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Accomendacio: agreement whereby one party entrusts the other with capital in order to do business and the profits are shared according to a previously agreed proportion.

aducan, see dukhan.
afaitare, affaitare: to tan.
afaitaria, affaitaria: a tannery.
aggadah: name given to those sections of Talmud and Midrash containing homiletic expositions of the Bible, stories, legends, folklore, anecdotes or maxims. In contradistinction to Halakhah.
antefatto: a gift given by the groom to the bride upon marriage, in exchange for the dowry.
apodisia: policy, receipt, document proving an expense incurred; also authorisation.
arbit, see arvit.
archibugiero, archibugiere: harquebusier, soldier armed with a harquebus.
archibugio: portable matchlock gun with a longer bronze or wrought iron barrel firing iron or lead bullets.
aromatarius: a spice merchant.
arvit: evening prayer, one of the three regular daily services.
aschavà, see haskavah.
azei hayyim: trees of life, wooden rolls for the Sefer Torah.
azzimella, see mazzah.
bacille: a basin.
baietta: light woollen fabric with deep pile, usually dark in colour.
balla: bale, bundle of goods.
bargello: head of police.
biglietto di calice: unsigned denunciation note placed in an urn provided for the purpose.
biglietto di cartolare: order for payment to the Banco S. Giorgio to transfer credit.
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bireme: a small galley with lateen sail and two oars in each bank or two oarsmen for each oar.
bisante: Constantinopolitan currency circulating in Genoa during the Middle Ages.
bodeq: inspector of the animal intestines for kashrut, i.e. Jewish dietary laws.
bombaciarius, bombagiarius: cotton and cotton fabric weaver or merchant.
bordato: ticking; twilled and striped linen.
braccio secolare, secular arm: the civil power carrying out provisions issued by the Church.
breve: papal brief, a papal letter known since the late 14th century. From the late 15th century onwards it was sent by the Pope’s Secretary and was less formal than the documents from the Chancellery.
bridegrooms of the law, see Hatanim Torah.
brigantino: brigantine, light seagoing vessel, smaller than a galley, equipped for both rowing and sailing.
calegarius, callegarius: shoemaker; one that makes and sells shoes and other footwear.
calice: an urn.
callega: an auction.
cambio marittimo: bottomry, a contract whereby the contractor undertakes to repay the sum received nomine cambii in another place and in another currency, provided that the vessel where the freight used as security is loaded arrives safely at its destination.
cambio terrestre: a contract whereby one party purchases in Genoa, paying in Genoese currency, a credit in another currency related to the place where a fair is held.
camerlengo: treasurer.
caminata: the hall or main room in Genoese houses, usually provided with a fireplace. It was there that the family ate, entertained and concluded business deals.
caneletto, cannellelto: probably a smoothing tool, a boxwood rod approximately two-span long, used by shoemakers to smooth soles.
cantaro, cantarius: unit of weight equal to approximately 150 5 libbre, i.e. approx. kg 47.65 or 6 rubbi.
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capitoli di tolleranza: a charter defining rules and franchises of varying duration deliberated by the Genoese Republic for the Jews resident in the Dominion.
capitoli: charter, collection of rules, franchises and privileges.
capitolo, capitulo: chapter house, meeting place.
carato: each of the parts of the ownership of a vessel or other. Usually the ownership was divided into twenty-four parts.
causidico: attorney for the defence.
cavaliere gerosolomitano: Hospitaler, member of a religious military order, that still exists, established in Jerusalem in the 12th century to help pilgrims. Also called Knights of Malta, Knights of Rhodes and Knights of St. John of Jerusalem.
After the fall of Jerusalem in 1187, the Knights moved first to Akko, and on its fall in 1291 to Cyprus and then to Rhodes, conquered by the Knights in 1308. At the fall of Rhodes in 1522, the Knights moved to Malta, which was enfeoffed to them by Charles V and approved by the Pope with a bull in 1530. The Knights remained in Malta until 1798, when Napoleon drove them away. In 1834 the Knights established their residence in Italy.
censaria, senseria: brokering, brokerage; the gabella censaria in Genoa was a tax on the sale and purchase of goods.
censaro, sensale, sensarius: broker, middleman between seller and buyer.
cessione: a cession, an assignment to another of the rights of a creditor or of ownership of a right of action or a claim.
chedushim, see kiddushim.
chiavacore, chiavacuore, ihavachore: usually a green silk girdle; also a buckle, a clasp.
chirotacari, chirotecari: gloves.
ciaambellotto, cambellotto, see gramelotto, giamellotto.
cimbra: a small cargo vessel.
cinta: belt, girdle.
cinto a tirella, cinti ad torellas, cinti a torellis: silk woven girdles.
cocciniglia: cochineal, a red dye obtained by drying the dead bodies of female cochineal insects from Mexico and Central America.
colaretum: a collar, a neck-chain.
colonna: the number of luoghi recorded in the cartolari of the Banco S. Giorgio owned by an actual person or a person under law; see compera.
compera: public debt and, in particular, the government stock issued by Genoa against the security of a specific tax. The relevant capital was
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divided into ideal shares, with a nominal value of 100 lire, called luoghi.
condotta, conduzione, convenzione: a contract between a Jewish banker and the local authorities, specifying the duration of the licence to run a loan bank and conditions thereof.
contrabbando, contrammando: limited permit, granted by the authority upon expiry of a residence permit to allow the person involved to finish off his business and collect any sums owed to him.
corallaro: one who works or sells coral.
corallina: coral fishing boat, with rowing or sailing equipment.
cordeanerius, cordoanerius: leather seller, dealer in leather goods, especially sheep hides treated with myrtle.
cremisile: crimson, bright red.
damascetto: silk fabric, usually plain, but woven with a variety of yarns and embroidered with gold and silver.
deappiere, draperius, drappiere: draper, weaver or cloth merchant.
denaro: dinar, the twelfth part of the soldo, which in turn is the twentieth part of the Genoese pound. In the Middle Ages the lira (pound) was never coined and was just money of account like the soldo. Only denaro was coined.
dobletto: linen, cotton and sometimes silk fabric, quilled or twilled, woven in Naples according to the French fashion.
docente utriusque iuris: doctor in civil law and canon law.
dogana: duty, tax.
Dominion: the territory of the Republic of Genoa, consisting of the West Coast, the East Coast and the inland territory, i.e. Oltregiogo.
doppia: gold coin minted in Milan by Charles V in 1548; the name was then used by other Italian mints. In Genoa it usually referred to the doppio scudo d'oro delle cinque stampe (i.e. minted in Genoa, Naples, Florence, Venice and in Spain). From the early 17th century onwards, it replaced the scudo in business transactions.
ducato: ducat, in Venice, this was a pure gold coin, minted by Doge Giovanni Dandolo in 1284, later called zecchino (sequin). During the 17th and the 18th centuries, it was used in Venice in public accounts, while in small business the lira veneziana was used.
ducato d'oro: minted in Genoa from the 14th to the 16th century; from the 1440's to the early 16th century it referred to the genovino d'oro, instead of the term fiorino (florin), used in the 14th century for the same gold coin. Until 1470 the ducato d'oro weighted 3,567 grams, later 3,527 grams.

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Duce: Doge

dukhan: an elevated platform. The place where the priests stood while reciting the Priestly Blessing. Place in the synagogue where the Priestly blessing was recited.

duplone, doppione: doubloon, gold coin equal to two doppie, used also for the doppio ducato and other coins.

eccesione: exception, a plea whereby a deed was invalidated on the grounds of its clauses. In notary deeds in Genoa waiving exceptions was a means used by the notary to guarantee the execution of the deed.

elul: sixth month of the Jewish religious calendar, 12th of the civil, precedes the High Holiday season in the fall.

estimo: estimate, assessment of value.

etrogim: a citron fruit used for ritual purposes in the Feast of Tabernacles.

evizione: eviction, dispossession in virtue of tantamount title. Usually right to eviction is claimed by one who sells goods to repossess them.

faber murarius: mason, bricklayer.

faldetta: skirt, underskirt, woman’s garment.

fardo: container; also unit of weight, bale.

farenotta, farinotto: grain or flour retailer.

fassola: band.

feluca, felucca: a narrow, fast, 10 metre long vessel, equipped with spritsail, jib and with provisions for the use of oars.

fenogietto: flounce, furbelow.

feriolo: large sleeveless overcoat, with a collar; cloak.

ferrarius: blacksmith.

filippo: silver scudo minted by Philip II, King of Spain, in Milan, and then circulated by his successors.

fiorino: florin, in 14th century Genoa, this referred to the gold coin, i.e. the genovino. The genovino appeared on European markets in the 13th century, before the fiorino toscano and the zecchino veneto. In Tuscany the fiorino was coined in Florence in the 13th century and later became a fundamental unit in the monetary system of the city. The same name referred also to coins circulated and accepted in other Italian and European states.

fiorino imperiale: Austrian currency.

folcilitis: probably hides.

franco: originally a gold and later a silver coin minted in France in the 14th century, it circulated with different values and finally became the monetary unit when, following the Revolution, the metric system was adopted in France.
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frizetto, frexeto: silk ribbon, ornament for women hairdresses.
gabai, see gabbai.
gabbai: official of a Jewish congregation, originally a charity collector.
gabbai of the zedakah: public collector and distributor of charity.
gabella: duty on goods, meat, wine, and so forth, imposed by the municipality. In Genoa it usually refers to indirect tax.
galea, galera: long, narrow, lateen-rigged warship also used for freight; penalty inflicted to prisoners guilty of certain crimes; the vessel where such criminals were condemned to row and, by extension, hard labour.
gemilut hassadim: the most comprehensive and fundamental of all Jewish social virtues, which encompasses the whole range of the duties of sympathetic consideration toward one’s fellow man.
genovino, ianuinus: gold coin minted in Genoa, having the same weight and title as the fiorino in Florence. Genoa was granted the right to mint in 1138 by Emperor Corrado III.
ghemilud hassadim, see gemilut hassadim.
giambelucco, giamberlucco, zamberlucco: a long, wide cloak with a hood, used by Turks and Eastern people in general.
giustacuore: justicoat, a man’s knee-length coat with flaring and stiffened skirts.
gondola: small service vessel used by larger vessels.
gozzo: boat, small vessel.
gramelotto, giamelotto, ciambellotto, cambellotto: a drape, originally made from camel hair and then from goat fleece.
Gran Maestro di Rodi: Grand Master of Rhodes, the highest rank in the Knights of Malta, see cavaliere gerosolimitano.
grida: a ban.
graduator, (guardator): a technician in charge of specific inspections on board vessels.
haftarah: designation of the portion from the prophetic books of the Bible recited after the synagogue reading from the Pentateuch on Sabbaths and holidays.
hakham: title of the rabbi of the Sephardi congregation.
Halakhah: an accepted decision in rabbinic law. Also refers to those parts of the Talmud concerned with legal matters in contradistinction to aggadah.
hashkavah: prayer in memory of the dead.
Hatan Bereshit: the person called up to the reading of the first chapter of Genesis.
Hatanim Torah: honorary titles bestowed on those who are called up to

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the reading of certain sections of the law during the morning service of Simhat Torah, when the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah is concluded and a new one begins.

hazakah: a term expressing a factual-legal presumption as to the existence of a particular fact or state or affairs. In Italy ius gazaga or casaca means e.g. that a house owned by a gentile and rented to a Jew who had a hazakah on it might be sold to another Jew by permission of the head of the Bet Din. The buyer thereby acquired the hazakah.

hazzan: precentor who intones the liturgy and leads the prayers in the synagogue, in earlier times a synagogue official.

herem: excommunication imposed by rabbinical authorities for purposes of religious and/or communal discipline; originally in biblical times that which is separated from common use either because it was an abomination or because it was consacrated to God.

hes ha'im, ez hayyim, see azei hayyim.

ianuninus, januinus: see genovino.

illul, see elul.

indicione, indizione: indiction, a 15-year cycle used as a chronological unit in the major chronicles from the 4th century on. In Genoa it started on 24 September and was one unit below the Imperial indiction. The use in Genoa started in 1080 and stopped, as nearly everywhere else, after the French Revolution.

kaddish: liturgical doxology.

kadish, see kaddish.

kahal: Jewish congregation.

kaser, see kasher.

kasher: ritually permissible food.

kehillah: congregation.

ketuba, chetuba, see kettubah

ketubbah: marriage contract, stipulating husband's obligation to wife.

Kiddush: prayer of sanctification recited over wine or bread on Sabbath eve and festivals.

kiddushim: one of the most important stages of the Jewish wedding ceremony, when the groom gives the ring or another object to the bride, after which the two witnesses and the groom sign the dowry papers (ketubbah) and give them to the bride, followed by two blessings.

kippur, Yom Kippur: Day of Atonement, solemn fast day observed on the 10th of Tishri.

lembo: small, lateen-rigged, one or two-masted vessel.
**lettere patenti**: letters patent, written communication, usually signed and sealed by a government or sovereign of a nation, referring to a general rule of legislative or other nature, to an act, decree or administrative provision, or conferring a privilege.

**libra, libbra**: weight measure, equal to less than kg 0,32.

**libra, lira**: pound, currency of Genoa, equal to 20 soldi and 240 denari (dinars).

**limud**: teaching-study.

**livello**: contract for the lease of property (usually agricultural land), similar to the emphyteusis in that the rent is very low, the lessee keeps the land from depreciating and the duration of the lease is 29 years. In the Middle Ages this contract was used mainly by monks who, not being able to farm the monastery land personally, leased it out.

**luigino**: fractional currency of the French scudo, equal to 5 soldi tornesi.

**luoghi**: see compera.

**mandillo**: handkerchief.

**mappah**: the embroidered cloth that covers the reading desk in the synagogue.

**mazzah**: unleavened bread eaten during Passover.

**me’il**: cloth used to cover the Sefer Torah.

**megnil**: probably stands for me’il.

**melamed**: teacher.

**merciaio, mersarius**: a member of the guild of the merchants. Originally this was the guild for all the shops in town, but later it split up into more specific guilds such as, for instance, the Arte della Seta.

**mezzarola, or metreta, mezzarolia**: unit of volume equal to two barili, but subject to variations throughout the centuries. The barile corresponds to approximately 55 litres of wine and 66 litres of oil.

**Midrash**: method of interpreting Scripture to elucidate legal parts (Midrash Halakhah) or to emphasise lessons by means of stories or homiletics (Midrash Aggadah). Also the name for a collection of such rabbinic interpretation.

**miglio**: unit of length which in Genoa corresponded to 1483.53 metres, or 6,000 spans.

**mikveh**: ritual bath.

**mina**: unit of volume, typical of grain, equal to approximately 82.434 kg; half a mina was a quartino; half a quartino was a staio.

**minhah**: afternoon prayer, originally meal offering in Temple.

**mishe-Berakh**: He who Blessed, initial words of a prayer formula said on various occasions and invoking God’s blessing on the community and on individuals.

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Mishnah: general designation of Oral Law including all its aspects: Midrash (see) halakhot (see) and aggodot (see). Earliest codification of the Jewish Oral Law.

misva, mizva, see mitzvah.

mitzvah: biblical or rabbinic injunction, applied also to good or charitable deeds.

mo'ed: holiday, fixed celebration.

modaah: notice, statement, declaration.

mohadim, see mo'ed.

Monte di pietà: charitable public pawn bank.

moscio: probably musk, a strong-smelling substance obtained from certain glands of the male musk deer and other animals, used in perfumes and medicines.

mussola: muslin, a fine plain-weave silk, wool or cotton fabric.

mutuo: mortgage, a contract whereby one party lends a sum of money to the other, undertaking to repay it with a given interest. This sometimes is not specified to avoid disputes, but the declared sum is higher than that actually received.

nedavah: freewill offerings. The minimum offering that one could bring to the holy convocations that took place on the three Pilgrim festivals was the freewill offering.

ner tamid: eternal lamp, a light which burns perpetually in front of the ark in the synagogue; it can also be in memory of the dead.

nisan: first month of the Jewish religious year, seventh of the civil, approximately March-April.

nuncio: messenger.

onia: ounce, unit of weight, corresponding approximately to 30 grams.

oratore cesareo: ambassador or representative for the Emperor.

organzino: organzine, a raw silk yarn formed from one or more twisted strands.

palmo: span, unit of length equal to 0.2476 metres.

pangogulus: baker, bread retailer; he is also responsible for the bread and other food that his clients bring for him to bake.

pane: copper, ingot, mass of metal cast in a regular shape, usually parallelepipedal.

pannina: a kind of woollen cloth, usually thin and light, used for simple and cheap garments, blankets and furnishings.

parnas: chief synagogue functionary, originally vested with both religious and administrative functions, subsequently an elected lay leader.

parnassim, see parnas.

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parochite, see parokhet.
parokhet: the curtain hanging before the ark in the synagogue, which in the Temple covered the place where the Law Tablets were kept.
pastinus: land.
paterius: cloth merchant.
patrono, patronus: master of smaller vessels.
pennaccio: probably a billhook, cutting tool with a hooked point fitted with a handle and used for pruning.
perone, pirone: pin, peg.
pezza, pezzo delle rose: currency used in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, corresponding to approximately 6 pounds.
piastra: silver coin minted in Italy from the 16th century, especially in Bologna; also scudo bolognese, romano, fiorentino.
pinco: the typical Ligurian vessel of the Modern Age, it was made of wood, usually 15 to 20 metres in length, lateen-rigged, and threemasted, with the foremost slanting forward.
pittam: protuberance, the pistil of the etrog, citrus fruit, one of the Four Species used on Sukkot.
polacca: 17th century two-decked ship with two or three masts, over 20 metres long, chiefly in one piece and square or lateen sails; from the mid-18th century onwards all square, bowsprit and jib sails.
qiddushim, see kiddushim.
quapah: case.
raxeta, razetto: simple satin, not as thick as the proper satin.
reale: real, currency used in the Kingdom of Spain, originally minted by Robert d'Anjou in Sicily. In Genoa the reale was minted by the Banco S. Giorgio in 1666 for business and trade with Spain. The 8-piece corresponding to the Spanish currency peso de cambio was equal to 8 actual reali and called pezzo, or pezza da 8.
repessino, repezzino: second-hand dealer.
ricordo: note, proposal.
rimonim: pairs of pinnacles decorating the Sefer Torah. Those used in the Temple were pomegranate-shaped; hence the name.
rollo, rullo: roll, also unit of weight, equal to 1.5 libbre.
rossetto: probably a red dye.
rubo, rubbo: unit of weight equal to 25 libbre, corresponding to approximately 7.94 kilos.
ruxentaro di ramo: copper vessel used to draw water; vessel used by barbers to wash hair.
sagitta: fast-sailing ship, with three lateen sails.

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sayum: garment.
sciatino, see shohet.
scivan, see sivan.
scoffia, scufia: bonnet.
scofiotino: small bonnet, cap.
scosaro, scossaro: apron or smock.
scrutturale: scribe, clerk.
scudo: gold or silver coin circulating in many Italian states. In Genoa in the 16th century it replaced the golden ducato and from the 17th century was reserved for major financial transactions.
seatiere, seaterius, seapterius: silk maker, silk merchant, dealer in silks.
Sefer Torah: manuscript scroll of the Pentateuch for public reading in the synagogue.
Senatoconsulto Velleiano: a privilege granted by the Roman Senate in 46 V.E. in order to protect simple women in business from people who dealt with them in bad faith. According to this law, named after the jurist, women could claim restitutio in integrum against material damage.
sensale: see censaro.
Serenissimi Signori: the form of address used for the members of the Senate and the Camera of the Republic of Genoa; see also in the magistratures.
shammash: synagogue beadle.
shebuy: prisoner.
shevat: eleventh month of the Jewish religious year, fifth of the civil, approximately January-February.
shoet: person qualified to perform ritual slaughtering of animals or birds for food.
shofar: horn of the ram (or any other ritually clean animal except for the cow) sounded for the memorial blowing on the new year and other occasions.
sivan: third month of the Jewish religious year, ninth of the civil, approximating to June-July.
soldo: twentieth part of the Genoese pound and others.
sotularius, subtalaris, subtilaris: clog, shoe with wooden sole.
speciarius, speziale: chemist, also confectioner.
stagnaria, stagnata: large tin vessel.
staia: unit of measurement for grain, corresponding to one fourth of a mina.
stoppiere: one who makes and sells tow to caulkers.

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Glossary

strapontiere: one who makes and sells wool quilted blankets and mattresses.
Sua Maestà Cattolica: the King of Spain.
Sua Maestà Cesarea: the Emperor.
Sua Maestà Cristiana: the King of France.
succot, see sukkah.
sukkah: booth or tabernacle erected for the festival of Tabernacles when for seven days the religious Jews “dwell” or at least eat in the Sukkah (Lev. 23,42).
suola: probably also a unit of measurement.
taffetà: taffeta, a crisp and smooth silk fabric used especially for women’s clothing.
tallero: currency used by the Empire, corresponding to one and a half fiorino imperiale.
Talmud-Torah: term generally applied to Jewish religious (and ultimately to talmudic) study; also traditional Jewish religious public schools.
Talmud: “teaching,” compendium of discussions on the Mishnah by generations of scholars and jurists in many academies over a period of several centuries.
tamid, see ner tamid.
tartana: freight or fishing vessel with one mast and lateen sails.
tebet, see tevet.
tefillah: the most common word for prayer.
tevet: tenth month of the Jewish religious year, approximately December-January.
ticun, see tiq.
tiq: case for the Sefer Torah.
tishri: seventh month of the Jewish religious year, approximately September-October.
tisri, see tishri.
tonnina: probably preserved tuna fish.
tornese, lira tornese: until 1795 the monetary unit of account of the Kingdom of France, consisting of 20 soldi, each consisting of 12 denari; it was later replaced by the franco, divided into cents and equalised to the old lira.
trireme: classical name for the galley.
volta, loggia: room on the ground floor of a house, used as a shop or as a warehouse.
jecchino: sequin, the name of the gold ducato in 16th century Veneto.

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zecchino gigliato: currency coined in 1719 by Cosimo III de’ Medici, Granduke of Tuscany.
zentonilis seu raxi, zentuoninis, zentuninus: silk or satin plain weave fabric.
zofar, see shofar.

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