



## The Last Cohort Sent to Turin, Italy Maili Nowlien & August Herring

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### Maili Nowlien

“Miss Nowlien is also at Turin, and is receiving instruction in the Italian language in preparation for a course at an Art school in Florence, to be selected for her by His Majesty's Consul C. Del Bels Brounlie”

- Sam Nowlien to Godfrey Brown. Sept. 1, 1887

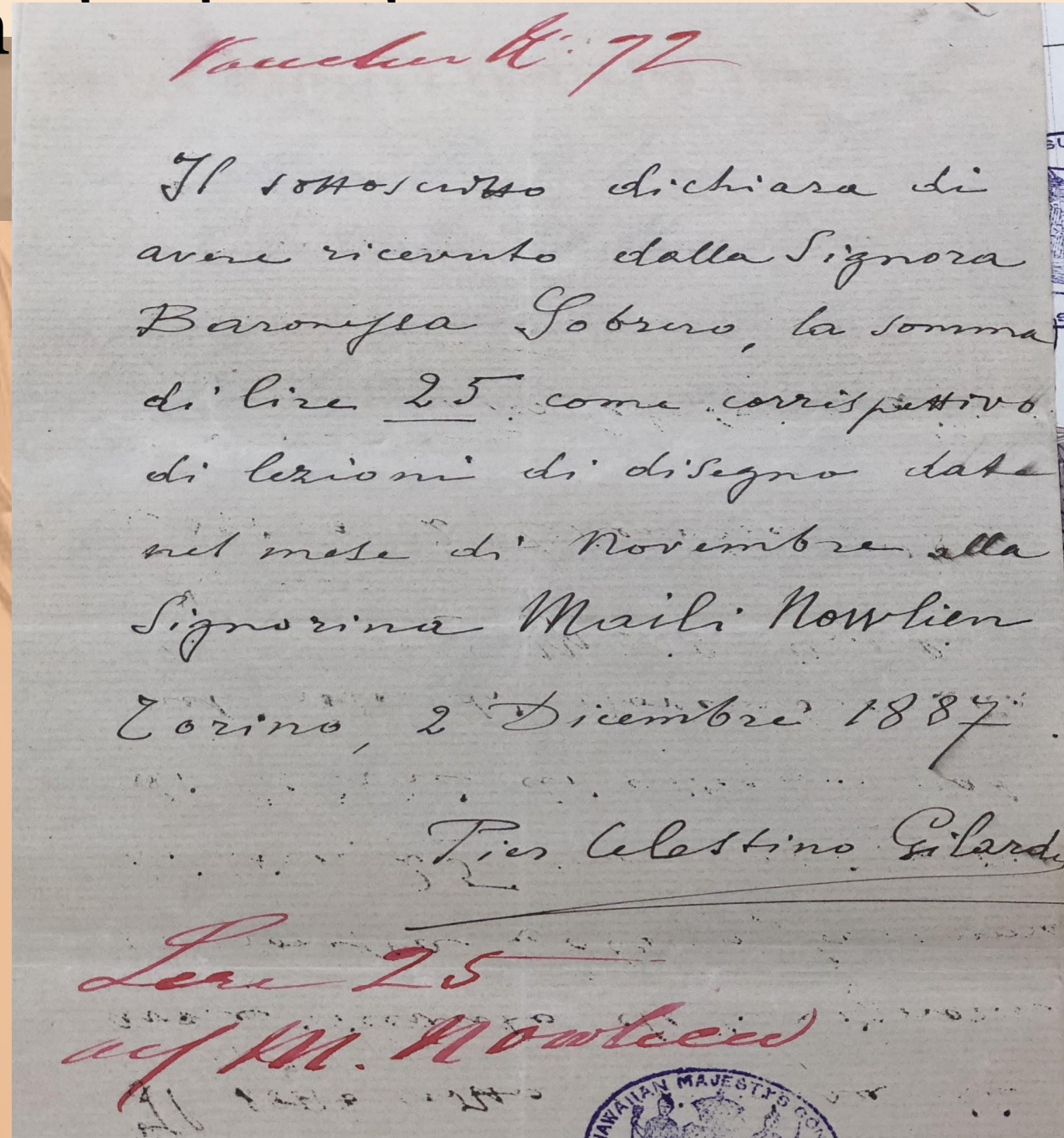
In 1887 King David Kalākaua selected the first wahine to embark on this educational experience to Torino, Italia. Accompanied on the trip with her was her father Colonel Sam Nowlien and August Herring. There she found herself taking private lessons in music, Italian, and in art with Pier Celestino Gilardi. He was an assistant professor at the Accademia Albertina in Turin from 1873 to 1884 and then established himself as a genre painter.



My visit to Accademia Albertina.

### ‘Widow Sobrero’

In hand written receipts dating back to July 1887 to May 1888, payments were made straight to a ‘Widow Sobrero’ who I believe was Maili’s host in Turin. Where ever Maili went, Sobrero would be with her as noted on each receipt, “payments were received through Signora Baronessa Sobrero.” In conversing with Dr. Emanuela Borgnino about who this might be, she suggested it could be Gina Sobrero’s mother whom was a widow at the time. While Maili studied in Turin, Gina Sobrero & Robert Wilcox left for Hawai‘i and coincidentally lived with the Nowlien ‘ohana on O‘ahu, an astonishing connection that I



A hand written receipt for Maili’s art lesson with Pier Celestino Gilardi in December of 1887.

### Recall of Students

After the illegal Bayonet Constitution, a new cabinet was forced into the constitutional monarchy. As part of their strategy to curtail Native authority, this cabinet recalled the students studying abroad. With only a couple months in to her studies, Maili was recalled home. However, she was the only one who continued her studies and made arrangements with her father, Sam Nowlien, who offered to pay out of pocket. Thus, she stayed in Italy up until 1890.

### Reflection

During this time period it was uncommon for women to be traveling, especially for school. Thus raising questions on what that experience might have been like for Maili and the different types of social dynamics and pressures she may have endured throughout her stay in Italy and visit to London.



### Torino, Italia

It is no secret that Italy is renowned for their Italian art, sculptures, music, food, and detailed infrastructures which is probably why Maili Nowlien and August Herring were selected to study here. A city filled with centuries of ancient histories, Turin or *Torino* was once a center for European power, housing great battles and discussions amongst world leaders, and was even the first capital city in Europe. During the turn of the 19th century, *Torino* was a major crossroad for industrial and commercial trade in their many efforts to expand their economic wealth. With a rapid increase in development and population this city was seen with a Metropolis gaze as these students would experience in the 1880s.



### Sharing Our Histories & Their Stories Through Our Own Experiences

Walking on narrow sidewalks and cobblestone streets toward the Military Academy in Turin we retraced the steps of the brave Kānaka who traversed their way through Italy. Through our journeys as Hawaiian Youths Abroad 2019 we restored ea into the stories that were left here, and brought them back with us in our collective experiences.



### Military Academy in Turin

Our first visit was to the Military Academy that Wilcox and Booth attended in the 1880s. On this visit, we were special guests and attended the graduation ceremony for those who passed the program. This opportunity allowed us to have a similar experience as to what Wilcox’s graduation may have been like. Inclusive in this trip was a tour around the academy and a display of special gems that were kept in their archives. With tears running down our cheeks, we acknowledged the significance and importance of these documents. We were filled with joy as they were generous enough to provide copies for us to bring home to the Kingdom.



### His Hawaiian Majesty’s Consulate Turin

Another location we visited was the residence of the Hawaiian Kingdom Consulate in Turin. When we got there, it was a normal residency and the building was still intact. As we shared in conversations about the amount of documentation that took place in this area, we reclaimed this space with our leo and recollection. Before leaving, we placed a Hawaiian flag at the entrance along with a sticker stating ‘His Hawaiian Majesty’s Consulate Turin’ in remembrance of our history.

### Accademia Albertina in Turin

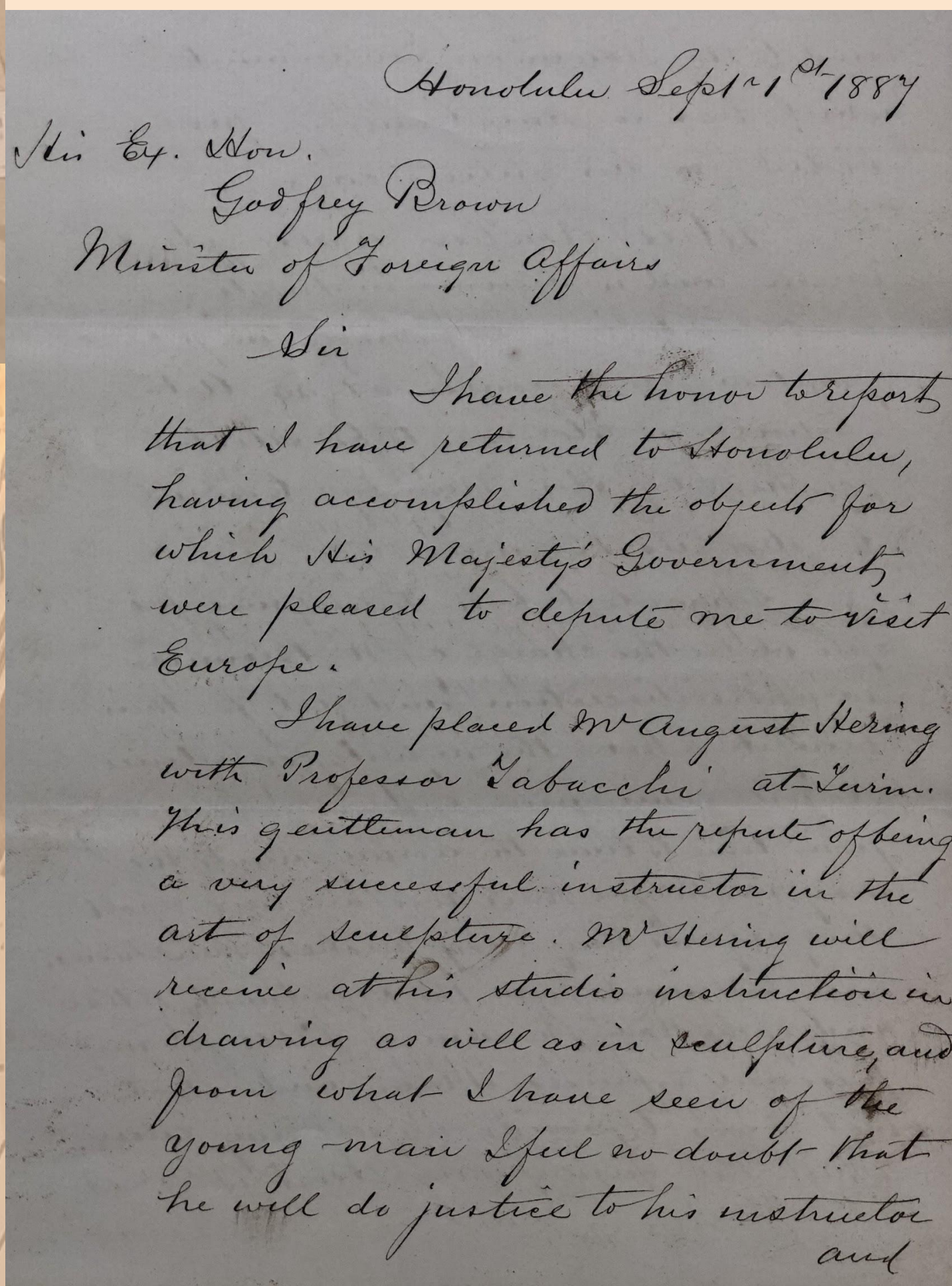
On our last day in Turin, I ventured off to find the Accademia Albertina in Turin. This academy was an art school that both Maili & August had visited and received supplies from during their stay there. This was important for me to not only visit this academy but to also walk through the same streets that were once unfamiliar yet so familiar for them.

### August Herring

“From what I have seen of the young man I feel no doubt that he will do justice to his instructor and to the Hawaiian Government which has so handsomely provided for his future career”

- Sam Nowlien to Godfrey Brown. Sept. 1, 1887

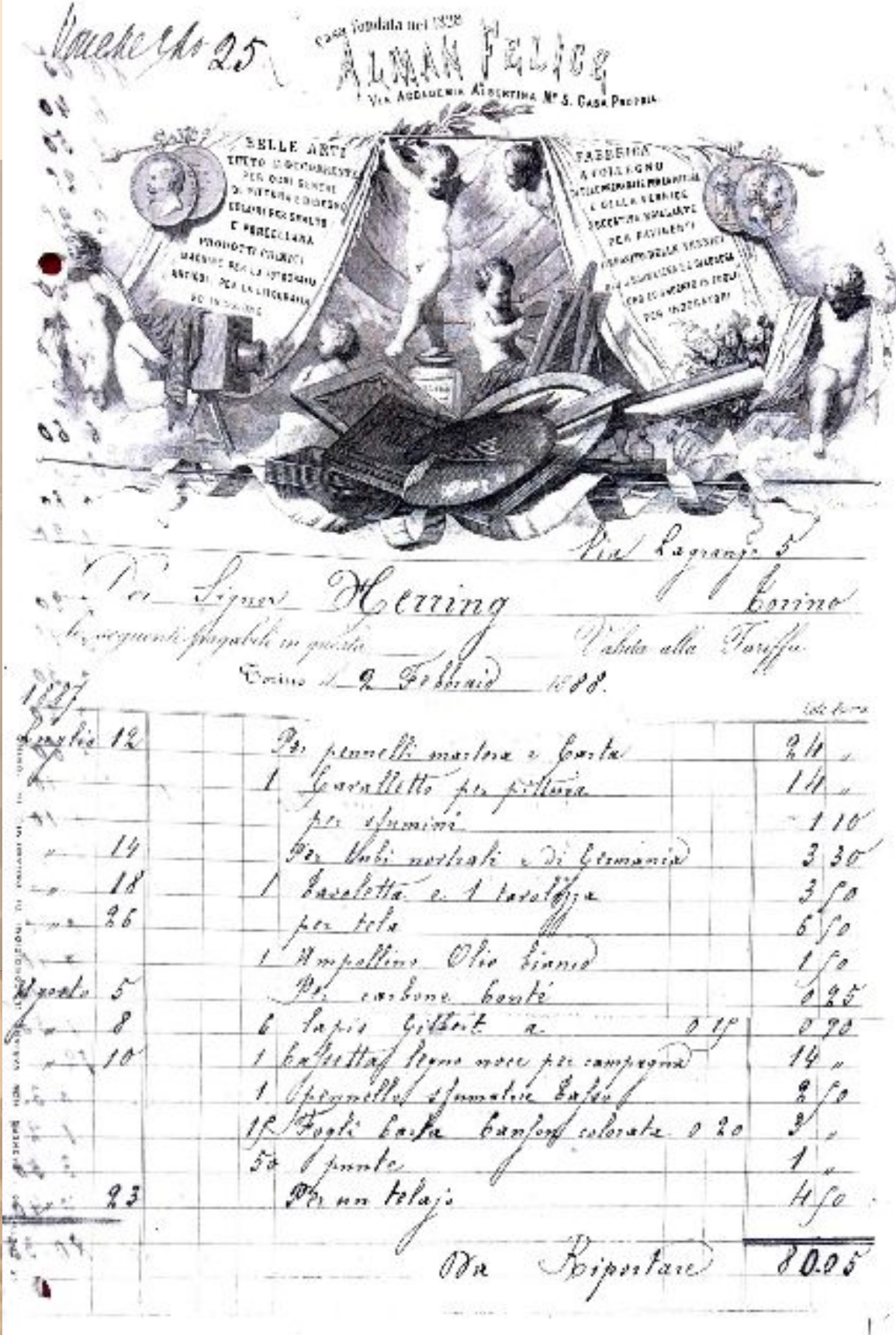
Along with Maili Nowlien, August Herring was also selected to study in Turin, Italy. However, he was there to pursue art and sculpting. In the month of September in 1887, August was placed with a mentor, Mr. Tabucchi, whom was a successful instructor in both sculpting and drawing.



Sam Nowlien’s letter to Godfrey Brown informing that August and Maili will be under the care of C. Del Brounlie.

### Time Spent in Torino

While August was in Torino, he took many lessons in Italian and seemed to pick up the language in the few months that he was there. Amongst some other receipts for many of them came from the Accademia Albertina, the same academy school that Maili had gotten some of her art supplies.



Mr. Herring’s receipt of art supplies from Accademia Albertina.



Me in front of Accademia Albertina.

### Recall of Students

In February 1888, the first of many letters went out to Consulates around the world requesting for the return of Kānaka abroad, inclusive of August Herring and Maili Nowlien. While Maili stayed, August’s withdrawal from the sculpture program was carried out, which was a devastating transition for him.

At the conclusion of their journeys abroad, the Hawai‘i that they once knew, was no longer. Getting their studies cut short, made it very difficult and almost impossible for them to come home to serve in their fullest potential. Although only recently we’ve been able to breathe life back into these stories, there is so much more to research and learn.