

embroidered with mutual aid or religious society emblems, lapel ribbons and parade regalia, uniforms, vestments, religious statues, and printed certificates and diplomas. The most impressive section, devoted to the flags and banners, highlights the most elaborate examples created by the company. This section of the catalogue documents the firm's ability to design flags and banners for specific societies, and to execute those designs in fine silk and gold embroidery as well as gold leaf painting.

Of all the objects produced by companies such as De Caro & D'Angelo, the flags and banners rise above the level of manufactured commodities to that of fine art. These visual centerpieces of Italian American life are some of the most extraordinary examples of traditional Italian needlework. The manner in which immigrant craftsmen merged this elaborate Italian art form with the American entrepreneurial spirit merits further investigation, and promises to enhance greatly our understanding of the complex odyssey of the Italians in America.

figure 2

“SOCIETA' DI M.S./SAN SABINO MARTIRE/
PROTETTORE/DI SANZA (SALERNO)/
FOND./20 APRILE/1932/INC./8, LUGLIO/
1932/BROOKLYN, N.Y.”

Framed; blue velvet background. Lettering
in deep-yellow cotton (or silk) thread
in chain-stitch, outlined in orange-brown.
Flags in chain-, satin-, and split-stitch.
Appliquéd felt hands. Commercial brocade
border. Metallic coil fringes.

26 x 17.5", 66 x 45 CM

Courtesy of the San Sabino Society



HISTORIC FLAGS AND BANNERS FROM ITALIAN WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN

figure 3

“SOCIETA’ M. SS. DELLA-NEVE DI M.S./
FRA-I-SANZESI/FOND. IL, 1888 B’KLYN, N.Y.”

Beige brocade satin background, framed with ivory satin side flaps, canopy flap in pale (probably light-blue) satin. Lettering in fine-coiled metal filament thread surface-satin-stitch. Flowers in framing devices of padded laid-and-couched metal filament, gilt-wrapped, and coiled filament threads. Figures and garments in cotton thread, with appliquéd flowers and leaves formed of folded fabric. Attached paste jewels, shell and plastic beads. Border in commercial heavy gold brocade ribbon. Simple coiled filament thread fringe on bottom and flaps. Gilt-wrapped and coiled tassels.

62 x 35.75", 157.1 x 90.8 CM

Courtesy of the Society of St. Mary
of the Snow



HISTORIC FLAGS AND BANNERS FROM ITALIAN WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN

figure 4

“SOCIETÀ DI M.S. DEI CITTADINI DI
FONTANAROSA”

Blue twill background. Lettering in gilt-wrapped metal thread, laid-and-couched over slight padding. Flowers in long-and-short satin fill stitches of colored cotton (or silk) thread. Fronds in heavily padded surface satin—and laid-and-couched stitches of coiled filament, gilt wrapped, and fine gilt “strap” threads. Water in silver filament threads. Tassels of coiled filament and gilt-wrapped threads. Paste jewels and sequins. Gold gilt commercial brocade border. Attached cloth ribbons.

58.5 x 34.5", 149 x 88 CM

Courtesy of the Società di Maria SS. della Misericordia