The history of the relations among Cyprus, Genoa and Venice as well as that of Italian commercial activity on the island have drawn the attention of scholars for many years now.¹ Their study is possible

due to the great number of published documents from the archives of Genoa and Venice. This Italian archival material provides valuable information on the multifarious interests of the Italians on Cyprus, economic, political, and diplomatic. The wealth of the Genoese and Venetian archives has led to a proliferation of relevant secondary bibliography. Nevertheless, the collection Diversorum Communis Ianue, which is preserved in the Archivio di Stato of Genoa (ASG) and which contains numerous documents on the history of Cyprus, has not been studied systematically as yet. Here I will attempt a brief presentation of these documents, which I published in 2005.

The documents in this collection are contained in different filze, which were assembled using the method of the medieval loose-leaf binder. First, the sheets, covered with notarial handwriting of the fifteenth century, were folded once or twice. All of them were then pierced with a needle and cord, the same cord being used to bind the documents into a pack, called “filza” in Italian. Earlier readers or scholars pulled out the cord from the sheets and now the documents in the filza are no longer bound. All the documents were partially damaged by the perforation, but their general state is, as a rule, satisfactory. The only exception is filza 3021, containing hundreds of documents torn in half- and quartersheets, dispersed and shuffled. Reassembling the pieces is a very time-consuming process, but this filza is quite interesting and provides a wealth of information, including twenty documents concerning the history of Cyprus.

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1 Archivio di Stato di Genova, Archivio Segreto, Diversorum Communis Ianue, filze 3021–3060 (hereafter cited as ASG, AS, Diversorum Communis Ianue).
2 Bliznyuk, Genuesen.