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Structure and Description of the Prison Notebooks

Abstract

This is an English-language guide to Gramsci's Prison Notebooks. The original guide (see the previous article) was originally modified and made available in English for an exhibition in Moscow earlier in 2019, in which some of the *Notebooks* were on show. The English-language version for the Moscow exhibition was more generic in nature than the Italian one on which it was based. The current English version contains integrations from the Italian text to bring it more into line with the original text (see previous article). The guide illustrates the structure of the *Notebooks*, lists the general contents of each of them and, as far as possible, indicates why given notes are found in given sections of the *Notebooks*, often special sections set aside on purpose, sometimes with Gramsci's own titling, for second draftings. Such notebook titles and section sub-titles, if in italics, are Gramsci's own; otherwise they are later editorial additions. Particular attention is paid to the division between miscellaneous, special and translation notebooks; the article includes the most up-to-date information available on when and where each notebook was written.

Keywords

Gramsci, Prison Notebooks, Special notebooks, Miscellaneous notebooks, Translation notebooks, Dates of writing

Structure and Description of the Prison Notebooks

Gianni Francioni

Introduction

Antonio Gramsci, parliamentary deputy and secretary of the Communist Party, was arrested in Rome on 8 November 1926, in flagrant violation of parliamentary immunity. On 4 June 1928 the “Special Tribunal for the Defence of the State”, set up by fascism’s “exceptional laws”, condemned him to over 20 years in prison.

After his arrest, during the period of preventive detention on the island of Ustica and then in the prison of San Vittore in Milan, he announced the wish to begin a systematic study of subjects of a historical and literary nature, but permission to write was given only in January 1929, when he was in the prison of Turi di Bari (detainee 7047 – his prisoner number, which appears on his *Notebooks*).

On 8 February 1929 he made a first list of subject matters: Italian history, the role of the intellectuals, popular literature and other philosophical, historiographical and political questions (“quistioni” as he used to write it). He made frequent mentions of these studies in the letters he sent to his sister-in-law Tat’jana Schucht – and through her to his friend Piero Sraffa – and to his wife, Julija, living in Moscow with their two sons Giulano and Delio. Up to 1932 he also spent some of his time translating from German, Russian and English. After, for three years, having made notes on the reviews and books he was allowed to read in prison, he began to order his notes in new notebooks that he defined “specials” since they were devoted to a single subject (*The Philosophy of Benedetto Croce, The Italian Risorgimento, Brief Notes on Machiavelli’s Politics, Americanism and Fordism*, etc.), cancelling his previous drafts with long pen strokes. Because of a worsening of his health, in November 1933 he was transferred to a clinic in Formia, where he was able to begin work again only in the second half of 1934, devoting his time to notebooks of a monographic nature. After obtaining semi-liberty in October 1934, the following summer he was admitted to the Quisisana Clinic in Rome, and was assisted by his sister-in-law. He died on 27 April 1937, at the age of 46, a day or two after having been freed.

On his death Tat'jana managed to get possession of the 33 notebooks. Before sending them to Moscow she catalogued and put Roman numerals on them. The manuscripts returned to Italy on 3 March 1945 and were used as the basis for a first edition in six volumes of the *Prison Notebooks* (*Quaderni del carcere*), published by Einaudi between 1948 and 1951. The notebooks were republished by Einaudi in 1975 in a critical edition, curated by Rome's Gramsci Institute (now the Fondazione Gramsci). The *Edizione nazionale degli scritti di Antonio Gramsci*, (*National Edition of Antonio Gramsci's Writings*), curated by the *Istituto della Enciclopedia italiana*, foresees their sub-division into Translation Notebooks, Miscellaneous Notebooks, and Special Notebooks.

* * * * *

While, as mentioned above, the Roman numerals are those appended by Tat'jana Schucht, the Arabic numerals indicate the chronological sequence established by the 1975 critical edition and accepted by the *National Edition of Gramsci's Writings*.

The titles and sub-titles, given by Gramsci himself to list the contents of each notebook, are here written in italics; normal type font is used for any editorial integration to the contents list. The number of pages compiled in each notebook is inclusive of the drafts of letters, lists of books and other notes extraneous to Gramsci's research.

NOTEBOOK 1 (XVI) 1929 - 1930

15x20.6 cm. / Pages compiled: 201

First Notebook (8 February 1929)

The notebook, the only one bearing its initial date, opens with a list of sixteen “main arguments” on which Gramsci promised to write notes and “jottings”. Some of them would be used later as short section titles, then used in notes (*Americanism, Risorgimento, Lorianism, Father Bresciani’s Progeny, Types of Periodicals, Catholic Action* and others) in subsequent notebooks. Besides bibliographical and short notes, two long paragraphs (§43 and §44) on the Risorgimento and on the intellectuals stand out; these develop many ideas featured in Gramsci’s essay on the “Southern Question”, his last work before his arrest. The Notebook terminates in May 1930.

NOTEBOOK 2 (XXIV) 1929 - 1933

15x20.6 cm. / Pages compiled: 161

Miscellaneous I

After a number of notes penned in February 1929, in May 1930 the notebook was largely destined to reflections prompted largely by Gramsci’s reading of issues of reviews, “Nuova Antologia” in particular, published between 1927 and 1930. Although maintaining the nature of a bibliographical file with frequent references to books, periodicals and newspapers, Notebook 2 features the most common section titles in the manuscripts of the same period: *Niccolò Machiavelli, Risorgimento, Catholic Action, Popular Culture, Popular Literature* and the *Cosmopolitan Function of Italian Intellectuals*. The notebook, terminated in October 1930 (although a subsequent note was added in 1933) also contains the drafts of his petitions to Mussolini in September 1930 and October 1931.

NOTEBOOK 3 (XX) 1930

14.5x19.7 cm. / Pages compiled: 158

Miscellaneous

This notebook, written between May and October 1930, follows on Notebook 1, new sections appearing alongside the already existing ones, an indication of the evolution of his research after the first year's work. *Past and Present*, a heading first used in the final notes of Notebook 1 then becomes common and is a favoured place for notes, containing frequent autobiographical references, linked to the political experiences of the 1910s and 1920s. Research on the Italian intellectuals is gone into in significantly more depth, while space is devoted to many comments on the history of the subaltern classes.

NOTEBOOK 4 (XIII) 1930 - 1932

15x20.5 cm. / Pages compiled: 160

Canto Ten of the Inferno

Miscellaneous

Notes on Philosophy. Materialism and Idealism. First Series

The notes are structured here in a new way. In May 1930, the notebook was divided into two monographic sections which appear to be started simultaneously. One consists of *Notes on Philosophy*, which develop considerations on Marx's legacy and the thought of Benedetto Croce. On conclusion of this series of notes (November 1930), a miscellaneous section was started, which includes notes on intellectuals and schooling and education questions; then, between August and September 1932, a short group of notes, varied in character, was also added. Regarding the second monographic section, on *Canto X* of Dante's *Inferno* (continued, with interruptions, up to August 1932), Gramsci was able, through his sister-in-law Tat'jana Schucht and Piero Sraffa, to renew a correspondence with Umberto Cosmo, a professor of Gramsci's at the University of Turin and a renowned scholar of Dante.

NOTEBOOK 5 (IX) 1930 - 1932

14.5x19.7 cm. / Pages compiled: 152

Miscellaneous

Notebook 5, continuing Notebook 3 and written between October 1930 and, at the latest, the first months of 1932, inaugurates the section *Integralist Catholics, Jesuits, Modernists*, in addition to notes on *Catholic Action*, already present as from Notebook 1. Gramsci begins a vast reconnaissance survey on the role of Catholics and the Church, with a particular interest shown towards the “Catholic Action” movement during the Risorgimento and towards the Vatican’s position vis-à-vis the unified Italian State, including the then recent signing of the Concordat with the fascist regime (1929). At the same time, he carries on research into the intellectuals, initiated in the previous notebooks.

NOTEBOOK 6 (VIII) 1930 - 1932

14.7x19.7 cm. / Pages compiled: 155

Miscellaneous

This Notebook was written between November-December 1930 and January 1932. Among its many sections, there are numerous notes in the *Past and Present* series about current topics (from the Gentile school reform to other measures of the fascist regime). A considerable number of paragraphs continue the study on the history of intellectuals and inquire into the nature of the first Renaissance, from the Medieval communes in the thirteenth century to a number of the specific problems of Humanism. The tensions and the contradictory nature of the transition from feudalism to the dawn of modernity are shown up in their various linguistic and literary aspects. A comparative estimation of Dante and Machiavelli also falls within this research. There are, furthermore, numerous annotations devoted to the relationship between State and civil society. These latter themes are taken up and further developed in Notebook 7.

NOTEBOOK 7 (VII) 1930 - 1931

14.5x19.7 cm. / Pages compiled: 149

Translations from *Karl Marx: Lohnarbeit und Kapital. Zur Judenfrage und andere Schriften aus der Frühzeit*

Miscellaneous

Notes on Philosophy - Materialism and Idealism. Second Series

This notebook was begun in May 1930 as a notebook purely devoted to translations, but in November it was then followed by a part destined to a second series of *Notes on Philosophy*, developing - up to November 1931 - the analysis of Notebook 4. The translations from the anthology of Marx indicate Gramsci's wish to "return to Marx" through redefining historical materialism and overcoming idealistic interpretations, determinism and economism. Gramsci's translations do not follow the order of the anthology, but start with the texts most closely linked to his research, namely the *Theses on Feuerbach* and the *1859 Preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*. The other pages of Notebook 7 (August-December 1930) consist of miscellaneous notes.

NOTEBOOK 8 (XXVIII)

1930 - 1932

14.7x19.7 cm. / Pages compiled 157

Loose Notes and Jottings for a History of Italian Intellectuals

Groupings of Subjects

Miscellaneous

Notes on Philosophy - Materialism and Idealism. Third Series

This notebook (in Gramsci's own partial numbering designated I) was begun in November-December 1930 with the idea of grouping together notes on the history of the Italian intellectuals. In November 1931 the second half of the notebook was destined to the third series of the *Notes on Philosophy*, concluded in May 1932, while from January to May 1932 the first half also contains a miscellany of notes, carrying on Notebook 6, many of them connected to the philosophical series, i.e. the "translation" of Marxism into the "philosophy of praxis". Page 3 (March-April 1932) contains a list of ten *Groupings of Subjects* prefiguring some of the "special notebooks".

NOTEBOOK 9 (XIV) 1929 - 1932

15x20.6 cm. / Pages compiled: 201

Russian anthology by R.G. Polledro and A. Polledro (translations)

Miscellaneous

Notes on the Italian Risorgimento

Miscellaneous

From April 1929 to the first part of 1930 Gramsci translated some of Rachele Gutman-Polledro and Alfredo Polledro's *Russian Anthology*, a school book of a hundred extracts by authors such as Tolstoj, Puškin, Gogol', Turgenev, Dostoevskij, Čekhov, Gorkij and others, leaving blank for later corrections the reverse side of ca. half the notebook's pages. In April-September 1932 he took the notebook up again – giving it the number “IP” – for a series of miscellaneous notes on the pages he had left blank. These notes continue the ones on varied subjects of Notebook 8, such as a bloc of 30 *Notes on the Italian Risorgimento* (May-September), and another set of miscellaneous ones (September-November) completing the first. Between the blocs of notes of varied subject matters, there are notes on political experiences up to his arrest, e.g. on socialism in Turin and critical considerations on the first years of the PCI.

NOTEBOOK 10 (XXXIII)

1932 - 1935

20.8x26.7 cm. / Pages compiled 100

The Philosophy of Benedetto Croce

This is the first of the “special notebooks”, as Gramsci himself names them, in which, from April 1932 to the start of 1933, he selected and transcribed part of his previous miscellaneous notes. Notebook 10 (designated by him Notebook “IIP”) was started in Turin and finished in Formia in 1935, with the addition of integrations in the margin. It is entirely dedicated to the critique of Croce's philosophy and his attempt to “go beyond” Marxism. As well as completely new matter, Gramsci takes up several notes of the three *Notes on Philosophy* series, especially those of Notebook 8, continuing the notes under the headings *Points for an Essay on Croce*, *Introduction to the Study of Philosophy*, *Points of Meditation for a Study of Economics*.

NOTEBOOK 11 (XVIII) 1932

14.8x19.8 cm. / Pages compiled: 147

Notes for an Introduction and an Approach to the Study of Philosophy and the History of Culture

In this “special notebook” (“1 bis” in Gramsci’s numbering), compiled between June-July and December 1932, the first ten pages were initially left blank; leaving space for a subsequent introductory text or a summary index, neither however then done. To the five numbered sections, there was then added, using some of the pages left blank, a preliminary comment and an un-numbered sixth section, *Notes and References of a Historico-Critical Nature*. Under this heading Gramsci collects and re-elaborates his previous reflections on materialism, idealism and the originality of Marx’s thought. The criticism of popularizations of Marxism is extensively developed in the second section, *Observations and Critical Notes on an Attempt at a Popular Manual of Sociology* (by Bukharin). The first section, *Some Preliminary Points of Reference*, was stimulated by his reading of an essay, pointed out to him by his friend Piero Sraffa, by D. P. Mirsky on the philosophical debate in the USSR. In the notebook, the term ‘Marxism’ is systematically replaced with ‘philosophy of praxis’.

NOTEBOOK 12 (XXIX) 1932

21.8x31.2 cm. / Pages compiled: 24

Notes and Loose Jottings for a Group of Essays on the History of the Intellectuals

The subject of the intellectuals, a central one in Gramsci’s thought – as shown by both the Notebooks’ various programmes of work and the letters from prison to his sister-in-law Tat’jana Schucht – come together in this notebook to form a monographic subject. The title of Notebook 12 takes up again the already mentioned general formulations of Notebook 8 and in just three notes (penned between May and June 1932) develops a series of miscellaneous annotations on the intellectuals contained in Notebook 4.

NOTEBOOK 13 (XXX) 1932 - 1933

21.8x31.2 cm. / Pages compiled: 60

Brief Notes on Machiavelli's Politics

The interest in Machiavelli, already present in the writings before the arrest, was first expressed in the annotations of Notebook 1. Gramsci deals at length mainly with locating the Florentine “Secretary” in the national and European context of his time. Under the heading *Machiavelli* he later gathered the greater part of his notes on politics, the State and the function of the modern political party. Little by little he clarifies the concept of “hegemony”. The “special notebook”, begun in May 1932, was to a great extent compiled in Turi and finished in Formia in 1934.

NOTEBOOK 14 (I)

1932 - 1933

15x20.5 cm. / Pages compiled 81

Miscellaneous

The most significant sections of the notebook are *Past and Present*, *Popular Literature* and *Machiavelli*, in which analyses are developed that are already present in the previous notebooks; in particular these analyses deal with the functions of the political party and the concepts of ‘war of position’, ‘war of manoeuvre’ or ‘of movement’ and ‘Caesarism’, aspects that also refer to the evolution of the Soviet Union. Recent research has established that, contrary to what had been thought up to recently, the notebook was not begun in Turi and finished in Formia, but written entirely in prison at Turi between December 1932 and February 1933.

NOTEBOOK 15 (II) 1933

15x20.5 cm. / Pages compiled: 80

Miscellaneous

The notebook (“begun in 1933” as Gramsci says a note on the front face of page 1), was written between February and September of that year and carries on the subject matter of Notebook 14. Most of the notes fall under the headings *Past and Present*, *Machiavelli* and the *Italian Risorgimento*. The core of the considerations is the concept of “passive revolution” which, already introduced in previous notebooks, here undergoes a gradual theoretical and historical expansion. One of the first paragraphs is entitled *Autobiographical Notes*: his worsening physical and psychological conditions induce Gramsci here to reflect on the “catastrophes afflicting character” which can intervene “molecularly”.

NOTEBOOK 16 (XXII) 1932 - 1934

15x20.5 cm. / Pages compiled: 71

Cultural Topics 1

This “special notebook” (2 *bis* in Gramsci’s numbering) was begun in Turi in June-July 1932 and then continued in Formia in 1934. It includes several notes taken from the sections *Encyclopedic Notions* and *Cultural Arguments*, aimed at supplying “suggestions for a political and critical dictionary”, as one reads in Notebook 8. An important role is also given to a series of annotations on the philosophy of praxis, on religion and on the Church. Returning to a note of Notebook 4, Gramsci rephrases some indications on how to interpret the theoretical and political aspects, as well as the posthumous writings, of Marx. The invitation to seek the “rhythm of thought as it develops”, more than the “single casual affirmations” and “isolated aphorisms”, seems also addressed to future readers of his own writings.

NOTEBOOK 17 (IV) 1933 - 1935

15x20.6 cm. / Pages compiled: 43

Miscellaneous

In following up Notebook 15, this notebook was begun in Turi in September 1933, then continued in Formia, but not beyond June 1935. On the inside front cover the notebook bears an indication in pencil, written by Gramsci: “1933 • *Miscellaneous*”. The notebook includes twelve paragraphs of the section *Cultural Topics*, nine of *Past and Present*, seven of *Machiavelli*, five of *Humanism and Renaissance*, four classed as *Popular Literature*, three of the series *Introduction to the Study of Philosophy*, three of the series *Father Bresciani’s Progeny* and two on the *Italian Risorgimento*. Page 19 bears the draft of the petition addressed by Gramsci to Mussolini in September 1934.

NOTEBOOK 18 (-) 1934

21.8x32.1 cm. / Pages compiled 3

Niccolò Machiavelli. II

This is the first of the notebooks begun in the prison-approved clinic in Formia, as one sees from the absence of prison stamps. Taking into consideration that for part of 1934, Gramsci was unable to work this “special notebook” has to be assigned to a undefined moment of time of that year. It includes some first draft notes about the Florentine “Secretary” omitted from Notebook 13 (of which Notebook 18, as its title confirms, is a continuation). The author of the handwritten “34” at the top of the front cover and the indication “4” on the label on the notebook has not been identified (if indeed it is the same person both times).

NOTEBOOK 19 (X) 1934 - 1935
14.8x19.5 cm. / Pages compiled 133

Italian Risorgimento

Even if untitled, this is one of the “special notebooks” begun in Formia in 1934. The first ten pages were at first left blank on purpose, set aside for a subsequent index-summary; later they were partially used (pages 3 and 4) for an introductory text announcing a “double series of researches” which one finds in the Notebook. The manuscript is entirely dedicated to the history and historiography of the Italian Risorgimento, two subjects in which Gramsci had long been interested and which appear right from his very first prison notes. The focus of the research is the role of the moderates headed by Cavour, and that of the democrats led by Mazzini. The writing of the Notebook continued up to February 1935.

NOTEBOOK 20 (XXV) 1934 - 1935
14.8x19.8 cm. / Pages compiled: 25

Catholic Action – Integralist Catholics, Jesuits, Modernists

This again belongs to the “special notebooks” begun in Formia in 1934 and, here too, the first ten pages were left blank (except for page 1, which bears the title). The themes of the notebook are the roles of Catholic Action, of the Jesuit Order within the Church and of the this latter in Italian political life, as well as the reasons for the repression of the catholic “modernist” reform movement. The worsening of Gramsci’s conditions of health probably did not allow him to take in hand many of his notes dedicated to these subjects from the miscellaneous notebooks. The manuscript does not appear to have been added to after the first few months of 1935.

NOTEBOOK 21 (XVII) 1934

14.8x19.8 cm. / Pages compiled: 33

Problems of Italian National Culture. 1st Popular Literature

The first ten pages were left blank except for page 1 which bears the general title and pages 3-6 which contain a text of an introductory nature entitled *Nexus of problems*. Conceived in Formia as the first of the “special notebooks” on *Problems of Italian National Culture*, Notebook 21 includes notes written under the *Popular Literature* heading. Among the themes analysed are the language question and the absence of a national-popular Italian literature, despite the success in Italy of the translations of *feuilletons*.

NOTEBOOK 22 (V) 1934

cm. 15x21 / Pages compiled: 46

Americanism and Fordism

In this “special notebook” compiled in Formia in 1934, the first ten pages were at first left blank and then put to partial use (pages 1-2) to register a text that had remained incomplete, intended to illustrate the “series of problems which have to be examined under this heading”. The subject matter had already been present as from the programme of study at the start of Notebook 1. The research in Notebook 22 gradually goes more into depth in light of the world crisis after the Wall Street stock market crash in October 1929. Gramsci examines the political and economic structure of the United States of America, their production system, the relationship with the European countries and the influence on these latter of “Americanism”.

NOTEBOOK 23 (VI) 1934

15x21 cm. / Pages compiled: 75

Literary Criticism

These *Literary Criticism* annotations, which constitute a “special notebook”, written in Formia in 1934, are closely connected with the ones on *Popular Literature* of Notebook 21. The manuscript is compiled compactly from page 3 to page 77 and brings together second draft notes from the miscellaneous notebooks present under the heading *Father Bresciani’s Progeny*, together with sometimes new texts inspired by reviews and newspapers.

NOTEBOOK 24 (XXVII) 1934

15x21 cm. / Pages compiled: 18

Journalism

Notebook 24, written from page 5 to page 22 and belonging to the first group of “special notebooks” started in Formia, examines the social and political role of the press, the use of journalistic language and the role of information. The subject – first found in Notebook 1 as *Types of Periodicals: Theoretical, Critical-Historical, of General Culture (Dissemination)* – is strongly linked to Gramsci’s biography. Having begun his political involvement as a journalist on “Avanti!” at the end of 1915, and then as founder of new journals, most of all “L’Ordine nuovo”, Gramsci always emphasized journalism as a tool of mediation between culture and politics, between intellectuals and the popular strata.

NOTEBOOK 25 (XXIII) 1934 - 1935

14.8x19.8 cm. / Pages compiled: 17

On the Margins of History (History of the Subaltern Groups)

The first ten pages were left blank for an introductory text or a summary index, then not done. The eight sections contain thirteen notes from Notebooks 1, 3 and 9. In these passages Gramsci deals with the methodological problems of historiography and the possible sources for a new “integral history”. At the base of his thought lies the notion of “subaltern” referring to the social groups excluded from the history of the ruling classes and from historiography, even though they are the protagonists of real history. The notebook, belonging to the first group of the Formia “specials” initiated in 1934, appears not to have been continued after the first months of 1935.

NOTEBOOK 26 (XII) 1934 - 1935

14.8x20.5 cm. / Pages compiled: 12

Cultural Topics. 2

As seen from its title, the notebook is the continuation of Notebook 16. Like other Formia “special notebooks”, it is compiled only very partially; begun at the end of 1924, probably it does not go beyond early 1935.

NOTEBOOK 27 (XI) 1935

15x20.5 cm. / Pages compiled: 7

Observations on “Folklore”

This notebook analyses the concepts of folklore, common sense and the picturesque in the popular strata; through these subjects it analyses the relationship between the subaltern and ruling classes. From his early writings, Gramsci reveals a deep knowledge of popular traditions. The wish to include these subjects in the Notebook 1 study programme is not unrelated to his experience of confinement on Ustica, as may be deduced from the letters of the months immediately following his arrest. The Notebook, one of the last three “specials” begun in Formia, belongs to the first months of 1935.

NOTEBOOK 28 (III) 1935

14.8x20.5 cm. / Pages compiled: 18

Lorianism

Lorianism, a neologism taken from the name of Achille Loria, Professor of Political Economy at the University of Turin is an object of Gramsci's criticism from the very earliest writings. The term demotes those intellectuals who, out of originality and desire for success, make statements not supported by rigorous scientific research. For Gramsci, these "degenerate and bizarre" aspects fall within the peculiar weakness of the Italian State and national intellectuals. The eighteen paragraphs of the "special notebook", written in Formia in the first few months of 1935, are all devoted to individual figures, starting of course from Loria himself.

NOTEBOOK 29 (XXI) 1935

14.8x20.5 cm. / Pages compiled: 10

Notes for an Introduction to the Study of Grammar

This includes nine entirely new notes – the only case among the "special notebooks" – which represent the ideal conclusion of Gramsci's intellectual itinerary, which had begun by studying linguistics at university under the guidance of Professor Matteo Bartoli. The notebook, the last one of the "specials" written in Formia and probably written in April 1935, once more takes up the critique of the Gentile reform and of this latter's idea of the uselessness of teaching grammar in schools, considered instead by Gramsci as necessary for intellectual development and growth.

NOTEBOOK A (XIX) 1929

15x20.6 cm. / Pages compiled: 200

Die Literarische Welt (translations)

Translations from *J. and W. Grimm, Fünfzig Kinder- und Hausmärchen*, I

The first half of the notebook includes translations of articles and literary excerpts from the issues of October 14 (dedicated entirely to literature in the United States) and of 30 September 1927 of the German review "Die Literarische Welt"; in the second

half of the notebook, begun simultaneously with the first, Gramsci translates a series of folk tales by the Brothers Grimm, authors whom, as shown in his journalistic writings, Gramsci had long held dear. The entire notebook dates to February-March 1929.

NOTEBOOK B (XV) 1929 - 1931

15x20.6 cm. / Pages compiled: 191

Translations from *J. and W. Grimm, Fünfzig Kinder- und Hausmärchen*, II
Le famiglie linguistiche del mondo by *Franz Nikolaus Finck*, I (translation)

The first half of this notebook includes the translations of nine more tales from the volume of the Brothers Grimm (done between April 1929 and November 1931) followed, in the second half, by Gramsci's translation (done in the second half of 1929) of much of the third edition of the book by the German linguist Franz Nikolaus Finck *Die Sprachstämme des Erdkreises* [*The Language Families of the World*], the most complete categorisation available at the time of the world's languages, based on their ethno-geographical distribution.

NOTEBOOK C (XXVI) 1929 - 1930

15x20.6 cm. / Pages compiled: 193

English Language Exercises (translations)

Continuation of F.N. Finck - The world's language families, II (translation)

Goethe's Conversations with Eckermann (translations)

German Language Exercises on Goethe's Poems (translations)

Written between April and June 1929, the notebook consists of four separate sections. Gramsci begins by translating a number of English texts (an endeavour soon abandoned). Then, the second section contains the translation (completed in December 1929) of a number of poems included in the anthology *Über allen Gipfeln. Goethes Gedichte im Rahmen seines Lebens* (1922). He then creates a third section for the conclusion, by the end of 1929, of the translation of Finck begun in Notebook B, and a fourth which, in the first months of 1930, he translates part of Goethe's volume of conversations with Eckermann (*Goethes Gespräche mit Eckermann*), including some of Goethe's poems.

NOTEBOOK D (XXXI) 1932

23x15.8 cm. / Pages compiled: 2

Translation of J. and W. Grimm, “*Rumpelstilzchen*”

Second and partial translation draft, probably to be assigned to January 1932, of the folk tale by the Brothers Grimm, already done in Notebook A and in this notebook – a drawing album – included in a fair copy; the translation was probably intended for his sister Teresina’s children. Gramsci does not translate the name of the character after whom the folk tale is entitled.

NOTEBOOKS 17*bis* and 17*ter* (-) 1933

15x20.6 cm. / No pages compiled

The two notebooks, consigned to Gramsci between August and September 1933 together with Notebook 17 (with which they share the same official prison stamps and, on the first page, the initials of the Prison Governor, Pietro Sorrentino), had not been used when Gramsci left Turi on 19 November 1933. In Formia, as well as continuing his work on the notebooks received in Turi and not yet completed, Gramsci was able to begin new notebooks without any longer needing to have an official stamp and authorization by the prison superintendence. This explains the abandonment of these two notebooks, still unused but bearing the visible signs of the previous regime of detention.