



Courses of specialization for educators of first infancy
and didactic differentiation for schoolteachers in nursery,
Children's house and primary schools
organised by Opera Nazionale Montessori

Timeline of Maria Montessori's life

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1870

Born on August 31 in Chiaravalle, Ancona Province, she is an only daughter of Alessandro Montessori, who was born in Ferrara on August 2, 1832 and died in Rome on November 25, 1915, and of Renilde Stoppani, born in Monte San Vito (Ancona) on April 25, 1840 and died in Rome on December 20, 1912.

In *La mente del bambino* Montessori quotes a phrase by Antonio Stoppani (pp. 57), an abbot, geologist and author of *Il bel Paese*, published in 1876 in which the natural beauty of Italy is depicted. Abbot Stoppani is often said to be the uncle of Renilde Stoppani, their kinship is however uncertain, even though Montessori appeared to be proud of the relationship.

1873

The Montessori family moves to Florence.

1875

The Montessoris move to Rome where the father works in the Ministry of Finance.

1876-1881

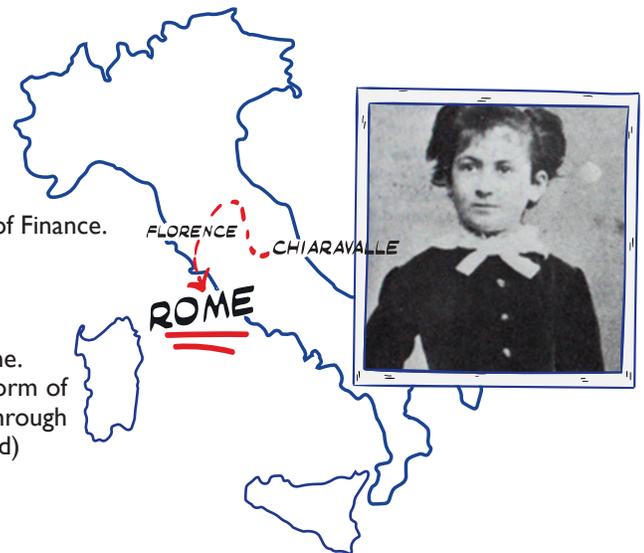
Maria attends the primary school in Via di San Nicolò da Tolentino in Rome. She is also keen on drama and goes to a declamation school, an artistic form of public speaking. (Declamation is a dramatic oration designed to express through articulation, emphasis and gesture the full sense of the text being conveyed)

1883-1886

Attends the Regia Scuola Tecnica Michelangelo Buonarroti technical school, a school of her choice. In those times, the possibility of holding female classes alongside the male ones was a new, developing phenomenon and only optional. Studies Italian, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, accounting, history, geography and science.

1886-1890

She attends the Regio Istituto Tecnico Leonardo da Vinci technical institute in the physics-mathematics division where she studies Italian, arithmetic, history, geography, physics, chemistry, botany, zoology, French, German, geometric and ornate drawing. She does particularly well in physics, chemistry, Italian and math, less so in drawing and languages. Physics-mathematics studies lead her to consider becoming an engineer and later a naturalist. Her studies at the technical institute in the physics-mathematics division give her access to some university courses, but not to medicine.

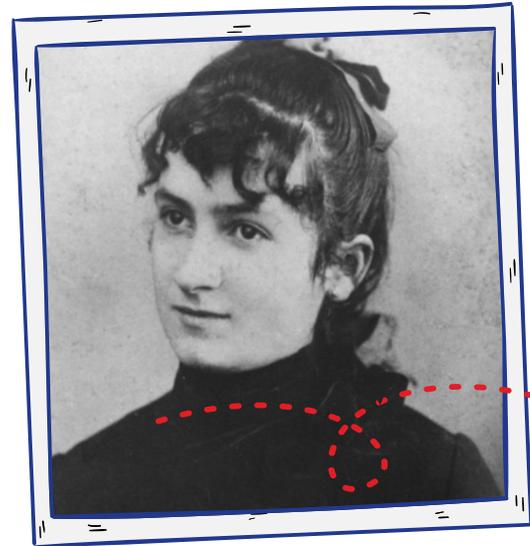


1890-1892

She attends a degree course in natural sciences and obtains a diploma. During the first year of the course, passes examinations in botany, zoology and experimental physics, during the second, the courses in histology and general physiology, comparative anatomy, general and organic chemistry. After having passed additional exams in Italian and Latin and having obtained a degree in natural sciences, she enrolls in the third year of medicine and gets admitted.

1892-1896

She attends the Faculty of Medicine with some of the most prominent people of that time in the medical and experimental research, the ones involved in the social and civic revival of the country, often political proponents of the left and even Masons. Passes examinations in general physiology with Jakob Moleschott; psychiatric practice with Clodomiro Bonfigli; experimental hygiene with Angelo Celli; medical practice with Guido Baccelli. Graduates on July 10, 1896 with 104/110 and the thesis *Contributo clinico allo studio delle allucinazioni a contenuto antagonistico (Clinical contribution to the study of antagonistic hallucinations)*. Her supervisor is Prof. Ezio Sciamanna, director of the psychiatric clinic at the University of Rome, who had studied in Paris with Charcot. However, it is possible that the person who supervised her thesis was Sante de Sanctis, Sciamanna's assistant and author of two texts regarding the phenomenon of contrast in psychology and antagonistic hallucinations. In October of 1896 Sante de Sanctis includes Montessori's work in his presentation at the ninth Congress of the Società Freniatria (Phrenasthenic Society) in Florence. After graduation Maria Montessori starts working as a volunteer assistant in the psychiatric clinic of the University of Rome where she takes care of phrenasthenic children. She also starts working in San Giovanni Hospital. (In today's terms, phrenasthenic children are experiencing some form of cognitive delay, illness, or disability.) In September 1869 she takes part in the International Congress of Women in Berlin.



1897

Takes part in the National Congress of Medicine in Turin where she speaks on societal responsibility for juvenile delinquency. Publishes the following articles:

- *Sul significato dei cristalli del Leyden nell'asma bronchiale*, in "Bollettino della Società Lancisana degli Ospedali di Roma", a. XVI, fasc. I, 1896.
- Montessori M., Montesano G., *Ricerche batteriologiche sul liquido cefalo rachidiano dei dementi paralitici*, in "Rivista quindicinale di Psicologia, Psichiatria, Neuropatologia", fasc. 15, 1 December 1897, pp.1-13.
- Montessori M., *Sulle cosiddette allucinazioni antagonistiche*, in "Policlinico", a.IV, vol.IV, fasc.2, February 1897, pp.68-71, fasc. 3, March 1897, pp.113-124.

1898

On March 31, 1898 Mario, Montessori's and Giuseppe Ferruccio Montesano's son, is born. In September 1898 Montessori takes part in the first Pedagogical Conference in Turin where she states: "the matter of mentally disabled children is more pedagogical than medical". A recap of her speech is in G. C. Molineri and G. C. Alessio (edited by), *Atti del Primo Congresso Pedagogico Nazionale Italiano*, Turin 8-15 September 1898, Turin, Stabilimento Tipografico managed by F. Cadorna, 1899, pp.122-123.

After her Turin success, the honourable Clodomiro Bonfigli, at the time professor of psychiatric clinic practice at La Sapienza University (Montessori had assisted in his lessons and passed an exam in which she focused on the relationship between social factors, madness and infancy education), entrusts her to lecture in the Italian cities of Padua, Venice, Genoa, and Bologna to raise public awareness on the education of phrenasthenic children. During the conferences Montessori also discusses the condition and role of women, given that she considers the two issues closely related.

Publishes:

- *Misericordie sociali e nuovi ritrovati della scienza*, in "Roma. Rivista politica parlamentare", a.II, fasc.26, 31 July 1898, pp. 605-608 e fasc. 28, 4 September 1898, pp. 652-655 (with the recommendations from Turin).
- *La paranoia*, in "Clinica medica", a. IV, n. 43-44, 1898 (transcript of Prof. Sciamanna's lecture).



1899

In January 1899 the honourable Bonfigli founds the Lega Nazionale per la protezione dei fanciulli deficienti (National League for the Protection of Retarded Children) to which Montessori and Montesano become councilors. One of the aims of the League was to establish a school to train teachers in new methods for the education of phrenasthenic children.

Minister della Pubblica Istruzione Guido Baccelli, former professor of the medical clinic practice, involves Montessori in a cycle of medical-pedagogical conferences for Roman teachers.

In June she participates in the International Congress of Women in London representing the women of Italy. She writes a Congress report entitled *La questione femminile e il Congresso di Londra*, in "L'Italia femminile", a. I, n. 38, 1 October 1899, pp. 298-299 and n. 39, 8 October 1899, pp. 306-307 (a magazine led by Sibilla Aleramo, scrittrice, autrice del famoso libro *Una donna*, considerato uno dei primi romanzi femministi italiani).

She teaches hygiene and anthropology at the Istituto Superiore Femminile di Magistero college in Rome, which will be entrusted to her until 1917.

She enrolls in the European section of the Theosophical Society without confirming her registration in the following years.

1900

In April, the Scuola Magistrale Ortofrenica (Ortophrenic School) opens, led by Clodomiro Bonfigli, but actually managed by Montessori and Montesano. A class for observations is set up in the school, a place where Montessori works directly with the phrenasthenic children, using the tools elaborated by Séguin and also by herself.

In December, the Medical-Pedagogical Institute is opened by the League.

Publishes:

- *Riassunto delle lezioni di didattica date in Roma nella Scuola Magistrale Ortofrenica nel 1900*, Rome, Laboratorio Litografico Romano, 1900, later included in *L'autoeducazione nelle scuole elementari*, pp. 639-675.

1902

Montessori leaves the Ortophrenic School, enrolls in a degree course in philosophy and gets admitted, thanks to the qualifications already possessed, to the third year.

Publishes:

- *Norme per una classificazione dei deficienti in rapporto ai metodi speciali di educazione*, in Atti del Comitato Ordinatore del II Congresso Pedagogico Italiano 1899- 1901, Naples, Trani, 1902, pp. 144-167.

- *La via e l'orizzonte del femminismo*, in "Cyrano de Bergerac", a. II, n. 6, July 1902, pp. 203-204.

1903

Publishes:

L'antropologia pedagogica (Pedagogical Anthropology). Conference for philosophy students at the University of Rome, Vallardi, Milan; the conference is dedicated to prof. Luigi Credano, professor of pedagogy.

La teoria lombrosiana e l'educazione morale, in "Rivista d'Italia", a. VI, vol. II, pp. 326- 331.

1904

In December she obtains professorship in Anthropology, a discipline she teaches in the Faculty of Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences and in the Faculty of Medicine.

Publishes the following articles:

Sui caratteri antropometrici in relazione alle gerarchie intellettuali dei fanciulli nelle scuole, in "Archivio per l'antropologia e l'etnologia", vol. XXXIV, fasc. 2, pp. 243-300.

Influenze delle condizioni di famiglia sul livello intellettuale degli scolari, in "Rivista di filosofia e scienze affini", a. VI, vol. II, n. 3-4, September - October 1904, pp. 234-284.

This is a two-field research carried out in primary schools on pupils between 9 and 11 years old.



1905

Partecipa alV Congresso Internazionale di Psicologia a Roma.

Publishes:

Caratteri fisici delle giovani donne del Lazio, taken from “Atti della Società Romana di Antropologia”, vol. XII, fasc. I, pp. 3-86 (this is the first anthropological study concerning the female population of Lazio, carried out on a sample of 200 women between 20 and 30 years old).

1906

In winter she is elected as jury at the Milan International Expo in the field of scientific pedagogy and experimental psychology. Meets Eduardo Talamo, director of the Istituto Romano di Beni Stabili, who invites her to oversee the Children's House which he is opening in the buildings renovated by the Institute in San Lorenzo district of Rome. Montessori takes the job and starts working in the Children's House.

Joins the battle for the right to vote for women and signs the proclamation posted on the walls of Rome: “Donne tutte: sorgete! Il vostro primo dovere in questo momento sociale è di chiedere il voto politico”. (“All women, arise! Your main duty in this social moment is to get a right to vote”).

She teaches a postgraduate course for those licensed from normal schools, also called “Pedagogical School”, set up at the Faculty of Letters at the University of Rome until 1910.

Publishes:

Proclama alle donne italiane: “Donne tutte: sorgete! Il vostro primo dovere in questo momento sociale è di chiedere il voto politico”, in “La Vita”, 26 February 1906.

She publishes other articles in the same newspaper on women's issue and also on the issue of juvenile delinquency the rebels against the authorities, vagabonds, criminals, aged 9 to 21 who were in juvenile correction, for example in the Reformatory di San Michele in Rome, emphasizing the educational and corrective functions of juvenile corrections and not only the punitive one.

1907

Inauguration il 6 gennaio of the first Casa dei Bambini or Children's House in via dei Marsi 53 in Rome; the second is inaugurated on April 7 in San Lorenzo district. She continues to develop Séguin's material, creating new materials for sensory education.

Publishes:

- *La Casa dei Bambini dell'Istituto Romano dei Beni Stabili*, Conference held on April 7, 1907, Rome, Bodoni.

- *L'importanza dell'etnologia regionale nell'antropologia pedagogica*, in “Ricerche di Psichiatria e Neurologia, Antropologia e Filosofia”, Milan, Vallardi, pp. 603-619 (dedicated to psychiatrist Enrico Morselli to commemorate his 25th year of academic career).

1908

The Humanitarian Society (Società Umanitaria) launches on October 18 the first Children's House in the tenement buildings in via Andrea Solari 54 in Milan. Montessori's materials are produced in the Casa del Lavoro of the Humanitarian Society (Organizzazione laica, centro del socialismo riformista in Italia).

In Rome, a third Children's House is opened in via Famagosta, Prati district. In April she participates in the first National Congress of Italian Women, where she holds a conference on the topic *La morale sessuale nell'educazione* (*Sexual morality in education*), published in 1912.

Publishes:

Come si insegna a leggere e a scrivere nelle “Case dei Bambini” di Roma, (How to teach reading and writing) in “I diritti della scuola”, a. IX, n. 34, 31 May 1908.

1909

At Villa La Montesca in Città di Castello (PG), residence of the Franchetti Barons, the first course of scientific pedagogy is held, with 59 participants and 6 auditors: this is the first training course for teachers.

Publishes:

- *Il Metodo della Pedagogia Scientifica applicato all'educazione infantile nelle Case dei Bambini* (*The Montessori Method: Scientific Pedagogy as Applied to Child Education in the Children's Houses*), Città di Castello, Tip. Casa editrice S. Lapi, 1909 (II Italian edition 1913, III edition 1926, IV edition 1935, V edition 1950 entitled *La scoperta del bambino*). The book contains the following dedication “I dedicate this book to the noble woman Baroness Alice Franchetti Hallgarten and to Baron Leopoldo Franchetti, senator of the Kingdom. It is thanks to them that this book is published today, and that Children's Houses are introduced to the scientific literature.”

- *Corso di pedagogia scientifica* (*The Course of Scientific Pedagogy*), Città di Castello, Società Editrice, 1909.

1910

Maria gives two courses in Rome: the first, patronized by Queen Margherita, at Le Suore Francescane Missionarie di Maria convent in via Giusti, where a Children's House is opened; the second, promoted by the National Council of Italian Women, at the E. Foà Fusinato primary school.

These are two-year theoretical and practical courses aimed at introducing teachers to the methodology used in the Children's Houses.

Collaboration breakdown with the Istituto Romano di Beni Stabili.

Publishes:

Antropologia pedagogica (Pedagogical Anthropology), Milan, Vallardi, s.d. (1910); a book dedicated to parents.

1911

Montessori begins to test a new educational approach in elementary schools.

The Humanitarian Society in Milan promotes a Master's course for infancy educators, managers and assistants in Children's Houses. The National Committee to spread the Montessori Method (Comitato Nazionale per diffondere il metodo Montessori) is launched with the patronage of Queen Margherita. Its members are: Leopoldo Franchetti; Donna Maraini Guerrieri Gonzaga; economist Antonio De Viti de Marco; Elisa Credaro, Luigi Credaro's wife Ministro della Pubblica Istruzione; Ernesto Nathan, ex sindaco di Roma che aveva favorito la diffusione delle Case dei bambini; the Minister of the Colonies Piero Bertolini; Enrichetta Chiaraviglio Giolitti, Prime Minister Giovanni Giolitti's daughter; art historian Corrado Ricci. The Committee supports the organization of the international courses of 1913 and 1914.

Il 28 dicembre viene aperta a Milano una Casa dei bambini dalle Suore Francescane Missionarie di Maria.

1912

Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica is translated to many languages, starting with English and French.

Maria's mother dies on December 12.

The American Montessori Committee is founded in New York.

The Montessori Society for the United Kingdom is established in London.

Publishes:

The Montessori Method. Scientific pedagogy as applied to child education in "the Children's House", with additions and revisions by the author, New York, F.A. Stokes.

5.000 copies are sold in only one week.

Les Case dei Bambini. La méthode de la pédagogie scientifique appliquée à l'éducation des tout petits, Préface de Pierre Bovet, Neuchatel, Delachaux-Niestlé.

1913

In January the first International Training Course begins, held at the scientist's residence in via Principessa Clotilde in Rome.

Mario starts living with the mother and grandfather.

First trip of Maria Montessori to the USA where she's triumphally welcomed: the "New York Tribune" calls her "the most interesting woman of Europe".

Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica (The Montessori Method) is published in Polish, Russian and German.

Antropologia pedagogica (Pedagogical Anthropology) is published in English in New York.

Second Italian edition of *Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica (the Montessori Method)*.

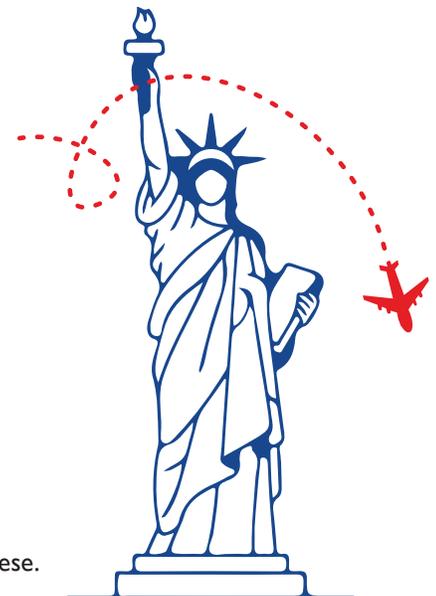
1914

The second International Training Course starts in February in Castel Sant'Angelo in Rome.

Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica (the Montessori Method) is published in Romanian and Japanese.

Publishes:

Dr. Montessori's Own Handbook, New York, F.A. Stokes, dedicated to a friend and supporter Donna Maraini Guerrieri Gonzaga. Published in Italy in 1921 and entitled *Manuale di Pedagogia Scientifica*: it is a comprehensible text which summarizes the principles of Montessori's pedagogy and the educational activities to be implemented in the Children's Houses.





1915

In the beginning of the year, Montessori sends her student Anna Maria Maccheroni to Barcelona to manage the Children's House at the "Casa della Maternità ed Esposti": the religious education experiment with the Montessori Method begins, it is described in the book *I bambini viventi nella Chiesa (The Child in the Church)* published in 1922. Montessori's second trip to the USA: takes part in the San Francisco International Expo where a Montessori class taught by Helen Parkhurst is set up. Many visitors are particularly interested in the children's work, which can be observed through a glass wall. Maria gives a course in San Diego.

Her father dies.

Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica (The Montessori Method) is published in Spanish.

1916

She holds a training course in Barcelona, during which the new material for teaching arithmetic, geometry and grammar to children over six years old is presented.

Publishes:

L'autoeducazione nelle scuole elementari. Continuazione di Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica applicato all'educazione infantile nelle Case dei Bambini, Rome, Maglione & Strini, dedicated to Queen Margherita. In the Foreword, the author underlines the need for an "institute of original studies" for the training of teachers and provincials who could spread the method, open schools and other training centres.

Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica (The Montessori Method) is published in Dutch.

1917

Third trip to the USA during which Maria launches the White Cross project in San Diego to help children injured on the body and mind because of the war. During the trip Mario marries an American Helen Christy with whom he will have four children. The Montessori Family comes back to Europe and settles in Spain.

Maria meets the biologist Hugo De Vries, already mentioned in the first edition of *Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica*, from whom she draws the definition of "psychic periods", which he found in animal and plant species, and which Montessori observes in human childhood.

Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica (The Montessori Method) is published in Danish.

L'autoeducazione nelle scuole elementari is published in New York and London.

1918

Pope Benedict XV gives his apostolic blessing to the book *Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica, (The Montessori Method)*, which Montessori makes public in 1926 by inserting it in the *Introduction* of the third edition of 1926 wanting to indicate that in her pedagogical proposal there is nothing contrary to the spiritual concept of human being.

Società Amici del metodo Montessori (Friends of the Montessori Method Society) is established with the patronage of Queen Margherita in Naples. Its goal is to spread pedagogy and Montessorian schools.

1919

The Società Amici del metodo Montessori organizes a training course in Naples, in collaboration with the municipality. In the early 1920s Naples becomes a dynamic Montessorian centre with a big number of Children's Houses and elementary schools attended by about one thousand five hundred students.

Maria holds the International Training Course in London, the first one of a long series.

1920

She lectures in Amsterdam, where she's trying to find a way to extend the method to secondary education.

She's honored at the Sorbonne in Paris.

1921

In Calais she takes part in the International Congress of the New Education Fellowship, which she does not join.

Publishes:

Manuale di pedagogia scientifica, Naples, Morano (1 edition in English in 1914).



1922

Maria holds a conference in Magonza, Germany.

She goes to Vienna, where a Children's House is opened, directed by Lili Roubiczek, who arranges a meeting between members of the psychoanalytic community (Anna Freud in particular) and Montessori. Montessori's interest in psychoanalysis remains high and is also found in her work, both with various references in texts such as in *Il bambino in famiglia*, *Il segreto dell'infanzia*, *La mente del bambino*, *Come educare il potenziale umano*, *La formazione dell'uomo* and in magazines she finds in the 1920s and 1930s. Especially in the second issue of the "Montessori. Magazine bimestrale dell'Opera Montessori" in 1932, psychoanalysis appears among the topics of the journal other than the method. Montessori believed that psychoanalytic topics were parallel to her own and capable of being integrated with them, even if only partially.

She plans a series of annual courses to be held in Naples with the patronage of the Municipality, the Ministry of Education and the Friends of the Montessori Method Society. Publishes:

I bambini viventi nella Chiesa, Naples, Morano.

1923

Receives the Honoris Causa Doctorate at the University of Durham.

Holds a series of conferences in Belgium and Austria, dedicated mainly to parents. In winter Mario Montessori writes to Mussolini complaining that while the Montessori Method, is widespread in many countries, it is disregarded in its country of origin. The Montessoris' turn to the Italian government to receive support in spreading the schools that apply the Method. One can see Mussolini's desire to take advantage of the reputation that Montessori had achieved abroad to gain prestige and international consensus. Furthermore, it cannot be forgotten that the organized and disciplined working environment observed in the Montessori schools could attract Mussolini's attention, despite the profound diversity of educational, moral and ideological assumptions, which, initially not explicit, will emerge in the following years.

So in the 1920s Montessori has the goal of seeing her work recognized in Italy both culturally and by the increase in the number of schools. To achieve this goal, she enters into dialogue with the political and religious forces of the time, Fascism and Catholicism, that are about to reconcile on some political and educational issues culminating in the Lateran Pacts in 1929.

Montessori depends her observations on the newborns.

Publishes:

Das Kind in der familie, Verlag, Vienna (*Il bambino in famiglia*, published in Italian in 1936), collection of the conferences held in Brussels.

1924

On August 8, 1924, the Ente Morale Opera Montessori (Opera Montessori Moral Body) is established by Royal Decree, of which Maria Montessori becomes honorary president and Giovanni Gentile (philosopher and former Minister of Public Education) the actual one. According to the Statute of 1924 and art. 3, the Institution is aimed at spreading the knowledge and application of the pedagogical method conceived by Dr. Maria Montessori: it will carry out, with prior agreement and the competent school authorities, an activity of assistance to schools, to which the Montessori Method is applied, and will defend the Method from possible misinterpretations in its application. Finally, it will advertise the Montessori Method through conferences and publications".

Montessori founds a magazine in four languages: Italian, French, German and English, entitled "The Call of Education. Psycho-Pedagogical Journal International Organ of the Montessori Movement" for which she cooperates with Joffrey Godefroy, professor of psychopathology at the University of Amsterdam, and Géza Révész, director of the Psychology Laboratory at the mentioned university.

1925

In New York Montessori meets Rabindranath Tagore, poet and winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature 1913. Montessori quotes him in the 1926 edition of *Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica* due to the fact that Montessori-Tagore schools opened in India. In memory of the meeting, which took place on November 11, 1925, Tagore writes the following dedication to his portrait: "To Dr. Maria Montessori in memory of meeting her in New York and as a proof of my admiration".

In London she meets Don Luigi Sturzo, founder of the Italian People's Party in exile. On the death of Montessori, Don Sturzo wrote: "I have repeatedly asked myself why for the last forty-five years, the Montessori Method has not been widespread in Italian schools. Then as now, I must give the same answer: it is an organic flaw of our education: we lack freedom; desire uniformity; which is enforced by bureaucrats and sanctioned by politicians. There is also a lack of public interest in educational problems; their technique, the adaptation of methods to modern needs. Perhaps there is more: mistrust towards the spirit of freedom and autonomy of the individual which are the basis of the Montessori Method" (L. Sturzo, *Ricordando Maria Montessori*, in "Vita dell'infanzia", a. I, n. 5 -6-7, May-June-July 1952, p.3).



1926

Montessori holds training courses in Milan at the Humanitarian Society; the last course she held was the international one in 1914 in Rome.

Third Italian edition of *Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica*, (*The Montessori Method*). In the *Foreword*, in addition to the apostolic blessing, it lists all the countries in which the Children's Houses are widespread, established by Buddhists, Hindus, Protestants, Catholics, Socialists. For Montessori the method is of course, Italian, but it belongs to the whole world, because it is the method that enables children to express their creativity. The third edition of *Il metodo* is severely criticized by Giuseppe Lombardo Radice, the idealistic pedagogue, author of the programs for elementary schools of the Gentile Reform.

Maria travels to Argentina for a series of conferences.

Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica (*The Montessori Method*). Is translated in India to Gujarati and Tamil languages.

1927

The first Montessorian magazine entitled "L'Idea Montessori" is published, a monthly review of the Ente Morale Opera Montessori. The cover page of the first issue depicts the honorary president Benito Mussolini. It is a magazine with reports from schools, articles by Montessori, as the founder, and her pupils and it expresses the position of the Montessorian Movement on educational issues. The magazine will be published from May 1927 to August 1929, stuck, like the ones that follow, between economic problems and Montessori's growing difficulties in carving out an independent space.

1928

The Regia Scuola di Metodo Montessori (Royal Montessori Method School) with a Children's House for practical demonstrations is established in Rome. It is a secondary school for teacher training. Maria Montessori is its head, but it is in fact Giuliana Sorge, Montessori's student, who will take care of the management due to Maria's many trips.

1929

In August the first International Montessori Congress in Helsingor (Denmark) takes place on the topic *Principles and practice of the Montessori Method*, during which the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) is founded, based first in Rome and then in 1932 in Berlin. Following the closure of Montessorian schools by Nazis, burning of books and the reputation of educationalists, the headquarters are moved to Spain, and eventually, from 1935, due to the Spanish Civil War, to Amsterdam, where they are today. The "L'Idea Montessori" magazine ceases its publication.

1930

International course in Rome, the fifteenth, with the President of the head of government and the direction of Montessori. The "Montessori Lyceum Amsterdam" was inaugurated in Amsterdam, the first Montessori secondary school, which the pedagogue visited in 1932 calling it a "real experimental laboratory" (L. Marchioni, *L'adolescente Montessori*, (The Montessori teenager), Rome, Edizioni Opera Nazionale Montessori, p.10) . At the beginning of the 1920s, many Dutch parents began to work together with Montessori experts to create a secondary school in which their children can continue their studies after finishing the Montessori elementary school. In the Thirties, the pedagogue deepens the study of the period of adolescence and in 1939 publishes her school project for adolescents: *The Erdkinder: a scheme for a reform of secondary education*.

Publishes:

Manuale di pedagogia scientifica, (Manual of scientific pedagogy,) Naples, Morano, II edition

1931

In January the first issue of the magazine "Montessori. Organo mensile dell'Ente morale Opera Montessori" is published. It will cease its publication in the same year, after only five issues. Montessori is the editor and Nazareno Padellaro is the editor-in-chief.

The sixteenth International Training Course in Rome is held with the presidency of the head of the government and the management of Montessori.

She meets Gandhi, first in London during the annual International Course, then in December in Rome when Gandhi visits the headquarters of the Opera Montessori, the Royal Method School and a Children's House, ensuring his keen interest in spreading the Montessori Method in India.

Publishes:

La vita in Cristo: anno liturgico, (Life in Christ: liturgical year) Rome, Stab. Tipolitografico Ferri.



1932

In February the magazine “Montessori. Rivista bimestrale dell’Opera Montessori” is issued. It ceases its publication in December of the same year, after a total of six issues. The editor is always Montessori and the editor-in-chief is Enrico Castelli.

In the summer the second International Montessori Congress takes place in Nice on the topic of *Psychological principles of education*. Montessori speaks on peace and the conference is published by the Bureau Internationale dell’Éducation in Geneva entitled *La paix et l’éducation (Education and Peace)*, translated by Adolphe Ferrière.

Maria and Mario begin to be watched by the Fascist police, progressively Montessori’s autonomy of action decreases both in the Royal School of Method and in the Opera Montessori.

The Association Montessori Switzerland is founded, of which Jean Piaget becomes president.

Publishes:

The Mass explained to children, London, Sheed & Ward.

1933

In the summer the third International Montessori Congress takes place in Amsterdam on the topic *The Spiritual Rebirth of Man*.

Maria and Mario Montessori close the Opera Montessori.

In 1933 a third magazine is published entitled “Opera Montessori. Bollettino bimestrale”. Only the first issue is known.

1934

In spring the fourth International Montessori Congress is held in Rome on the topic *The spiritual, scientific and social problem of education*; Piaget also participates in it. This is the last official presence of Montessori in Italy, which takes place in a climate of tension and surveillance by the authorities. After the Congress Maria and Mario Montessori leave Italy and move to Spain. The “marriage of interest” of Montessori and Mussolini, as Scocchera defines the relationship between the scientist and the head of the Italian government, which began in the 1920s, ends with a divorce in 1934.

Second year of the magazine entitled “Opera Montessori. Bollettino bimestrale” of which three issues are published: n.1 (January-February), n.2-3 (March-June) and n.4 (July-August). Montessori is no longer of editor of the magazine.

First course in Dublin.

Publishes:

Psico Aritmética, Barcelona, Araluce (first Italian edition 1971).

Psico Geometría, Barcelona, Araluce (first Italian edition 2012).

(Psycho Arithmetic, Psycho Geometry)

1935

Holds the twenty-first International Training Course in London.

Publishes:

Manuale di pedagogia scientifica, Naples, Morano, III edition.

Il metodo della pedagogia scientifica, IV edition.

1936

Fifth International Montessori Congress in Oxford on the topic *The child in the human society*.

With a decree of the Minister of National Education Cesare Maria De Vecchi, the Royal School of Method closes.

In July the Spanish Civil War begins, the Montessoris move to the Netherlands, hosted by the Pierson family.

Opening of the “**Maria Montessori**” school in Laren, directed by Montessori herself. The school included: “Children’s House” (children from two and a half to six years old); elementary school (aged six to twelve) linked to the secondary school that Montessori was planning; section for girls, from the age of fourteen, who wanted to become teachers of the Children’s Home; section for children who had difficulty entering traditional school.

Publishes:

L’Enfant, Paris, Desclée (Italian title: *Il segreto dell’infanzia*). *Il bambino in famiglia*, Todi, Tip. Tuderte. (The Secret of Childhood, The Child in the Family)





1937

Sixth International Montessori Congress in Copenhagen on the topic *Education for Peace*. Establishes the Social Party of the Child. She gives a lecture on peace in Amersfoort (Utrecht) at the International School of Philosophy.

1938

Seventh International Montessori Congress in Edinburgh on the topic *Education as help in life*.

Publishes:

Il segreto dell'infanzia, Bellinzona, Ist. Editor. Ticinese.

1939

She holds the *Education for Peace* conference in London invited by the World Fellowship of Faiths, the global association of religious faiths.

In October she leaves with Mario for India to teach a course in Adyar, near Madras, on the invitation of the Theosophical Society.

Publishes:

The Erdkinder: a scheme for a reform of secondary education, in "Bulletin of the Association Montessori Internationale", Amsterdam, pp.3-23.

1940

After the Italian entry to the War alongside Germany the 10th of June 1940, Mario is interned in a concentration camp and Maria is forced to reside in the Theosophical Society. The British authorities release Mario on August 31, the day of Montessori's birthday.

1941

Training course in Adyar.

1943

In the monsoon period she lives in Kodaikanal, where she studies, observes and experiments with Mario and her pupil Lena Wikramaratne, elaborating the "cosmic education" project as a response to the needs of children from 6 to 12 years old.

1944

In Colombo (island of Ceylon, today's Sri Lanka) Montessori holds a course for educators of the youngest children. The lessons are collected in the book, *What you should know about your child* (1948).

Goes back to India for a course in Kodaikanal.

She holds a course in Ahmedabad regarding the first three years of the child's life.

1946

Montessori returns to Europe, first to Amsterdam and then to London where she resumes the International Training Course by updating the participants on the in-depth themes from India: cosmic education and infant education.

During a trip to Rome she meets a student Adele Costa Gnocchi, whom she knows from Città di Castello, to discuss studies on small children and to plan a school that would prepare staff for infants and children up to three years of age. The Scuola per Assistenti all'Infanzia Montessori (Montessori School for Nursery Assistents) is established as a private entity in September 1947 with fifteen pupils; it opens officially in 1949 under the control of the Consorzio dell'Istruzione Tecnica technical consortium of the Ministry of Public Education.

Publishes:

Education for a new world, Adyar, Kalakshetra, dedicated to George Sidney Arundale, President of the Theosophical Society (first Italian edition 1970).



1947

Montessori returns to Italy on 1 May at the invitation of the government by the Minister of Education Guido Gonella and on the initiative of Maria de Unterrichter Jervolino, commissioner of the recently reconstituted Opera Montessori Nazionale (Montessori National Works). In a radio interview in May 1947, Montessori replying to Maria de Unterrichter Jervolino, who asked her what she had felt seeing Rome from the plane, expressed herself as follows:

“I felt an intense emotion when I saw Rome appear in its imposing grandeur from above. , all at once, all in one, and I saw, in the descent, clearly appear those monuments for which I had been anxious with pain for so long. [...] And thinking of the sufferings of my fellow citizens, of the people to which I belong, I was moved with deep tenderness “

(R. P.Violi, *Maria de Unterrichter Jervolino (1902-1975). Donne, educazione e democrazia nell'Italia del Novecento*, Roma, Edizioni Studium, 2014, p.196).

On May 3, Montessori is received by the Constituent Assembly which pays tribute to her.

On May 20th Montessori is received by Pope Pio XII

From May 21-27, she holds three conferences at the University of Rome

Montessori returns to India to Madras, today Chennai, where she plans a Montessori university, which however will not be built.

She goes to Pakistan for a training course.

Mario marries Ada Pierson.

1948

Course in Ahmedabad, the lessons are collected in the book *The absorbent mind* (1949).

Publishes:

De l'enfant à l'adolescent, Bruges, Desclée De Brouwer (first Italian edition 1970).

The discovery of the child, Adyar, The Theosophical Publishing House (first Italian edition entitled *La scoperta del bambino*, 1950)

To educate the human potential, Adyar, Kalakshetra (first Italian edition entitled *Come educare il potenziale umano*, 1970)

1949

Montessori receives the Légion d'honneur in Paris.

She is nominated for the first time for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Eighth International Montessori Congress organized in San Remo on the topic *Education of human in the global reconstruction: Montessorians meet for the first time since the end of the Second World War.*

Publishes:

The absorbent mind, Adyar, The Theosophical Publishing House (first Italian edition entitled *La mente del bambino. Mente assorbente*, 1952).

Education and Peace, Milan, Garzanti, collection of the conferences held in the 1930s.

Formazione dell'uomo, Milan, Garzanti.

La Santa Messa spiegata ai bambini, Milan, Garzanti.

1950

Conferences in Norway, Sweden and Austria in the early months of the year.

In June Montessori participates, as a member of the Italian delegation, in the 5th international session of UNESCO in Florence and in July goes to Perugia for the twenty-fourth International Training Course, organized at the Italian University for Foreigners.

Second nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize.

She receives the Order of Orange-Nassau in Amsterdam, the highest Dutch honour.

In winter she holds a training course in Rome.

Milan, Perugia and Ancona grant her honorary citizenship.

Publishes:

La scoperta del bambino, Milan, Garzanti.





1951

International Montessori Congress in London on the topic *Education as help for the natural development of mind, from birth to higher education*.

In the spring the national course in Rome ends.

Last International Training Course in Innsbruck.

Sends UNESCO a message entitled *The Forgotten Citizen*, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Declaration of human rights, in which she criticizes that the declaration had neglected the rights of children. Nel 1952 the text is published nel primo numero di "Vita dell'infanzia". Montessori wanted the magazine to be the voice of the Montessorian Movement in the Italian pedagogical panorama.

Third nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize.

1952

At the age of 82 when thinking about the possibility of yet another trip to Ghana for a training course, Maria Montessori dies on May 6, 1952 in Noordwijk aan Zee, the Netherlands, where she is also buried.

"I wish I were young, - she wrote to her friend Sofia Ravasi Garzanti a little earlier with uncertain handwriting - to work harder, to have time to write and determine new ideas and to write especially my book *Psiche: L'Uomo*. Help me as a friend with your encouragement, with your sensibility" (S. Ravasi Garzanti, *Ultime trepide parole di Maria Montessori*, in "Vita dell'infanzia", a. XIV, n. 7-8, July-August 1965, p. 18).

As sole heir and legitimate continuator of her intellectual and social works Montessori left her son Mario; her last will and testament reads: "because they [her works] were inspired by him or because, from the time he was able to act in the world, they were undertaken with his actual and constant collaboration, since he totally dedicated his life to helping me and my work. [...] And so my friends and all those who benefit from my work, feel their debt toward my son!" ("Extracts from Maria Montessori's last will and testament" - with English translation by Baiba Krumis - , in *Communications*, n.1, 1998, p.7).

(with English translation by Baiba Krumins), in "Communications", n.1, 1998, p.7).

Publishes:

La mente del bambino. Mente assorbente, Milan, Garzanti. (The Mind of the Child, The Absorbent Mind)

Il cittadino dimenticato, in "Vita dell'infanzia", a. I, n. 1, 1952, pp. 3-6. (The Forgotten Citizen)

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