

Interlinear English - Italian Edition

Translated into Italian by John N. Lupia, III for

the members of the ASSOCIAZIONE FILATELICA NUMISMATICA ITALIANA (AFI)]

In Honor of Professor Angelo Piermattei, President of AFI



Portrait Vito Viti, Miniature Painting, Smithsonian, IAP 63000378

(Formerly Sotheby Parke Bernet, Inc. Sale Cat.4478-Y, 11/19-22/80, Lot 231)



Fig. 1. Photograph of the Viti family : (Center) Vito Viti ; (Left) Francis A. Viti ; (Right) Alonzo M. Viti.

Fig. 1. Fotografia della famiglia Viti: (centro) Vito Viti; (a sinistra) Francis A. Viti; (a destra) Alonzo M. Viti.

For the American numismatic historian, on the surface, Vito Viti was an Italian immigrant who lived in Philadelphia for nearly fifty years from 1817 - 1866, as an importer of European artworks. He was a sculptor and importer of antiques, antiquities, Italian and French art, and documented as having held two auctions in 1824 that contained a collection of ancient coins. It seems highly probable that on his numerous trips to Europe he continuously brought back ancient as well as other European coins and medals for collectors in the United States, and that many of his auctions most likely also contained these coins and medals that went unlisted in his newspaper advertisements. None of his auction catalogues are extant. It does not

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seem coincidental that the coins offered for sale in the famous so-called A. C. Kline sale held at Moses Thomas, June 12-13, 1855, neatly and conveniently fit the description of coins most likely to have been acquired from Vito Viti or else that coin auction sale was actually the collection of Vito Viti himself.

Per lo storico numismatico americano, in superficie, Vito Viti era un immigrato italiano che visse a Philadelphia per circa cinquant'anni dal 1817 al 1866, come importatore di opere europee. Fu scultore e importatore di antichità, antichità, arte italiana e francese e documentò di aver tenuto due aste nel 1824 che contenevano una collezione di monete antiche. Sembra molto probabile che durante i suoi numerosi viaggi in Europa abbia continuamente riportato antiche e altre monete e medaglie europee per collezionisti negli Stati Uniti, e che molte delle sue aste probabilmente contenessero anche queste monete e medaglie che non appartenevano alla sua lista pubblicità sui giornali. Nessuno dei suoi cataloghi d'asta è ancora esistente. Non sembra casuale che le monete offerte in vendita nella famosa vendita AC Kline tenutasi a Moses Thomas, 12-13 giugno 1855, si adattino perfettamente alla descrizione delle monete più probabilmente acquisite da Vito Viti o altrimenti la vendita all'asta delle monete era in realtà la collezione di Vito Viti stesso.

Vito Viti (1787-1866), was born the first of three sons at Volterra, Pisa, Province of Tuscany, Italy on August 24, 1787, the son of Francesco Viti (1760-1818), of the Italian nobility. He had two brothers Niccolò and Antonio. The Viti family at Volterra were artisans of decorative arts, jewelers, sculptors, and businessmen who exported their art works and were dealers of other goods including coins to foreign merchants. It does not seem coincidental that the coins offered for sale in the famous so-called A. C. Kline sale held at Moses Thomas, June 12-13, 1855 fit the description of coins most likely to have been acquired from Vito Viti or else that collection was actually that of Vito Viti himself.

Vito Viti (1787-1866), nacque il primo di tre figli a Volterra, Pisa, in Toscana, in Italia, il 24 agosto 1787, figlio di Francesco Viti (1760-1818), della nobiltà italiana. Aveva due fratelli Niccolò e Antonio. La famiglia Viti di Volterra era artigiana di arti decorative, gioiellieri, scultori e uomini d'affari che esportavano le loro opere d'arte e commerciavano altre merci, comprese monete per commercianti stranieri. Non sembra casuale che le monete messe in vendita nella famosa cosiddetta vendita AC Kline tenutasi a Moses Thomas, 12-13 giugno 1855 corrispondessero alla descrizione delle monete più probabilmente acquisite da Vito Viti o che la raccolta fosse in realtà quello di Vito Viti stesso.

Vito Viti first came to America and settled at Virginia at age twenty-nine. He arrived from Lisbon to America at the port of Alexandria on November 17, 1816, and began working for Nicola Fiengo & Company at Baltimore, Maryland. He either met Fiengo

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in Lisbon or else was already associated with him there or previously since a record of Fiengo importing goods for sale in Lisbon appeared in the Gazeta de Lisboa, No. 40, February 15, 1816. Regardless, one year later we find him as an independent art importer and dealer selling his wares in Georgetown, Washington, D. C., since Fiengo moved to New York opening the "Italian Gallery" on Broadway.

Vito Viti arrivò per la prima volta in America e si stabilì in Virginia all'età di ventinove anni. Arrivò da Lisbona in America nel porto di Alessandria il 17 novembre 1816 e iniziò a lavorare per Nicola Fiengo & Company a Baltimora, nel Maryland. Ha incontrato il Fiengo a Lisbona o era già associato a lui lì o in precedenza da quando un record di Fiengo che importava beni in vendita a Lisbona è apparso nella Gazeta de Lisboa, No. 40, 15 febbraio 1816. Indipendentemente, un anno dopo troviamo lui come importatore e commerciante d'arte indipendente che vende i suoi articoli a Georgetown, Washington, DC, da quando Fiengo si è trasferito a New York aprendo la "Italian Gallery" a Broadway.

The Greek Revival in America began with Nicholas Biddle (1785-1844), a Philadelphian financier and banker who visited Greece in 1806, eleven years before Vito Viti arrived to Philadelphia. The period of the Greek Revival is typically assigned 1818-1850. This period overlapped with the Gothic Revival 1830-1860. With these cultural changes of taste in art, architecture, furnishings and decorative styles current Vito Viti arrived on the scene fortuitously just in time becoming the taste-master of Philadelphia and in the various states he toured with his itinerant sales program of art and ornaments.

Il revival greco in America iniziò con Nicholas Biddle (1785-1844), un finanziere e banchiere filadelfiano che visitò la Grecia nel 1806, undici anni prima che Vito Viti arrivasse a Filadelfia. Il periodo del revival greco è in genere assegnato 1818-1850. Questo periodo si sovrapponeva al Gothic Revival 1830-1860. Con questi cambiamenti culturali del gusto nell'arte, nell'architettura, nell'arredamento e negli stili decorativi, Vito Viti arrivò sulla scena fortuitamente giusto nel tempo diventando il maestro del gusto di Filadelfia e nei vari stati con il suo programma di vendita itinerante di arte e ornamenti.

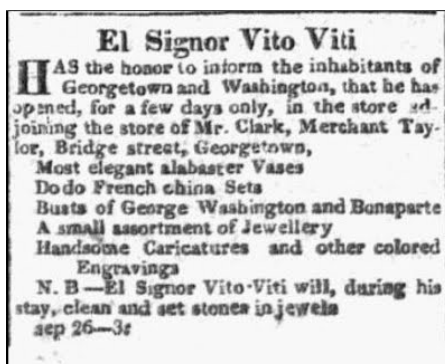


Fig. 2. El Signor Vito Viti - Has the honor to inform the inhabitants of Georgetown

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and Washington, that he has opened, for a few days only, in the store adjoining the store of Mr. Clark, Merchant Taylor, Bridge Street, Georgetown,  
Most elegant alabaster Vases  
Do do French china sets  
Busts of George Washington and Bonaparte  
A small assortment of Jewelry  
Handsome Caricatures and other colored Engravings  
N. B. -- El Signor Vito Viti will, during his stay, clean and set stones in jewels.  
Daily National Intelligencer, Friday, 26 September, 1817, page 3.

El Signor Vito Viti - Ha l'onore di informare gli abitanti di Georgetown e Washington, che ha aperto, per pochi giorni, nel negozio adiacente al negozio di Mr. Clark, Merchant Taylor, Bridge Street, Georgetown,  
I più eleganti vasi in alabastro  
Un altro set di porcellana francese  
Busti di George Washington e Bonaparte  
Un piccolo assortimento di gioielli  
Caricature belle e altre incisioni colorate  
N. B. - Il signor Vito Viti, durante la sua permanenza, pulirà e poserà pietre nei gioielli.  
Daily National Intelligencer, Friday, 26 September, 1817, page 3.

Vito Viti held a second sale at Georgetown, Washington, D. C., an auction held on Wednesday, October 15, 1817, opposite the Central Bank, as advertised in the National Intelligencer, Tuesday, 14 October, 1817, page 4.

Shortly after this second sale in Georgetown, Washington, D. C., he brought everything he had and perhaps picked up more merchandise at the Port of Philadelphia sometime in November or early December 1817.

Poco dopo questa seconda vendita a Georgetown, Washington, D. C., portò tutto ciò che aveva e forse raccolse più mercanzie al Porto di Filadelfia a novembre o all'inizio di dicembre del 1817.

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**AUCTIONS.**  
**By John Humes.**  
*No. 36, South Front street.*  
**Italian Statuary, Alabaster Ornaments,**  
**&c &c.**  
This morning, the 18th inst. at 10 o'clock at the store of Messrs. Vito, Viti & Co. No. 3 south Third street,  
Will be sold, all their stock of different Master Pieces of Marble, Agates and Italian Alabaster Ornaments, consisting of—  
The Enlivenment of Europe, (groupes,) Mercury and Pallas, Medusa, two Cleopatras, two Hermaphrodites, one Apollo, one Ganymede, two Round Tables, to match, Statues of Emperors. Vases of different sizes, four pieces of Marble, ornamented with Italian Alabaster, 4 pieces Italian Agate, ornamented with Alabaster. two large Vases, Medici form, Table Foot Stands, Fountain Lamps, Candlesticks, Lions, &c.

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**The Subscribers**

**R**ESPECTFULLY inform the Public, that they have just arrived direct from Italy, with a large collection of

**Alabaster Sculptures,**

Consisting of Groupes of Figures, by the first masters, of various kinds, Statues, Busts, Vases for Flowers and Lights, Lamps, Ornamented Watch Stands, Candlesticks, Ornaments intended for the centre of large Dinner Tables, Ink Stands of entire new construction, with a great variety of Articles, too numerous to mention, but which the public are respectfully invited to call and see.

Any article of Alabaster, can be repaired or cleaned, for a moderate compensation.

As the Subscribers intend but a short residence in the city, the above articles are offered at very moderate prices.

**Vito, Viti & Co.**

2 No. 3 south Third street, third house south of Market street, Cooks Buildings.

Fig. 3. The very first announcement of Vito Viti in Philadelphia in December 1817 characterizes his stay there as merely temporary with no intention to stay. Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, Wednesday, 12 December, 1817, page 2

Il primo annuncio di Vito Viti a Filadelfia nel dicembre del 1817 caratterizza il suo soggiorno lì come temporaneo senza intenzione di rimanere. Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, Wednesday, 12 December, 1817, page 2

The following year he developed business at Philadelphia, which had been established between Stephen Girard (1750-1831), an importer of that city and his brother Antonio Viti, an alabaster artist of Volterra. Antonio Viti used to ship his sculptures and other merchandise from Genoa and Leghorn to the Port of Philadelphia. Vito Viti began importing goods into Philadelphia as early as 1818. Although Vito Viti set up both a residence and store in Philadelphia he also maintained stores in other states including New York City, Hartford, Connecticut, Salem, Massachusetts, Charlotte, South Carolina, and New Orleans, Louisiana. He was not only a frequent traveler within the United States selling his imported goods but also a frequent traveler into Europe buying goods in various countries and always returning to his family villa at Volterra.

L'anno seguente sviluppò affari a Filadelfia, che era stata fondata tra Stephen Girard (1750-1831), un importatore di quella città e suo fratello Antonio Viti di Volterra. Antonio Viti era solito spedire le sue sculture e altre mercanzie da Genova e Livorno al porto di Filadelfia. Vito Viti iniziò ad importare merci a Filadelfia già nel 1818. Sebbene Vito Viti abbia stabilito sia una residenza che un negozio a Filadelfia, gestì anche negozi in altri stati, tra cui Charlotte, South Carolina e New Orleans, in Louisiana. Non era solo un viaggiatore frequente negli Stati Uniti che vendeva le sue merci importate, ma anche un viaggiatore frequente in Europa che comprava beni in vari paesi e tornava sempre nella sua villa di famiglia a Volterra.

Fig. 4. Vito Viti auction held at the store of Vito Viti, 3 South 3rd Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, conducted by the auctioneer John Humes. Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, Wednesday, 18 March, 1818, page 2

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AUCTIONS. By John Humes. No. 56, South Front Street.

Italian Statuary, Alabaster Ornaments, &c., &c. This morning, the 18th inst. at 10 O'clock at the store of Messrs. Vito Viti & Co. No. 3 South Third Street, Will be sold, all their stock of different masterpieces of Marble, Agates and Italian Alabaster Ornaments, consisting of -- The Enlivenment of Europe, (groups) Mercury and Pallas, Medusa, two Cleopatras, two Hermaphrodites, one Apollo, one Ganymede, two Round Tables, to match statues of Emperors. Vases of different sizes, four pieces of Marble, ornamented with Italian Alabaster, 4 pieces of Italian Agate, ornamented with Alabaster, two large Vases, Medici form, Table Foot Stands, Fountain Lamps, Candlesticks, Lions, &c.

Aste. Di John Humes. No. 56, South Front Street.

Statuario italiano, ornamenti in alabastro, ecc. Questa mattina, il 18esimo inst. alle 10 in punto al negozio dei signori Vito Viti & Co. n. 3 South Third Street, saranno venduti, tutti i loro pezzi di diversi capolavori di marmo, agate e ornamenti di alabastro italiano, costituiti da - The Enlivenment of Europe (gruppi) Mercurio e Pallade, Medusa, due Cleopatra, due Ermafroditi, un Apollo, un Ganimede, due Tavole rotonde, per abbinare statue di Imperatori. Vasi di diverse dimensioni, quattro pezzi di marmo, ornati con alabastro italiano, 4 pezzi di agata italiana, ornati con alabastro, due grandi vasi, forme medichee, piedistalli da tavolo, lampade a fontana, candelabri, leoni, ecc.

The name of the firm Vito Viti & Company reveals a partnership. We know from documentation that Vito Viti did have a partnership with Valentino Giovannoni, which may have been that during his earliest business at Philadelphia.

Il nome dell'azienda Vito Viti & Company rivela una partnership. Sappiamo dalla documentazione che Vito Viti ha avuto una collaborazione con Valentino Giovannoni, che potrebbe essere stata quella durante la sua prima attività a Philadelphia.

A notice published in the newspaper Baltimore Patriot by the Postmaster of Baltimore, 1 June, 1818, published a lengthy list all the names addressed on letters that have remained unclaimed. Among the list is the name of Sig. Vito Viti. Apparently the Alfred Fitchler Henkels hoard excluded stampless covers.

Un avviso pubblicato sul quotidiano Baltimore Patriot dal Postmaster di Baltimora, il 1 ° giugno 1818, pubblicò una lunga lista di tutti i nomi indirizzati a lettere che non erano state ritirate. Tra l'elenco è il nome di Sig. Vito Viti. Apparentemente il tesoro di Alfred Fitchler Henkels ha escluso le carteggi senza francobolli.

An early record dated 1819 reports his importing straw hats into Philadelphia. As he established himself as an importer he surveyed the strong market for high quality

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decorative arts wanted by the middle and upper classes. So he continued to import vases and statuary of both marble and alabaster together with other fashionable goods to decorate the homes and offices of the middle class and the wealthy.

Un primo documento datato 1819 riporta la sua importazione di cappelli di paglia a Philadelphia. Mentre si imponeva come importatore, ha esaminato il forte mercato delle arti decorative di alta qualità voluto dalle classi medie e alte. Così continuò a importare vasi e statue di marmo e alabastro insieme ad altri oggetti di moda per decorare le case e gli uffici della classe media e dei ricchi.

He traveled to Charleston, South Carolina, New Orleans, Louisiana, Vicksburg, Mississippi, Louisville, Kentucky, Augusta, Georgia, and into Tennessee and many other cities and states in America, selling imported English, Parisienne and Italian goods at various Vito Viti store locations and in auction houses.

Viaggiò a Charleston, Carolina del Sud, New Orleans, Louisiana, Vicksburg, Mississippi, Louisville, Kentucky, Augusta, Georgia, e nel Tennessee e in molte altre città e stati in America, vendendo merci importate inglesi, parigine e italiane in vari negozi Vito Viti posizioni e nelle case d'asta.

A notice published in the newspaper Franklin Gazette by the Postmaster of Philadelphia, 17 May, 1819, published a lengthy list all the names addressed on letters that have remained unclaimed. Among the list is the name of Sig. Vito Viti. Apparently Vito Viti had left town away on business.

Un avviso pubblicato sul quotidiano Franklin Gazette dal Postmaster di Filadelfia, il 17 maggio 1819, pubblicò una lunga lista di tutti i nomi indirizzati a lettere che non sono state reclamate. Tra l'elenco è il nome di Sig. Vito Viti. Apparentemente Vito Viti aveva lasciato la città per affari.

In the beginning of 1820 Nicola Fiengo, a business associate of Vito Viti established himself in New Orleans, Louisiana, selling Italian alabaster works and antiquities he acquired through dealers like the Egyptologist, Giovanni Battista Belzoni (1778-1823). With Fiengo at New Orleans two years later find Vito Viti opening a shop in that city.

All'inizio del 1820 Nicola Fiengo, socio d'affari di Vito Viti, si stabilì a New Orleans, in Louisiana, vendendo opere di alabastro e antichità italiane acquisite da commercianti come l'egittologo Giovanni Battista Belzoni (1778-1823). Con Fiengo a New Orleans scopriamo due anni Vito Viti che apre un negozio in quella città.

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POSITIVE SALE  
 TO CLOSE THE RESIDUE OF THE ELEGANT  
 ALABASTER AND MARBLE ORNAMENTS,  
 &c.

**By Napier, Rapelye & Bennett.**  
 On FRIDAY, the 10th inst. will be premp-  
 torily sold, at the store of Mr. VITO VITI, No.  
 98 Broad-street, at 11 o'clock,

Etruscan Alabaster VASES  
 Egyptian Agate Urns and Albaster Ornaments  
 Very rich and elegant Entry Lamps  
 Elegant Candle and Lamp Vases  
 Elegant Flower Pots  
 One very superb pair of Agate Vases for side-  
 boards, of remarkably ingenious workmanship  
 Candlesticks and Water Stands  
 One very large Urn, of elegant varied marble  
 Sugar and Fruit Bowls  
 Imitation Fruit, Italian Hoves, &c.

ALSO,

Several Pieces of very elegant PAINTINGS, by  
 approved and acknowledged Artists of merit  
 2 cases very elegant Leghorn Hats, remarkably  
 fine, in lots to suit purchasers  
 5 pair of Mantle Looking Glasses.

Conditions, cash. March 8

Fig. 5. An auction held at the store of Vito Viti, 98 Broad Street, Charleston, South Carolina, conducted by Napier, Rapelye & Bennett, auctioneers, on Friday, 10 March, 1820. Southern Patriot, Wednesday, 8 March, 1820, page 3.

Positive Sale : To Close the Residue of the Elegant Alabaster and Marble Ornaments, &c. By Napier, Rapelye & Bennett. On Friday, the 10th inst. will be premp- torily sold, at the store of Mr. Vito Viti, No. 98 Broad Street, at 11 o'clock, Etruscan Alabaster Vases, Egyptian Agate Urns and Albaster Ornaments, Very rich and elegant Entry Lamps, Elegant Candle and Lamp Vases, Elegant Flower Pots, One very superb pair of Agate Vases for sideboards, of remarkably ingenious workmanship, Candle Sticks and Water Stands, One very large Urn, of elegant varied marble. Sugar and Fruit Bowls, Imitation Fruit, Italian Hoves, &c. Also, Several pieces of very elegant PAINTINGS, by approved and acknowledged Artists of merit. 2 cases very elegant Leghorn Hats, remarkably fine, in lots to suit purchasers. 5 pair of Mantle Looking Glasses. Conditions, Cash. Southern Patriot, Wednesday, 8 March, 1820, page 3.

Vendita positiva: per chiudere il residuo degli eleganti ornamenti in alabastro e marmo, ecc. Di Napier, Rapelye e Bennett. Venerdì, il decimo inst. sarà venduta preventivamente, al negozio di Vito Viti, n. 98 Broad Street, alle ore 11, Vasi etrusche in alabastro, Urne egiziane e ornamenti in alabastro, lampade da ingresso molto ricche ed eleganti, eleganti vasi di candele e lampade, Eleganti vasi da fiori, una superba coppia di vasi d'agata per credenze, di fattura molto ingegnosa, candelabri e supporti d'acqua, un'urna molto grande, di marmo vario elegante. Ciotole di zucchero e frutta, frutta imitazione, albe italiane, ecc. Inoltre, molti pezzi di PITTURE molto eleganti, da Artisti di merito riconosciuti e riconosciuti. 2 casi molto eleganti i cappelli di Livorno, straordinariamente belli, in lotti adatti agli acquirenti. 5 paia di specchi del manto. Condizioni, contanti. Southern Patriot, Wednesday, 8 March, 1820, page 3.



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On December 29, 1820, at 33 years of age, Vito Viti married Martha N. Redman (1797-1874), a Catholic and a native of Pennsylvania of Scottish descent, at Old St. Joseph's Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with the native Irish priest Fr. Patrick Kenny (1763-1840), officiating. The two marriage witnesses were Anne Corcoran and Deacon Bernard Keenan (1779-1877), who later on became a famous Catholic missionary priest in Pennsylvania. The Vitis had three sons : Vito J. Viti (1826-1874), Alonzo M. Viti (1827-1904), Francis A. Viti , (1832-1908).

Il 29 dicembre 1820, a 33 anni, Vito Viti sposò Martha N. Redman (1797-1874), cattolica e nativa della Pennsylvania di origine scozzese, presso l'Old St. Joseph's Church, a Filadelfia, in Pennsylvania, con il nativo Sacerdote irlandese p. Patrick Kenny (1763-1840), officiante. I due testimoni del matrimonio furono Anne Corcoran e Deacon Bernard Keenan (1779-1877), che in seguito divenne famoso prete missionario cattolico in Pennsylvania. Il Vitis ebbe tre figli: Vito J. Viti (1826-1874), Alonzo M. Viti (1827-1904), Francis A. Viti, (1832-1908).

According to the research of Paolo Castignoli, et al. (2003), F. Grilli, Filippo Pochini, Vincenzo Tangassi (d. 1841), Antonio Viti were Volterra artisans who, through the importing magnate and banker Antonio Filicchi (1764-1847), sent alabasters to Vito Viti. Giuseppe Baratta, marble artist, and Francesco Orzalesi, a Florentine sculptor, traded with Vito Viti. Luigi Zini sent him terracotta statues from Florence. Antonio Volterri wrote to his uncle Valentino Giovannoni, a partner of Vito Viti. Vito Viti used to return to Volterra to visit family.

Secondo la ricerca di Paolo Castignoli, et al. (2003), F. Grilli, Filippo Pochini, Vincenzo Tangassi (morto nel 1841), Antonio Viti furono artigiani di Volterra che, attraverso il magnate importatore Antonio Filicchi (1764-1847), inviò alabastro a Vito Viti. Giuseppe Baratta, artista del marmo, e Francesco Orzalesi, scultore fiorentino, commerciavano con Vito Viti. Luigi Zini gli mandò statue di terracotta da Firenze. Antonio Volterri ha scritto a suo zio Valentino Giovannoni, socio di Vito Viti. Vito Viti era solito tornare a Volterra per visitare la famiglia.

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**To the Lovers of the FINE ARTS.**  
**VITO VITI.**

**L**ATELY arrived from Italy, and now opening a Store in Royal-street; between St. Peter and Orleans streets; respectfully informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of New-Orleans, that he has brought with him some superb Alabaster and Agate

**MANTLE ORNAMENTS,**  
 Consisting of—Urns, Grecian Vases, Lamps, Candle-sticks, the Groupe of the Three Graces, Bacchant Watch Stands—all finished in superior stile.

**ALSO**—A collection of Italian BIRDS, in glass cases, decorated with elegant Artificial Flowers. Likewise— a variety of MARBLE FRUITS of all kinds, and a number of other articles too tedious to mention.

The proprietor flatters himself that the price which he can sell at will be found reasonable, as he is himself one of the first manufacturers of Italy in those articles.

He also announces to the public, that as his business will not permit him to stay but about a month in New-Orleans, he hopes that the Ladies and gentlemen will honor him with a call.

**Next MONDAY EVENING, the 21st inst.** (if the weather permits) the shop will be first opened, at which time he intends to give an **ILLUMINATION**, in order to exhibit his different articles to the better advantage.

Jan 18

**Ladies Auction,**  
*Of elegant Marble and Alabaster Ornaments, Leghorn Hats, Looking Glasses, Giracules, &c.*

**By Rapelye, Bennett and Co.**

**THIS EVENING, the 31st inst.** will be sold at the store, next to D. Parikh & Co. Broad-street, at 7 o'clock precisely.

VITO VITI begs leave to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of Charleston, that he will close the remainder of his elegant **ALABASTER ORNAMENTS**, consisting of

The superb groups of the three Graces, Grecian Vases, Tuscan do; Urns of different shapes, sizes and colors, Brackets and Fruit Vases.

Also, a fine assortment of Leghorn Hats of superior quality, from 33 to 75, to be sold one by one.

**IF** At the same time the Stock of Goods of Messrs. Barelli, Torre & Co. will continue.

March 25

Fig. 6. Vito Viti, perhaps still associated with Nicola Fiengo is selling his merchandise in New Orleans, Louisiana. Louisiana State Gazette, Saturday, 19 January, 1822, page 4

To the Lovers of the FINE ARTS. VITO VITI. Lately arrived from Italy, and now opening a Store in Royal Street, between St. Peter and Orleans Streets; respectfully informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of New Orleans, that he has brought with him some superb Alabaster and Agate. MANTLE ORNAMENTS. Consisting of --- Urns, Grecian Vases, Lamps, Candlesticks, the Group of the Three Graces, Bacchanal, Watch Stands, all finished in superior style. ALSO, A Collection of Italian BIRDS, in glass cases decorated elegant Artificial Flowers. Likewise --- a variety of MARBLE FRUITS of all kinds, and a number of other articles too tedious to mention. The proprietor flatters himself that the price which he can sell at will be found reasonable, as he is himself one of the first manufacturers of Italy in these articles. He also announces to the public, that as his business will not permit him to stay but about a month in New Orleans, he hopes that the Ladies and Gentlemen will honor him with a call. NEXT MONDAY EVENING, the 21st inst. (if the weather permits) the shop will be first opened, at which time he intends to give an ILLUMINATION, in order to exhibit his different articles to the better advantage.

Agli amanti delle belle arti. VITO VITI. Ultimamente è arrivato dall'Italia e ora apre un negozio in Royal Street, tra St. Peter e Orleans Streets; informa con rispetto le signore e signori di New Orleans, che ha portato con sé qualche superbo alabastro e agata. ORNAMENTI DEL MANTELLO. Composto da: Urne, Vasi Greci, Lampade, Candelabri, Gruppo delle Tre Grazie, Bacchanale, Porta Orologi, tutti rifiniti in uno stile superiore. ANCHE, Una collezione di UCCELLI italiani, in teche decorate con eleganti fiori artificiali. Allo stesso modo --- una varietà di FRUTTI MARMI di tutti i tipi, e una serie di altri articoli troppo noiosi da menzionare. Il proprietario si appiattisce sul fatto che il prezzo che può vendere sarà ragionevole, dato che è lui stesso uno dei primi produttori italiani in questi articoli. Annuncia inoltre al pubblico che, poiché i suoi affari non gli permetteranno di rimanere, ma circa un mese a New Orleans, spera che le signore e i gentiluomini lo onoreranno con una

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chiamata. NEXT LUNEDI SERENA, il 21 ° inst. (se il tempo lo permette) il negozio sarà aperto per la prima volta, momento in cui intende dare un ILLUMINATION (dalla luce del gas), per esporre i suoi diversi articoli al meglio.

In this 1822 advertisement for the public at New Orleans, Louisiana, we come to learn two things about Vito Viti : first, he travels about the United States opening shops for a month lease at a time bringing his merchandise to sell in the various cities. Second, we learn that he boasts that he is the first Italian manufacturer of decorative artificial fruit, and birds carved from marble placed in cases decorated with artificial flowers. His atelier is apparently in Volterra where his artists are assiduously at work creating these art works for sale to the public. His frequent trips to Volterra are not merely to visit family but his workshop where workers crate the merchandise for shipment to America. This does not surprise us since among the letters of the Viti Archive one dated 17 July, 1856 sent from Carrara is addressed to Sig. Vito Viti Scultore, Filadelfia.

In questa pubblicità del 1822 per il pubblico a New Orleans, in Louisiana, veniamo a sapere due cose su Vito Viti: prima, viaggia per gli Stati Uniti aprendo negozi per un mese di locazione alla volta portando la sua merce a vendere nelle varie città. In secondo luogo, apprendiamo che si vanta di essere il primo produttore italiano di frutta artificiale decorativa e di uccelli scolpiti in marmo collocati in astucci decorati con fiori artificiali. Il suo atelier è apparentemente a Volterra dove i suoi artisti lavorano assiduamente creando queste opere d'arte in vendita al pubblico. I suoi frequenti viaggi a Volterra non sono solo per visitare la famiglia, ma il suo bottega dove i lavoratori la cassa di imballaggio la merce per la spedizione in America. Questo non ci sorprende poiché tra le lettere dell'Archivio Viti datata 17 luglio 1856 inviata da Carrara è indirizzata al Sig. Vito Viti Scultore, Filadelfia.

Vito Viti's debut at New Orleans met with great success. He published a new announcement in Louisiana State Gazette, 12 February, 1822, that he would stay a little longer and introduced some new merchandise for sale.

A notice was published in Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, Thursday, 25 April, 1822, page 3, that a shipment of 10 boxes of lemons and merchandise sent to Vito Viti aboard the Schooner Logan, by Captain Dennison sailing from New York arrived at the Port of Philadelphia.

Un avviso è stato pubblicato su Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, giovedì 25 aprile 1822, pagina 3, che una spedizione di 10 scatole di limoni e merci inviate a Vito Viti a bordo della Schooner Logan, dal capitano Dennison che salpa da New York, arrivò al porto di Filadelfia.

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Fig. 7. An auction held at Broad Street next to Parish & Company, where Vito Viti returns to Charleston, South Carolina, with a new sale again conducted by the firm Rapelye, Bennett & Co., auctioneers, Wednesday Evening, March 26, 1823. City Gazette, Wednesday, March 26, 1823, page 3.

Un'asta tenutasi a Broad Street vicino a Parish & Company, dove Vito Viti ritorna a Charleston, in South Carolina, con una nuova vendita ancora condotta dalla ditta Rapelye, Bennett & Co., banditori d'asta, mercoledì sera, 26 marzo 1823.

1824.

No. 46	January 13, 1824	Auction - 46	Coin Auction No. -	Numismatic Auction No. -
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[J. L. Cunningham] Boston  
| | | | \$

January 13] AN ELEGANT COLLECTION OF INSECTS, BROUGHT FROM SOUTH AMERICA, IN AN EXCELLENT STATE OF PRESERVATION, AMONG WHICH ARE MANY RARE. THE WHOLE FORMING A VALUABLE CABINET, WORTHY THE ATTENTION OF THE CURIOUS. WILL BE SOLD AT AUCTION ON TUESDAY AT 12 O'CLOCK AT DOGGETT'S REPOSITORY AT 16 MARKET STREET BY J. L. CUNNINGHAM.

This was an insect auction with no coins or any numismatic matter but given here to illustrate what American curiosity cabinets contained besides coins and medals.

No. 47	April 6, 1824	Auction - 47	Coin Auction No. 30	Numismatic Auction No. 49
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April 6] Vito Viti [Mills & Minton] Phila.  
| | | | \$

This was an insect auction with no coins or any numismatic matter but given here to illustrate what American curiosity cabinets contained besides coins and medals.

No. 48	May 5-6, 1824	Auction - 48	Coin Auction No. 31	Numismatic Auction No. 41
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May 5] Vito Viti [N.Y.]  
| | | | \$

This was an auction of many imported antiques and replicas of antiques from Italy and Europe sold by the very famous art dealer Vito Viti and his sons. This auction included what was described as mosaic coins, but the coins were probably lacking since the word mosaic in the newspaper advertisement as often happens. Other items, although not numismatic included two pieces of ceramic made by the della Robbia workshop, and an ebony cabinet inlaid with ivory, formerly the property of Cosmo, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grand Duke of Tuscany. Evening Post, Tuesday, May 4, and Wednesday, May 5, 1824; National Advocate, Tuesday, May 4, and Wednesday, May 5, 1824; Commercial Advertiser, Tuesday, May 4, 1824.

Figs 8 & 9. Two of the earliest known numismatic auctions held by Vito Viti took place in 1824. The first was held at Mills & Minton Auction House, Philadelphia on 6 April, 1824; the second from 5-6 May, 1824 at New York. Details from John N. Lupia, III, American Numismatic Auctions to 1875 (2013) : 76-77. Courtesy of the Author and the Lupia Numismatic Library.

Due delle prime aste numismatiche conosciute tenute da Vito Viti si svolsero nel 1824. Il primo si tenne alla Mills & Minton Auction House di Filadelfia il 6 aprile 1824; la seconda dal 5 al 6 maggio 1824 a New York. Dettagli da John N. Lupia, III, American Numismatic Auctions to 1875 (2013) : 76-77. Per gentile concessione dell'Autore e della Biblioteca numismatica Lupia.

**BY MILLS & MINTON.**  
Store corner Wall and Pearl streets.  
Tomorrow,  
At 11 o'clock at Washington Hall, a splendid assortment of alabaster vases and ornaments, paintings, antique coins, and rich cut glassware, particularly advertised by Mr. Vito Viti.  
Wednesday,  
At 11 o'clock, at their store corner of Wall & Pearl streets, a general assortment of British, French and American dry goods—at four mouths and for cash.  
Friday,  
Package sale of American dry goods.  
At 10 o'clock, at their auction room, 100 packages, comprising a choice assortment of American cotton goods.  
Monday, 12th inst.  
At 10 o'clock, at No. 376 Broome street, the furniture of a family breaking up house keeping, consisting of mahogany sideboard tables; chairs; fancy do; looking glasses; crockery & glassware; Brussels and ingrain carpets; clothes press; and a great variety of kitchen furniture.  
At Private Sale—1 case real Turkey red yarn.



**Ladies' Auction of Marble Ornaments and Cut Glass, &c. at Washington Hall, on Tuesday, 6th April, at 11 o'clock.**

MR. VITO VITI, respectfully informs the Ladies and gentlemen, that he has opened a new and elegant assortment of Alabaster Sculptures of the following description, which he will cause to be sold at public auction, without reserve, his business not permitting him to remain any longer in this city, viz: Sideboard Vases, Groups of the Graces, do. of the Fine Arts, Oval urns with basso relief, representing the Clitell by Diana, accompanied by Venus and Cupids; Agate Urns, Flower Pots, Pink Grecian Vases and Temples, Clock Cases, Lamps, Candlesticks, and a pair of Magnificent Vases for a pier table. Also, a fine collection of Paintings, by good Italian master; two antique specimens of basso relieve in terra de la Robbia, an art which for many centuries has perished, the one representing the destruction of Giants by Jupiter, and the other the destruction of Nioba's family by Diana and Adonis; a collection of Antique Coins, Mosaic, and likewise a very ancient cabinet of Ebony inlaid with ivory, once the property of Cosmo, the second grand duke of Tuscany, &c.

Mr. Vito Viti returns his most sincere thanks to the public for the liberal encouragement he has hitherto received and hopes that they will honor him with their presence on the day of the sale, which may embrace the only opportunity to select these articles, superior to any as yet imported from Italy.

**Rich and Elegant Cut Glass.**  
In addition to the above, will positively be sold to close a consignment, an invoice of splendid Cut Glass, which for quality and elegance of cutting, is not excelled by any hitherto imported.—The invoice comprises an assortment of Decanters in sets; rich cut Pitchers; sets of Sweet Meat Dishes; Sailed and Celery Bowls; Butter and Sugar Bowls; Lemonades, Champagnes and Charats, Jellies, Tumblers and Wines, &c.

The sale of the above will be worthy the attention of persons wishing complete sets of glass.  
The Alabasters will be exposed to public view on Monday, the evening previous to the sale.—The hall will be brilliantly illuminated in order to give visitors a fair chance to convince themselves of the superb transparency of those articles.

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Fig. 10. Evening Post, Monday 5 April, 1824, page 3.

By Mills & Minton. Store corner Wall and Pearl Streets. Tomorrow, At 11 o'clock at Washington Hall, a splendid assortment of vases and ornaments, paintings, antique coins, and rich cut glassware, particularly advertised by Mr. Vito Viti. Evening Post, Monday 5 April, 1824, page 3. See also above Figs. 8 & 9 from John N. Lupia, III, *American Numismatic Auctions to 1875* (2013) : 76-77. This advertisement also appeared in other newspapers including the *National Advocate*, Monday 5 April, 1824, and the following day.

Di Mills & Minton. Store anglo di Wall e Pearl Strade. Domani, alle 11 in punto alla Washington Hall, uno splendido assortimento di vasi e ornamenti, dipinti, monete antiche e oggetti di vetro molto ricchi, in particolare pubblicizzati dal signor Vito Viti. Evening Post, lunedì 5 aprile, 1824, pagina 3. Vedi anche sopra figure 8 & 9 di John N. Lupia, III, *American Numismatic Auctions to 1875* (2013): 76-77. Questo annuncio apparve anche su altri giornali, incluso l'avvocato nazionale, lunedì 5 aprile 1824 e il giorno successivo.

This is the earliest known numismatic auction held by Vito Viti which offered at auction antique coins, apparently Greek and Roman coins without further description, in addition to his decorative artworks manufactured by him and his shop at Volterra, as well as other imports. The advertisement in Fig. 10 makes reference to the display advertisement in Fig. 11 (see below)

Questa è la prima asta numismatica conosciuta da Vito Viti che offriva all'asta monete antiche, monete apparentemente greche e romane senza ulteriori descrizioni, oltre alle sue opere decorative prodotte da lui e dal suo bottega a Volterra, oltre ad altre importazioni. L'annuncio in Fig. 10 fa riferimento alla pubblicità display in Fig. 11 (vedi sotto)

Fig. 11. Illustrated display advertisement of the vases for sale by Vito Viti. The description of the antique coins are simply described as a collection. The phrase a collection of antique coins typically referred coins of bronze, brass, silver and gold of the Republic Era 300 - 27 BC and Imperial Era 27 BC - 476 AD. Evening Post, Monday 5 April, 1824, page 3.

Vetrina illustrata dei vasi in vendita da Vito Viti. La descrizione delle monete antiche è semplicemente descritta come una collezione. La frase una collezione di monete antiche tipicamente riferiva monete di bronzo, ottone, argento e oro dell'era della Repubblica 300 - 27 aC e l'era imperiale 27 aC - 476 d.C. Evening Post, lunedì 5 aprile, 1824, pagina 3.

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**LADIES' AUCTION,**  
OF MANTLE ORNAMENTS and PAINTINGS.

AT THE CITY HOTEL,  
Wednesday, the 5th May, at 10 o'clock.  
VITO VITI.

**R**ESPECTFULLY informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of this city, that he has opened a new and elegant assortment of ALABASTER SCULPTURES, of the following description, which he will cause to be sold at public auction, without reserve—his business not permitting him to remain any longer in this city:—Sideboard Vases; Groups of the Graces; do. of the Fine Arts; Oval Urns, with basso-relievo, representing the Chase, by Diana, accompanied by Venus and Cupids; Agate Urns; Flower Pots; Pink Grecian Vases and Temples; Clock Cases;—Lamps; Candlesticks; and a pair of magnificent Vases, for a pier table.

Also, a fine collection of PAINTINGS, by good Italian masters: two antique specimens of Basso Relievo in Terra de la Rubia, an art which for many centuries has perished—the one, representing the Destruction of Giants, by Jupiter; and the other, the Destruction of Niobe's Family, by Diana and Adonis.

Also, a collection of Antique COINS, Mosaic; and likewise a very ancient Cabinet of Ebony, inlaid with Ivory, once the property of Cusmo, the second Grand Duke of Tuscany, &c.

Mr. VITO VITI returns his most sincere thanks to the public for the liberal encouragement he has hitherto received, and hopes that they will honor him with their presence on the day of the sale, which may embrace the only opportunity to select these articles, superior to any as yet imported from Italy.

may 3-2t



**A CARD.**

**VITO VITI, No. 129, near Fourth in Chestnut street,** in returning his sincerest thanks to the ladies and gentlemen of Philadelphia, as well as the public in general, for the encouragement he has received since his late establishment in this city, takes this opportunity to inform his friends and the connoisseurs of Fine Arts, that by a late arrival from Italy, he is in his power to renew his stock (almost exhausted) with a new and most brilliant assortment of Alabaster Ornaments, far superior to any thing ever offered for sale in this city, really deserving the attention of a well-calighted people who put a just value upon the rare talents of Artists.

The whole consist of the following articles:  
Tuscan Vases with the basso-relievo, Apollo of Belvedere, Venus of Medici, and ditto of Canova, The Groups of the Three Graces, The Temple of Apollo and Grecian Oval Urns, basso-relievo, representing Diana and Adonis's chase; also an extensive assortment of Alabaster Mantle Ornaments, from eight to one hundred and fifty dollars per sett.

N. B. The Store will be illuminated every evening to prove the fine transparency of the Alabaster.

Sept 24—2t

Fig. 12. Illustrated display advertisement of the vases for sale by Vito Viti. Coins are once again being offered for sale. We do not know if these are the coins of the same collection previously offered the month before or if these are of another collection altogether. The description of the antique coins are simply described as a collection. The phrase a collection of antique coins typically referred coins of bronze, brass, silver and gold of the Republic Era 300 - 27 BC and Imperial Era 27 BC - 476 AD. See also above Figs. 8 & 9 from John N. Lupia, III, *American Numismatic Auctions to 1875* (2013) : 76-77.

Vetrina illustrata dei vasi in vendita da Vito Viti. Le monete vengono nuovamente offerte in vendita. Non sappiamo se queste sono le monete della stessa collezione precedentemente offerta il mese prima o se queste sono di un'altra collezione. La descrizione delle monete antiche è semplicemente descritta come una collezione. La frase una collezione di monete antiche tipicamente riferiva monete di bronzo, ottone, argento e oro dell'era della Repubblica 300 - 27 aC e l'era imperiale 27 aC - 476 d.C. Vedi anche sopra figure 8 & 9 di John N. Lupia, III, *American Numismatic Auctions to 1875* (2013): 76-77.

In 1824, Niccolò Viti, brother of Vito Viti and an alabaster artist, and his 8 year old son Benedetto Giuseppe came to America staying five years until 1833.

Nel 1824, Niccolò Viti, fratello di Vito Viti e artista alabastro, e suo figlio Benedetto Giuseppe, di 8 anni, vennero in America per cinque anni fino al 1833.

Fig. 13. "A CARD. VITO VITI, No. 129, near Fourth in Chestnut street, in returning his sincerest thanks to the ladies and gentlemen of Philadelphia, as well as the public in general, for the encouragement he has received since his late establishment in this city, takes this opportunity to inform his friends and the connoisseurs of Fine Arts,

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that by a late arrival from Italy, has it in his power to renew his stock (almost exhausted) with a new and most brilliant assortment of Alabaster Ornaments, far superior to anything ever offered for sale in this city, really deserving the attention of well enlightened people who put a just value upon the rare talents of Artists. The whole consists of the following articles :

Tuscan Vases with the basso relievo, Apollo of Belvedere, Venus de Medici, and ditto of Canova, The Groups of The Three Graces, The Temple of Apollo, and Grecian Oval Urns, basso relievo, representing Diana and Adonis's chase; also an extensive assortment of Alabaster Mantle Ornaments, from eight to one hundred and fifty dollars per set.

N. B. The Store will be illuminated every evening to prove the fine transparency of the Alabaster."

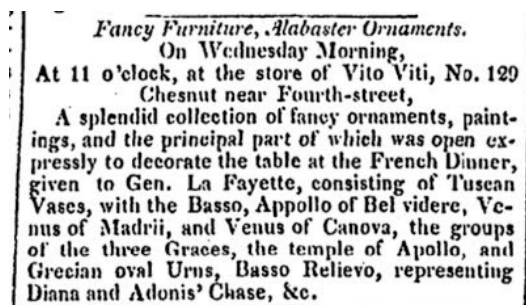
National Gazette, Saturday, September 25, 1824, page 3

UNA CARTA. VITO VITI, n. 129, vicino a 4th strada in via Chestnut, nel ringraziare sinceramente i signori di Filadelfia e il pubblico in generale, per l'incoraggiamento che ha ricevuto dal suo ultimo insediamento in questa città, prende questo possibilità di informare i suoi amici e gli intenditori di Belle Arti, che con un ritardo dall'Italia, ha in suo potere di rinnovare il suo magazzino (quasi esaurito) con un nuovo e più brillante assortimento di Ornamenti in alabastro, di gran lunga superiore a qualsiasi cosa mai offerta in vendita in questa città, merita davvero l'attenzione di persone ben illuminate che attribuiscono un giusto valore ai rari talenti degli artisti. Il tutto è composto dai seguenti articoli:

Vasi toscani con il bas-relief, Apollo del Belvedere, Venere de 'Medici e idem di Canova, I gruppi delle tre grazie, Il tempio di Apollo e Urne ovali greche, bas-relief, che rappresentano la caccia di Diana e Adone; anche un vasto assortimento di ornamenti in alabastro, da otto a centocinquanta dollari per set completo.

N. B. Il negozio sarà illuminato (dalla luce del gas) ogni sera per dimostrare la trasparenza dell'Alabaster.

National Gazette, Saturday, September 25, 1824, page 3



*Fancy Furniture, Alabaster Ornaments.*  
On Wednesday Morning,  
At 11 o'clock, at the store of Vito Viti, No. 129  
Chestnut near Fourth-street,  
A splendid collection of fancy ornaments, paintings, and the principal part of which was open expressly to decorate the table at the French Dinner, given to Gen. La Fayette, consisting of Tuscan Vases, with the Basso, Appollo of Bel vedere, Venus of Madrii, and Venus of Canova, the groups of the three Graces, the temple of Appollo, and Grecian oval Urns, Basso Relievo, representing Diana and Adonis' Chase, &c.

Fig. 14. Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, Saturday, 9 October, 1824, page 2

On Wednesday, 13 October, 1824, Vito Viti sold the paintings and sculpted Tuscan vases and Grecian urns used to decorate the banquet held by the Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of Philadelphia in honor of General LaFayette, the

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previous week on October 2, 1824. These ornaments most probably came from the store of Vito Viti and now being offered for sale at auction by T. B. Freeman & Son, Auctioneers, 8 South 3rd Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with the auction held in the store of Vito Viti, 129 Chestnut Street. This sale did not sell out and was repeated on the following Wednesday, 18 October, 1824, and again on May 20th, 1825 at Baltimore, Maryland.

Mercoledì 13 ottobre 1824, Vito Viti vendette i dipinti e scolpì vasi toscani e urne greche usate per decorare il banchetto tenuto dalla Gran Loggia dei massoni liberi e accettati di Filadelfia in onore del generale LaFayette, la settimana precedente, il 2 ottobre, 1824. Questi ornamenti molto probabilmente provengono dal negozio di Vito Viti e ora vengono messi in vendita all'asta da TB Freeman & Son, Auctioneers, 8 South 3rd Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, con l'asta tenuta nel negozio di Vito Viti, 129 Chestnut Street. Questa vendita non si esaurì e fu ripetuta il mercoledì successivo, il 18 ottobre 1824, e di nuovo il 20 maggio 1825 a Baltimora, nel Maryland.

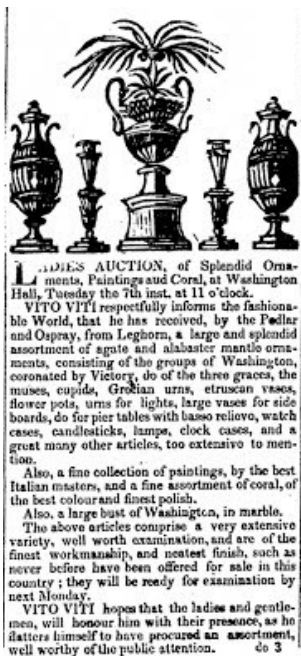


Fig. 15. Vito Viti sale of coral, Washington busts, and other rare sculptures and paintings, and a large assortment of other collectibles at Washington Hall, New York City, New York, held on 7 December, 1824. Evening Post, Saturday 4 December, 1824, page 3

Vito Viti vendita di corallo, busti di Washington, e altre rari sculture e dipinti, e un vasto assortimento di altri oggetti da collezionare a Washington Hall, New York, New York, tenutasi il 7 dicembre 1824. Evening Post, Saturday 4 December, 1824, page 3





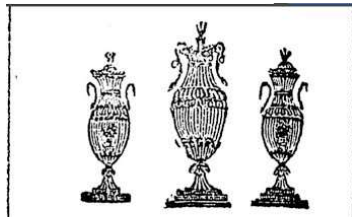
**VITO VITI,**

HAVING just arrived from Italy, respectfully informs the ladies and gentlemen of Providence, that he has brought with him a splendid assortment of Alabaster and Agate ornaments, of the following description: The groups of the three graces, Grecian Urns, Etruscan vases, flower pots, urns for lights, large vases for side boards, ditto for pine tables, with basso relievo, watch cases, candlesticks, lamps, clock cases, and many other articles.

Also, A fine assortment of Coral, of the best colour and finest polish; some handsome paintings executed in fine style; also, elegant marble fruit. The above articles comprise a handsome assortment and well worthy of attention and examination, as they are of the finest workmanship and neatly executed.

The above will be sold at auction on Wednesday next, at the hall of the Manufacturers' Hotel. To-day, the articles may be examined, and, in order to display the fine transparent effect of the Alabaster, he intends handsomely to illuminate the hall in the evening. Ladies and gentlemen are requested to call and examine for themselves.

Sale will commence at 11 o'clock.  
EDWARD S. SHELDON, Auctioneer.



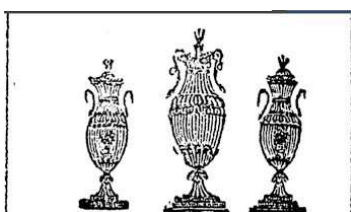
**Vito Viti**

Begs leave respectfully to return his thanks to the ladies and gentlemen of Baltimore for their encouragement of the Fine Arts, and the rapid sale of his Mantle Ornaments.

He now respectfully informs them, particularly the ladies, that the concern will close on Saturday next, the 14th inst. Previous to which they are invited to make an early call, in order to purchase cheap and handsome ornaments. my 9 d4

Fig. 16. Vito Viti sale held by Edward S. Sheldon, Auctioneer, Providence, Rhode Island, on Wednesday, 27 December, 1824. Rhode Island American, Tuesday, 21 December, 1824, page 3

A notice published in the Weekly Report, Saturday, 25 December, 1824, page 2, reported the cargo arrival aboard the Sloop Express, by Captain Bulkley of Fairfield, at the Port of New York, with 8 cases of glass for Vito Viti.



**Vito Viti**

Begs leave respectfully to return his thanks to the ladies and gentlemen of Baltimore for their encouragement of the Fine Arts, and the rapid sale of his Mantle Ornaments.

He now respectfully informs them, particularly the ladies, that the concern will close on Saturday next, the 14th inst. Previous to which they are invited to make an early call, in order to purchase cheap and handsome ornaments. my 9 d4



ON FRIDAY MORNING, 20th instant at 10 o'clock, at No. 32 1/2 Market, next door to the corner of Gay and Market st. I shall sell without reserve a superb collection of ALABASTER ORNAMENTS, PAINTINGS, &c. &c. &c. Vito Viti respectfully informs the ladies and gentlemen of this city, that he has opened a new and elegant assortment of Alabaster, &c. some of which ornamented the table at a dinner given to the guest of American, Lafayette.

They consist of groups, Vases with Basso Relievo, Tripods, Apollo de Belvidere, Venus of Medicis, Temples, large Urns for sideboards, Mantle Ornaments, Candlesticks, Lamps, Sugar Bowls, &c. &c. &c.

Also, a fine collection of Paintings and Engravings, by good Italian masters, and an antique specimen of Basso Relievo in Terra del Umbria, representing the destruction of the giants by Jupiter. Also, a superb Table or Alanto; a very superior assortment of Coral, which will be sold in small lots, superior Mosaic work, small figures, a very superior ancient cabinet of Ebony, inlaid with Ivory, a quantity of Gilt Brackets, &c. &c.

As Mr. Vito intends leaving the city in a few days, the sale will be positive. In order to display the fine transparent effect of the Alabaster, the store will be illuminated every evening, until the day of sale.

5 mo 17 D. COBB.

Monday afternoon 25d inst. at half past two o'clock, in lots on six months credit, 20 packages fresh British, French and India DRY GOODS. Also, a large assortment of Domestic GOODS.



**SPLENDID Mantle Ornaments, Paintings, Coral Necklaces, &c.**

**AT AUCTION.**

Will be sold at Auction, on Wednesday, July 6th, at 2 o'clock, P. M. in the Ball Room at Morgan's Exchange Coffee House, State Street, a superb collection of

Alabaster, Marble Ornaments, Paintings, Coral Beads, &c. &c. &c.

**VITO VITI**

Respectfully informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of Hartford, that he has brought with him a splendid assortment of articles, lately received by the ship Pechar, from Italy, of the following description, viz—The Group of three Graces, Grecian Urns, Etruscan Vases, Flower Pots, Urns for lights, large vases for sideboards, with basso relievo, Basso Vases, &c. &c. Also, a fine assortment of Coral of the best colour and finest polish; some handsome Paintings, executed by Italian masters. The above articles comprise a handsome assortment, and are worthy of attention; they are of the finest workmanship, superior to any ever before offered in the market.

In order to display the fine transparent effect of the Alabaster, he intends handsomely to illuminate the above named room next Monday and Tuesday evening. Ladies and Gentlemen are requested to call and examine for themselves.

B. HUDSON, Auctioneer.

Fig. 17. Vito Viti sale at his store in Baltimore, Maryland, held on Saturday, 14 May, 1825, 1825. American Commercial Daily Advertiser, Tuesday, 10 May, 1825, page 1.

Fig. 18. Vito Viti sale at his store in Baltimore, Maryland, held on Wednesday, 20 May, 1825, 1825. American Commercial Daily Advertiser, Wednesday, 18 May, 1825, page 3. Note he is describing many items the same as those for sale on October 13, 1824, at Philadelphia, that were ornaments for the banquet of General

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Lafayette, which suggests they went unsold. This sale included many paintings by Italian Masters, engravings, corals, and an antique Ébéniste cabinet inlaid with ivory.

Vendita Vito Viti nel suo negozio di Baltimora, nel Maryland, tenuto mercoledì 20 maggio 1825. Inserzionista pubblicitario American Commercial Daily Advertiser, Wednesday, 18 May, 1825, pagina 3. Nota che descrive molti articoli come quelli in vendita su Il 13 ottobre 1824, a Filadelfia, erano gli ornamenti per il banchetto del generale Lafayette, che suggerisce che fossero andati invenduti. Questa vendita comprendeva molti dipinti di maestri italiani, incisioni, coralli e un antico armadietto Ébéniste intarsiato d'avorio.

Fig. 19. Vito Viti sale at Morgan's Exchange Coffee-House, Hartford, Connecticut, held on Wednesday, 6 July, 1825. Times, Tuesday, 5 July, 1825, page 3. He announces the shipment of artworks arrived aboard the Ship, Pedlar, sailing from Italy. The cargo appears to be repetitive of his repertoire of art objects crafter by his studio at Volterra as well as others with whom he is associated. However, there were also included antiquities including sarcophagi dated to be over 2,500 years old.

Vito Viti in vendita alla Morgan's Exchange Coffee-House, Hartford, Connecticut, tenutasi mercoledì 6 luglio 1825. Times, martedì 5 luglio 1825, pagina 3. Annuncia la spedizione delle opere d'arte arrivate a bordo della nave, Pedlar, che salpava da Italia. Il carico sembra essere ripetitivo del suo repertorio di oggetti d'arte crafter dal suo studio a Volterra così come altri con cui è associato. Tuttavia, c'erano anche antichità inclusi i sarcofagi datati per avere più di 2.500 anni.

Vito Viti made a grand tour of the New England States from November to the end of the year traveling with his entourage of rare imported art works and antiquities. We note he held a similar sale to that at Hartford also held at Salem, Massachusetts from November 10-11, 1825, as advertised in the Salem Gazette, Friday, 11 November 1825, page 3, and again at Newburyport, Massachusetts, advertised in the Newburyport Herald, Tuesday, 22 November, 1825, page 3, and again at Portland, Maine, advertised in the Gazette, Tuesday, 29 November, 1825, page 3, and also at Boston, Massachusetts, advertised in the Boston Intelligencer, Saturday, 3 December, 1825, page 7, and Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 17 December, 1825, advertised in the Portsmouth Journal of Literature and Politics. Viti ended the year by a final sale held at Boston, 26 December, 1825.

Vito Viti ha compiuto un grande tour negli Stati del New England da novembre alla fine dell'anno viaggiando con il suo entourage di rare opere d'arte e antichità importate. Prendiamo atto che ha tenuto una vendita simile a quella di





**SPLENDID**  
Mantle Ornaments, Paintings,  
Coral Necklaces, &c.

**AT AUCTION.**  
Will be sold at Auction, on Wednesday,  
July 6th, at 3 o'clock, P. M. in the Ball  
Room at Morgan's Exchange Coffee-House,  
State Street, a superb collection of  
*Alabaster, Marble Ornaments,  
Paintings, Coral Beads, &c. &c. &c.*

**VITO VITI**  
Respectfully informs the Ladies and  
Gentlemen of Hartford, that he has brought  
with him a splendid assortment of articles,  
lately received by the ship *Pebar*, from Italy,  
of the following description, viz.—The Group  
of three *Gipsies*, Green *Urn*, *Etruscan Vases*,  
*Flower Pots*, *Urns* for lights, large *Vases* for  
side-lights, with *Iron* plates, *Agate Vases*,  
small *French* *Candelsticks*, *vases* for lights, &c.  
&c. Also, a fine assortment of *Coral* of the  
best colours and finest quality; some handsome  
*Paintings*, executed by Italian masters. The  
above articles comprise a handsome assort-  
ment, and are worthy of attention. They are  
of the finest workmanship, superior to any ever  
before offered in the public.

In order to display the fine transparent *Text*  
of the *Alabaster*, he intends handsomely to il-  
lustrate, the above named *republic* *Monday*  
and *Tuesday* evenings. Ladies and Gentlemen  
are requested to call and examine for them-  
selves.

B. HUDSON, Auctioneer.

Hartford che si è tenuta a Salem, Massachusetts da novembre 10-11, 1825, come pubblicizzato nella Salem Gazette, venerdì 11 novembre 1825, pagina 3, e di nuovo a Newburyport, Massachusetts, pubblicizzato nel Newburyport Herald, martedì 22 novembre 1825, pagina 3, e ancora a Portland, Maine, pubblicizzato nella Gazzetta, martedì 29 novembre 1825, pagina 3, e anche a Boston, Massachusetts, pubblicizzato nel Boston Intelligencer, sabato 3 dicembre 1825, pagina 7, e Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 17 dicembre 1825, pubblicizzato nel Portsmouth Journal of Literature and Politics. . Viti concluse l'anno con una vendita finale a Boston, il 26 dicembre 1825.

On 21 February 1826 we find Vito Viti return to Charleston, South Carolina, where he brought a large assortment of his repertoire for sale at auction by Milliken, Gilliland & Company. City Gazette, Saturday, 18 February, 1826, page 3.

Il 21 febbraio 1826 troviamo Vito Viti di ritorno a Charleston, nella Carolina del Sud, dove ha portato in vendita un vasto assortimento del suo repertorio all'asta da Milliken, Gilliland & Company.

20. Vito Viti sale held at Augusta, Georgia, March 1826. Augusta Chronicle, Wednesday, 15 March, 1826, page 3.

On April 22, 1826, Vito Viti is listed among the passengers aboard the Line Ship, Calhoun, which sailed from Charleston, South Carolina to the Port of New York. American, Saturday, 22 April, 1826, page 2.

Il 22 aprile 1826, Vito Viti è elencato tra i passeggeri a bordo della Line Ship, Calhoun, che salpò da Charleston, nella Carolina del Sud, fino al porto di New York. American, sabato 22 aprile 1826, pagina 2.

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In 1826, Vito J. Viti was born at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Viti stayed at Philadelphia after returning from the southern states to remain with his family.

Nel 1826, Vito J. Viti nacque a Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania. Viti rimase a Philadelphia dopo essere tornato dagli stati del sud per rimanere con la sua famiglia.

On 1 May, 1826, Vito Viti brought his merchandise including antiquities and imported goods from France, together with items purchased in Georgia and South Carolina to Freeman's Auction House, Philadelphia.

Il 1 ° maggio 1826, Vito Viti portò la sua merce comprendente antichità e merci importate dalla Francia, insieme a oggetti acquistati in Georgia e nella Carolina del Sud alla Casa d'aste di Freeman, a Filadelfia.

Beginning in June he resumed his grand tour of the New England States from November to the end of the year traveling with his entourage of rare imported art works and antiquities. He held sales at Hartford, Connecticut in early June, and by mid July at Providence, Rhode Island.

A partire da giugno ha ripreso il suo grande tour negli Stati del New England da novembre alla fine dell'anno viaggiando con il suo entourage di rare opere d'arte e antichità importate. Ha avuto vendite a Hartford, Connecticut, all'inizio di giugno, e a metà luglio a Providence, nel Rhode Island.

During August and September he seems to have taken a break from sales, but resumed again in October traveling to Norwich, Connecticut, and then to Portland, Maine.

Nei mesi di agosto e settembre sembra aver preso una pausa dalle vendite, ma riprende di nuovo a ottobre, viaggiando a Norwich, nel Connecticut, e poi a Portland, nel Maine.

In the winter of 1826, Viti traveled to the warmer southern states holding sales at Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Nell'inverno del 1826, Viti viaggiò verso gli stati meridionali più caldi con vendite a Fredericksburg, in Virginia.

In 1827, Alonozo M. Viti was born at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In late April, 1827, he began selling at Baltimore, Maryland. It was not until October he resumed selling at Philadelphia. He closed the year by selling at New York in November and

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December.

Nel 1827, Alonzo M. Viti nacque a Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania. Alla fine di aprile del 1827, iniziò a vendere a Baltimora, nel Maryland. Non è stato fino a ottobre che ha ripreso a vendere a Philadelphia. Ha chiuso l'anno vendendo a New York a novembre e dicembre.



Fig. 21. Benedetto Giuseppe Viti (1816-1860), son of Niccolò Viti, of Volterra, Pisa, Tuscany, Italy.

On June 20, 1828, he became a naturalized citizen of the United States. He had two sons Francis and Alonzo born in Pennsylvania. He worked as an importer of art, antiques, and antiquities including coins and sold occasionally at auction in New York at least by 1824. His nephew Benedetto Giuseppe would ship him alabaster vases and other works of art including rare furniture, antiques, and antiquities.

Il 20 giugno 1828 divenne un cittadino naturalizzato degli Stati Uniti. Ha avuto due figli, Francis e Alonzo, nati in Pennsylvania. Lavorò come importatore di arte, antichità e antichità tra cui monete e venduto occasionalmente all'asta a New York almeno nel 1824. Suo nipote Giuseppe gli avrebbe spedito vasi in alabastro e altre opere d'arte tra cui mobili rari, antichità e antichità.

In February 1829, Vito Viti was dealing clocks, furniture, antiques, and statuary from his residence 77 Pine Street, Philadelphia. National Gazette, Saturday, 7 February, 1829, page 2

In October 1829, Vito Viti received a very large shipment of merchandise from Havre and Leghorn comprising cameos, fine china, glasses, mosaics, clocks, candelabras, watch cases, tables, etc., for sale at his home, 77 Pine Street, Philadelphia. National Gazette, Saturday, 24 October, 1829, page 2

In November, 1829, Vito Viti continued receiving more merchandise and selling at his residence with advertisements in the National Gazette. The Schooner, Georgetown, brought 2 cases of merchandise for Vito Viti, at the Port of New York.

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Commercial, and Philadelphia List and Price Current, Wednesday, 18 November, 1829, page 2 last column. The Schooner, Diana, brought 3 cases of merchandise for Vito Viti, at the Port of New York. Commercial, and Philadelphia List and Price Current, Wednesday, 2 December, 1829, page 2.

On March 26, 1830, Vito Viti is listed in the passenger list of the Brig, Mercator, arriving from Leghorn, Italy, to the Port of New York. Commercial Advertiser, Friday, 26 March, 1830, page 2.

In November 1830, Viti continued importing and selling from his home at 77 Pine Street, Philadelphia.

On June 15, 1831, the Postmaster of Cincinnati, Ohio, published a lengthy list of names of people for whom letters were yet unclaimed. Among them three letters were addressed to Vito Viti. National Republican and Daily Mercantile Advertiser, Thursday, June 16, 1831, page 3

On 11 July 1831, Vito Viti sold his statues and ornaments from Paris and Leghorn at the Bazar in Cincinnati, Ohio, with James C. Morsell, auctioneer. National Republican and Daily Mercantile Advertiser, Saturday, July 9 1831, page 3

On 13 September, 1831, Viti took his traveling sales exhibition to Boston. Columbian Centinel, Saturday, September 10, 1831, page 3. He ended the year spending November and December in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In 1832 Francis A. Viti was born at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

On 5 December 1832, Viti held auction sales of Parisian mantle clocks and Italian and French ornaments at Washington Hall, Philadelphia conducted by Moses Thomas.

In May 1833, Viti was advertising sales of similar items at his home 77 Pine Street, Philadelphia

In the Thursday, 7 August 1834, issue of the Vicksburg Whig, on page 3, the Postmaster of the Vicksburg, Mississippi post office published a lengthy list of names of people who had unclaimed mail and Vito Viti is listed as having two letters that have been kept there unclaimed.

On Saturday, 13 June 1835, Vito Viti had an auction of this now standard repertoire of clocks, ornaments, cases, &c., for sale at auction at Thatcher's Hotel, Vicksburg, Mississippi. Vicksburg Whig, Thursday, 11 June, 1835, page 3.

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On 21 December 1836, Vito Vito held an auction at Thomas Birch, Jr. & Company, Auction House, Philadelphia. National Gazette, Monday, 19 December, 1836.

On 29 June, 1837, Vito Vito held an auction at Thomas Birch, Jr. & Company, Auction House, Philadelphia. National Gazette, Saturday, 24 June, 1837.

The 1838 New Orleans City Directory lists Vito Viti as an Importer of fancy goods.

On Monday, 31 December, 1838, Vito Vito held an auction conducted by S. Seay, auctioneer, in the Long Room, at the Mansion House, Market Street, Nashville, Tennessee, which included a portrait of Beatrice Cenci in her robe before her execution. The Tennessean, Saturday, 29, December, 1838, page 2.

Vito Viti spent March and April 1839, on a return trip conducting sales once again at Nashville, Tennessee. In June and July he went to Louisville, Kentucky selling his merchandise.

From October to December 1840 he returned to Vicksburg, Mississippi. From February to April he was in New Orleans, Louisiana.

From September 1841 to December, he returned to Vicksburg, Mississippi. After that the Postmaster published his list of unclaimed letters which included mail sent to Vito Viti.

In late 1841, Benedetto Giuseppe Viti arrived in South America, and by 1842 established a shop in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, selling Italian alabasters.

In late 1841, Benedetto Giuseppe Viti arrived in South America, and by 1842 established a shop in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, selling Italian alabasters.

Alla fine del 1841, Benedetto Giuseppe Viti arrivò in Sud America e nel 1842 fondò un negozio a Rio de Janeiro, in Brasile, vendendo alabastri italiani.

On October 1, 1844, a passport was issued to Vito Viti, and his wife and sister-in-law Mary E. Redman, and their sons : Vito J. Viti, and Alonzo M. Viti.

The Viti shop was located at 149 South Front Street, Philadelphia.

The Viti family served as Consuls of Italy. Vito Viti had served as the Consul for the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Alonzo served as Consul in the 1860's.

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**A** DVERTISEMENT.—SIGNOR VITO VITI has the honor of informing the public that his **FIRST SALE** of splendid **MARBLE STATUES, BUSTS, URNS, FOUNTAINS and MOSAIC TABLES**, of the most exquisite workmanship, will take place in the middle of the month of **AUGUST**. The assortment of Alabaster Sculpture are taken from the antique of the Greek and Etruscan chisel. The Vases of Medicis, Tazze of Piranesi and Mecerobba are of the most magnificent description, and the largest ever imported into the country. The Figures and Vases of Verde Antico are finished in the best style. Part of this extensive assortment is on board of the brig Consort, from Leghorn, which vessel now lies in this port discharging; the remainder has already been shipped on board of the big Constellation for New York. 1y23-60431\*

SIGNOR VITO VITI takes great pleasure in informing the citizens of Philadelphia that he has in preparation many articles which, when completed, will be immediately forwarded to Philadelphia.

Fig. 22. Advertisement - SIGNOR VITO VITI has the honor of informing the public that his **FIRST SALE** of splendid **MARBLE STATUES, BUSTS, URNS, FOUNTAINS, and MOSAIC TABLES**, of the most exquisite workmanship, will take place in the middle of the month of **AUGUST**. The assortment of Alabaster Sculpture are taken from the antique of the Greek and Etruscan chisel. The Vases of Medicis, Tazze of Piranesi and Mecerobba are of the most magnificent description, and the largest ever imported into the country. The Figures and Vases of Verde Antico are finished in the best style. Part of the extensive assortment is on board of the brig Consort, from Leghorn, which vessel now lies in this port discharging; the remainder has already been shipped on board of the brig Constellation for New York. SIGNOR VITO VITI takes great pleasure in informing the citizens of Philadelphia that he has in preparation many articles which, when completed, will be immediately forwarded to Philadelphia.

Public Ledger, Saturday, 24 July, 1847, page 1, below center 4th column.

Pubblicità - SIGNOR VITO VITI ha l'onore di informare il pubblico che la sua **PRIMA VENDITA** di splendidi **STATUI DI MARMI, BUSTI, URNE, FONTANE e TAVOLE DI MOSAICO**, della più squisita fattura, avrà luogo a metà del mese di **AGOSTO**. L'assortimento di sculture in alabastro è tratto dall'antico scalpello greco ed etrusco. I Vasi dei Medici, le Tazze di Piranesi e Mecerobba sono la descrizione più magnifica e la più grande mai importata nel paese. Le figure e i vasi di Verde Antico sono rifiniti nel migliore stile. Parte del vasto assortimento è a bordo del brigantino Consort, da Livorno, che ora si trova in questo porto di scarico; il resto è già stato spedito a bordo della brig Constellation per New York. SIGNOR VITO VITI è lieto di informare i cittadini di Philadelphia che ha in preparazione molti articoli che, una volta completati, verranno immediatamente inoltrati a Filadelfia.

Public Ledger, Saturday, 24 July, 1847, page 1, below center 4th column.

In 1848, he began calling the firm Vito Viti & Son.

In December 1849 he sailed from Liverpool, England to New York aboard the SS Hibernia.



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In 1850, Vito Viti was instrumental in bringing Vincenzo de Amarelli (-1864), to Philadelphia from his home in Rossano, Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. De Amarelli became Professor of Italian at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Viti Archive, so-called after the 254 letters discovered in 1905 at Philadelphia, commence with a stampless one dated 5 February, 1850 sent from John Barelli & Co., 11 Castle Street, Castle Holborn, London. This letter would seem to relate to the sale Vito Viti & Sons planned to execute the following month in the southern state of Alabama.

L'Archivio Viti, così chiamato dopo le 254 lettere scoperte nel 1905 a Filadelfia, inizia con uno senza francobolli datato 5 febbraio 1850 inviato da John Barelli & Co., 11 Castle Street, Castle Holborn, Londra. Questa lettera sembrerebbe riferirsi alla vendita di Vito Viti & Sons pianificata per l'esecuzione il mese successivo nello stato meridionale dell'Alabama.

On March 13, 1850, Vito Viti & Sons, taking their itinerant sales tour of Alabama advertised in the Mobile Daily Register, "trumpeting a wide range of antiques and quality knick-knacks freshly acquired in Europe. The collection on offer, "carefully selected by the refined taste of Signor Vito Viti," was on display at the Armory Hall and included a patented shower bath, china cigar holders, engraved flower vases, fire screens, plated ware, tea urns, chocolate cups, marble statues, and mother-of-pearl work tables." [1]

Il 13 marzo 1850, Vito Viti & Sons, prendendo il loro tour itinerante di vendita dell'Alabama pubblicizzato nel Mobile Daily Register, "strombazza una vasta gamma di antiquariato e knick-knack di qualità appena acquisiti in Europa. La collezione in offerta" accuratamente selezionata dal raffinato gusto del signor Vito Viti, "era esposto alla Sala Armeria e comprendeva un bagno con doccia brevettato, portasigarette in porcellana, vasi di fiori incisi, paraventi, oggetti placcati, urne di tè, tazze di cioccolata, statue di marmo e tavoli da lavoro in madreperla." [1]



Fig. 23. Correspondence postmarked April 21, 1851 to Tommaso Pate, a dealer at Livorno, regarding Giuseppe Viti shipping Alabaster statues. Courtesy Lupia

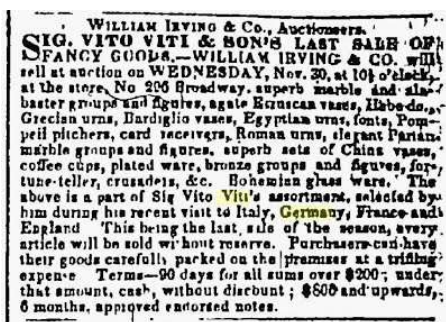
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Numismatic Library.

Fig. 24. Correspondence postmarked 23 Aprile, 1852 to Tommaso Pate, a dealer at Livorno, regarding Giuseppe Viti shipping Alabaster to London. Courtesy Lupia Numismatic Library.

The third letter of the Viti Archive is dated 20 April 1853, sent from Volterra.



WILLIAM IRVING & Co., Auctioneers.  
SIG. VITO VITI & SON'S LAST SALE OF  
FANCY GOODS.--WILLIAM IRVING & CO. will  
sell at auction on WEDNESDAY, Nov. 30, at 10 1/2 o'clock,  
at the store, No. 206 Broadway, superb marble and alaba-  
baster groups and figures, agate Etruscan vases, Hebe-do,  
Grecian urns, Bardiglio vases, Egyptian urns, fonts, Pom-  
peii pitchers, card receivers, Roman urns, elegant Parian  
marble groups and figures, superb sets of China vases,  
coffee cups, plated ware, bronze groups and figures, for-  
tune-teller, crusaders, &c. Bohemian glass ware. The  
above is a part of Sig. Vito Viti's assortment, selected by  
him during his recent visit to Italy, Germany, France and  
England. This being the last sale of the season, every  
article will be sold without reserve. Purchasers can have  
their goods carefully packed on the premises at a trifling  
expense. Terms--90 days for all sums over \$200; under  
that amount, cash, without discount; \$500 and upwards,  
6 months, approved endorsed notes.

Fig. 25. William Irving & Co., Auctioneers. SIG. VITO VITI & SON'S LAST SALE OF FANCY GOODS -- William Irving & Co. will sell at auction on WEDNESDAY, Nov. 30, at 10 1/2 o'clock at the store, No. 206 Broadway, superb marble and alabaster groups and figures, agate Etruscan vases, Hebe - do; Grecian urns, Bardiglio vases, Egyptian urns, fonts, Pompeii pitchers, card receivers, Roman urns, elegant Parian marble groups and figures, superb sets of china vases, coffee cups, plated ware, bronze groups and figures, fortune-teller, crusaders, &c. Bohemian glass ware. The above is part of Sig. Vito Viti's assortment, selected by him during his recent visit to Italy, Germany, France and England. This being the last sale of the season, every article will be sold without reserve. Purchasers can have their goods carefully packed on the premises at a trifling expense. Terms --90 days for all sums over \$200, under that amount, cash, without discount; \$800 and upwards, 6 months, approved endorsed notes. New York Daily Times, November 30, 1853

William Irving & Co., banditori d'asta. SIG. VITO VITI & SON's L'ULTIMA VENDITA DI BENESSERE - William Irving & Co. venderà all'asta il MERCOLEDÌ 30 NOVEMBRE, alle 10 1/2 in punto al negozio, al numero 206 di Broadway, ai superbi gruppi di marmo e alabastro e figure, agati vasi etruschi, Hebe - anche; Urne greche, vasi di Bardiglio, urne egiziane, fontane, brocche di Pompei, ricevitori di carte, urne romane, eleganti gruppi e figure di marmo pario, serie superbe di vasi di porcellana, tazze da caffè, articoli placcati, gruppi e figure di bronzo, chiromante, crociati, & c. Articoli in vetro di Boemia. Quanto sopra fa parte del Sig. L'assortimento di Vito Viti, selezionato da lui durante la sua recente visita in Italia, Germania, Francia e Inghilterra. Essendo l'ultima vendita della stagione, ogni articolo sarà venduto senza riserva. Gli acquirenti possono avere i loro beni accuratamente imballati nei locali con una spesa insignificante. Termini - 90 giorni per tutte le somme superiori a

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\$200, sotto tale importo, in contanti, senza sconto; \$800 e oltre, 6 mesi, note approvate. New York Daily Times, November 30, 1853

Viti continued collaborating with William Irving with advertisements for a sale “of Marble and Alabaster Statuary and Parisian Fancy Goods (imported by Signor Vito Viti)” New York Daily Times, December 3, 1852, page 4.

In 1854 Vito Viti & Sons were located at 100 South Front Street, Philadelphia.

The New York firm of Henry H. Leeds, auctioneer advertised : “a sale of superb fancy goods, including a large assortment of real statuary, marble, alabaster and other goods, the importation of Sig. Vito Viti Sons; also several valuable invoices from the Crystal Palace.” New York Daily Times, December 27, 1854, page 7.

In March 1855, Vito J. Viti moved to Volterra, Italy. Also, in 1855, Vito Viti carved and sculpted the marble holy water stoup in the back of Our Lady's Shrine at Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania.



Fig. 26. Antique photograph of the store of Vito Viti & Sons, 639 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, circa 1855-1858. Library Company of Philadelphia P.8549

About eight and a half years prior to his demise his sons began to trade as the Viti Brothers, formerly Vito Viti & Sons.

In the 1860 U. S. Census Vito Viti's estate was valued at \$25,000.

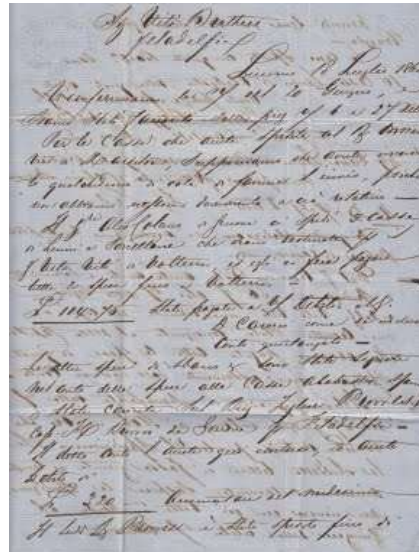
On September 14, 1860, Vito Viti sailed from Italy to Liverpool and arrived in New York City.

“La prima officina fu sul principio del secolo presente aperta dal cavalier Marcello Inghirami, il quale può dirsi che inaugurò la nuova èra di tale preclarissima industria, che dipoi Vito Viti fece conoscere all’ estero, mercè i lunghi viaggi che intraprese. Avendo questi stabilito il suo soggiorno in Filadelfia, pose ivi il centro

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delle sue industriali operazioni, che produssero ad esso ricchezze, ed apersero un commercio attivissimo al proprio paese cogli abitanti del nuovo mondo, i quali furono talmente avidi dei pregevoli lavori volterrani, da fare sì che la domanda spesso soverchiava la possibilità di poterla soverchiare." Esposizione Italiana tenuta in Firenze nel 1861: Volume Terzo; Relazioni dei Giurati, Classi XIII a XXIV (Florence: Barbera, 1865) : 200.



Figs. 27 & 28. Fabbricotti Brothers, Leghorn, Italy, correspondence with the Viti Brothers, franked with 8 postage stamps - 4 of 40 cmi, 2 of 5 cmi, and 1 of 15 cmi, two missing stamps probably each one of 60 cmi, would reflect a postal rate of 3.05 lire, dated Livorno, 18 July 1864. The corner two stamps torn off probably both 60 cmi by a collector or dealer circa 1905, and now lacking, leaving on the letter sheet two small holes of missing paper. This cover appears to have been part of the Alfred Fitler Henkels hoard thereby making it one of 254 documented specimens known. Today only 152 known and documented specimens with about 300 stamps are part of the philatelic census as of October 2014. This cover illustrated above owned by Prof. John N. Lupia, III has been reported by him to Prof. Angelo Piermattei, President of ASSOCIAZIONE FILATELICA NUMISMATICA ITALIANA (AFI), to catalogue in the census of Viti Correspondence, Carteggio, Part VIII (1859-1876), making it No. 153. As Antonello Cerruti has well said regarding any letter from the Viti archive, "from that archive is a guarantee of prestige". Owning any letter from the Viti archive is a dream of every collector. Courtesy Lupia Numismatic Library.

Fratelli Fabbricotti, Livorno, Italia, corrispondenza con i Viti Brothers, affrancata con 8 francobolli - 4 su 40 cmi, 2 su 5 cmi, e 1 su 15 cmi, due francobolli mancanti

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probabilmente ciascuno di 60 cmi, rispecchiano una tariffa postale Of 3.05 lire, datata Livorno, 18 luglio 1864. I due francobolli d'angolo strappati probabilmente entrambi da 60 cmi da un collezionista o commerciante intorno al 1905, e ora carenti, lasciando sul foglio della lettera due piccoli fori di carta mancante. Questa copertina sembra aver fatto parte del tesoro di Alfred Fitler Henkels, rendendolo così uno dei 254 campioni documentati conosciuti. Oggi solo 152 esemplari conosciuti e documentati con circa 300 francobolli fanno parte del censimento filatelico dell'ottobre 2014. Questa copertina sopra illustrata di proprietà del Prof. John N. Lupia, III è stata riportata da lui al Prof. Angelo Piermattei, Presidente di ASSOCIAZIONE FILATELICA NUMISMATICA ITALIANA (AFI), da catalogare nel censimento di Viti Correspondence, Carteggio, Parte VIII (1859-1876), rendendolo n. 153. Come ha ben detto Antonello Cerruti riguardo a qualsiasi lettera dell'archivio Viti, "da quell'archivio è una garanzia di prestigio ". Possedere qualsiasi lettera dall'archivio Viti è un sogno di ogni collezionista. Courtesy Lupia Numismatic Library.

The Vito Viti correspondence has long been hailed as the great Philadelphia treasure trove containing many rarities in stamps and postmarks. It was discovered in September 1905 by Alfred Fitler Henkels who was introduced to a dealer in recycled paper and rags (straccivendolo) who had a large cache of correspondence of Vito Viti comprising 254 letters comprising 748 stamps sent from Carrara, Modena, Livorno, Volterra, and Tuscany, apparently discarded and scavenged or else sold to the dealer for scrap. Henkels saved these postal history rarities from the recycling bin reminding us of a similar story regarding Constantin von Tischendorf (1815-1874) who salvaged Codex Sinaiticus from the wastebasket before being consumed in the fireplace to heat the monastery of St. Catherine in the Sinai desert.

La corrispondenza di Vito Viti è stata a lungo considerata il grande tesoro del tesoro di Philadelphia che conteneva molte rarità in francobolli e timbri postali. Fu scoperto nel settembre del 1905 da Alfred Fitler Henkels che fu presentato a un mercante di carta riciclata e stracci (straccivendolo) che aveva un grande covo di corrispondenza di Vito Viti comprendente 254 lettere comprendenti 748 francobolli inviati da Carrara, Modena, Livorno, Volterra, e Toscana, apparentemente scartata e scavata o venduta al rivenditore per rottami. Henkels salvò queste rarità della storia postale dal cestino del riciclaggio, ricordandoci una storia simile riguardante Constantin von Tischendorf (1815-1874) che salvò il Codex Sinaiticus dal cestino dei rifiuti prima di essere consumato nel camino per riscaldare il monastero di Santa Caterina nel deserto del Sinai .

In 1865, Alonzo M. Viti and his brother Francis A. Viti managed his importing business of Italian marble and fancy goods at 149 South Front Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His residence was 1435 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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Nel 1865, Alonzo M. Viti e suo fratello Francis A. Viti gestirono la sua attività di importazione di prodotti italiani di marmo e di oggettistica al 149 di South Front Street, a Filadelfia, in Pennsylvania. La sua residenza era la 1435 Walnut Street, Filadelfia, in Pennsylvania.

He died August 9, 1866 at his home 513 South 4th Street, Philadelphia. His funeral services were held on Tuesday, August 14, 1866, at 4 P.M., at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Philadelphia. He is buried in the Old Cathedral Catholic Cemetery. Vito left his son Vito the Villa at Volterra, Tuscany, Italy. The remainder of the estate was largely divided between the other sons : Alonzo and Francis.

Morì il 9 agosto 1866 nella sua casa 513 South 4th Street, a Filadelfia. I suoi servizi funebri si sono svolti martedì 14 agosto 1866, alle 4 del pomeriggio, alla St. Joseph Catholic Church, a Filadelfia. È sepolto nel cimitero cattolico della vecchia cattedrale. Vito lasciò il figlio Vito la Villa a Volterra, Toscana, Italia. Il resto della tenuta era in gran parte diviso tra gli altri figli: Alonzo e Francesco.



Fig. 29.

Cathedral Catholic Cemetery. Louis V. Viti was the son

of Alonzo Viti.

In the 1870's the Viti Brothers moved their office to 115 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

On May 16, 1874, Vito J. Viti helped enact a law against vagrant children published in *Eco d'Italia*, May 16, 1874

Fig. 30. Palazzo Incontri-Viti, Volterra, Pisa, Toscana, Italy.

On June 5, 1874, Vito J. Viti, oldest son of Vito Viti died at the family villa in Volterra, Pisa, Tuscany, Italy. His obituary appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 23, 1874





Fig. 31. Viti Brothers display at the International Exhibition in 1876.



Fig. 32. Stereoscope card of the Viti Brothers display at the International Exhibition in 1876. Courtesy Lupia Numismatic Library.

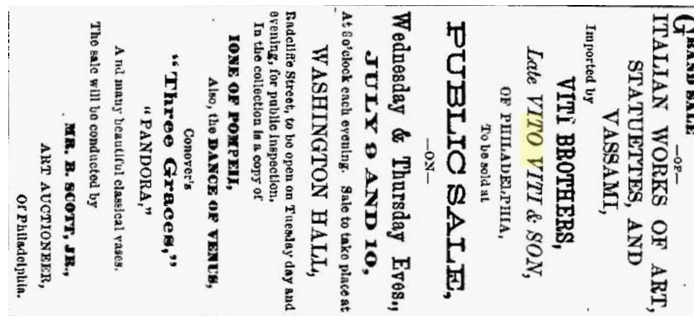


Fig. 32. Bucks County Gazette, July 3, 1879, front page.

Much of the Viti/Henkels hoard was sold to another Philadelphia stamp dealer, Eugene Klein. Klein sold specimens to Hugo Griebert of London.

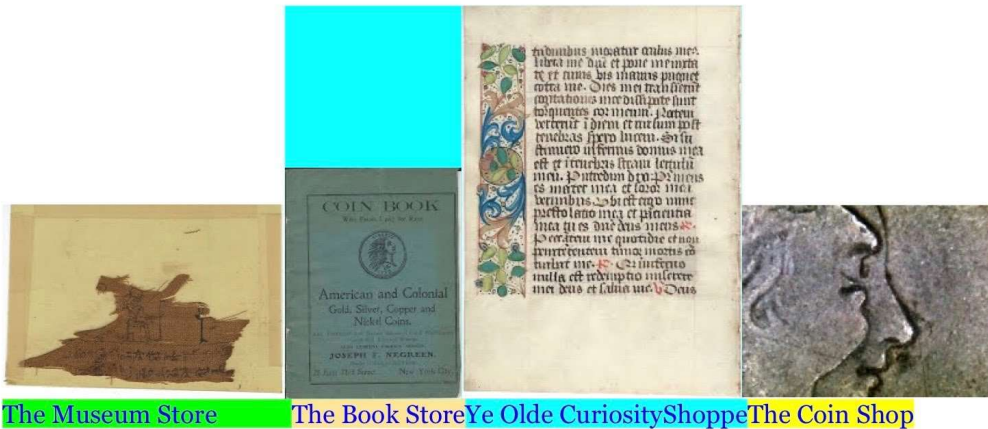
**Auction Catalogues :**

Catalogue of Vito Viti & Sons' elegant parlor statuary, marble urns, monuments, alabaster vases, ornaments, garden statuary, bronzes, bohemian glass, &c. &c. : to be sold, on Tuesday morning, 14th inst., at 10 1/2 o'clock, and continued at 7 1/2 o'clock in the evening, at their new warerooms, No. 639 Arch Street, below Seventh, North side Philadelphia. 16 pages. 20 cm.

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