were introduced in a high school in Rome (Liceo Morgagni) for students attending the first two school years, providing them with the opportunity to go on with further lessons. Since last year 25 students have been taking part in the first group of lessons. These courses are now part of the school curricula offered by Liceo Morgagni for the following year. What's more, this educational project, called 'Shorthand on stage in the third Millennium', is *free of charge*.

This hasn't been an isolated experience, though. We have used the same title also for a similar project carried out at Bagnera Secondary School in Rome, and for another project submitted to a district prison in Rome. We are convinced that in such context Shorthand will be particularly appreciated by inmates. As a matter of fact, Shorthand itself has been somehow 'imprisoned' and undeservedly neglected even by experts in this field.

It's with great pleasure that we quote a young medical student, who has learnt Shorthand through our "Scripturae Munus" portal. As an extension of his medicine studies, he has approached the learning of Shorthand in the same way he studied anatomical pathology: "I saw the way Shorthand is taught in the website www.stenografando.it like an 'unusual' book of anatomy I used, written in a non-traditional way, that let me appreciate this difficult subject. What I mean is that mixing serious (anatomical pathology and Shorthand) books, usually seen as the 'Bible', with less traditional lessons which explain difficult topics with short and amusing account, makes the study of any subject more appealing even to the most bored students. I must say that that these lessons contribute to 'bring something to life' (which is a very well appropriate expression for a pathologist!).

And just because we have mentioned the Bible, we believe that our Shorthand Research and Study Centre which we have proudly called *Noah's Ark*, has written a page in the New Testament of this millenarian discipline in Italy.

THANKS!

Further information:

Scripturae Munus

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