

ALESSANDRO CERVELLATI COLLECTION

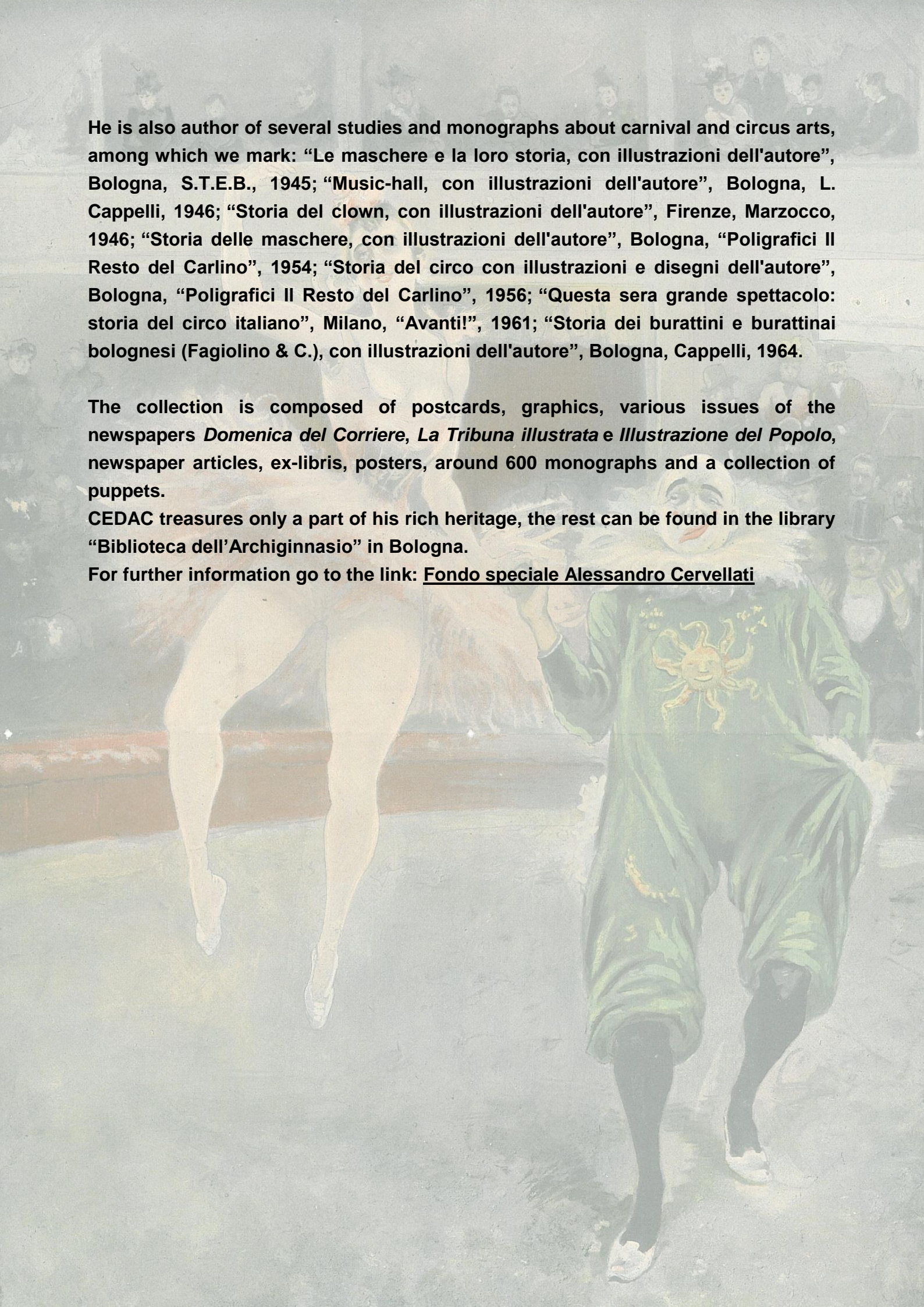
Alessandro Cervellati was a painter, writer, illustrator, graphic and circus, theater and a Music-hall historian.

In 1913 he enrolled for the Fine Arts Academy of Bologna, and in 1915 he volunteered in WWI. After finishing military service, he resumed his studies and got the diploma. In the same year he also founded, together with some friends, the futurist publication "La Ghebia, deflagratore della maschilità artistica", of which only two issues were edited (July the 16th and August the 15th). He then moved to Paris, where he worked as a publicist.

Once back in Bologna, he got the teaching license for arts in primary schools. In 1924 he became illustrator and caricature artist for the newspaper "Il CarlinoSera", partaking in many art exhibitions, and standing out for his great versatility and the love he demonstrated for kind of artistic performance. In 1933 he was hired as an art and calligraphy teacher at the technical institute "Aldini Valeriani" in Bologna. In 1934 and in 1936 he took part in "Biennale di Venezia" with drawings related to the world of circus. 1940 was the year of the beginning of the collaboration with the newspaper "Il Resto del Carlino" as a journalist and an illustrator. Ten years after, in 1950, he took again part in the "Biennale di Venezia" and, thanks to his undisputable expertise regarding the circus world, became a member of "Union des historiens du Cirque", promoted by Tristan Remy. In 1951 he began to collaborate with the newspaper "Avanti!", to which he provided drawings and articles, and with "Enciclopedia dello Spettacolo, di Silvio D'Amico" taking care of the sections related to circus, puppet shows and cinema.

Between 1957 and 1960 he illustrated some volumes written by academics from Bologna: "I miei monologhi" by Carlo Musi; "Così dicevano" by Mario Bianconi, "Fatti e Vicende dello studio Bolognese" by Athos Vianelli and "Il 1859-60 in Bologna" by various authors.

He also founded, in 1962, the association "Il Circo delle Arti" with his fellow-passionates and friends Alberto Menarini, Athos Vianelli, Gino Marzocchi and Ugo Guidi. In the same year, he also curated the exhibition "Il Circo e il Music Hall" at the Civic Museum of Bologna, with the help of Menarini, where he displayed part of his vast collection of historical documents related to the sphere of performing arts (volumes, posters, photographs, programs and booklets) and 70 of his drawings, made with watercoloured pen and dedicated to the circus. In March 1963, again together with Menarini, he organized the Puppet Festival in Bologna, that featured an exhibit and some shows. Moreover, he collaborated with the Theater Museum of Scala in Milan, in order to arrange two exhibitions: one concerning puppets (1967) and one concerning circus (1968).

The background of the page is a faded, artistic illustration of a carnival scene. In the foreground, a clown in a green suit with a yellow sun emblem on the chest and a white ruffled collar is walking. To his left, a ballerina in a white tutu and pointe shoes is also walking. In the background, a crowd of people in various costumes, including top hats and masks, is visible, suggesting a festive atmosphere.

He is also author of several studies and monographs about carnival and circus arts, among which we mark: "Le maschere e la loro storia, con illustrazioni dell'autore", Bologna, S.T.E.B., 1945; "Music-hall, con illustrazioni dell'autore", Bologna, L. Cappelli, 1946; "Storia del clown, con illustrazioni dell'autore", Firenze, Marzocco, 1946; "Storia delle maschere, con illustrazioni dell'autore", Bologna, "Poligrafici Il Resto del Carlino", 1954; "Storia del circo con illustrazioni e disegni dell'autore", Bologna, "Poligrafici Il Resto del Carlino", 1956; "Questa sera grande spettacolo: storia del circo italiano", Milano, "Avanti!", 1961; "Storia dei burattini e burattinai bolognesi (Fagiolino & C.), con illustrazioni dell'autore", Bologna, Cappelli, 1964.

The collection is composed of postcards, graphics, various issues of the newspapers *Domenica del Corriere*, *La Tribuna illustrata* e *Illustrazione del Popolo*, newspaper articles, ex-libris, posters, around 600 monographs and a collection of puppets.

CEDAC treasures only a part of his rich heritage, the rest can be found in the library "Biblioteca dell'Archiginnasio" in Bologna.

For further information go to the link: [Fondo speciale Alessandro Cervellati](#)