

# Niccolai, Alberto

## BIOGRAPHY

Alberto Niccolai (dates unknown) was a prominent figure in the Fascist movement in Pisa. He was active in journalism and contributed to *Il Campano*, the newspaper of the Pisan Fascist University Group, from its inception. Until 1943, he directed *L'Idea Fascista*, the official publication of the Federation of Fasci di Combattimento of Pisa. Niccolai also served as the headmaster of Pisa's Istituto Magistrale and was president of the Opera della Primaziale Pisana. This organization managed Pisa Cathedral and its surroundings. He held these positions from the 1930s until the fall of Fascism. In 1938, he witnessed the canonical recognition of the relics of Ranieri, Pisa's patron saint. In 1941, he was appointed Grand Officer of the Crown of Italy.

Niccolai shared a close friendship with Guido Buffarini Guidi (1895–1945), Undersecretary of the Interior from 1933 to 1943, who also hailed from Pisa and was later implicated in the Fosse Ardeatine massacre (1944). He clashed with Minister of Education Giuseppe Bottai, who referred to him as *piccolo maramaldo* (petty bully) in the influential newspaper *Critica Fascista* (Bottai 1943).

Niccolai wrote some studies on authors of Italian literature (Niccolai 1906, Niccolai 1909) and on Pisan history (Niccolai 1909b, Niccolai 1917, Niccolai 1926). The only known Latin work is the inscription placed in Piazza dei Miracoli to commemorate the reconstruction and reinstalment of Giovanni Pisano's pulpit in Pisa Cathedral in 1926.

## Bibliography

### Other work (selection)

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### Secondary sources

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Nello, Paolo. 1983. *Il Campano : autobiografia politica del fascismo universitario pisano (1926-1944)*. Pisa: Nistri-Lischi.

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Marcello Zeni

TEXTS

Inscriptions

**Pisa (IT), Piazza dei Miracoli [extant] (1926)**

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