

Contents

1	Background	1
1.1	Some History	2
1.2	The Astronomical Observatory of Palermo	9
1.3	The Fortune of the Guccia Family	14
1.4	Youth and Influences	24
2	The Formative Years	35
2.1	The Educational System of the Risorgimento	35
2.2	Giovanni Battista in the Technical Institute	37
2.3	University and Mathematics in Sicily	42
2.4	Giovanni Battista at the University of Palermo	47
2.5	The Palermo Meeting of the Società Italiana per il Progresso delle Scienze	49
2.6	Italian Science and Mathematics of the Risorgimento	53
2.7	Luigi Cremona	57
2.8	Guccia in Rome	62
3	The Scientific Context	69
3.1	Two Mathematical Societies	69
3.2	A Mathematical Journal	75
3.3	The International Congress of Mathematicians	79
4	The Projects of Guccia: First Stage	85
4.1	The Summer of 1880: Paris, Reims, London	85
4.2	1881–1883: A Period of Maturation	90
4.3	The Founding of Circolo Matematico di Palermo	94
4.4	The Creation of the Rendiconti	110
4.5	Palermo's <i>Belle Époque</i>	120
5	The Projects of Guccia: Second Stage	127
5.1	Two Important Encounters: Volterra and Poincaré	127
5.2	Development and Crisis	137
5.3	Towards the Constitution of an International Association	149

6	Maximum Splendor	173
6.1	The Rendiconti	173
6.2	The 1914 Celebration	201
6.3	Other Projects	207
7	Epilogue	215
7.1	The Death of Giovanni Battista Guccia	215
7.2	The Circolo After Guccia	218
7.3	Final Curtain	231
7.4	An Evaluation of the Work of Giovanni Battista Guccia	237
8	Appendixes	243
8.1	Mathematical Works of Giovanni Battista Guccia	243
8.2	The 1884 Statute of the Circolo Matematico di Palermo	246
8.3	The 1888 Statute of the Circolo Matematico di Palermo	248
8.4	<i>The Reform of the Statute in 1908</i>	254
8.5	Members Joining the Circolo Matematico di Palermo Until 1914 ...	255
8.6	Statistical Data of the Circolo Matematico di Palermo Until 1914 ...	266
8.7	Members of the Steering Council from 1888 to 1914	268
8.8	Original Text of Excerpts of Documents	269
	Bibliography	287
	Index	295