

# ATLANTICA

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THE DOCTRINE OF FASCISM — By Benito Mussolini  
Meucci: Inventor of the Telephone — The Presidential Campaign



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*The reasons as well as the causes which prompted Italian intervention in the World War are herewith published for the first time by one who was at the head at that period.*



# ATLANTICA'S OBSERVATORY

## THE FOREIGN PRESS

**I**N an article that has had considerable circulation by being reprinted in many of the Italian-American weeklies of this country, Miss Ann Silver discusses the growing importance of the foreign press in America, consisting, she says, of 700 foreign language papers.

Aside from a glaring error or two (as when she says that there are "a few Italian Fascist papers which are far outbalanced by others militantly anti-Fascist") many of the author's remarks are worth quoting, as in the case of the following:

"The foreign language papers are a tremendous force for good. Their interpretation of American life as well as their reports of events abroad make the foreign reader a patriotic citizen despite his innate nationalistic strain....

"How important the foreign press has now become can be shown in the number of instances the President and other leaders have taken special pains to commend it on its handling and interpretation of major events."

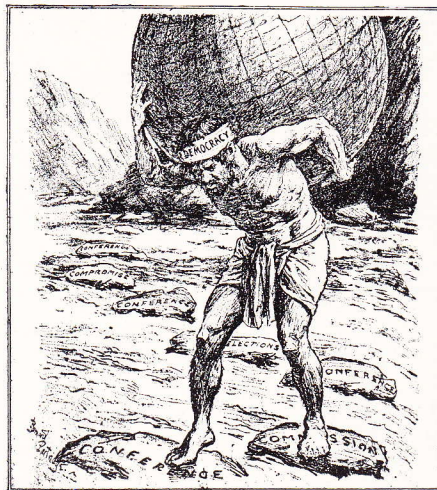
In treating the papers themselves, the author makes the point, after indicating that they differ from American papers in that they are "for the most part independent of advertising, since they are usually backed by religious orders, lodges, organizations and political factions", that "unlike the American papers, the foreign press sets itself up unequivocally as a philosophical guide and friend of its reader. It is an open forum for their social, economic and political problems rather than an agency solely to present news. It devotes itself essentially to their welfare and seeks to interpret for them not only the events of their native lands but current life here. Because the foreigner is usually a sober type of citizen, interested in vital problems, the content matter of his language paper differs from that of the American press."

A question which the author answers optimistically, but which

is still a moot point, is: Will the foreign press increase or decrease in prestige and power in the future? What with the severe immigration restrictions now in force, it is hard to see eye to eye with Miss Silver when she says that "indications are that the nationalistic interest supporting them will increase rather than subside."

## A BETTER CHOICE

**T**HE bulk of the money left by two Italians, Antonio Comincio and Franco Bortetta, who died intestate in New York in 1926, has been given by the Italian Government, to which it reverted, to promote cultural activities at the Casa Italiana. Of the full \$13,000, the comparatively small portion of \$3000 was allocated to the Villa St. Joseph, the summer camp for Italian children which Generoso Pope is so laudably carrying on, and to Italian World War veterans living in this country. Most of the money,



The Embarrassed Titan: A Slow-Motion Picture

—Punch, London

however, will be used for cultural purposes.

This is all very well, but we can imagine the two humble workmen turning over in their graves at the thought that their hard-earned money should not have been used to alleviate the condi-

tion of their own kind. Especially at a time of economic suffering like the present, it would have been far more practical, as well as appropriate, to have donated it to one or more of the many Italian institutions like the Columbus Hospitals, the Italian Welfare League, the Italian Auxiliary, the Italian Child Welfare Committee, etc., which do humanitarian and charitable work among the Italian needy in New York.

Culture deserves to be promoted, but not nearly so much as relief work, right now.

## MODERN ITALIAN EXPLORERS

**M**ANY readers will recognize the Matto Grosso Expedition as the one concerning which last year there was considerable space devoted in the press. Until recently, the large majority of Italians were not aware that it was Vincent M. Petruccio of the University of Pennsylvania Museum who was its anthropologist and co-leader. Last month a very interesting monograph written by him on the results of the expedition was published in the Museum Journal.

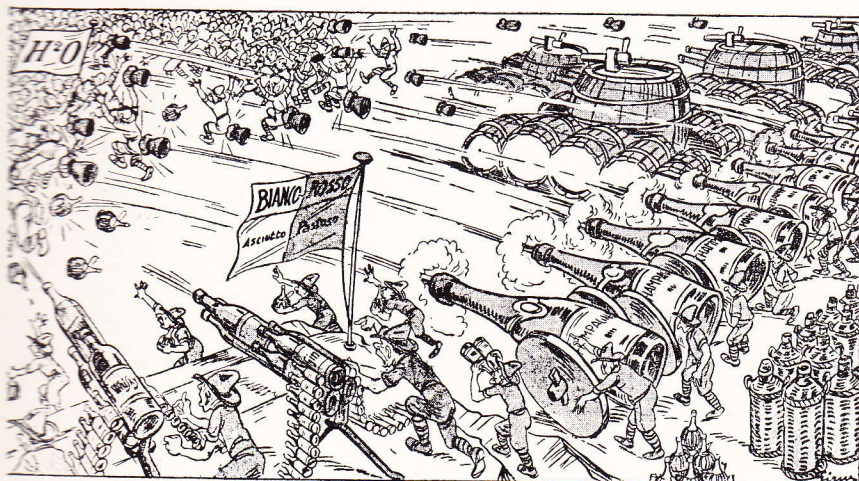
Together with E. R. F. Johnson, son of the founder of the Victor Talking Machine Co., he flew over the dense jungle of Matto Grosso in Brazil, thereby facilitating their approach to the Yawalapiti, a primitive tribe which had never had any contact whatever with any other civilization than theirs. By dropping a sack filled with good-will offerings before landing, the young explorers and anthropologists were later welcomed as gods, till explanations were made.

Many photographs and notes were made by Mr. Petruccio, for the natives were amiable and complaisant, and from the published results of the expedition, apparently much can be learned about man's origin and development by study of the Yawalapiti. Such achievements as that of Mr. Petruccio should be better known.



\* \* \*

Another expedition led by an Italian will be one to set out at the end of this year to reach the source of the Orinoco River in South America and collect geographical data. Colonel Giovanni Masturzi, called by Mussolini the "man who is never still," will head the party, which will be well equipped to spend months in the wilds.



With the coming American elections, an inevitable Wet-Dry battle is foreseen.  
—From the "Guerin Meschino" of Milan

Colonel Masturzi, a veteran soldier and explorer, is a member of the Italian, Cuban and Mexican Geographical Societies. He campaigned in Africa and China and has written three books on his world travels. Recently he returned from a 4000-mile trip up the Amazon and its tributaries in an effort to reach the Orinoco basin. He was stricken with fever before completing the project and forced to return. The expedition will be financed jointly by the Venezuelan Government and the Italian Geographical Society. Colonel Masturzi was picked to lead the expedition because of the recommendation of Count Antonio Catanio Quirin, formerly an officer in the Italian Army and now a General in the Venezuelan forces.

#### MORE ITALIAN WOMEN THAN MEN

RECENT census returns in Italy show an excess of female population over male in 1931 of 666,065. Out of every thousand inhabitants, 508 are females and 492 are males. The unusualness of the returns can be gathered from the fact that it is

the first time since recent censuses have been kept that the female population has shown an excess over the male.

#### OVERCROWDED JAILS

TRULY, these are times to try men's souls. Undoubtedly, the United States, economically, financially, industrially and commercially, has struck this

summer a new and unprecedented low in many fields. Unemployment has never been so high, production seldom so low, suffering rarely as great.

A point we have not seen much made of is the fact that New York City's 18 penal institutions are now overcrowded with almost 6,000 inmates, though their total capacity is 5,300, according to the Department of Correction. Not since 1914 have the jails been so crowded.

Of course the depression is to blame, in the form of petty crimes committed that can be traced to poverty and unemployment. The old witticism about people who deliberately commit small offenses to obtain food and shelter for a few months, has now become a tragic actuality all too true.

#### STOCKS RISE

By the time this appears, it will be known fairly definitely whether the recent exhilarating rise on the New York Stock Exchange is to be just another fluctuation, or something more permanent. The following, in any event, have been suggested as reasons, and it

is interesting to reflect upon their validity:

- 1) The Lausanne agreement.
- 2) Cessation of the outward gold movement.
- 3) Final passage of the compromise relief bill.
- 4) Defeat of the bonus bill in Congress, which many feared would have brought about abandonment of the gold standard here.
- 5) The shift in sentiment on the repeal question, as shown by the two party conventions.
- 6) Evidences of a change in public opinion on the problem of debt revision, as revealed in Senator Borah's recent speech urging American participation in an international economic conference empowered to deal with that issue.
- 7) Adjournment of Congress after balancing the budget.
- 8) The ending of the Chicago banking troubles.
- 9) The apparent success of the bold move on the part of the British Treasury for the conversion of the two billion pound 5 per cent war loan.

10) Approval by the I.C.C. of the Eastern railroad consolidation plan.

11) Formation of the National Economy League to fight against waste in government.

12) Evidence of revived activity in several scattered industries, especially woollens and oil.

13) Outlook for a normal crop year.

Are they really forerunners of the long-awaited upturn, or sporadic improvements that raise hope, but little else?

#### ROME STILL LEADS

THERE was considerable speculation last year as to which of the three largest Italian cities—Rome, Naples or Milan—would be the first to go over the 1,000,000 mark in population. Rome went over the top first a number of months ago.

Recent statistics disclose that Rome is still established as the greatest Italian city, with Milan close at her heels, but with Naples considerably outdistanced. As of April 1st, the population of Rome was 1,021,388; Milan 995,598; and Naples 844,744. This youthful vitality on the part of the Eternal City is little short of amazing.



# BOOKS ABROAD

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# ATLANTICA

Founded in 1923

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In informing its readers that the July issue has been omitted, and that the August issue follows the June issue in sequence, ATLANTICA hereby assures its readers that their subscriptions will accordingly be extended by one month.

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## The Cover This Month

A striking view is this of the beautiful Palazzo Doria near Genoa, as seen from its magnificent lower garden. To the right, in the court, is a large arcaded loggia, to the left a tasteful garden and a fountain by the Carlone (1599-1601), with a statue of Andrea Doria as Neptune, which can be seen in the foreground of the photograph. Of the upper Doria garden, the only relic that is now left is the niche with a colossal statue of Hercules ("Il Gigante"), on the hill just beyond the palace proper.

The palace was presented in 1522 to Andrea Doria, "padre della patria", who died in 1560 at the age of 92. It was remodelled about 1529 from designs by Fra Giovanni Angelo Montorsoli, and embellished with several frescoes and grotesques by Perin del Vaga.

There is a long Latin inscription on the side of the palace near the street which records that Andrea Doria, admiral of the Papal, Imperial, French and Genoese fleets, in order to close his eventful career in honorable repose, caused the palace to be rebuilt for himself and his successors. No less a poet than Ariosto sang his praise in the following words: "Questo è quel Doria, che fa dai pirati sicuro il vostro mar per tutti i lati". ("This is that Doria who from pirates keeps your sea safe in all directions.")



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# The Doctrine of Fascism

## Defined by Mussolini

**L**IKE all sound political concepts, Fascism is both practice and thought, action in which one doctrine is inherent, and a doctrine which, rising from a given system of historical forces, remains bound with it, and works from the inside of this system. It therefore has a form co-relative to the contingencies of place and time, but at the same time it has an ideal content which elevates it to a formula of truth in the higher history of thought. It does not act spiritually in the world like human will dominating will without a concept of the transient and particular reality in which it must act, and of the permanent and universal reality in which the former has its being and its life. To understand men, one must understand the man; and to understand the man, one must understand reality and its laws. There is no concept of the State that is not fundamentally a concept of life: philosophy or intuition, a system of ideas that moves within a logical construction, or is gathered in a vision or in a faith, whatever it is, it is always, at least virtually always, an organic conception of the world.

Thus Fascism would not be understood in many of its practical attitudes, as a party organization, as a system of education, as discipline, if it were not looked at in the light of its general way of conceiving life. It is a spiritual way. The world, for Fascism, is not this material world that appears superficially, in which man is an individual separated from all others, and is governed by a natural law which instinctively leads him to live a life of egoistic and momentary pleasure. The man of Fascism is an individual who is the nation

and the motherland, a moral law which brings together individuals and generations in a tradition and a mission, which suppresses the instinct for the closed life in a

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With the recent publication of the 14th volume of the great Treccani Italian Encyclopedia, containing the section under "F", great interest was manifested in Italy in the ample treatment given to the Fascist movement.

The following article, translated from the Encyclopedia, is an exposition of the theory and philosophy of Fascism by its creator, Benito Mussolini.

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short round of pleasure, so as to initiate as a duty a superior life free from the limits of time and space: a life in which the individual, through self-abnegation, the sacrifice of his own interests, death itself, realizes that totally spiritual existence in which is the worth of man.

**I**T is a spiritual conception therefore, and it also rose from the general reaction of the century against the flabby and materialistic positivism of the Ottocento. It is anti-positivistic, but positive: not skeptical, nor agnostic, nor pessimistic, nor passively optimistic, as are in general the doctrines (all negative) which place the centre of life outside of man, who with his free will can and must create his own world. Fascism demands the man active, and engaged in action with all his energies: it demands him vigorously conscious of difficulties, and ready to face them. It conceives of life as a struggle, and that it is up to man to conquer for himself that which is really worthy of him, creating first of all within himself the

instrument (physical, moral, intellectual) with which to build himself up. Thus with the individual, thus with the nation, thus with humanity. Hence the high value of culture in all its forms (art, religion, science) and the tremendous importance of education. Hence also the essential value of work, with which man overcomes nature and creates the human world (economic, political, moral and intellectual).

This positive conception of life is evidently an ethical conception. Life, then, as conceived by the Fascist, is serious, austere, religious: poised in a world supported by the moral and responsible forces of the spirit. The Fascist disdains the comfortable life. Fascism is a religious conception, in which the man is viewed in his inherent relationship with a superior law, with an objective will that transcends the particular individual and elevates him to the position of a conscious member of a spiritual society. Those who, in the religious policy of the Fascist regime, have stopped at considerations of mere opportunism, have not understood that Fascism, in addition to being a system of government, is also and first of all a system of thought.

Fascism is an historical conception, in which man is not what he is if he is not functioning fully in the spiritual faith to which he adheres, in the family and social group, in the nation and in that history in which all nations participate. Hence the great value of tradition in the memories, the language, the customs, and the standards of social life. Outside of history, man is nothing. For this reason Fascism is opposed to all individualistic abstractions on materialistic bases of the 18th Century type; and



it is opposed to all Jacobin utopias and innovations. It does not believe real happiness to be possible on earth, as it was in the desire of the economic literature of the Settecento, and therefore rejects all conceptions by which, at a certain period in history, there will be a definitive apotheosis of the human race. This means putting oneself outside of history and life, which is a continuous flux and reflux. Politically, Fascism is a realistic doctrine; practically, it aspires to solve only the problems which are posed historically by themselves and which by themselves find or suggest their own solutions. To act among men, as in nature, one must enter into the process of reality and avail oneself of the forces at the moment.

**A**NTI-INDIVIDUALISTIC, the Fascist conception is for the State; and it is for the individual (insofar as he coincides with the State) the universal conscience and will of man in his historic existence. Fascism is against classic liberalism, which rose from the need to react against absolutism, and which has exhausted its historical function since the State was transformed in its own popular conscience and will. Liberalism denied the State in the interest of the particular individual; Fascism re-affirms the State as the true reality of the individual. And if liberty must be the attribute of the real man, and not of that abstract puppet about which individualistic liberalism thought, Fascism is for liberty. It stands for the liberty which can be a serious matter, the liberty of the State, and of the individual in the State. For the Fascist, everything is within the State, and nothing human or spiritual exists, and much less has worth, outside of the State. It is in this sense that Fascism is totalitarian, and the Fascist State, synthesized and united by every value and worth, interprets, develops and strengthens the whole life of the people.

Neither individuals outside of the State, nor groups (political parties, associations, syndicates, classes). For this reason Fas-

cism is against socialism, which hardens the historic class struggle and ignores the unity of State which casts the classes in a single economic and moral reality; and, analogously, it is against class syndicalism. But within the orbit of the regulating State, the real needs, from which originate socialist and syndicalist movements, are recognized by Fascism and made to count in the corporative system of interests, conciliated within the unity of the State.

Individuals are classes according to the categories of their interests; they are syndicates according to their differentiated but co-interested economic activities; but they are first of all and above all the State. The latter is not a number, like a sum of individuals forming the majority of a people. For that reason Fascism is against the democracy that equalizes a people to its greater number, lowering it to the level of the majority; yet Fascism itself is the purest form of democracy. The people is conceived as it should be, qualitatively, as the most potent idea because it is more moral, more coherent, truer, an idea which in the people is realized, as the conscience and will of the few, even of One, and, as an ideal, tends to be realized in the conscience and will of all: of all those who from nature and history, ethnically, find reason to form a nation, bound in the same direction of development and spiritual formation, like a single conscience and will. Not race nor region geographically individualized, but progeny historically perpetuating themselves, multitudes unified by one idea: a will to existence and power, knowledge of self, personality.

This superior personality is, however, a nation only insofar as it is a State. It is not the nation that engenders the State, according to the obsolete naturalistic concept which served as the basis for the publicists of the national States in the 19th Century. On the other hand, the nation is created by the State, which gives the people, conscious of their own moral unity, a will, and therefore an effective existence. The right of a nation to

independence derives not from a situation of fact more or less unconscious and inert, but from an active consciousness, from a political will of the moment tending to lay down its own law. The State, in fact, like universal ethical will, is the creator of law.

The nation as State is an ethical reality that exists and lives insofar only as it develops itself. Its halting is its death. Therefore the State not only is the authority that governs and gives form to laws and values to the spiritual life of the individual will but it is also the power that makes its will mean something abroad, making it recognized and respected, or rather, demonstrating with fact its universality in all the necessary determinations of its development. It is thus organization and expansion, at least virtually so. Thus it can be compared with the nature of the human will, which in its development does not recognize barriers, and which realizes itself by testing its own infinity.

The Fascist State, the most potent and highest form of the personality, is a force, but a spiritual one, which sums up all the forms of man's moral and intellectual life. It cannot therefore be limited to simple governmental functions of order and protection, as liberalism used to desire. Fascism is not a simple mechanism which limits the sphere of supposed individual liberty. It is an interior form and norm and a discipline of the whole person; it permeates the will like the intelligence. Its principle, a central inspiration of the human personality living in the civic community, descends deeply and lodges in the heart of the man of action as well as the thinker, of the artist as well as the scientist: it is the soul of the soul.

Fascism, then, is not only a giver of laws and a founder of institutions, but an educator and promoter of spiritual life. It demands to remake not the forms of human life, but the contents: man, character, faith. And to this end it demands a discipline and authority which descends within the spirit and there dominates unchallenged. Hence its sign is the Lictor "fascio", the symbol of unity, strength, and justice.



# Antonio Meucci

## Inventor of the Telephone

By Francesco Moncada

ANTONIO MEUCCI was born in Florence during the first half of April, 1805, and was baptized on April 15th of the same year by Father Rossi in the great Basilica of St. John the Baptist in Florence. His father was a government employe while his mother was dutifully devoted to home affairs. Having studied in the elementary schools (the schools of reading and writing, as Meucci called them), at the age of 15 he became a student in the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, where he studied design and mechanics. After six years of intense and diligent study, Antonio Meucci was graduated and soon after employed as machinist in the Teatro della Pergola of Florence under the impresario Lanari.

A theatre machinist of those days did not only have to know mechanics and design, but also physics and chemistry, since he had to provide lights and colors for the stage and the theatre. In this capacity, Meucci traveled about with the theatrical company across Italy: Rome, Ancona, Foligno, Leghorn, and other cities. It was during this period that he married a charming and intelligent little seamstress, Ester, who, though illiterate, was nevertheless possessed of uncommon administrative capacity. It was she in fact, who managed the household's affairs, for Meucci was a studious, simple man, credulous and good, and afflicted with a mania for experimentation.

It was in 1835 that the young couple, having been engaged by the impresario Don Francisco Martin y Torrens, left for Havana where, at the Tacone Theatre, Meucci worked as theatre machinist and property man, while his

wife had charge of the costumes. Life in Havana was placid and serene, with the Meuccis acquiring a comfortable sum through savings.

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Atlantica takes pleasure in presenting herewith this article by Francesco Moncada, a graduate in jurisprudence of the University of Catania in Italy. Mr. Moncada, who has already received a Master's degree from Columbia University, is now preparing his thesis for a Ph. D. from the same institution, the subject of which is Antonio Meucci, the inventor of the telephone. This article is a brief resume of the facts of the Italian inventor's life and invention. Mr. Moncada, who has taught at Rutgers and Columbia Universities, is a student of the history of Italian pioneers in this country.

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VARIOUS electrical treatises concerning galvanism came into Meucci's hands in 1842. His interest in the subject led him to study Becquerel, Jacobi, Mesmer and others, and finally he began to dedicate his leisure hours to galvanization, which at that time was understood only in the great European centres, especially Paris. A certain Gaetano Negretti of New York furnished him with batteries and the necessary instruments. Through the good offices of the Governor-General of Cuba, Senor O'Donnell, Meucci was engaged to galvanize certain objects for the troops, such as swords, buttons, medals, etc.

The study of electricity began to engross him. Meditating over Mesmer's treatise on animal magnetism, he conceived of applying electricity to the cure of certain diseases, and his experiments, begun with negroes, had consid-

erable results. One day there came to his laboratory, which was adjacent to the theatre, a man suffering from rheumatic pains in the head, who was willing to try the electrical cure. Meucci, who liked nothing better than to experiment, had the patient sit in the parlor (Meucci's apartment consisted of three rooms), had him hold in his hands two conductors that led to the batteries, and in his mouth a little metallic tongue soldered to a copper wire conductor, also in communication with the batteries.

Now Meucci, in the laboratory, held the same paraphernalia in his hands and mouth, so as to regulate the electrical strength that he was to administer. When the patient received the electrical charge, he gave out a cry,—and at the same instant Meucci heard a sound at his end. Evidently it had been that cry which, by means of the conducting wires, had come to him. This interrupted the operation.

The next day, after some thought, Meucci covered the metallic tongue with some cork so as to isolate the electricity and he repeated the same experiment, asking his wife Ester to shout and to speak through this electric wire. Again he heard sounds. The idea of the telephone was born. This was in 1849.

THE contract with the Tacone Theatre company had expired, and Meucci, anxious to continue his experiments in a better atmosphere which would give him better opportunities for finding the appropriate mechanical means, sailed for New York in the Spring of 1850 with the tenor Salvi. With his capital amounting to about \$20,000, he



lived for a few weeks in Leonard Street in Manhattan, but, hearing of the arrival of Giuseppe Garibaldi, he went to see him at the Irving Place home of the patriotic merchant Pastacaldi, near whom there lived also Felice Foresti, the martyr of the Spilbergh.

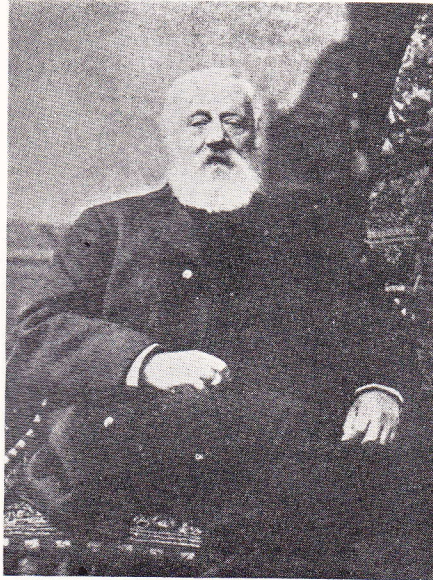
Together with the tenor Salvi and Garibaldi, Meucci conceived of setting up a factory for tallow candles, invented by himself, so as to provide work for the patriots exiled for political reasons. The three set out to find a suitable place outside of New York. They went to Hoboken and other cities in New Jersey, and finally settled on Southfield (now Rosebank, Staten Island), where they rented a house and the surrounding land (later purchased by Meucci and Salvi).

They set up the candle factory, in which there worked many Italian exiles, among them Giovanni Morosini, who later became one of the wealthiest financiers in America. But the candle factory, managed by a general tormented by an ardent desire to unite and free his country, by an inventor who was consumed in making experiments, and by a tenor who felt the nostalgia of the theatre and who sang every day, was destined to failure, and fail it did in fact after a year. Salvi, who was in debt to Meucci, ceded him his share and returned to singing.

Meucci next had the idea of starting a beer factory and, not knowing English yet, he entrusted the whole business in the hands of a certain Jim Mason, whom he had met in Santiago di Cuba. Thus two years passed, and Italian political conditions having changed, Garibaldi in 1853 sailed for Italy. Antonio Meucci remained alone, a victim of the bad faith of Mason, who, profiting by the credulity of his friend intent only on conducting experiments, reduced the brewery and the Meucci family to failure with false notes and other tricks. Their plight was made worse by the condition of his wife Ester, who could not move because of a paralytic stroke she had received following some strong rheumatic pains.

In the meanwhile Antonio Meucci had, among other things, invented a special paper made of

seaweeds. This seemed to save him for the moment, for an American company offered \$100,000, payable in yearly payments of \$10,000, to him and his colleague, Mr. Ryder, for the invention. A paper factory was put up in Ohio with Meucci as salaried director, but the company soon after failed.



Antonio Meucci

Antonio Meucci had thus arrived at the year 1870 a poor man, but with a great invention to launch into the world: the telephone. After sleepless nights and continuous experiments he had succeeded, in 1860, in perfecting his telephonic instruments. The human voice was being transmitted by means of electricity. He had set up a telephone in his house between Garibaldi's so-called room: the cellar where he had his laboratory, and the brewery. It was in this way that his paralyzed wife Ester kept in communication with her husband. Meucci realized the importance and the immense possibilities of his invention; he sought capitalists, wrote to Italy, but no one answered. To one Bendelari who was leaving for Italy he entrusted his designs and asked him to get help; but when Bendelari returned it was without any hope.

In the "Eco d'Italia" of New York, then, Meucci published an article announcing his invention, but no one offered himself to aid. Meanwhile failures increased his difficulties and misery. His property was taken over by creditors. As though this were not enough,

one day, while on the ferry-boat "Westfield" going to Staten Island, the boiler burst, killing more than 100 people and hurting Meucci so seriously that he was forced to lie abed for six months. In a moment of desperation, Ester then sold her husband's instruments for \$6 to a certain Fleming, who owned a scrap iron shop in Clifton.

WHEN Meucci had recovered he tried once again to get help to assure himself of the rights to his invention and he formed the Telettrofono Company together with certain Messrs. Zilio Grandi, Tremeschino and Breguglia, with a capital of \$20, which was the sum needed to interest the lawyer Stetson in writing to Washington to obtain a caveat. This caveat, which assured the rights to the invention for one year, came. Still \$250 was needed for the patent, but it was impossible to raise this sum. In 1872 Mr. Bertolino, a notary public who was later to become secretary to Meucci, lent the inventor \$10 to renew the caveat for one year, and it was also renewed for the year 1873 with another friend's money.

It was then that he thought of turning to Mr. Grant, president of the District Telegraph Company of New York. Bertolino acted as his interpreter. Grant took the designs and directions translated into English by Bertolino, promising to put at his disposition telegraph wires and the other paraphernalia needed to conduct the experiments. What Grant did, we do not know, but certain it is that he kept putting Meucci off for two years, and finally told him that the papers and designs in his charge had been lost.

The time came, in 1874, when Meucci could not renew his caveat for lack of money. Then, in February of 1876, Alexander Graham Bell announced to the world the great invention. Meucci, when he read the news, protested, charged the lawyer Stetson to write to Washington, had some friends interest themselves in it, but without result. Thus, poor, old and frustrated in his fondest expectations, he awaited



with resignation the repose of death.

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In 1883 there appeared in the newspapers a new description of the telephone. Meucci decided to make one more last attempt to be recognized. Naming as agents his friends Lemmi and Bertolino, he charged them with publishing in the American newspapers an article of protest, declaring that Meucci and not Bell was the inventor of the telephone, and inviting anyone interested to come to his home to examine the documents, the caveat of 1871, and the telephonic instruments. A few days later Messrs. Lemmi and Bertolino received various letters, among which there was one from a Mr. Willoughby, who entered into negotiations with them. A contract was drawn up with Messrs. Goodwin, Darden, Work and Willoughby, who were none other than the directors of the Globe Telephone Company, with a capital of \$10,000,000.

Thus began the preparations for the legal battle between the American Bell Telephone Company, strong in political influence and with millions already made in its seven years of life (the American Bell Telephone Company was earning at that time \$10,000,000 net per year) and the new-born Globe Telephone Company, formed in 1883 for the manufacture and the sale of telephone instruments and the purchase of patents.

In June, 1885, Dr. Beckwith, at that time General Manager of the Globe Telephone Company,

was designated to examine Meucci's documents and to complete the proofs in order to begin legal proceedings. By August 20th of the same year there were already gathered 36 affidavits of Americans and Italians who had spoken over Meucci's telephone, and others, among them a certain Mariani, who had examined the workings of the telephone instrument as far back as 1860. One Matthew Egloff testified to having sung the Marseillaise over Meucci's telephone.

Before Secretary of State Lamar, his assistants, and the Attorney General of the Department of the Interior, Dr. Beckwith, as General Manager of the Globe Telephone Company, gave, on November 9th, 1885, an account of the life and inventions of Meucci, presented his affidavits, Meucci's memorandum book (a large blankbook in which the inventor used to transcribe the results of his experiments), the designs and the telephone instrument reconstructed by Meucci himself.

The battle began along administrative lines. Secretary of State Lamar, in a judgment on January 15th, 1886, declared that there were sufficient proofs to establish Meucci's priority in the invention of the telephone and he then sent the case to the courts. Lamar, in other words, had practically decided in favor of Meucci.

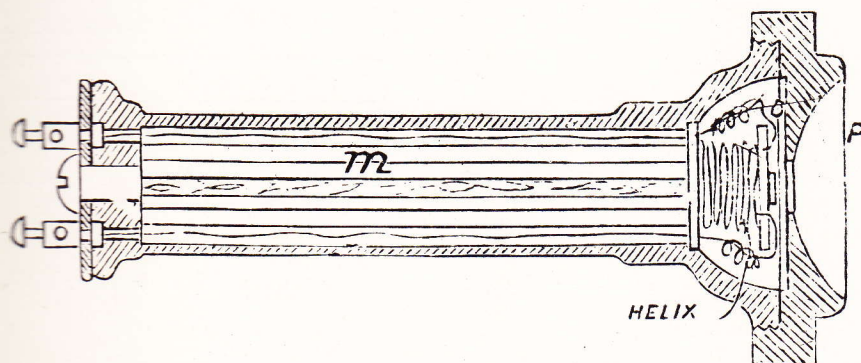
Meanwhile, the American Bell Telephone Company, by way of intimidation, had called into court the Globe Telephone Company for having manufactured and put

into use telephone instruments subject to Bell's monopoly. On November 10th, 1885, in fact, there was begun in New York the case between the American Bell Telephone Company and the Globe Telephone Company, the latter favoring Meucci. Meucci's testimony lasted 38 days and formed a volume of 172 pages. Before judges, lawyers and technicians, Antonio Meucci reproduced in pencil the plans of his telephone and underwent a detailed examination.

At Elizabeth, N. J., meanwhile, Dr. Beckwith had, in February, 1886, formed the Meucci Telephone Company, with a capital of \$5,000,000. Factories were put up. Some 200 persons subscribed to their telephone service. Another Meucci Telephone Company was formed in Memphis, Tennessee with a capital of \$5,000,000. The American Bell Telephone Company, in bringing suit against the Meucci Telephone Company of New Jersey for infringement of patent, thus had really two cases, which were in a certain sense combined.

Testimony, proofs, plans, the judgments of technical experts followed for almost two years, forming volumes of testimony as thick as dictionaries. Finally, on July 19th, 1887, the court handed down a decision that can qualify as a solemn, lugubrious joke. Unable to contradict Meucci's documents and proofs, the court put its belief in the American Bell Telephone Company's technical expert, Professor Cross, and did not hesitate to call the Meucci telephone a "string telephone" or "lover's telephone", that is, a mechanical, and not an electrical telephone, which had been in use considerably among children and had been invented by a Chinaman 250 years previously.

A greater insult could not have been tendered to a scientist and inventor like Antonio Meucci, who had given more than thirty other inventions to his fellowmen, and whom the "New York World" on October 19, 1889 called "one of the most important figures in the scientific world of the times". All the studies, the experiments, the efforts, and the genius of Meucci, recognized even by his adversaries, compared to



**BELL TELEPHONE.**

- M — Magnet.**
- D — Diaphragm.**
- P — Mouthpiece.**



the mentality of a child in the elementary schools! One does not have to be a professor of physics to see that, like Bell's telephone, the telephone invented by Antonio Meucci, though different in form and in the mechanical means employed, was electrical. It consisted of a little wooden funnel the smaller opening of which was covered by a metallic diaphragm. Near the diaphragm was placed a magnet about 8 or 10 centimeters long; the part of the magnet near the small end of the funnel was inside a small bobbin formed by copper wires in communication with the electric batteries and the conducting wires.

Through the diaphragm, the voice was transmitted by means of the electro-magnetic current created, and was transmitted not by vibrations of the air, but by electrical waves. This, in brief, was Meucci's telephone, and this was and is the Bell telephone. Why talk of string telephones? Evidently it is a question of bad faith or one of those gross errors of justice, all too common, of which history and life are full.

On January 13, 1887 the United States Government began suit in Boston to cancel Bell's patent, obtained, according to the charge, by fraud. In support of his thesis, the United States Attorney General brought forward, among others, the documents and the name of Antonio Meucci. But that suit, postponed from year to year, died a lingering death, or it was suffocated by the millions against it in 1896.

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This, in outline, is the tragedy of Antonio Meucci: the tragedy of the genius who, though not, like Galileo, blinded, was ridiculed and overcome. The unfortunate, yet nevertheless great inventor died on October 18, 1889, with his funeral expenses paid for by the Italian Government.

Meucci's house, which gave asylum to Giuseppe Garibaldi, after the fall of the glorious Roman Republic, was bought by a German, Mr. Backmann, and

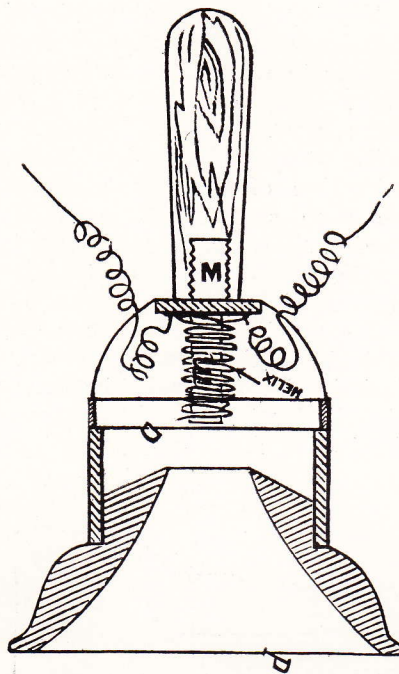
later given by him to the Italian Government on July 5th, 1882. It has been taken care of by the Society of "Reduci Patrie Battaglie", which built the Pantheon, then the "Tiro a Segno" Club and finally the Order Sons of Italy, which defrays all the expenses necessary for its maintenance. Through the initiative and interest of the Order Sons of Italy and of General Guglielmotti, there was erected in front of the house the monument to Antonio Meucci inaugurated on September 16th, 1923. Every year on June 2nd, and sometimes even on July 4th, the Italian colony of New York and vicinity has gone on pilgrimages to Rosebank, Staten Island, to commemorate Giuseppe Garibaldi.

When Meucci was alive he would appear on his veranda, thoughtful, with that michelangelic beard of his wet with tears, to thank and encourage those present. In the last few years it

was the illustrious engineer Daniele Santoro of Staten Island who took the happy initiative of also commemorating our inventor.

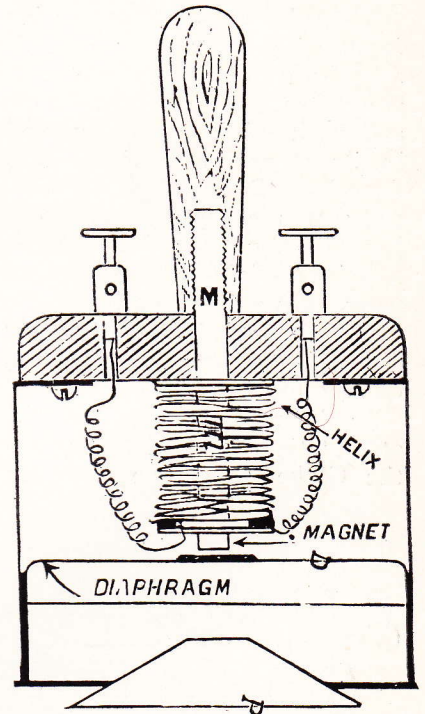
Antonio Meucci, together with Brigadier General Luigi Palma di Cesnola, noted soldier, archeologist museum director and author, Beltrami, discoverer of the source of the Mississippi River, Dassi, and many others, all of the first so-called "heroic" immigration, represents not only Italian genius abroad, but also the priceless contribution of the Italians toward the formation of American greatness.

Today, when the forces of our Italian colonies seem to be uniting and solidifying themselves so as better to resist the invasion of contrary social forces, the name of Antonio Meucci rises as of authentic Italian worth, and to serve as a spur for us to struggle ceaselessly for the conquest of our merited place in America.



MEUCCI'S TELEPHONE. — 1857.

M — Magnet.  
D — Diaphragm.  
P — Mouth or Ear Piece.



MEUCCI'S TELEPHONE. — 1867.

M — Magnet.  
D — Diaphragm.  
P — Mouth or Ear Piece.



# Seeing Ourselves as Other See Us

## Focussing Uncle Sam's Features

By Alice Seelye Rossi

**W**HILE sojourning in the States, during a recent visit to my mother's land—where I count innumerable friends—I was frequently urged to write my impressions of America, as being those of one who, though fifty per-cent American, was born and brought up in Italy.

"You doubtless see us from an interesting angle", I would be told, "and we like to see ourselves as others see us."

Despite my American blood (my mother being a hundred per-cent American of New England stock and an early graduate of Vassar) I imbibed from childhood the Latin characteristics of my father's people, so much so that, in the balance, the Italian in me almost outweighs the American. This goes to prove that environment is a strong factor in the making of an individual, perhaps even stronger than blood ties.

I had not been long in America before I was introduced to liquor cocktails of varied kinds, differing in flavor as well as in fantastic nomenclatures. Some were rather palatable concoctions, but also treacherous as to effects. I could seldom do them full justice, and at times, almost hurting my host's feelings when declining them, I felt compelled to state by way of apology. "But you see, over there we do not indulge in strong drinks and only since coming to America have I become acquainted with them". This was a paradox which, obviously enough, created hilarity.

Thus while I saw America decidedly "wet" at times, she was "dry", oh! very "dry" on official occasions. I was duly impressed by this at a banquet

tendered to a foreign Ambassador and his wife by the citizens of one of America's large cities to which I had the honor of being invited. It was a grand affair, attended by the most representative personalities of the city and the diplomatic corps in full force. The menu included rare dishes, faultlessly cooked and beautifully served. There were toasts, music, and flowers galore. Yet nothing but clear crystal water flowed into the glasses throughout the whole repast, generously replenished, indeed, and always with ice in abundance.

To a European's palate, however, not to say an Italian's, the different qualities of sparkling wines and the delectable Spumanti always associated in Italy with similar gala banquets, seemed sadly missing at such a symposium.

**O**NE of America's striking features is to be found in the youthfulness of her women. It is indeed difficult to tell any woman's age between seventeen and forty-five. One wonders whether the American woman has, perhaps, discovered the fountain of perpetual youth, so hopelessly searched for by Ponce de Leon, or whether she is a wonderful prodigy of Voronoff experiments.

Whatever the mystery, she certainly knows the secret of retaining her juvenile appearance, despite the ravages of time, for nowhere have I met with so many well-preserved women as in the United States. And as to the youthfulness of grandparents, they too hold a record in that

they dance quite as much as the younger generation, if not more!

Moreover, the theory of perpetual motion characterizes American life. Even making allowance for a tendency toward restlessness, common to this century the world over, I think Americans beat the record in this respect, and especially the women. The latter, in great numbers everywhere, would seem to have predominance in the exteriority of American life; thus, it would be possible to believe in an enormous majority of women in the population of the United States, were it not refuted by statistics.

Possibly owing to the fact that housekeeping is reduced to a minimum of care (thanks to modern efficiency and to the custom, quite a universal one, of rendering social obligations—dinners, bridge-parties, teas, etc.—in hotels and restaurants) the American woman seems to have, on the whole, more freedom, and perhaps also a stronger inclination for life outside the home, than her sisters in Europe.

It struck me that in a country where man has such prestige, due to his powerful financial grip which would seem to give him lordship over everything; that in reality it is woman who holds the sceptre of command.

While it undoubtedly reveals a chivalrous attitude towards womankind, is there not the danger, perhaps, of the American woman taking advantage of her privileged social standing, and thus becoming at times a little too egotistic and domineering?

In Italy, where man has full command of his male prerogatives (in that he is at the steering



wheel of all institutions, domestic or otherwise) although seemingly he holds women more in submission, yet in some respects he is more generously minded towards them than men of other nations, for he has never raised barriers precluding their acquirement of higher culture. In fact, Italian women have taken University degrees on a par with men since remote times, a liberty still withheld in many countries and only recently granted in others.

**T**O Italians, brought up with a view to economy, the "throw-away" habit so prevalent amongst Americans is another of America's striking features, and so much waste in the domestic life of the nation does not make a good impression, even if the commercial industries of the land may thrive on consumption of wares.

I got the impression, furthermore, that Uncle Sam's daughters, in their constant pursuit of novelty, were more open to new trends of thought and to speculative ideas than we Latins. They seem to embrace new creeds eagerly, if not always with profound conviction, and they dedicate much time and energy to the practice of their newly acquired beliefs.

It is quite true that in Italy we are not so prone to accept innovations or to reach out for new theories, especially in the line of religious beliefs, owing perhaps to the fact that traditional religion and the Roman Catholic Church have a strong hold on the Latin mind.

This thirst for novelty, which Americans have even in religion, is it not symptomatic, perhaps, of their losing ground in the faith of their fathers? Or does it emphasize that the Church in America is found to be somewhat lacking in her mission of upholding true religion, the religion of the Bible?

In the sphere of sentiment and love, were I to judge of the emotional depths of Americans by a number of things I saw and heard, I would be baffled in trying to define it.

Seemingly some Americans, perhaps more exclusively the modern day product, value love and manifest their feelings with

regard to it quite differently from us.

One is wont to ask whether on the whole sex-love is not more often a mere episode in the life of Americans, rather than a deeper sentiment or an overpowering passion.

Are Americans more inclined to fall in love continually rather than to love profoundly? In the statistics of divorce and re-marriage such questions might find an answer. Perhaps, however, the modern trend of American life accounts in part for its seeming superficiality in sentiment.

A passion or a deep love demands too much time. They are too absorbing and distracting, perhaps, for modern American life, which is full of exterior glamor and rich in pastimes, so much so that many substitutes have supplanted the deeper sentiments of love and devotion that were aflame in the breasts of her noble ancestry.

**I**S love, then, becoming a purely biological function and is America, in her great strides forward, losing sight of the fact that it is only in his spiritual conquests and in his inward progress that man distinguishes himself from the beast?

Speaking of sentiment, I must add that I was impressed by the apparent indifference of many Americans, at least so far as appearances go, when they meet with supreme grief, or what might legitimately appear as such. More than once have I received letters from friends, announcing the death of one or the other of their parents in a supremely matter-of-fact way. Their letters were ordinarily chatty, as usual, and then at the close, merely informative almost, a reference was made to the fact that their parent or some other member of their family had passed away, but without expressing any sense of grief.

The question here forces itself upon one: Are Americans brought up to repress all visible signs of emotion and to withhold from utterance whatever springs from the inner feeling? Or do Americans really possess such feelings in the same degree as the

Latins?

In Italy, where sentiment is deeply ingrained and constitutes a strong motive power in the hearts of her people, even to this day, despite the modern tendency to wage war against whatever cannot be measured by a practical standard and amidst the general abating of sensibility, family ties and filial devotion are still so marked that with some it is considered little less than sacrilegious to wantonly part from the home, or to put temporary distance between loved ones.

In the Southern States, where I also spent considerable time, the general trend of living seemed to have more in common with Latin countries.

The rush, as well as the modern excesses, which characterize life in some of the Northern American centres, have not migrated to the South, apparently. Southerners pride themselves in possessing something to look back upon as well as a future towards which to look forward.

Owing to the gentlemanly manners and hereditary culture of the South, its statesmen prove excellent diplomats and fill government positions successfully. Italians will not easily forget the noble figure of Thomas Nelson Page, for many years American Ambassador in Rome, and they are ever grateful to the Virginian writer for his book, which dedicates many pages to Italy and the part she took in the great war.

The habit, characteristic of many Americans, of appraising things in terms of the dollar, seemed to me less noticeable among Southerners. Perhaps, too, they are more appreciative of genius and talent, admiring a work of art more for its intrinsic value than merely in proportion to its faculty of being profitable and remunerative.

Is this difference in the Southerner due to the strain of Latin blood that has permeated the South? Or has a more peaceful environment, enhanced by nature in her tropical beauty and overhung by the mellow greyness of Spanish moss, instilled in the hearts of its inhabitants a love for what is genuine and true,

(Continued on Page 210.)



# Much Ado About the Presidential Campaign

By Matthew A. Melchiorre

**D**ELEGATES of the two political parties journeyed to Chicago last month and they adjourned later with a smug satisfaction, for each party had nominated a man hailed as the "next President of the United States." What matter if both parties laid claim to the same statement? "....the spirit of one who, through the last long grueling four years, has stood at the helm as the captain of our ship of state and has steered the vessel safely through fog and hurricane, and passes the terrors of the lee shore... This home-grown American, Herbert Hoover," said the Republican nominator, Joseph Scott, while the Democrat nominator, John E. Mack, placed the following on record, "His splendid record... His ability to get things done... He fills the crying need for a practical American... Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

While the nominating speeches contained practically the same matter but worded differently, no other item in each convention was alike. The Republican delegates convened with but one purpose in mind, and that was to nominate the present incumbent even though the galleryites voiced their disapproval when the latter's name was mentioned the first day.

The galleryites were not the only ones to disapprove, for the delegates themselves displayed but little enthusiasm. In fact Chairman Snell sent word around to the delegations that when he mentioned the name of Hoover there must be no repetition of "yesterday's disgraceful lack of enthusiasm."

On the other hand, the Democratic party made up for

the opposition's docility in more ways than one. Prior to the Democratic convention, the Republicans had met under the same roof. Their meeting was cut and dried. Even the outburst that followed when Herbert Hoover was nominated was of the tailor-made variety. This was placed in the hands of one Charles Shepherd Hutson, a Los Angeles lithographer. He stood on the platform and held up a series of numbered placards, to signal for the brass band, the lights, the organ, the balloons, etc., as each had been carefully scheduled in order to sustain at least a "half-hour demonstration."



No Rest for the Weary

—From the Boston Transcript

But not with the Democrats. Prior to the opening day Alfred E. Smith let loose a bombardment on the candidacy of Governor Roosevelt. William Randolph Hearst asked delegates to drop the two-thirds rule, and his

papers spread reports that Wall Street was behind the stop-Roosevelt movement. And when the delegates arrived at the scene they found their party leaders in a locked struggle which might make or break their party. The newspapers played up this struggle, for the Republican party had given them little or nothing about which to write streamers. This looked like what the people wanted and once the convention was started the people read their newspapers avidly and stayed up all night alongside their radios.

Even the merchants of Chicago were thankful for the kicking and clawing Democratic party. The Republicans drifted in and drifted out, spending very little money, making very little whoopee. But the Democrats filled the town, they spread all around the city along the shores of Lake Michigan. They were gay and showed it by the manner in which they continually reached for their pockets.

To the uninitiated the Democrats looked and acted like the majority party, while the Republicans were acquiescent, lifeless, and bored the delegates and the people at large.

The Grand Old Party showed some life when the words "the 18th Amendment" were pronounced by Platform Chairman Garfield. When the latter started to read the plank the galleries broke out in disorder and the speaker was forced to halt while Convention Chairman Snell rapped for order. Debate upon the plank was limited to two hours, during which time seventeen speakers argued for or against it. Prominent among them were Senator Bingham...







# Brigadier - General Luigi Palma di Cesnola

Soldier, Archeologist, Author, Museum Director

By Edoardo Marolla

**T**HE year 1932 will see the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Brigadier-General Luigi Palma di Cesnola. That name, except to a very few, is practically unknown. Yet its bearer was one of the foremost Italo-American Catholic soldiers, adventurers, archeologists, authors, and museum directors which our country has produced. His loyal defense of the Union during the Civil War before he was even an American citizen and his work as an archeologist and director for many years of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, should warrant that his name be forever remembered by his adopted countrymen, and especially by Italian and Catholic Americans who should have a particular interest in one of their number who has given his all to America, and in so doing has upheld the honor and traditions of his race and religion in the New World.

The di Cesnola family originated in Spain and had come to Piemonte in 1282, where they became entirely Italianized. Luigi was born at Rivarolo, near Torino, June 29, 1832, the second son of an Italian count who served under Napoleon. His mother was Countess Eugenia Ricca di Castelvecchio. He was educated at the Royal Military Academy at Torino (1843-48) and at seventeen joined the Sardinian Army of Revolution. He became its youngest commissioned officer and was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant on the field of Novara March 23, 1849. In 1851 he was graduated as a full lieutenant from the Royal Military Academy of Cherasco and later became a staff officer in the Crimean War.

At this time "going to America" was becoming a by-word in Italy

and di Cesnola also succumbed to the lure of the land discovered by his countryman, arriving in New York in 1860. He took up his residence there and taught languages for a livelihood. In 1861



Brigadier-General di Cesnola

*Photo by courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art*

he married Mary Isabel Reid, a daughter of Captain Samuel C. Reid of the United States Navy.

**W**ITH the brilliant military training and experience which he had received, it was but natural that di Cesnola, who had fought for the liberty of his own oppressed countrymen, should now turn all his forces to the aid of the North in the fierce Civil War which was then raging. His first service to this country was to open a military school for officers in which he instructed over seven hundred students. But his adventurous blood called for more active work and in October 1861 he enlisted as major in the

Eleventh New York Cavalry of which he soon became lieutenant-colonel. As a drill-master and disciplinarian he excelled and in 1862 was appointed colonel of the Fourth New York Volunteer cavalry. A short time later he was wounded and was taken prisoner in 1863 at the battle of Aldie and confined to Libby Prison until the spring of 1864. After his release he fought under Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign and served until the end of the war.

His great knowledge of military tactics coupled with a forceful personality brought him the esteem and friendship of many Union leaders and at the close of the War Lincoln brevetted him brigadier-general of volunteers and offered him the United States consulship at Cyprus if he would become an American citizen. He accepted the offer and landed at Cyprus on Christmas day, 1865. Here he spent eleven years, of which he gives us an account in a book, "Cyprus, Its Ancient Cities, Tombs, and Temples" which was published in English at London in 1877 and in New York a year later. He made himself feared and respected by the Turkish government but loved and trusted by the natives. Although the government was always hostile, it permitted him to make the excavations which give him everlasting fame.

Single handed, with no experience or training, no capital but his own small salary, and with only native diggers, he explored sixty-five metropoli containing 60-932 tombs and at least 23 other sites, digging up 35,537 objects of ancient Cyprian and Mediterranean civilization. Little personal profit did this work give him, 5000 of these objects being lost at sea. The Turkish government took large numbers. A few were



sold in Europe, but then, di Cesnola decided, in the interest of science, to keep his collection as a unit. The great mass of objects was ultimately purchased by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, in three installments, for a sum which experts told him was less than one-fourth what it would have been worth had he auctioned it piece by piece.

**H**IS wife's health forced him to leave Cyprus and in 1876 they went to London where di Cesnola published his book. But America again drew him and he returned to New York. The Metropolitan Museum elected him secretary in 1877 and two years later appointed him director. Both posts he held in the face of constant fire on the authenticity of his collection, his personal honor, and his museum administration, until his death twenty-five years later.

His success, well earned as it was, brought him many jealous enemies. Gaston L. Feuardent, a well known art dealer with whom he had had some relations, published an attack on his collection in the "Art Amateur" of August 1880 and two years later Clarence Cook, a critic, wrote for Feuardent a scathing pamphlet. Di Cesnola, fiery, impetuous, independent soldier that he was, published a vigorous counter attack on Feuardent, who sued him

for libel. The trial lasted from October 31, 1883 to February 2, 1884. It was a fierce fight, both within and without the courtroom. The press took sides with exceedingly intolerant partisanship, an exceptionally large number opposing di Cesnola. But the Italian was vindicated. The jury vote **unanimously** for di Cesnola on counts affecting the standing of his collection, and ten to two on counts concerning his business dealings with Feuardent—this being a purely technical disagreement. The authenticity of his collection was also upheld by investigation committees, sculptors, and stone cutters. But the public still remained skeptical. In 1893 Dr. Max Obrefalsh-Pichter published another attack on him but later researches in Cypriotic archeology proved the absolute authenticity and value of his collection.

**I**N 1900 the aging soldier visited Italy, the land of his birth, and was acclaimed by the press as a conquering hero. Thirteen medals and knightly honors were struck in his honor by the King of Italy. The Congressional Medal of Honor was bestowed on him in this country. In 1900 Columbia College conferred upon him the degree of L. L. D. for his splendid work in the interest of science. In his later years he published in three volumes "A Descriptive A-

tlas of the di Cesnola Collection" describing his collection, and "Researches and Discoveries in Cyprus".

As a Museum director di Cesnola was accused of being hostile to the public and to students, ignorant of modern art, and afraid of experts. But to contradict this criticism, the trustees of the Museum, those who were best able to observe his work, credit him with laying the firm foundation on which that great American institution was built by his administrative ability, his tirelessness, and his devoted supervision of every detail. Tall, martial dark (in his later years, iron grey) he retained his Italian excitability and accent, loved a good fight, and throughout his life gave and implied great loyalty and bitter enmity. Many enemies he made, yet his friends and associates on the staff loved and admired him.

Following his death on November 20, 1904, the trustees of the Museum adopted a long resolution in his honor which closed with the words: "Whoever shall become his successor, and with whatever gifts he shall be endowed, the martial, independent figure of General di Cesnola—somewhat restive in opposition and somewhat impetuous in speech and action, but at all times devoted to his duty and winning the affection of his subordinates and associates—will long remain a kindly and grateful memory."

## SEEING OURSELVES AS OTHER SEE US

(Continued from Page 206)

keeping alive, despite the industrialism of the modern mechanical world, a sentiment ranking far higher in moral value than any possible conquest in material welfare?

During my stay in the South I had occasion to touch upon the Negro question, ever a sore subject with Southerners. Our discussions were usually animated, inevitably ending with: "My dear, but you do not understand; of course you cannot, not having lived here as we."

Failing to grasp their point of view, there may be another however, equally good and very

humane. Why, oh, why should the mingling of races be so deprecated in democratic America, when in other countries colored people and white men rub elbow to elbow?

My sojourn in North Africa brings to mind crowded public conveyances in those cities of heterogeneous mankind, trolley cars wherein I was all but smothered by buxom Arabs or stepped on and jostled by generously proportioned women laden with veils and draperies none too fragrant. Yet, democratically speaking, they had a right to a place just as much as I.

When Eastern natives, more or less dirty and diseased, do not so disapprovingly come up against public barriers, why should democratic America enforce the distinction of a race superiority, isolating by means of special cars and trolley-car sections the Negroes who, moreover, are in an advanced state of civilization in the United States?

Doubtless the negro question is difficult of handling and America may well regret the day when the first shipful of Africa's colored people landed on her shores. But then, every country in the world has its own peculiar problems.



# Hoover's Disarmament Proposal

## As Seen by the Italian Press

The first phase of the disarmament conference at Geneva having adjourned after six months of discussion to January 19th, 1933, there will be considerable comment in the months to come concerning its achievements during those six months and their importance.

Among the outstanding events of the conference undoubtedly was the proposal made by President Hoover towards its close ("Based on these principles, I propose that the arms of the world should be reduced by nearly one-third!") for a radical cut in world armaments, regardless of the diplomatic niceties involved, and cutting through the brush to the heart of the matter.

In Italy the proposal was accepted whole-heartedly, opinion being practically unanimous that, if adopted, it meant a great stride forward in the cause of world peace. Some newspapers pointed out that Hoover's plan was really a duplicate of that proposed much earlier by Mussolini. Others foresaw opposition on the part of France based on her classic theme of security. Some saw a connection between Hoover's disarmament desires and the chances of Europe's obtaining war debt relief. All of them made much of Italy's prompt support of the proposal as it was crisply put by Dino Grandi ("Italy accepts entirely and in all its parts the disarmament plan submitted by the American Delegation!") to thunderous applause. Calling the proposal the most important event of the conference to date they urged action based upon it, before it might be too late.

The following translated excerpts of typical editorial opinions, taken from some of the most important and most representative newspapers in Italy,

show how enthusiastically they welcomed the Hoover disarmament proposal:

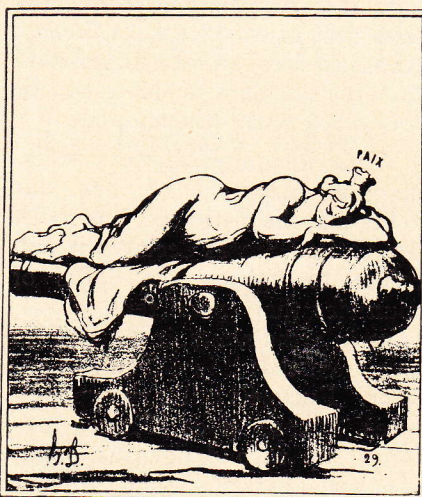
**"Il Popolo d'Italia" of Milan.**— "Exactly one year after, another great event of an international

existence of enormous, costly and dangerous armaments conspires against this need of humanity, and is a menace to the possibilities now possessed by the world for its own salvation."

**"La Stampa" of Turin.**—"Since the opening of the disarmament conference, yesterday undoubtedly was its most important and decisive day. Two peoples, two men appear outstanding for their constructive will, the United States and Italy, Hoover and Mussolini. If their intentions and plans are promptly and rapidly realized Europe and the world will have received the vigorous turn at the helm which will set them on the way to better times; otherwise it will mean irreparable decadence toward catastrophe and chaos . . .

"On the whole, integral plan of the United States, to which the Italian Government has adhered without reserve, just as last year it supported the Hoover moratorium which remained infecund because of the opposition it encountered, must be played the fate of the Geneva conference. The fate of the conference and the problems that are connected with it, in the present abyss of the economic situation, is, in turn, the fate of modern civilization. It is now up to the governments, upon whom weigh the greatest responsibilities, to reflect upon this without delay."

**"Corriere della Sera" of Milan.**—"It (acceptance of the proposal) also signifies the possibility, almost the certainty of a contemporaneous adherence of the United States to the project of wiping out reparations and war debts. Reduction of armaments and military effectives; solution of the problem of political debts; these are connected questions, logically and necessarily connect-



The Bed of Peace

—From a cartoon by Daumier

tional character confirms the identity of views between Rome and Washington on problems of world interest. Mussolini's support of President Hoover's moratorium proposal last year, and his present support of the American proposal for the reduction and limitation of armaments, are direct consequences of the attitude and the thought of the Italian Government on problems that affect world peace and prosperity. These ideas have found in Hoover's proposals the largest and most exact interpretation possible, and logically the Italian Government adheres to them...

"The world needs to reconquer faith in the stability of peace, it needs to hope, more, to believe in a future of peace and tranquility and above all, it must dedicate men, money and means to the reconstruction of the international economic organism. The



ed for the United States. It does not seem that there can be any doubt.

"Only yesterday, a Reuter Agency dispatch from Washington said that 'the officials of the State Department at Washington have admitted that the Hoover plan for disarmament implied clearly and necessarily that European appeals for the annulment and the reduction of war debts would remain unheeded if Europe did not decide to disarm.' Furthermore, the connection is in the very logic of things. The solution of the two problems is the first step, the most important perhaps, for the decisive recovery of world economy. Having eliminated that factor of greatest perturbation that are the war debts will be a great step. But faith, which is in large part a reflection of the political situation, would not fully manifest itself so long as the armament race now nearing its limits and the hates and the distrusts between nations continue to project their shadows over the imminent future . . .

"Faced with this situation, it is a crime to temporize. It must be decided. And the path to be followed is that which has been pointed out for so long by il Duce, and is now indicated by the American government. It must be decided and solved if we do

not want the inevitability of facts to work, and thereby plunge humanity into new and greater struggles."

"**Il Mattino**" of Naples. — "America intervenes with a strength which, although apparently foreign to the question of disarmament, may exert strong indirect pressure on it. It is the strength that comes of being the creditor of Europe by twelve billion dollars.

"The United States is speaking at Geneva in order to be heard at Lausanne. While at Lausanne Europe is declaring that the problem of reparations is connected with that of war debts, at Geneva America lets it be understood that the problem of debts can be connected with disarmament.

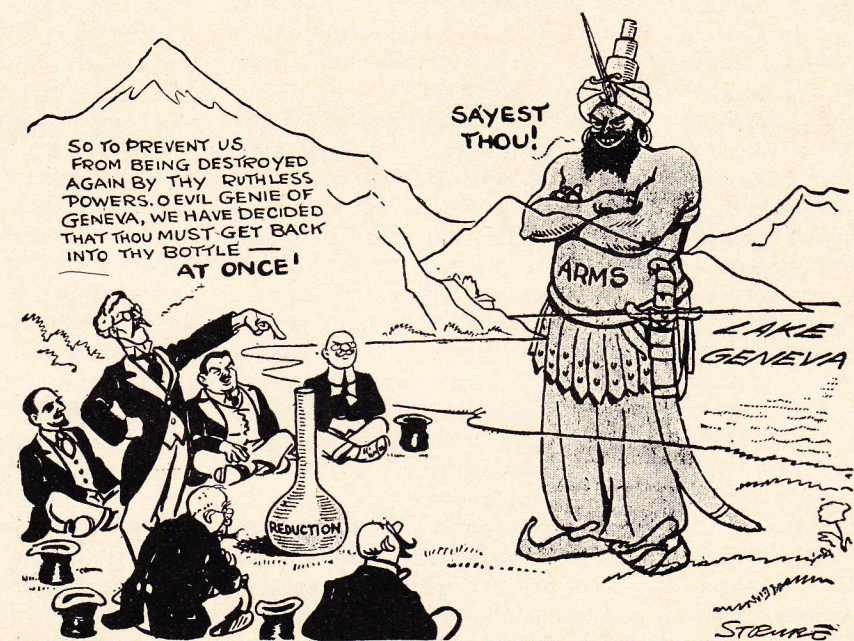
"American intransigency in demanding payment of her war debts may be criticized, but when the United States declares it will refuse to lighten the debts of countries that spend tens of millions in armaments, it is using an argument that it is difficult to answer. Europe's military expenditures, whose pace France has forced up to a dangerous point, are the obstacles that prevent American public opinion from agreeing to cancellation or reduction of the debts. America has no intention of renouncing her

claim to what she believes will be destined to prepare new wars."

"**La Tribuna**" of Rome. — "In France some people are more furious at the Hoover proposal for disarmament than they were last year at his moratorium. The Socialist Paul Boncour, Minister of War, has repeated at Geneva the thesis of security, and has hidden behind technical formulae. The Radical Socialist Herriot, president of the Council, has repeated at Lausanne the theses that resist a clear solution of the problem of reparations. In other words, in France the electoral victory on the part of the Left has not in the least modified that international policy which is neither of the Left nor of the Right, but a policy of compromise, which either with so-called governments of the Left or with M. Briand or with M. Tardieu, or with Mr. Herriot has been and is a policy in total contrast to an entirely different reality than that imagined by diplomacy . . .

"The policy of France can be changed only by a power of revision, especially internal. In reality today the blind contradiction in which this policy finds itself is more of a real impediment to a European order.

"This is not an argumentative matter, but a sad fact."



Out of the Bottle

— From the London Daily Express





The Hospital of the Littorio—Panorama

# An Advance in Medicine

## Rome's Hospital of the Littorio

By Natale Colosi

**F**EW greater monuments to scientific medicine have been built anywhere than the *Ospedale del Littorio*, recently completed in Rome. To this writer, indeed to any unbiased observer, the majestic edifice, the administrative and professional organizations of the Institution, are another tangible proof of Italy's spiritual and intellectual rebirth in modern times under Fascism.

The hospital is a consolidation of several old and glorious institutions. Among them are the *Ospedale di S. Spirito*, founded in the year 1200, the first hospital built by Christianity, the *Poly-clinic*, *St. John's* and *St. James' Hospital*, and the *Hospital for Chronic Diseases*.

The need for a hospital worthy of the capital of Italy had long been felt since the rapid increase of the population of Rome had rendered the City's hospital service inadequate. In 1919 projects for a new hospital were made and the cornerstone laid. Not much progress, however, was made in the construction of the new hospital, and the plan was abandoned until soon after the advent of Fascism when, by express orders of *il Duce*, the works were resumed and the buildings were completed with great rapidity, more *fascista*. This new medical centre, a city in itself, was com-

pleted in 25 months at a cost of 42,000,000 lire.

Situated on one of the most beautiful hills of Rome, the *Monteverde*, the hospital resembles an immense, luxurious villa,

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The writer of this article is well qualified to write on his subject, having worked his way through the bachelor and master of science degrees to the degree of doctor of philosophy in bacteriology and pathology, the latter being the highest academic distinction that can be earned in an American university. He has served as university instructor in bacteriology and immunology, has contributed several scientific articles to leading medical journals and is connected with two hospitals in the capacity of bacteriologist.

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surrounded by gardens and flowers where thousands of birds, as if by appointment, meet to sing festively under the wards' windows in the warmth of the post-meridian sun. Looking from one of the windows one sees the City of the Caesars, the historical *Tiber*, the *Aventine*, the *Portuense Parkway*, *Villa Pamphili*, *St. Peter's Cathedral*, *St. Paul's Basilica*, the parks of eucalyptus, most of the *Roman Campagna* and the *Albani hills*, above which the serene azure sky turns to gold in the most glorious Roman sunsets. In the words of the

illustrious *Dr. Epaminonda Seccondari* of New York City, formerly professor of medical pathology in the University of Rome, the new hospital "meets the requirements of the Italian concept of a hospital which includes the idea of space, air, sunshine, tranquility and every physical as well as spiritual comfort of the patient in a place remote from noise".

**T**HE vast hospital city comprises several buildings and has a capacity of fifteen hundred beds. There are seven pavilions or buildings, three medical, three surgical and one for the specialties. There are thirty-four large and fifteen small wards, including those for the isolation of contagious cases, seven spacious operating rooms, buildings for the resident staff, Chapel and rectory for the Reverend *Camillini Brothers*, to whom is entrusted the spiritual care of the patients. The morgue, laboratories of bacteriology and pathology, pharmacy, and drug rooms, sterilization rooms, power house, kitchen, garage, etc. occupy separate buildings whose white gravel furnishes an artistic contrast with the green of the surrounding gardens, giving the impression of a 16th Century villa rather than a hospital. The immense territory comprising all



the buildings is surrounded by a wall. It would be difficult to describe in a brief article the equipment of the hospital and its several institutes. A succinct description, however, can be attempted.

The emergency service occupies a separate building. Here are several medication rooms, beds for slightly injured patients, offices for the departmental personnel and attached police officers. This pavilion is provided with an operating room, X-ray laboratory and sterilization rooms. For patients who need a brief hospitalization there are two wards, one for men and one for women, with special small wards for probable infectious cases. After twenty-four hours of observation, patients who need protracted hospitalization are transferred to apposite wards by means of noiseless electric carriages.

**T**HE three spacious medical pavilions consist of three identical buildings, well ventilated. Each floor is divided longitudinally by a corridor which receives an abundance of light from two large windows at the extreme ends and several other windows opening on the intersecting corridors. There are three sections to each floor, one central and two lateral. On the central section opens the stairway and four elevators, one for the exclusive use of the personnel, two for patients and one for freight. On each floor there are also visiting rooms, a laboratory

for minor clinical examinations, a room for the resident physician and a room for the assisting personnel, where patients' calls are received by an electric signal system. There are also a kitchen, refrigerators, and other rooms with all modern implements for washing, sterilizing, etc.

In the lateral section there are found two isolation rooms, a large room for patients who are not confined to bed and who eat their meals at the table. On each lateral side there is also a veranda where patients can enjoy the benefits of air and sunshine. The wards are both very well ventilated and not in the least congested. A roof garden affords to convalescent patients the scenic beauty of the panorama of Rome, with its fountains and historic hills.

The three surgical pavilions are similar to each other in structure. Each pavilion consists of four floors and the partition of wards, service rooms, etc. are similar to those of the medical buildings, except that in the surgical pavilions there is an extra elevator for the exclusive use of patients transferred to and from the operating rooms. The entire fourth floor is devoted to operating rooms with northern exposures, according to the dictates of modern hospital technique.

Each unit is so arranged as to allow special departments for the preparation of the patient, narcosis, sterilization of instruments, etc.

In brief, the layout of the operating floor, the rich surgical armamentarium, the latest appa-

ratus for the administration of anesthesia, are not only up to date and complete, but almost unique.

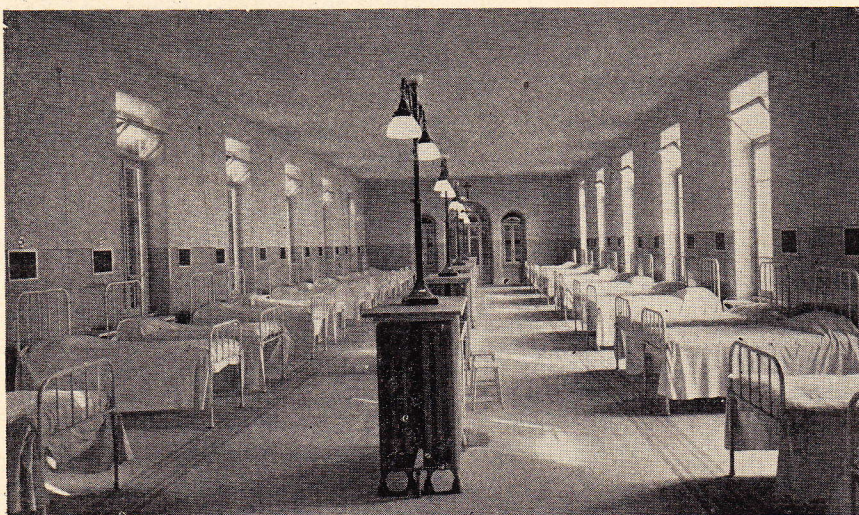
One entire pavilion is devoted to ophthalmology, or diseases of the eye, and otorhinolaryngology, or diseases of the ear, nose and throat. Two dispensaries for these specialties are situated on the ground floor of this building.

Especially rich in apparatus is the pavilion of radiology and physiotherapy. The X-ray laboratories are complete in every sense and it suffices to say that the direction of this most important department of the hospital is entrusted to Professor Aristide Busi, one of the greatest radiologists in the world.

The entire hospital city has fifty external and two hundred internal telephone lines. There is an emergency electric system connected to a central station, so arranged that it comes automatically into action should the regular electric system cease to function.

The hospital staff is composed of renowned visiting physicians and surgeons. They are assigned to duty following competitive examinations and upon meeting other requirements as to academic achievements, experience, etc. The visiting physician or surgeon must always be ready for service upon telephonic notification unless the case can be taken care of by the assistants or by members of the resident staff. In this manner immediate and competent hospital service is available day or night. The members of the medical and surgical staff are salaried in proportion to their status. Service is rendered free to the poor; but an adequate fee is charged patients who can pay. Although situated *lungi dal rumor degli uomini*, the hospital city is easily accessible by railway, street car, bus line, or automobile, for which a cement road has been built leading directly to the hospital.

Thus the *Ospedale del Littorio* upholds the glorious traditions of the hospitals of Rome, keeps pace with Italy's progress under Fascism, and justifies the pride of the Italian-Americans in the Motherland.



One of the wards in the emergency reception pavilion.



# Feminine Influence in Renaissance Literary Groups

By Prof. Walter Bullock

Department of Italian, University of Chicago

President, American Ass'n. of Teachers of Italian

(In two parts: Part two)

**I**N general, the women whose influence in drawing-rooms and—especially—in gardens served as an inspiration to whole groups of writers may be divided into three chief categories: princesses, great ladies with religious interests, and the more refined courtiers. Somewhat idealized descriptions of the activities of such circles are to be found in the many literary "Dialoghi" of the time; more accurate accounts of actual incidents, in the chronicles and the familiar letters of the period. Just as the best—and perhaps the truest—picture of the literary circle at Urbino is presented in that fictitious account of an imaginary series of conversations there which we find in the "Cortegiano", so the most vivid account of the little court at Asolo under Caterina Cornaro, widowed queen of Cypress, is given in the record of a rather similar series of imaginary conversations (written a number of years before the "Cortegiano") in Pietro Bembo's "Asolani". Asolo here appears all as charming in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries as it proved in the nineteenth century to Robert Browning, and in the twentieth to Eleonora Duse.

The circle at Milan about Beatrice d'Este, on the other hand, is described (as we should expect, more soberly) by Calmeta, acting as historian, in his "Vita del... Serrano", mentioned already in a different connection. "Her court", he says "was composed of men gifted with every ability, and especially poets and musicians; who, besides their other compositions, were expected month by month to compose new eclogues, comedies, or tragedies, and to arrange

new spectacles and representations. The 'Divina Commedia' was regularly read aloud at appropriate hours by a certain Antonio Grifo, a man extremely gifted in that direction." Then, after naming certain of the most distinguished poets of her circle—Niccolò da Correggio, Gaspare Visconti, Antonio di Campo Fregoso, and others—and after noting her interest in the work of Italian poets all over Italy, he concludes: "In this manner poetry and literature in the vulgar tongue, which after the days of Petrarch and Boccaccio had degenerated, have been restored to their former dignity; first by the protection of Lorenzo de' Medici and his contemporaries, and then by the influence of this lady and of other distinguished ladies of our time."

**S**TILL more famous was the circle of Beatrice's sister, Isabella d'Este Gonzaga, Duchess of Mantua. Mario Equicola, Pietro Bembo, Antonio Tebaldeo, and many another were, at one time or another, of its members. In 1508 the Duchess was reading Latin poetry with Equicola. A few years after, Ariosto spent some time at Mantua, and while there read to Isabella his unfinished "Furioso"; just as, half a century and more later, Torquato Tasso was to read his "Gerusalemme" day by day to Isabella's great-grand-niece Lucrezia. Isabella herself wrote verses, and we know that Tebaldeo praised one of her strambotti highly; but she kept them dark, and I do not know of any that have come down to us. She was not unwilling, however, to sing to her court circle sonnets or other lyrics composed by the great writers of the day; in a letter written to her in

1506 by Niccolò da Correggio we read, "As for the song which you ask me to select from Petrarch, I have chosen one of those which I like best, beginning: "Si è debole il filo a cui s'atiene", which seems to me well suited to your purpose, containing lines which must be sung by turn "crescendo" and "diminuendo". With it I send one of my own songs, composed in a similar metre, which you can sing to the same tune as the Petrarca "canzone", and also a poem in imitation of Petrarch's "Chiare, dolci, e fresche acque". Once more I commend myself to your good graces..." And a year earlier Pietro Bembo had written to her: "I am sending you, most illustrious my Lady, ten sonnets and two somewhat irregular "tramotti"; not because they deserve to be taken in your noble hands through any merit of theirs, but because I desire verses of mine, too, to be recited and sung by you, recollecting how sweetly and charmingly on that happy evening you sang the verses of another, and convinced that my compositions can receive no greater grace than this. Some of the sonnets have not yet been given to anyone else; and the "tramotti" are entirely new: no one has even seen them yet..."—Thus lyric poetry was in Cinquecento salons truly lyric: not merely recited, but actually sung—if not to the lyre, at least to the music of the lute.

**T**HERE was not a little rivalry, and even jealousy, between Isabella and her sister-in-law Lucrezia Borgia, who had become Duchess of Ferrara. Isabella was the more cultured of the two by far; Lucrezia excelled rather in dancing and in the purely social



graces than in the intellectual; but Ferrara had certain advantages over Mantua, and Lucrezia had enough superficial culture to impress even so sound a critic as Pietro Bembo;—though he, to be sure, was partly blinded by her other attractions. From one of his poems we learn that Lucrezia also, on occasion, would recite Italian poetry.

Numerous other lights of the drawing-room might be named: at Ferrara again, for example, Laura Dianti, called Eustochia and sometimes known as Laura d'Este, the mistress, for a brief period it would seem the wife, and for nearly forty years the widow of Alfonso I. After his death she held a small court and salon of her own at Ferrara in the Palazzo degli Angioli, and sometimes also at her "Villa del Vergenese"; it was not greatly distinguished for literary preeminence, since these were lean times intellectually at Ferrara, between the death of Ariosto and the rise of Tasso; but certainly the youthful Battista Guarini, and very possibly the more mature Giambattista Giraldi (Cinzio), who seems to have addressed some of his poems to her, were, among others, members of her circle. Veronica Gambarà, too, whom we have noted at Correggio, not only was the centre of the literary company at her court there, but in 1530, when Emperor and Pope met at Bologna, spent many months in a house she owned in that city, and soon made her "salon" here too a great centre of literary attraction. Then there was Madonna Laudomia Forteguerri of Siena, to whom Alessandro Piccolomini dedicated several of his works; in a brief note to her at the end of his "Delle Stelle Fisse" (1540) he declares that she is remarkably beautiful, virtuous, and intellectual, as is proved by her sonnets, canzoni, and capitoli (which he has read without her knowledge), and even more by the admirable disquisitions he has heard her present on certain passages in Dante and Petrarch. Camilla Scarampa, again, a minor poetess of the first half of the Cinquecento, held a salon which the novelist Bandello greatly praised. And so for many more.

**M**ANY great ladies' drawing-rooms became ere long centres for the discussion and dissemination of new and dangerous ideas in the religious field. Vittoria Colonna had the most famous of them: she was prominent both in literature and religion; equally distinguished when reading her own compositions to a purely literary group (as



A 16th Century Duse:

Isabella Andreini (1562-1604), known as "L'Accesa" in the *Accademia degli Intenti* of Pavia.

—From her "Rime", printed at Milan in 1601

she did at Ferrara, for example, in Carnival time of 1438—according to a letter from the Cardinal of Ravenna, Benedetto Accolti, written in February of that year), or when discussing in a small circle with such men as Valdes or Ochino all the religious mysteries of justification by faith and the rest. She seems to have died (1547) only just in time to escape the rigors of a trial for heresy; it was said that she had done much harm by disseminating sadly heretical ideas in the several convents which at various times she visited, and especially among the unfortunate nuns of Viterbo. Giulia Gonzaga, Contessa di Fondi, also starred both in literature and heresy. Her court at Fondi was from the first famous as a centre of arts and letters: Marc Antonio Flaminio, Vittore Soranzo, Francesco Maria Molza, Claudio Tolomei, Francesco Berni, Bernardo Tasso, and above all the brilliant but ill-fated young cardinal Ippolito de' Medici who was so deeply devoted to her,—all were at one time or another

associated in her circle; but her court also welcomed men whose reputations soon were tinged with heresy: Pietro Paolo Vergerio, P. Carnesecchi, Juan Valdes, and others whose participation in the court discussions ever tended to divert the topic from the literary to the dangerously religious. Caterina Cibo Varano, too, Duchessa di Camerino, who had studied Greek, Latin, and Hebrew from her childhood, was in touch with heretics as well as poets. It is strange to find dedicated to her on the one hand the distinctly free—not to say indelicate—"Ragionamenti" of Agnolo Firenzuola; and on the other, four extremely pious (albeit of course unorthodox) Dialogues by Bernardo Ochino, in which he makes the Duchess herself figure as one of the interlocutors. We may note that Firenzuola in his dedication (1525) almost calls her court an "Accademia" when he refers to the learned discussions there "delle quali mai non si sarebbe sdegnata l'Accademia Ateniese di ragionare."

**R**EMEMBERED still today is the circle of Renée duchess of Ferrara, which has been already briefly mentioned. One of the most brilliant members of that circle was herself a woman, the youthful Olimpia Morata, scholar in Greek and Latin, and while still in her teens enthusiastically praised by Giovambattista Giraldi, by Celio Calcagnini, by Bartolomeo Ricci, and by other learned men of Ferrara. At an early age she became governess to Anna d'Este, Renée's daughter; but her end, when not yet thirty, was as blackly tragic as her earliest years were brilliant. Other ladies too, in their circles, played a greater or less part in the great drama of Reform: Lodovica Trivulzio, under whom the religious discussions described in Luca Contile's "Dialoghi Spirituali" (printed in 1543) supposedly took place; Leonora della Rovere, at Urbino; Costanza d'Avalos, Lavinia della Rovere; Violante Bentivoglio Sforza; and their like.

The courtesan's drawing-room in its literary aspects may perhaps be treated with more brevity: one or two examples will suffice. The famous courtesan Imperia, who flourished early in the century,

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# "Scritti di Carlo Cassola"

by D. L. Magliozzi

At a time like the present, when problems of economics and finance are receiving more widespread attention, and are assuming more importance than ever, a book like "Scritti di Economia e di Finanza" by Professor Carlo Cassola, recently issued, is of more than academic interest.

It is a little less than a year after his death that there recently appeared in Italy this volume containing the writings of the comparatively young professor, whose untimely demise occurred in the beautiful verdant city of Varese, where he had gone in an attempt to restore his health. Carlo Cassola was a full Professor in the Financial Sciences at the Royal University of Naples, where he had studied as a young man and had distinguished himself for the versatility and acuteness of his intelligence, and for his deep attachment to scholarly studies, which were to prepare him for a teaching career in which he had an exceptionally early start.

The material in the book has been collected and edited as a labor of love by Professor Augusto Graziani, Professor of Political Economy at the Royal University of Naples and a renowned Italian authority in his field, who had been Carlo Cassola's father-in-law and who had known and taken an interest in him when, as a university student, he had been his pupil.

Though Professor Cassola may not have been widely known by the layman, his standing and popularity were high in academic circles, where his loss was keenly felt, for the Italian universities were thereby deprived of the services of a man of wide and profound culture, painstakingly and diligently acquired, and an outstanding figure in the field of economic and financial studies.

REFERRING to his death in the "Giornale degli Economisti e Rivista di Statistica" of Rome, Professor Giuseppe Ugo Papi wrote of Carlo Cassola, as a scientist and a man:



The late Professor Carlo Cassola

"He was one of those men who, at the very moment that one becomes acquainted with them, arouse an immediate attraction, which becomes stronger as the years go by, creating an indelible mark of admiration and affection. Through the years, the wealth of his temperament, characterized by a modesty and straightforwardness that avoided any quest for easy popularity, seemed to those who came into contact with him an ever-new comfort, revealing itself in diverse aspects. His fervid personality, the brilliancy of his observation, the soundness of his critical spirit, placed him among the most recognized students of economic and financial problems. Yet his friends could also love in him his genial sense of humor, his frankness in everyday life, which means a tireless exercise of cour-

age and a noble soul, always generous in its advice and actions.

In the volume are included three papers: "L'associazione economica e la distribuzione della ricchezza", "Sulla finanza locale (nozioni preliminari)", and "Il contributo di miglìoria". The latter two were comparatively recent writings of Professor Cassola, and had never been printed before. In the case of the first one, however, it had been originally published in 1918 in the "Annali dell'Università di Perugia", now out of print and difficult to obtain. For this reason Professor Graziani included it in the present collection, calling it "a powerful examination and synthesis of the modern economic system, and a demonstration of the inefficacy of the association (considered as an economic grouping, either of capital, labor, or consumers) in bringing about greater harmony in social relationships, since, according to the author, the benefits accruing to the association are closely connected with the strength which the associates separately have at their disposal."

Taken from this monograph ("L'associazione economica e la distribuzione della ricchezza"), the following extract is indicative of the material treated by the author, and his manner of handling his subject. After examining the strengths and the weaknesses, the good points and the defects of the associations (as defined above) he concludes:

"FROM the association, as shaped by the present economic order of things, we cannot be justified in hoping for either a relative equalizing of strength and wealth on the part of the different economic classes, nor greater equilibrium and greater harmony in social rela-



tionships. The association, as we have seen, is a very active factor of struggle and selection, and, as such, increases the suffering and misery of the most humble and backward classes, renders more and more difficult and precarious, within each class, the position of the weakest or least provided elements, and stimulates and accentuates the struggle for income.

"But there is more. The benefits that follow in the wake of the association are closely connected with the strength which the members, separately, have at their disposal. Those who can give but little to the association, can also expect but little in return, if, in fact, they receive at all more than they have given; incomparably greater benefits are received, instead, as we rise in the economic hierarchy, and as the contribution of the individual members becomes more conspicuous. But in this manner the association strengthens the position of monopoly enjoyed by the larger capitalists, through the very fact of greater accumulation in comparison to the capitalists of a less el-

evated rank; it renders more and more difficult the situation in which the classes possessing less find themselves struggling with those better provided, and thus, in the long run, increases rather than moderates the already existing contrasts in the present distribution of wealth."

In his preface to the volume, Professor Graziani has much to say in praise of his late son-in-law and colleague. "Admirable," he says, "was the activity displayed by Professor Cassola during the course of his brief life (he was born at Positano in the Province of Salerno on April 27, 1878). He faced every problem with great conscientiousness and seriousness of preparation, yet he did not consider the system of scientific laws as an end in itself, but as an instrument and key to penetrate more profoundly into the intricacies of the relationships among the social classes. Reason, in him, was joined with sentiment and with innate goodness, in the warmth of his spirit, science did not remain a gray theoretical scheme, but became life lived; it was animated with passion, and

from the cold heights where it was isolated, it would descend to humanize itself, to give its august contribution to the betterment of social life." (Masci)"

After teaching economic sciences at the Technical Institute of Caserta, Professor Cassola went, early in 1913, to the University of Perugia, where he later became "Preside" (Dean) and " Rettore" (President). When, in 1916, he was appointed to the chair of political economy at Cagliari, the University of Perugia, in gratitude, had him appointed Professor Emeritus. From Cagliari he went to Messina, then to the University of Pisa, and, in 1927, to the University of Naples.

Many and varied were the published writings of Professor Cassola. A bibliography at the end of the book lists seventeen of them, the first having been written in 1905 and the last in 1930. All of them deal with the field in which he was recognized as an authority, whose worth at the time of his death was brought out in the articles about him and his work published in many European reviews devoted to economics and jurisprudence.

## FEMININE INFLUENCE IN RENAISSANCE LITERARY GROUPS

(Continued from Page 216)

was, for one, notoriously interested in poetry; and according to Bandello was especially urged on in this, and helped to mould her taste, by Domenico Campana. Tullia d'Aragona, authoress of a treatise on Platonic Love, of a long chivalric romance (written with the express purpose of showing that indelicacy could and should be avoided in that type of poetry), and of a number of lyric poems—in the composition of which she was, sometimes at least, much aided by the well-known scholar Benedetto Varchi—often held a salon of distinction. When she was in Ferrara in 1537, Stabellino (signing himself here "Apollo novellista") wrote under date of June 13th to Isabella d'Este: "E' sorto in questa terra una gentil cortegiana di Roma..."—Mrs. Ady, who gives a translation of part of this letter in her "Beatrice d'Este", amusingly translates "una gentil cortegiana di Roma" as "A noble Roman lady": it

means, of course, "a refined Roman courtesan". Stabellino's letter says in part: "There has arrived in this city a refined Roman courtesan named Mistress Tullia, who, it is understood, has come to spend some months here. She is very refined, discreet, intelligent, and endowed with brilliant qualities; she can read music and sing at sight any "motetto" or canzone"; her conversation is unique, and she behaves so gracefully that no man or woman is her equal—though the Marchesa di Pescara (Vittoria Colonna) is admirable indeed, and is here, as you know. Tullia shows some knowledge in every field, talk to her of what you will; her house is always crowded with talented men, and she may be visited at all times; she is rich in money, jewels, necklaces, rings, and other precious things; and is, in short, well supplied with everything..." She counted Varchi, Girolamo Muzio, Bernardo Tasso, Filippo

Strozzi, and others among her fervent admirers; and when, somewhat later than the time of that visit to Ferrara, she went to Florence, she was excused from wearing the yellow veil which was by law obligatory for all of her profession, Duke Cosimo himself signing her petition "Fasseli gratia per poetessa" "Let her be excused, as a poetess."

VERONICA FRANCO was another poetess of the same profession, as was also, apparently, Gaspara Stampa, who wrote the finest lyric poems of any Cinquecento woman—for Vittoria Colonna's, though more famous, are, after all, pretty feeble stuff. Veronica Franco's drawing-room was, like Tullia's half a century earlier, much frequented by the men of letters of her day. She flourished at Venice in the second half of the sixteenth century, and published various

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# Dr. Piff

A SHORT STORY

By Corrado Tumiati

**C**ERTAINLY I must have been dreaming: although the dream was spread on my face like an iron mask, behind which I felt my thought moving freely and arranging images and words in an apparent coherence.

I seemed to be young and unhappy. A Faust of a different kind, I was cursing my inept, romantic, altogether passionate youth. I loved a woman who seemed very beautiful and innocent to me, but I suffered from that tie which alienated my life. I was part of a group of contemporaries, but I chafed to see them cruel and indifferent even in physical pleasures: always a thousand dark forces surged within me, spurring me to imitate them and confuse me with them. Poor, I blessed my liberty, but I envied the riches of others as only a poor man can envy. I was debating these contrasts with myself, seeking in vain a way out, and I must have suffered to the point of tears, for I heard softly, almost breathed into my ear, a voice that asked me suddenly, clearly:

"Why do you cry?"

"I?" I asked.

"A man who cries is always an imbecile."

"But you, who are you?" I asked that voice.

"Unfortunate," it commented without answering.

"Anyway," I think I cried, "leave me in peace. That's all I ask."

"That's just what I offer you."

The man's voice was calm: I would almost have said paternal, if a continuous irony had not been mingled in its tone. And irony does not become a father, stripped as he may be of kindness. The man was tall, strong. A man like many others, he nevertheless kept his features covered, except

for his eyes, which were clear and very cold.

"Well," I asked again, "who are you?"

The unknown man handed me a visiting card, an ordinary card on which I read: Doctor Piff.

"I recognize this name." I said a little more serenely, "a doctor..."

"Surgeon," corrected the voice.

"In fact, I've read something in the papers. Very daring operations."

"Oh, very daring... Daring exists only in the lazy imagination of the craven. What seems an exception to them is for us the normal manner of living and of operating."

**T**HE sentence was spoken without arrongance, but with a tranquil assurance.

Nevertheless, disturbed, I hastened to reply:

"What you say is very interesting, but it does not apply; I am not a patient, and I have no need of you."

"My dear man, wherever there is an unhappy person, there is a patient. And no one is more unhappy than yourself."

"No, no. If I am suffering, it is a question of temperament, of disposition, of constitution."

The voice laughed.

"That is just what I think. And it is that which has made me succeed."

"In what?"

"In caring for people, in curing them. The feelings that disturb them are like poisons. They hamper and inhibit one's conduct, they paralyze one's life. Love destroys pleasure, justice prevents power, honesty leads to poverty, enthusiasm befores the critical sense, sorrow quenches life, gayety hides reality. The real man needs only instincts and

intelligence. This to guide those. All the rest is a hindrance, a sickness, and it must be cured, exterminated."

"Perhaps it's true...", I said almost to myself.

"It is true," tranquilly he replied, and he added:

"My car is at the door."

"Why?" I asked, quite agitated.

"To take you with me. To cure you."

I did not want to move, yet I felt myself following him. As I was going out, I saw my mother and the young woman I believed I loved appear in the doorway. They formed a group as they seemed to clasp each other in terror. I heard the young woman say to my mother:

"Who is that man? I am afraid."

**D**OWN the funnel of a street the machine hummed. At the end of a ride that seemed to me eternal and very short I found myself in a piazza swarming with silent machines. Two great masts flying royal banners were stationed in their midst, in front of a high building of a cold and logical architecture. Within, everything bespoke a hospital: the white, luminous walls, the smoothed corners, the smell of ether, the white uniforms of the silent, fleeting employees. Evidently I was expected, for in one of the rooms I was received by a little man with Mongol features who called me by name. I aroused some courage and asked him where I might be and what experiments I would have to undergo. Here my recollection is a little uncertain, for the man spoke a technical and not entirely comprehensible idiom. I remember only that he insisted on saying that it was a question of surgical applications of the theory



of an American psychologist, according to whom we do not cry or laugh because we are sad or happy, but, on the contrary, are sad or happy because of the tears or laughter. In explanation of his words he showed me two cases. First he introduced a man of a lugubrious aspect, strangely dressed in stylish but gaudy clothing. The nerves of laughter had been cut from the unhappy man, who had formerly been too jovial and smiling. Gladness now being precluded him, he attempted, by means of his clothing and a mimicry with his arms, to recover his good humor, but he was not succeeding, and he was venting his ire on the doctor.

"Happy, happy!" he repeated sobbing, "I am happy, understand? And I can no longer laugh."

"For what reason are you happy?" asked the other.

"An inheritance," was the answering sob.

"Per dio!" exclaimed the doctor, "a big one?"

Through an outburst of tears, the man replied: "Three.... three millions."

The doctor did not lose heart: "Take courage," he said, "you will find the right point, the operation is too recent.... Within a few days we will be able to complete it...."

**H**E did not say how, but hastened to dismiss the patient, who seemed about to become threatening. After him came another, a second patient, who seemed to be the opposite of the first. He was dressed in mourning and his whole face beamed with joy. Addicted overmuch to melancholy, an easy prey to sadness, he had his tear ducts and glands taken out, and now he was disturbed over the fact that he could not cry.

"Ah, ah, ah!" he was laughing heartily, "this accursed merriment! It is only three days, ah, ah, ah, since my wife died, and it is not enough that I live in the dark and dress in mourning. I am desperate, understand, desperate, ah, ah, ah!"

The doctor avoided looking at me. He spoke vague words: "That poor woman! Calm your-

self, it will pass; you too will find the right point...."

"The right point?" laughed the other contemptuously. "I'll show you the right point....!"

Two employees dragged away the man, who was laughing and waving a very black umbrella.

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Corrado Tumiati, among the newer writers of Italy, is one of the most important. It was not long ago that his book "I Tetti Rossi" (The Red Roofs) won the Premio V. areggio, and put him in the literary spotlight. Unque among writers is Tumiati in that it is a secondary occupation with him, for he is a doctor by profession, an alienist, a physician of the insane. The title of his book, in fact, refers to the red roofs of the Insane Asylum of Venice, the city where Tumiati lives. Naturally, he deals, both in his profession and in his writings, with the mysterious realm of mental disorders, as is the case with the present story, translated from the "Nuova Antologia" of Rome.

In an article in *Atlantica* on Tumiati last year, Professor Giuseppe Prezzolini said:

"Tumiati's sense of humanity is very deep. As a physician of souls he feels that the soul is something precious and mysterious which always has in store treasures and surprises. I am not referring only to sick people; Tumiati feels the same way regarding healthy people also. He can seize and depict human goodness and suffering with a sure hand. In the presence of insanity men are somewhat the same as when at war in the presence of death; they reveal all their defects and their virtues."

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I had lost all my courage. Disheartened, I looked at the doctor and asked him: "Won't the same thing happen to me?"

He smiled. "They are only experiments. With you it will be different."

"How?" I asked, terrorized.

"It will no longer be a matter of partial operations, but of radical intervention."

"Which is to say...?" My voice was failing me.

"The highest surgery. The total isolation of the heart. The suppression of all feelings."

"Won't there be complications?" I asked timidly.

After the "No" that followed my question I felt a sense of inexpressible happiness. It was the last one I felt....

\* \* \*

**I** was living in a great city. Which one it was, I do not remember. Perhaps Paris, perhaps Milan or New York, Hamburg or Calcutta. It was of no importance whatever to me. My calm was implacable, my wealth boundless. Banker or financier of the highest class, I was one of those found only in trains or in international romances. I maneuvered, by the ordinary use of the telephone, the most varied markets; I held under my orders the strongest captains of industry, who seemed to be children with their passion and their technical ideals. Today I enriched a nation, tomorrow I impoverished her, both with equal indifference. The suicides as well as the great fortunes that my strength determined were foreign to me, far-off and distant, as the movement of a crowd would be to the pilot of an airplane. I opened the doors of glory to men of genius if their discoveries served to move my geared wheels better, but I snuffed them out in silence if they disturbed them. The dizzinesses or desperations of demigods did not touch me.

These was only one person close to my past: the little woman whom I had thought I loved and who had contented herself to live within my rays, pounding the keys of an adding machine. If sometimes I met the impossible light of her imploring eyes, it annoyed me like a useless noise. One day they told me that my mother had died. I remember that I continued telephoning.

The gold—the real gold money—that I needed for my daily and nightly expenses went through my fingers like cold sand. It was a small but tangible sign of my power, and I liked to keep some, in little sacks in two safes. Naturally, crowds of the wealthy flocked to my sumptuous feasts. About them as about everybody else, I did not care. I had the impression that men were pawns in a cold game, numbers in a calculation which my lucid indifference always concluded to my own advantage. I was free, arid, alone.

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# SPORTS

## ITALY AT THE OLYMPICS

WITH the Duce's farewell address still ringing in their ears, the members of the Italian Olympic Squad now await the opening of the 1932 games at Los Angeles. The four years of preparation are over and the blue-shirted athletes from Italy are indulging in light exercises; just enough to keep them on edge and prevent the high-strung human "machines" from going stale.

THE Italian squad has been well treated by the populace of California and are favorites with the natives. The men were accorded a hearty welcome upon their arrival from New York City, at which place the squad was the guest of Gr. Uff. Genesio Pope and was greeted by His Honor James J. Walker.

ITALY comes to the scene of the 1932 Olympic Games not as a mere contestant so as to receive some recognition from other nations present, but with the thought and desire of annexing third place, which is two steps higher than the finish of 1928 when the Italians finished behind the United States, Germany, Finland, and France. Not only do the squad members believe themselves capable of finishing third but many authorities on sports forecast that finish. They see Italy repeating the 1928 triumph in boxing, fencing victories, points in the cycling and rowing events. Frigerio is expected to retain his walking championship, a possible victory in the 1,500 meters, and a place in the 400 meter hurdles. These are almost sure points and added to others to be won in other events, seem to justify the forecasters in reserving third place of Italy.

UGO FRIGERIO in the 50 km. walk is the cream of the starters in that event. The possible victory in the 1,500 meters which we mentioned a

few lines above is because the Italian entry is none other than Luigi Beccali, who, in tryouts prior to coming to the United States ran the event in fast time, in fact, missed the world's record by one second. Incidentally the time posted by Beccali is faster than the time in which the event was won by Larva of Finland in the 1928 Olympics. The American entry is the man Beccali will have to win, is our guess, and we expect to see the invader do it.

LUIGI FACELLI is the Red White and Green hope in the 400 meter hurdles. The Italian timber-topper is a regular 54-second man and it is said he can do better when extended. Among the men Facelli has defeated is Lord Burghley of England, the present holder of the Olympic title in that event. The Britisher is expected to come through to the finals again this year and the final should be one of the closest of any event, for besides these two invaders, the United States has on hand one of the finest crop of hurdlers in recent years. George Saling of the University of Iowa and Jack Keller of Ohio State University have been toppling records all spring, and then there is Record of Harvard University, another stellar performer.

THERE are no outstanding sprinters on the Italian team, and if any of the fast men place in the finals points will be won that had not been expected. In the 800 meters there is a possible finalist in Tavernari who has shown some good racing in the tryouts. Nello Bartolini, entry for the 3,000 meter steeplechase, has shown to advantage in past races and he may place.

LEAVING the trackmen, we go to the swordsmen. Here the Italians reigned supreme at Amsterdam in 1928, and now in 1932 at Los Angeles, with a

few exceptions, Italy will present the same men that so brilliantly won the championship four years ago.

ITALY won then with 64 points and was followed by France with 47, Hungary trailing with 37. The Italians were given a hard fight by France in the foils and again this year another grueling battle is expected, but with the Italians showing a strong front to the others, another win is looked for. Gaudini, Marzi, Guaragna, Pignotti, Chiavacchi and Pessina are the men who will defend their foils title.

ITALY was never strong in swimming events heretofore. Yet this year there are swimmers in the squad who may place. Paolo Costoli and Perentin Nino are entered in both the 400 meter and the 1,500 meter swims and it is likely that they will finish well up front.

LEUTENANT Eugenio Pagnini is a strong entry for the modern pentathlon. The Italian officer did well at Amsterdam, showing a slight weakness only in equitation then. Since that time Pagnini has worked on this fault and appears to have remedied it.

The wrestling team is a strong group and there are a number of members who may reach the finals, although a win does not seem possible.

All in all the Italian squad of 106 athletes, at present the largest squad to come here, is a well-rounded group and its strength is not concentrated in just a few events, but rather spread around just as Olympic squads should be. A tribute should be paid to the Italian Olympic Committees which raised the necessary funds so that such a large squad could be sent here. Their work is made more impressive in these times when policies of retrenchment are all around us.

— M. A. M.



# Books In Review

*PHILIPPINE, A Satirical Romance.* By Maurice Bedel. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc.

This inconsequential book and its dust wrapper make strange bedfellows. At least the wrapper makes pretensions. It audaciously flaunts a comparison with Voltaire's satiric-romantic style. But the relation of the book within to "Candide", let us say, would be analogous to the effect of a clerk, who, having religiously studied fifteen minutes a day as required by his culture shelf, boldly joins a fashionable soiree and attempts to exchange bon mots with the acknowledged literary luminaries.

Philippine is the silly daughter of a hallucinated Frenchman who retires from the department store business to save his country from the forces which threaten her in parlous times. So to Italy he goes to borrow Mussolini's ideas, and so does his daughter, but not for the ideas. The book is clearly a pot boiler and there is nothing like romance to produce the simmer that sells.

But M. Bedel's romance is thin, thinner than his political knowledge, a fact which he ill conceals. Philippine, in the end, is followed to France by her black-shirt lover, he having placed love above the State and Mussolini, which, M. Bedel emphasizes quite often, are one and the same thing.

The meat of his political theme consists of the suspicions and indignities which the well-meaning but deluded M. Grenadier, Philippine's father, has to endure in a land where the State jealously guards her sovereignty. The meat is tainted and even the hounds of bias and prejudice will sniff and turn away. Perhaps the translation is bad and the stilted style of the narrative is not all M. Bedel's fault; nevertheless, there is no mistaking his very own feelings. They are unworthy of a man of letters, for they transcend mere satire or criticism.

In M. Bedel the fair muses have not won a votary. It will be said of him that once upon a time he won a Goncourt prize. And so he did, and it might be recalled that it was for another book, "Jerome, or The Latitude of Love."

—A. H. Leviero

*THE WORLD BEST POEMS.* Edited by Mark Van Doren and Garibaldi M. Lapolla. 672 pages. New York: A. & C. Boni. \$1

*THE WORLD'S BEST ESSAYS: From Confucius to Mencken.* Edited by F. H. Pritchard. 1012 pages. New York: A. & C. Boni, \$1.

Even for anthologies, these two books represent bargains in the fullest sense of the word. Both are veritable storehouses of what the editors consider best in the field of poetry and the essay of all times and all countries.

In "The World's Best Poems" one finds the classics of China and Japan, of Greece and Rome, of India, Spain,

Italy, Persia, Arabia, France, Germany, England, Ireland and America, the whole divided by country and sub-divided by author. In each case, apparently, the best available translation has been used, and many of the translators are poets in their own right. Naturally, in a compilation as extensive as this, sins of omission are bound to occur. For example, in the Italian section, D'Annunzio is left out, and Carducci and Leopardi are allotted only two poems each, with one for Alfieri. Similarly, in the American section, the editors omit the Benets, Auslander, the Untermeyers, Aiken, Teasdale, Kreymborg, etc. But this is carping criticism for a volume that must contain over 1000 poems from as wide a field as it is humanly possible to cover in 672 pages.

Mark Van Doren, of course, needs no introduction. Mr. Lapolla, an Italian immigrant who is now a school principal in Brooklyn, is the author of two novels, "The Fire in the Flesh" and "Miss Rollins in Love."

Much the same can be said for "The World's Best Essays", except that the longer medium in this case necessitates many more pages. Here one finds Aristotle and Heywood Brown, Cicero and Lamb, Confucius and Maeterlinck, Sainte-Beuve and Croce, Gorky and Emerson, and so on, with more than 200 essayists represented. Truly, as the publishers state, it is "a complete survey of the progress of human thought throughout the ages as represented by the essay."

*ITALIAN PHYSICAL CULTURE DEMONSTRATION.* By Thomas B. Morgan. With an Introduction by His Excellency Renato Ricci. 193 pages. Illustrated. New York: Macfadden Book Co.

As its sub-title indicates, this book is "a report of the visit, training and accomplishments of the forty Italian students who were guests of Bernarr Macfadden during a stay of six months in the United States studying his methods of physical culture."

The whole story is here, including an appreciation by the Italian Under-Secretary of State for Physical Education, Mr. Macfadden's visit to Italy and his delight with the great strides being made in physical culture there, all concentrated under one head, General Ricci, his interview with Mussolini, the spell woven by the dictator, Macfadden's decision, what the boys did while in the United States, and how noticeably they improved physically under Mr. Macfadden's regime.

The latter is shown graphically by photographs of the athletes before and after their visit. Other photographs illustrate special exercises for building spinal strength. Mr. Macfadden stresses a good deal the dietetic importance of restricting food to the amount actually needed for nourishment and no more.

*THE ITALIAN REFORMERS, 1534-1564.* By Frederick C. Church. 428 pages. New York: The Columbia University Press. \$5.

A vast amount of research has gone into the writing of this erudite volume, as is evidenced by the lengthy bibliography, including many ancient tomes and much material from unprinted sources. The result, of course, is not a book for the layman, but for the specialist in European religious history. The latter will recognize that there is practically no study in existence dealing with the significant history of the Counter-Reformation in Italy, though more forces were combined there to make a unique story than in any other scene of reformation agitation. The Reformation in Italy, too, showed evidence of intellectual emancipation more complete than elsewhere.

At least one passage from this important contribution to history must be quoted: "The Reformation in Italy is to be distinguished from the Italian Reformation, for the Italian reformers were far more important for their work abroad than at home. Indeed Italian genius—with the notable exception of art—has always been more productive, seemingly, elsewhere than in the land of its birth."

*DANTE'S PARADISO. A Lineal and Rhymed Translation.* By Rev. Albert R. Bandini. 279 pages. San Francisco: The People's Publishing Co. \$2.

This is one of a series of Dante translations by the Rev. Bandini, which, besides the three parts, Inferno, Purgatorio and Paradiso, also includes a one volume edition of the trilogy.

Says the translator in his preface: "But the Paradiso is poetry, always excellent, often sublime. The stateliness of the lines (of which, of course, a translation can give but a feeble echo), the surprisingly apt similes, the pithy sentences, the exactness of the language in description and in definition create in the trained reader that peculiar feeling which comes from true poetry."

Complete with notes and an index, the volume is also enriched by illustrations, reproduced from the works of John Stradano of Bruges, a disciple of Vasari.

*THE ANIMAL KINGDOM. A Comedy in Three Acts.* By Philip Barry. 198 pages. New York: Samuel French. \$2.

It was only recently, after a goodly run of 5 or 6 months, that this brilliant, witty Barry play, with Leslie Howard in its most important role, went off the Broadway boards. Practically unanimous on the part of the critics was the judgment that it was one of the most important events of the theatre season.

In the story, Tom Collier is one of these unusual young men who cannot become solid, respectable citizens; he is instinctively a nonconformist, and mingles happily with careless Bohemians, especially Daisy Sage, a magazine illustrator. It is while she is in Europe for a time that Tom falls for the luscious, worldly charms of Cecelia Henry, and marries her. Though he is of a superior type, he, too, is of the animal kingdom, and subject to simple sex urge.



...making Cecelia seems to make Tom more domesticated, more... His Bohemian friends... including the sad Daisy. He... however, and one night, when... prepared a seductive evening... make him still more confor-... he sees that his wife is really a... "I'm going back to my... he leaves her to go... Daisy. Subtle is the gesture... on his way out, he leaves a... from his wealthy father on the... for Cecelia.

**STORIES IN LAW AND POLITICS.**  
By *Donald J. Laski*. 299 pages. New  
Haven: Yale University Press. \$3.

In the present volume, the distingui-  
shed Professor of Political Science in the  
University of London, and a foremost  
social thinker, has gathered together  
essays by himself that have been pub-  
lished at various times and places within  
the last seven years. "Though they treat  
of very different subjects," he confesses  
in the preface, "I venture to think that  
they are brought into something like  
unity by the fact that they express a  
general attitude in spite of their varying  
subject-matter."

Touching on matters as far apart as  
"Communism" and "Judicial Review of Social  
Welfare," "The Problem of a Second Cham-  
ber" and "The Technique of Judicial  
Appointment," "The State in the New  
World Order" and "The Political Philo-  
sophy of Mr. Justice Holmes," the essays  
certainly vary in their subject-matter.

**HOW TO DRAW IN PEN AND INK.**  
By *Jasper Salwey*. Illustrated. 67 pages.  
Boston, N. Y.: Bridgman Publishers,  
Inc. \$2.50.

**FEATURES AND FACES.** By *George  
H. Bridgman*. Illustrated. 64 pages.  
Boston, N. Y.: Bridgman Publishers,  
Inc. \$3.50.

Though both of these books, inten-  
ded for the teacher, student and artist,  
are not of more than passing interest  
to the average reader, there must be  
many among the latter who, as the  
foreword to one of the two books has  
it, "are giving attention to Art today,  
and who would be glad of some know-  
ledge if presented with sufficient clear-  
ness and simplicity to make clear and  
comprehensive the analysis of details  
to the mass and outline as a whole  
of any object."

Most interesting about Mr. Salwey's  
book is its final half, which, following  
chapters on what to draw with, how to  
begin, how to proceed, etc., contains  
pen and ink illustrations by 17 famous  
artists in that medium including Ten-  
ned, Gibson, Beardsley, the author, etc.,  
together with analysis and comment  
on each.

More technical, "Features and  
Faces", the author of which is an in-  
structor and lecturer at the Art Stu-  
dents' League in New York, contains  
more than 200 drawings and sketches,  
all renderings of heads, features and  
faces, illustrating various problems of  
perspective, form, light and shade, etc.

**ETHICS AND PRACTICES IN JOUR-  
NALISM.** By *Albert F. Henning*. 204  
pages. New York: Roy Long & Rich-  
ard R. Smith. \$1.50.

This book was written "with a view  
to use in classes in the ethics of jour-  
nalism" according to Mr. Henning  
in the preface. Yet it will prove a  
few hours of interesting reading to the  
layman. It will take the non-jour-  
nalist into all the departments of a  
newspaper and show him the "how"  
of it.

As a text for students in journalism  
we find something lacking. It does  
not dig deep enough for the student. It  
just scratches the surface and leaves  
much to be desired.

\* \* \*

After a number of years of retire-  
ment, Gabriele D'Annunzio is to have  
another book published to add to the  
sixty or so he has already written.  
It will appear, strangely enough, not  
in Italian, nor in English, but in  
French. To be published by Calmann-  
Lévy, its title is "Endosmè ou le Ban-  
quet des Philologastres." D'Annun-  
zio, it will be remembered, enjoys a  
great popularity in France, where his  
works have been widely translated.  
Perhaps this is due to his immense  
vocabulary in all the languages he  
knows. Henry Furst in the "New  
York Times" says, for example, that  
"possessing in Italian a vocabulary  
twice as large as that of Shakespeare  
he cannot be cooped up within the  
limited phraseology imposed by French  
classical traditions", although it is well  
known that his knowledge of the  
French language "is miraculous".

**AMERICAN OUTPOST: A Book of  
Reminiscences.** By *Upton Sinclair*. 280  
pages. Published by the author at Pa-  
sadena, Calif. \$2.50.

Mellow and informal as this auto-  
biography is of the scion of a fine old  
American family who broke with tra-  
dition and became one of the country's  
leading Socialists and radicals, there  
are still times when one feels that the  
corners have not been rounded yet.  
Still evident is his fervent missionary  
zeal (his "Jesus complex", Michael  
Gold called it), his enthusiasm for  
"causes" (almost all of them losing  
causes), and his smoldering, white-hot  
hatred of the existing order of things.

It is a bitter reflection on the Ame-  
rican public that, though Mr. Sinclair's  
novels have been translated into more  
languages than those of any other liv-  
ing American novelist his fame in his  
own country is not proportionate, due,  
of course to his Socialist leanings.  
Readers of his autobiography, if they  
have not already done so, will inevit-  
ably want to read the books that made  
him famous, especially "The Jungle"  
and "The Brass Check". And they, as  
well as "American Outpost", certainly  
deserve reading, if only for a new slant  
on the United States of America.

## SOME ITALIAN BOOKS

Reviewed by  
**Claudia Corbyans**

**MAGIE: Liriche.** Di *Walter Trillini*. 111  
Pages. Arte Della Stampa. Roma L.9.

This is a delightful collection of  
poems, which appeal to the reader be-  
cause of the author's versatility and  
because of the live interest which he  
exhibits in each of his poems.

Mr. Trillini has divided his poems  
into four parts. The first part "Ma-  
gie" (witchcraft) is a bit depressing  
but extremely philosophical. He writes  
on solitude, oblivion, resignation, life,  
etc.

"I Preferiti" or "The Preferred" con-  
stitutes the second part and here the  
author changes entirely and writes a-  
bout such men as Gabriele D'Annun-  
zio, Federico Nietzsche, Wagner.

Mr. Trillini emphasizes the religious  
element in the third part and calls it  
"Spiritualita". Here we find some of  
his best poems, which reflect a perfect  
understanding of the Catholic Religion.

"I Canticci della Ricordanza" ends  
this charming collection.

**GOETHE.** Di *G. Zamboni*. 267 pages.  
Illustrato. Vallecchi, Editore. Firenze.  
Lire 3.

Here is a very interesting volume on  
the life of Goethe and the incidents in  
it which influenced his poetry.

Mr. Zamboni strongly defends some  
actions in Goethe's life which others  
would criticize. The author conveys  
to his readers the enthusiasm which he  
has for this great poet. He has in a  
simple manner made one feel the per-  
sonality of Goethe.

One of the chapters is devoted to  
Goethe's experiences in Italy and to a  
fine comparison of Torquato Tasso's  
work with his drama "L'Ifigenia". This  
tends to make the book more fascinat-  
ing to Italian readers.

The book is well illustrated, and on  
the whole, pleasant reading.

**NAPOLEONE.** Di *Raffaele Ciampini*.  
340 pages. Illustrato. Vallecchi, Editore.  
Lire 3.

Mr. Ciampini is the author of two  
books on Napoleon and in this, his  
third, he deals with the great man's  
victories in France, Italy, Russia, Ger-  
many, etc. He shows a fine under-  
standing of his subject behind the  
simple historic facts.

The author writes from a political  
point of view and we find little em-  
phasis on Bonaparte's private life ex-  
cept casually, here and there, mention  
of members of his family.

There are entirely too many cold  
facts, which do not add to the attrac-  
tion of the book. However, those who  
are admirers of Napoleon will find this  
book interesting.



## TOPICS OF THE MONTH

(Continued from Page 198)

born do these hoary descendants of Americans mean? Those who came from Europe in the 14th Century—that is, 100 years before America was discovered by Columbus—or those who were fighting the “Native Americans” in 1856? Alas, how silly some people can be!

I realize that this discussion is in the main academic. It means nothing and accomplishes less. It only serves to show that some people have not advanced very much mentally from the real “Native Americans”—the uncivilized Indian aborigines.

The main thing to remember for all intelligent people is this: that, whether born here or not, we are all Americans, proud of our citizenship and all working for the common good of our Country, without any idiotic bragging of ridiculous priorities.

### GENE SARAZEN: A YOUNG AMERICAN

**M**R. ARTHUR BRISBANE is doubtless one of the greatest publicists we have in America. His famous column in the Hearst papers is eagerly awaited every morning by millions everywhere who read it with great delight and much intellectual profit.

The other day Mr. Brisbane had a piece about Gene Sarazen, and because it is brief, pithy and written in his usual inimitable style, I shall reproduce it here in its entirety:

“A young American, Gene Sarazen, won the open British golf tournament yesterday, ‘shattering par’ in every round except the last. Think of playing 18 holes, four times, in 70—69—70—74.

“Gene Sarazen’s father and mother are Italians. He belongs to a race that had contributed much to this country, beginning with Christopher Columbus, who discovered it.

“In this victory over all comers Sarazen even broke the record

made by the incomparable and immortal Bobby Jones, when he won the open tournament.”

“A young American, Gene Sarazen”—Mr. Brisbane is right, of course. Gene is an American, by birth and by training. Every young American, born here of Italian parents, is an American.

But why, may we be permitted to ask, do certain newspapers, when writing of gangsters and racketeers born here of Italian



On top of the Golf World

parents, simply describe them as “Italians?” Mr. Brisbane is no doubt aware of the fact and we are sure that he resents it as much as we do. But it is a fact, nevertheless.

Evidently, a great portion of the American press needs the common sense and sagacity of a journalist like Arthur Brisbane. But, unfortunately, we have only one Brisbane and many yellow sheet scrawlers.

### THE KELLYS AND THE DELORYS

**A** MAN by the good old Irish name of Kelly recently applied to a Judge of the City Court in Brooklyn and asked permission to change his name. This man, who is not an Irishman, didn’t wish to be known as one. Accordingly, he requested that the name Kelly be changed to Kochett. The Judge, refusing to give his judicial

consent to such a change, told Mr. Kelly to task with a series of withering remarks. The poor fellow must still be known as Mr. Kelly, whether he likes it or not.

Strange as it may seem, the desire to be known by another name is not limited to the Kellys. We have known and know certain Italians resorting to similar despicable tactics. A glaring example has recently come to our attention and we shall pass it to our readers for their edification.

In Everett, Mass., a man by the name of Perina J. Delory was for three consecutive terms elected Alderman of that city. Lately, however, it was discovered that the man’s real name was Pierino De Loreto and that he had no legal right to the use of the name under which he was elected to office. The Board of Registrators and Voters has ordered his name stricken from the voters’ Roll and Signor De Loreto—beg pardon, Mr. Delory—has appealed.

We sincerely wish him success in his effort and hope that henceforth he may be known as a Delory.

Again, such desire is not limited to the Delorys. Unfortunately, there are others like him in our midst. Ashamed of their race, ashamed of their Italian origin? Perhaps. But these people, first and foremost, should be ashamed of themselves.

As for their race, let them not worry overmuch about it. The race will take care of itself. As a matter of fact if someone should be ashamed about something, it is their race which is heartily ashamed of these people.

### GARIBALDI: A CERTAIN ITALIAN GENERAL

**T**HE name of Giuseppe Garibaldi, a certain Italian Italian General who died many years ago, has been much in the news lately. For some apparently unknown reason, this year his memory has been honored in many parts of the civilized world. To tell you why would be a long story and perhaps wholly unnecessary, since he was not an American General. After all, why should we be disturbed about Generals of other countries?



If you think that this statement is silly, I shall answer your question with the logic of the Park Commission of the City of Providence, where a Bust of this Italian General was recently presented to that city to be placed in one of its parks. The offer was courteously rejected by the Park Commission with the following unimpeachable reasoning:

"That General Garibaldi was not an American General. He had no connection with this country and the Commission does not want to establish a precedent for others to follow."

Well, now, don't you think the Commissioners are right? Why should we be entangled with foreign Generals? In our own city of New York a monument was erected to "that General Garibaldi" in 1888. Why not pull it down and in its place erect a monument in honor of those great Americans who compose the Park Commission of the City of Providence?

Only recently, in many cities of Italy, monuments were erected to the memory of an American General by the name of George Washington, who had no connection with that country. A bad precedent, to be sure. But, then, the Italians are such fools! What they need is a little of the

common sense and great learning of the Park Commission of Providence.

#### ANOTHER CENTENARY: "LE MIE PRIGIONI"

IN many parts of Italy last month another centenary was fittingly celebrated: the publication a hundred years ago, of Silvio Pellico's famous book "Le Mie Prigioni."

As is well-known, Pellico's book, published in 1832, is a vivid chronicle of his untold sufferings during his ten years' imprisonment in the infamous dungeons of the Spielberg, that place of torture where hundreds of Italian patriots were punished by the Austrians for their love of a free and united Italy. That simple and sincere narrative, written in as fine prose as Manzoni ever wrote, sounded the death-knell of Austrian domination in Italy.

One of the most touching incidents in the book is the account of the amputation of Pietro Maroncelli's diseased leg. Maroncelli was Pellico's dearest friend in the prison of the Spielberg. When, after many years of confinement, Maroncelli was set free, he promptly left the country and came to the United States where he died, a crippled, heart-broken

exile. Pellico's graphic account follows:

"The sick man was placed at the edge of the bed, with his legs up, while I was holding him in my arms. Above the knee, where the leg was unaffected by the disease, a band was firmly tied, to indicate the point of the incision. The old surgeon began to cut all around the leg, to a finger's depth. Then he lifted the severed skin and continued to cut the naked muscles. The blood flowed profusely from the arteries, which were soon bound together with a silk thread. Finally, the bone was sawed off.

"Maroncelli, during all this, made no outcry. When he saw his leg being carried away he looked at it pityingly and said to the doctor: 'You have freed me from an enemy. I do not know how to thank you.' Upon a window nearby there was a glass with a rose in it. 'Please give me that rose,' he said to me. I gave it to him and he offered it to the old surgeon, saying: 'This is all I can give you as a token of my gratitude.'

"The doctor took the rose and began to weep quietly."

Such was the stuff heroes were made of, in the dark days when Italy was just a geographical expression and nothing more than a martyr's dream!

### DR. PIFF

(Continued from Page 220)

Nevertheless, at a certain moment, I observed that my pitiless calm was no longer so firm.

I had the sensation of being obliged to retire to my study, although I went there to hear repeated over the radio a figure that had seemed to me inexact. Suddenly, ten words leaped out distinct and terrible, to my ears: "The death of Dr. Piff in Chicago has been announced." I felt the heavy thud of my body on the carpet.

I recovered after a minute that seemed to be eternal, and did not recognize myself. I was crying, a strange crying that seemed to be as hot as the breath of Vulcan and as fresh as rain. I wanted to cry out, and perhaps I did

cry out, because I saw approaching me, breathing heavily, the woman of former times, she who had always followed me. And she seemed to be the sun, so did her beautiful face beam. In a torrent of words that seemed to come pouring out through the broken dikes of the heart. I told what I had experienced. I saw the past clearly, I remembered that terrible man had not only touched me with some instrument, but for long days had shut himself up in a room with me, to talk. The bandages that had been wrapped around me were false. They covered no wounds. All the dearest and most discordant sentiments flooded tumultuously within me, forcing me to a rebellion that resembled madness

too closely: for I dragged the woman after me to the two hidden safes, sprang the locks, opened them. In great handfuls we seized that splendid gold, ran through the peopled corridors, and scattered it among the people who acclaimed us, terrified and incredulous. We saw them all throw themselves on it, we heard savage shouts of joy, laments of the wounded. Then nothing more.

I was alone with her. I was going I know not where. Under my arm her young body rose like a great, flowered branch. It seemed to me that our life weighed upon the solid earth with all the burden of its pains and its hopes. I sang. I was happy.



# THINGS ITALIAN IN AMERICAN PERIODICALS

## A Bibliography

The ever-increasing interest in Italian affairs and civilization prompts Atlantica, to continue, below, a bibliography of articles appearing in American periodicals concerning Italy and things Italian, past and present, as an added service to our readers.

**MUSSOLINI LOOKS AT THE WORLD** — By Emil Ludwig — *The New York Times Magazine*, July 17, 1932.

The German historian Ludwig has had a series of conversations with the Italian Premier in the Palazzo Venezia of Rome. The essence of these interviews, covering a wide range of subjects, is contained in this article.

"To me," says the author, "Mussolini appears, ten years after he seized power, more passionately interested in the constructive rebuilding of Italy than in destroying his enemies. He appears to be limiting his victories to his own country. Furthermore, he possesses two characteristics lacking in most recent dictators and without which there really is no greatness: He has not forgotten how to admire the deeds of others, and he has learned to compare them with his own."

Ludwig quotes Mussolini as saying: "I have never taken Napoleon as a model! I am not at all to be compared with him. He brought a revolution to a close; I began one. His life has revealed to me the errors that are hard to avoid—nepotism, conflict with the Pope and lack of understanding of finance and economics."

**THE SPEECH OF LITTLE ITALY**  
By Anthony Turano — *The American Mercury*, July, 1932.

"It must be borne in mind that the immigrant... is met with a peculiar relationship of things and activities in an industrial nation that were unknown to him in the rural life of his birthplace. He finds that his native vocabulary, which was never very rich, is now more inadequate than ever to give expression to his new wants and reactions. His immediate impulse is to coin new words to fit the new life...

"What he does, then, is to borrow purely American words, according to need, and to fit them, as phonetically as possible, into his own makeshift Italian....

"As to further evolution of American-Italian, in the years to come, its differentiation away from standard Italian will increase rapidly, no longer retarded by the influx of new immigrants from Italy. Hence its growth will be in the direction of additional Americanization, and toward the estate of a distinct sub-language."

**BUILDING A NATION'S HEALTH**  
—By Benito Mussolini. —*Physical Culture Magazine*, July, 1932.

"Hence, I have given the most substantial encouragement to sports and physical culture in Italy through the various organizations and governmental agencies, and following our policy in this important government function. Italy today is dotted with athletic fields and

gymnasias. There is not a village or town but has its playing fields and physical culture center. Besides, there is the work of the "Dopo-Lavoro" or after-work organization, which has over 1,670,000 members, to provide physical and mental recreation for workmen in their leisure hours."

**THE LATE TROUBLE IN ITALY**  
By H. E. G. Rope. —*The Catholic World*, June, 1932

"The late trouble" referred to in this article is that which broke out last year between the Fascist Government and the Holy See, and which has now been smoothed out.

**FASCIST EDUCATION IN ITALY**  
By C. H. Abad. —*Current History*, July, 1932.

A detailed description of what the Fascist Government of today is doing to bring up its young.

**ITALY DEMANDS A PLACE IN THE SUN** — By Wm. E. Lingelbach — *Current History*, July, 1932.

A review of political and economic activities in Italy during the previous month, a monthly feature of this magazine.

**ROMANTICISM IN ISLAM AND DANTE** — By Joseph B. Brosnan. —*The Catholic World*, June, 1932.

The author calls this article "a study of the relation of Dante to the Mussulman with reference to the poetic mystification of love".

**FURY IN PERUGIA** — By John Mosher. — *The Seven Seas*, June, 1932.

A travel article done in most unusual style.

**IL DUCE ON JEWISH RACIAL PURITY** — By Rabbi Stephen S. Wise. — *Opinion*, July 25, 1932.

The noted liberal thinker discusses in this article an opinion of Il Duce, as expressed in a conversation with Ludwig, that Jews are not a pure and unmixed race. Rabbi Wise refutes this thesis by pointing out that intermarriage among Jew and non-Jew has always been unthinkable, and that when it does occur, the Jew mingles with the non-Jew, and not vice-versa.

**NEW YORKERS, SKY ROCKETS, GONDOLAS** — By Ernest De Weerth. — *Spur*, May 15, 1932.

**AMERICA BEWARE!** — By Benito Mussolini. — *The Modern Thinker*, May 1932.

In this discussion of war debts and reparations, Mussolini says: "There is but

one way out... It must begin with the mutual lifting of reparations among the European nations; after this step, a arid mass of the European debtor nations must confront the United States, reciprocally suspend their debts, and only then may they with right and clear consciences request the annulment of their debts by the United States."

**TENTH YEAR OF FASCISM** — By T. R. Ybarra. — *Collier's*, May 28, 1932.

**FASCISM BECOMES INTERNATIONAL** — By R. Shaw. — *The Review of Reviews*, July, 1932.

**MODERN TENDENCIES AND THE PRESENT STATE OF INSURANCE IN ITALY** — By G. Toja. — *Annals of the American Academy*, May, 1932.

**POST-CLASSICAL ITALY** — (A Reader's Guide) — *The Saturday Review of Literature*, May 28, 1932.

**GENERAL SURVEY OF WAGES IN ITALY, 1929 to 1932** — *Monthly Labor Review*, May, 1932.

**HISTORY OF ITALIAN LITERATURE** — By Francesco De Sanctis. — *The Bookman*, March, 1932.

A long review of this translated classic by Gerald Sykes.

**HOLDING THE ALIEN IN CHECK** — By Harry E. Hull. — *New York Herald Tribune Magazine*, July 24, 1932.

The United States Commissioner General of Immigration in this article describes what his bureau is doing in the way of deportation work, "for if the navy is America's first line of defense, the immigration service is our second line of defense." After denying that it is unnecessarily strict, and citing examples, the author concludes: "Our immigration laws, as a matter of fact, while restrictive and protective in character, are not a whit more severe than the laws of countries across the seas. In some nations citizens as well as aliens are registered, and in some they may not even move from one town to another, without a permit or new registration. But we have no such burdensome system in this country."

**OLD ITALIAN ART RECAPTURES A PAST AGE** — By Walter Rendell Storey. — *The New York Times Magazine*, April 17, 1932.

Concerning the new Italian Hall at the Brooklyn Museum, which was recently rearranged and formally opened. It contains a very complete collection of Italian decorative art.

**ITALY HONORS A GENIUS OF ART** — By Mary Howell. — *New York Herald Tribune Magazine*, July 31, 1932.

"One of the world's most romantic stories is that of Vincenzo Gemito, whose great mind darkened at the height of his career, but who reawakened 22 years later, at 75, to be hailed as the immortal sculptor of the Fascist Regime."



# The Italians in the United States

(Readers Are Invited to Send in Items and Photographs of Real Worth for Possible Use in These Columns.)

## THE PRESS

The winners in the contest sponsored by the "Bollettino della Sera" of New York for excellence in the study of Italian on the part of high school students in New York City were announced last month. They were Josephine Griso'fi of Washington Irving High School, gold medal winner in the second year group; Eusebia Di Stefano of Immaculate High School, gold medal winner in the third year group; and Bernadotte Sambrochia of New Utrecht High School, gold medal winner in the 4th year group. Honorable mention went to Dominic Volpe of New Utrecht High School, Ida Odorico of Immaculate High School and William Fuca of New Utrecht High School, in the second, third and fourth year groups respectively. The ceremony of awarding the medals, which were designed by Onorio Ruotolo, took place at Washington Irving High School. Among those present were Consul General Emanuele Grazi, Dr. Mario Lorenza, Dean of Brooklyn College, Professor Giuseppe Prezzolini of Casa Italiana, Professor Leonardo Covello, Frank De Rogatis, editor of "Il Bollettino", Stefano Miele, and many others.

"Il Cittadino Italo-Americano", the weekly Italian newspaper of Youngstown, Ohio, recently celebrated its 20th year of existence. A picnic will be held on August 21st for the newspaper, which is the official organ of the Order Sons of Italy in Ohio.

One of the finest of recent Italian weeklies to be established in this country is "The American-Italian Progressive" of Omaha, Nebraska. Printed entirely in English, it is a well-done, 4-page, professional piece of work, edited by Frank Blancato and Anthony L. Sarcone.

Mr. Alessandro R. Alessi of Drexel Hill, Pa. is the founder of a new Italian weekly, "L'Eco del Mondo", which recently began publication in Philadelphia. Mr. Alessi, who was born in Italy, has been active in business and social circles.

A luncheon for the Italian Olympic team and its cortege of managers and Italian newspaper men was given not long ago by Generoso Pope, publisher of the three Italian dailies of New York, at the Biltmore Hotel. More than 150 guests were present, including Consul General Grazi, who spoke. Judge Freschi, Comm. Gerli, the editors of Pope's dailies and many others. Following the luncheon, the visiting Italian athletes were escorted to City Hall for a formal reception by Mayor Walker.

## SOCIETIES

On July 23rd, aboard the "Roma" more than 100 members of the pilgrimage organized annually by the Order Sons of Italy sailed for Italy. This year the pilgrimage, which allows for 18 days in Italy, was in charge of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge. The travellers will tour throughout Italy till August 18th, when they have the choice of returning or remaining on their own. At the head of the pilgrimage is Vincent Brogna, Grand Venerable of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge.

Tony Lazzeri and Frank Crosetti, star infielders for the New York Yankees, were recently initiated as members of Orient Heights lodge (in Boston) of the Order Sons of Italy. The following day, Friday, July 1st, was "Sons of Italy Day" at Fenway Park, and just before the ball game between the Yankees and the Red Sox, the emblems of the Order were presented to Lazzeri and Crosetti.

The 20th annual State Convention of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Order Sons of Italy, was held at Plymouth, Mass. on July 10, 11 and 12, and was the largest ever held by the Bay State Grand Lodge. An elaborate program culminated in a banquet attended by over 300 delegates, at which Grand Venerable Vincent Brogna, Judge Joseph T. Zottoli of the Boston Municipal Court, Atty.-Gen. Joseph E. Warner, Judge Frank Leveroni and Mayor McGrath of Quincy were the speakers. Consul General Pio Margotti of Boston, whose transfer had been previously announced, was honored by being presented with a scroll.

A picnic and music festival under the auspices of the Italo-American National Union of Chicago, one of the largest Italian societies in the midwest, was held on July 31st at Kolze Park in that city. The program included the awarding of money prizes and a concert by the Union's own Symphonic Band, directed by Antonio Gugino.

The Italians of Rochester organized a committee last month to do honor to George ("Pooch") Puccinelli, the hard-hitting right-fielder of the Rochester Red Wings. July 18th was Puccinelli Day, with Samuel J. Danno as chairman of the general committee honoring the slugging fielder.

Plans for extending the Unico Club Movement were discussed at the third annual convention of that society, held on June 24 and 25 at the Hotel Ludy in Trenton, and attended by many

clubs from various cities. Officers were elected for the coming year, the national constitution was adopted, a banquet was held, and Bridgeport, Conn. was voted as the scene of next year's convention. The officers elected were: President, Frank Fasanello of Bridgeport, Conn. (in place of Dr. Anthony J. Lettiere, retiring president); Vice-President, Prof. John D. Sullo of Torrington, Conn.; Secretary, Dr. Joseph Pantaleone of Trenton, N. J. (re-elected for the third consecutive year); Board of Directors: John J. Casale, Pasquale De Cicco, Ernest Capozzi, John Santoro and Dr. A. J. Lettiere. The Unico Club, which was organized not long ago, aims to unite Italian-American business and professional men, especially the younger element, which is ambitious to get ahead, individually and as a group.

Mrs. Louise Rotti of Roxbury, Mass. was recently re-elected president of the Italian Junior League of Boston. Other officers are E. Di Pietro, vice-pres.; M. Rotti, treas.; Y. Di Pietro, rec. sec.; J. Faleppa, corr. sec.

More than 3000 Italians attended the picnic held under the auspices of the United Italian Societies of Portland, Oregon last month. Edward Fassio was chairman of the occasion.

## INDEPENDENT ORDER SONS OF ITALY

The Grand Lodge of the State of New York, Independent Order Sons of Italy, will soon resume the publication of its monthly magazine entitled "L'Indipendente". The first issue will appear in the early part of August and the paper will be edited by Mr. Rosario Ingargiola. It is planned to send it free to about 25,000 members of the Grand Lodge, and in addition to items concerning the activities of the many lodges, the magazine will contain literary features and many timely articles of general interest.

The Lodge "Fratelli Compatti No. 150" of Albany, New York, recently held a successful banquet followed by a reception and dance. The main function was the commemoration of Garibaldi and Washington, and the main address was delivered by Mr. Rosario Ingargiola, Grand Venerable of the State of New York. The committee in charge was composed of Mr. Mario Nascani, Venerable of the local Lodge, assisted by Donato Pompa, Alfonso Caruso and Benedetto Martino. A silver cup and a special diploma were presented to Mr. Martino for his good work in behalf of the Lodge.

Last month a successful banquet was held on board the SS. Augustus of the Italia Line in honor of the Su-



preme and Grand Officers of the Independent Order Sons of Italy and also in honor of the excursionists who will leave on this magnificent ship on August 13th for a tour of Italy.

Some 300 members and friends attended and an address was delivered by Mr. Ingargiola. After the reception the visitors were taken around to admire the beautiful ship.

A new lodge is being formed in Brooklyn in the East New York section. It will be called "Lodge Rosa d'Italia, No. 449" and will be soon initiated into the Independent Order Sons of Italy.

The chief organizers of the new Lodge are Mr. Vito Vultaggio, Mr. Angelo Gabriele, Mr. Vito G. Cannella, and others.

The Lodge "Salemi" of Brooklyn recently gave a party in its clubrooms. Many members and guests attended, among them Hon. Jerome G. Ambro, Mr. G. Cipollina, Grand Financial Secretary, Mr. Rosario Ingargiola, Grand Venerable, and many others. The music was furnished by Mr. Florio, who was warmly applauded for the musical selections played. The Venerable of the Lodge is Mr. Frank Ardagna and he was assisted by a Committee composed of Mr. Michele Borzomati, Mr. Joseph Cammarata, Mr. Nick Sciacca and others.

#### PUBLIC LIFE

A number of major changes and promotions took place in the Italian Consular service in the United States last month, affecting New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Newark.

Emanuele Grazzi, Italian Consul General at New York since September 1927, has been promoted to Charge d'Affaires for the Italian Government at Guatemala, marking his promotion from the consular to the diplomatic service. His post in New York will be assumed by Dr. Antonio Grossardi, who is now Italian Consul General at Sydney, Australia, and who has been in Italy's foreign service since 1909.

Marquis Agostino Ferrante di Ruffano, Italian Consul General at Philadelphia, has been transferred to Sydney, Australia, where the Italian Government maintains its only diplomatic office in that British Dominion. Marquis Ferrante will take the place there of Dr. Grossardi.

Pio Maria Margotti, who has been Italian Consul General at Boston for the past three years, has been transferred to Philadelphia, where he will take up the reins in place of Marquis Ferrante. Comm. Margotti, 53 and a bachelor, has been in the consular service almost 25 years. His place will be taken by Comm. Armao Ermanno, who is being shifted from Albania.

Dr. Ornello Simone, who has occupied the Italian Vice-Consulate at Newark for a number of years, has been called back to Italy to await a new appointment. His place has been taken by Dr. Piero P. Spinelli, who is leaving the Italian Vice-Consulate in Buffalo for that purpose.

These changes, of course, were the

occasion for many banquets in honor of the departing consuls on the part of the Italians, who genuinely regretted the partings. Banquets will also be held in the near future to honor the incoming consuls.

General Sessions Judge John J. Freschi was the guest of honor not long ago at a great banquet held in the Biltmore Hotel, of which the leading lights of New York's Italian life were present, as well as many prominent Americans. Generoso Pope was chairman of the committee in charge.

More than 400 delegates from all parts of New York State met near the end of June at Syracuse, N. Y., for the annual convention of the Columbian Republican League, the most powerful Italian grouping among the Republicans in New York State. The feature of the convention was the reelection unanimously of Paul G. Napolitano of Monroe as president of the organization for the coming year, together with the following supporting slate, most of them re-elected:

Charles J. Peters, Oneida — First Vice-president; Frank A. Gugino, Erie — Second Vice-president; Charles Altieri, Schenectady — Third Vice-president; Harry A. Orapello, Cayuga — 4th Vice-president; Anthony J. Veraldi, Orange — 5th Vice-president; Domenick Cervadoro, Columbia — Sixth Vice-president; Almerindo Portfolio, New York — Treasurer; Clement G. Lanni, Monroe — Executive Secretary; Raymond S. Perretti, Bronx — Corresponding Secretary; Nicholas Pirro, Onondaga — Financial Secretary; Peter P. Spinelli, Richmond — Recording Secretary; Charles L. Carlucci, Broome — Chairman Board of Trustees; Mario Persico, Kings; John J. Mauriel, Schenectady — Members Board of Trustees; Anthony Pastore, Fulton; Gus Romanelli, Orange — Sergeants-at-Arms; Dr. Marietta Catalano, Erie — Chairman Women's Division; Miss Marie Frugone, Kings — Vice-chairman Women's Division.

Following a luncheon, a dinner was held in the evening at the Syracuse Hotel attended by over 300, at which Clarence R. King, Onondaga county chairman, was toastmaster. The speakers were State Senator George Fearon and Immigration Commissioner Edward Corsi, who was presented with a gift in the form of a traveling bag. It was voted to hold the 1933 meeting in Utica, after the convention had gone on record as supporting the national Republican platform, including the prohibition plank.

The chairman of the Fourth of July celebration in Providence last month, as appointed by the City Council, was Councilman Paul D'Agnetica. It is the first case of its kind in Providence history.

Under the auspices of the Dante Society and of the Casa Italiana of Columbia University, the great Italian liberator Giuseppe Garibaldi was commemorated last month at the Casa Italiana by the Italian Ambassador, Nobile Giacomo De Martino. Others present included Comm. Emanuele Graz-

zi, Italian Consul General, Judge John J. Freschi, Professor Giuseppe Pannofino, director of the Casa Italiana, Uff. Generoso Pope, the Italian newspaper publisher, Giuseppe Sterni, director of the Italian Art Theatre, Carlo Falbo, editor of "Il Progresso", Rosario Ingargiola, head of the Independent Order Sons of Italy, Stefano Miele, head of the New York State Grand Lodge of the Order Sons of Italy, Lionello Perera and Professor Bruno Roselli.

Edward Corsi, Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island, has been elected to membership on the Board of Directors of the United States Housing Corporation, which administers the property acquired by the U. S. Government during the war. The appointment was made by Secretary of Labor Donahoe and unanimously approved. The Board consists of ten men.

Mr. Corsi sailed for Italy recently for a short vacation in his native land.

A bronze tablet honoring Paolo Busti, general agent and sole director of the Holland Land Company, by whose order the city of Buffalo was laid out in 1802, was unveiled on July 6th in that city by Commendatore Emanuele Grazzi, Italian Consul General in New York, who was invited especially for the occasion.

The tablet was the gift of Ferdinando Magnani, managing editor of "Il Corriere Italiano" of Buffalo, and author of many articles and pamphlets on the early history of Italians who settled or explored in that section. The unveiling climaxed 25 years of effort on his part to obtain recognition of his fellow-countryman's place in the history of the city of Buffalo, and formed part of the city's centennial celebration.

Busti came to America in the latter part of the 18th century as general agent for the Holland Land Company and had charge of more than 4,000,000 acres of land in Pennsylvania and New York. In 1800 he appointed Joseph Ellicott resident agent for this area and two years later ordered him to lay out a town at the mouth of Buffalo Creek.

#### OCCUPATIONAL

Alfonso Gioia of Rochester has been elected president of the National Macaroni Manufacturers Association at a convention of the association recently held at Niagara Falls. Mr. Gioia is one of the directors of the First National Bank & Trust Company and a partner in the private banking firm of Sconfetti & Gioia.

Deposits of the Bank of America N. T. & S. A. of California recorded an increase of \$51,000,000 and a total of 130,000 new depositors were added to the books of the bank between March 12th and June 30th, 1932. These figures give some evidence of the progress made by the bank since A. P. Giannini regained control of the institution earlier in the year.

Dr. John Scavo of New York City was recently elected second vice-president of the New York State Pharmaceutical Association.



Among those to have been made *Cavallieri* of the Order of the Crown of Italy last month were Dr. Ildebrando Lorenzi of New York, Dr. Angelo Bianchi of Newark, and Dr. P. C. Biasi of Mount Vernon, N. Y.

Rev. J. Pretti, an Italian Methodist minister of Jersey City, was the winner of the \$100 first prize recently offered by the World Clothing Exchange Company of New York. It is the third time that the contest, which ran for 12 months, has been won by an Italian.

Pietro A. Ieradi, who made a fortune from the bootblack concession at Grand Central Station in New York, died recently in Stamford, Conn., after a long illness of chronic nephritis.

M. Ieradi was born in Italy sixty-six years ago. He landed at the Battery as a boy of 14 with just enough money to buy a bootblack's outfit. Years later he took the shoe-shining concession in the Grand Central Terminal and with his profits there and shrewd investments in New York real estate amassed a fortune of \$175,000. His health failed several years ago and he entered the Stamford sanitarium.

Following the sudden death not long ago of Dr. Michael Osnato, distinguished Italian physician of New York, the Medical Board of the Columbus Hospital and the Association of Italian Physicians in America, of which he was a member, passed resolutions last month expressing their condolence to the late Dr. Osnato's family. Dr. Osnato was president of the Association in 1921 and 1922.

Giuseppe Faccioli, one of the outstanding figures in electrical technology, who a few years ago produced artificial lightning, was awarded not long ago the Lamme Medal of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

#### FINE ARTS

Vittorio Giannini of Philadelphia has received the Horatio Parker fellowship in musical composition for the American Academy in Rome under the direction of Felix Lamond, according to an announcement by the Academy. The fellowship includes a stipend of \$2,000 a year for three years, with residence and studio provided free at the Academy.

Mr. Giannini is 28 years old. At the age of 8, he won a violin fellowship in the Verdi Conservatory in Milan. A year ago he completed four years at the Juilliard Graduate School of Music devoted chiefly to composition under Rubin Goldmark.

He has written songs, a violin sonata, a quartet and a quintet, the latter two receiving Juilliard publication awards. For the last year he has been studying abroad in Milan and Berlin. The young composer is a brother of Dusolina Giannini, Philadelphia soprano.

At the 53rd annual commencement of the New York College of Music, an ensemble of 12 harps, representing the class of 1932, instructed by Maestro A. Francis Pinto, opened the program.

The degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon Miss Yolanda Greco, distinguished harp soloist and leader of the harp ensemble.

Melvin Ballerino, casting director for the Paramount studios in Hollywood, was interviewed recently on the "extra" game, and he asserted that the curbs are lined with what he called "imaginary actors", who, having appeared in one or two community productions, imagine themselves competent to take over film roles. According to the interview, "Mr. Ballerino has some 20,000 card listings in his files for bit players. This is in addition to about 70,000 carried at Central Casting, the industry-maintained bureau. These studio-listed people are mostly of known background and ability and for an unknown and newly arrived extra to get his name placed with these people is almost an impossibility."

A concert was recently given at the Casa Italiana of Columbia University under the direction of Maestro Alberto Bimboni.

Luigi Lucioni, who distinguished himself last Spring by having one of his paintings purchased by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, has been made a member of the faculty of the Art Student's League, one of the outstanding New York schools of art. *Atlantica* for March, 1931 contained an interview with Mr. Lucioni by Dominick Lamonica.

The City of Buffalo, which is celebrating its centennial, has awarded a Centennial Medal to Nina Morgana, soprano of the Metropolitan Opera Company.

Prices for subscriptions and single tickets to the Artistic Mornings series at the Hotel Plaza in New York will be reduced for next season, according to Samuel Emilio Piza, director of the series.

A reception for American students attending the summer courses at Columbia University in New York was given recently by the Italian Choral Society, an organization of young Italo-Americans presided over by Professor Leonardo Covello and personally directed by Maestro Sandro Benelli. Its more than 100 members meet at the Casa Italiana to study characteristic regional dances and songs.

The Italian Bronx Band, Mauro Rosco, conductor, appeared last month in a concert at Federal Hall in Bryant Park, New York, under the auspices of the George Washington Bicentennial Committee. A further feature of the Bryant Park Federal Hall is a series of ten performances of grand opera to be presented there beginning August 4th. Philip F. Ienni, director of the Puccini Grand Opera Company, has assembled the cast and will present the productions, with Fulgenzio Guerrieri conducting. The productions will be given on Thursday evenings, at popular prices of 50 cents and \$1.

Maria Serrano, soprano, of the Teatro Lirico of Milan, and a native of St. Joseph, Mo., made her American debut last month in the title role of Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" on the Steel Pier in Atlantic City.

A banquet was given last month in Bristol, Pa., in honor of Joseph Lanza, a 23-year old violinist who has returned from Italy after three and a half years of musical studies in Milan.

Count Gaetano Bentivoglio held an exhibition not long ago of water colors and line drawings at the Ainslee gallery in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York.

Alfredo Gandolfi, baritone of the Metropolitan Opera, has been engaged to appear as the soloist in the presentation at Hartford, Conn., next December, of two oratorios: Wolf-Ferrari's "Vita Nuova" and Vaughan Williams's "A Sea Symphony".

Mary Bolgiano and Tini Amoroso of Washington Irving High School in New York and Anthony Iorio of Junior High School 45, the Bronx, were recently awarded scholarships by the School Art League at exercises held at the Brooklyn Museum. Prizes were won also by the following: Joseph Colombo of Haaren High School (2), Antonio Colombo of Theodore Roosevelt High School, Anthony Turano of Junior High School 223, Vincent Gironda of Manual Training High School, Pasqualina Zuzola of Port Richmond High School, Salvatore Armellino of Commerce High School, Bianca Pallastrino of Julia Richman High School, Peter Mandolini of Alexander Hamilton High School and Amelia Mondini of Girls High School.

As president of the International Association of Clothing Designers, which recently held a three-day convention at the McAlpin Hotel in New York, Dominick J. De Persio attracted considerable attention by the press when he predicted that this coming fall and winter New Yorkers and others will wear accentuated waists, wide shoulders and peg-top trousers.

Speaking on materials for the fall which he said will be softer than during 1931-32, Romeo H. Fusaro, chairman of the style committee of the Association, said he hoped this change would take the stiffness out of the American public.

#### RELIGION

More than 3000 persons attended the Musical Revue and Minstrel Show given recently at the Boston Opera House in Boston for the benefit of the Italian Home in that city. More than 100 were in the cast, which was helped at every turn by Monsignor R. J. Haberlin, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Home, and Vicar-General of the Boston archdiocese. Miss Luisa E. De Ferrari headed the Executive Committee, other members of which were John Cifrino and Ernest Martini, vice-presidents, and Michael Troiano, Felix Marcella, Charles Ruggiero and P. A. Santosuosso.



The congregation of the Italian Church of St. Anthony in Red Bank, N. J. recently celebrated the jubilee or 25th anniversary of the sacerdotal ordination of their rector, Rev. N. Soriano.

Following the successful outcome not long ago of the elaborate program for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Church of the Sacred Hearts in Brooklyn, Monsignor Alfonso Arcese, just before sailing for a short trip to Italy, was the guest of honor at an entertainment and banquet given him by his parishioners. Among the speakers were Anthony Tuozzo, toastmaster, Judge Sylvester Sabbatino and Rev. Eugenio Fusco.

Rev. Ettore Messina of St. Leo's Church in Baltimore completed his 25th sacerdotal year recently, and a banquet and reception was given in his honor by his parishioners, under the committee chairmanship of F. Carosoniti, with T. D'Alessandro as toastmaster.

Under the general heading of "Catholic Heroes of the World War" by D. J. Ryan, the N. C. W. C. News Service recently issued one in their series that concerned Albert De Rogatis, as follows:

"An exploit of daring heroism was credited to Albert De Rogatis on Oct. 16, 1918, when he captured the machine guns and their crews that were holding up the advance of his outfit, Company M, 309th Infantry, 78th Division.

"The 78th Division moved into the Argonne on October 10 as reserve of the First Corps. The night of October 15-16 they relieved the 77th Division, taking over the front west of Hill 182.

"The following morning they advanced due north. They had the Aire River cutting through their positions, and the high ground beyond, which fairly bristled with machine gun, provided the terrain looking toward Bellejouse Farm and Boise-des-Loges.

"When M Company of the 309th Infantry was held at bay, Pvt. De Rogatis voluntarily worked his way behind an enemy machine gun position, killed a soldier, and captured seven others, together with 2 machine guns."

"General Order No. 81 of 1919 records the citation and the award of the Distinguished Service Cross. De Rogatis was born in Italy and at the time of the war was a parishioner of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel church, Asbury Park, N. J."

#### EDUCATION & CULTURE

A tremendous stride forward was registered for the Italians in America recently when, for what is probably the first time in the history of the United States, an honorary degree from a leading American university was conferred upon an Italian-American. This occurred when Harvard University conferred at its graduation exercises

the high honorary degree of Doctor of Jurisprudential Science (S. J. D.) upon Felix Forte, Associate Justice of the District Court of Summerville, Mass.

To be admitted to candidacy for the degree, the applicant must hold the degree of Master of Laws from Harvard Law School or an equivalent degree, must have taught law for three years, and by published writings have shown his fitness for legal research or must have been admitted by the faculty especially as a candidate for that degree.

The exacting requirements, which include an oral examination by a faculty committee to be passed with distinguished excellence, two written examinations approved by the faculty and a thesis embodying the results of research, have been amply and honorably filled by Judge Forte.

A Boston boy, Judge Forte received his education first in the elementary schools here, and received his M. A. and L. L. M. degrees from Boston University. He was graduated at the head of his class from Boston University Law School in 1916, with his L. L. B. cum laude. Since 1916 he has been practicing law, specializing in trial work, and when first admitted to practice he was the youngest man ever to pass the bar examination.

For the past 11 years he has been teaching at Boston University Law School, and in 1929 was appointed professor of law.

He has had published numerous treatises and text books on legal subjects, has been prominently identified with legal fraternities and in addition to his many activities he has been actively engaged as executive secretary for the Home For Italian Children. Several years ago he was decorated with the cross of Cavaliere of the Crown of Italy.

His political affiliations have also been marked with brilliant achievement. A lifelong Republican, he has served in various capacities, first member of the Massachusetts Executive Committee, member of the Republican State Committee, member of the Republican City Committee of Somerville, and Chairman of Republican Ward 3 Committee in Boston.

The Italian Government has presented to the Casa Italiana of Columbia University as a trust fund for Italian cultural activities most of the estates of Antonio Comincio and Franco Bortetta, two Italian citizens who died intestate here in 1926, it was recently announced by Professor Giuseppe Prezzolini, director. The estates, valued at \$13,000, will be split up, \$10,000 of it going to the Casa Italiana and \$3,000 being divided between the Victor Emmanuel III Foundation for assistance to Italian war veterans living in the United States, and the Italian summer camps of the Villa St. Joseph for Italo-American children.

Dr. Armando Ferraro, noted specialist in nervous and mental diseases,

was last month promoted to the position of Associate Professor of Neurology at Columbia University.

Edward Corsi, Commissioner of Immigration in the port of New York, addressed 300 Summer students at the Casa Italiana of Columbia University recently on the contributions the Italian immigrants and their children are making to the United States. There are about 6,000,000 Italians and persons of Italian descent in the United States, Mr. Corsi said, and in New York about one-sixth of the population traced their ancestry to Italy.

Three underprivileged children received not long ago the M. Samuel Stern Memorial prizes of \$200 each as pupils "found by the Superintendent of Schools to be most worthy of assistance and most likely to profit by such assistance." One of the children selected, Mary Farina of North Fourth Street, Brooklyn, must undergo an operation at an eye hospital, and the \$200 she received helped for that purpose.

Among the Italo-American students receiving fellowships and scholarships recently were Valentino John Giamatti of New Haven, Conn., who received the Bidwell-Foote Fellowship of the Yale College Faculty; Domenico Petrone of De Witt Clinton High School in New York, who won a scholarship entitling him to study at New York University; and Peter Zappasodi of Philadelphia, who, in being graduated from South Philadelphia High School, won a scholarship for St. Joseph's College.

A number of other Italo-Americans received recognition in their educational activities last month and the month before. There was Mario Scallera, who was graduated from Yale as a Bachelor of Science with a Magna Cum Laude rating, and who was also co-winner of the Sheffield Chemical Prize.

Then there was John R. Ragazzini, who won one of the two Pell Medals at City College in New York given to students who rank highest in all studies of the year, and who in addition won the Eliza Ford Memorial Prize, given to the most deserving student in the School of Technology. And at the commencement day exercises of Union College at Schenectady, N. Y., Louis M. Di Carlo of New York City, formerly a State trouper, gave the valedictory, which won the Blatchford Oratorical Prize. He spoke on the aim of a college education.

A recent talk by Peter T. Campon in his series on Italy's contribution to world advancement and civilization—that given before the Rotary Club of Providence, R. I.—elicited a glowing letter of appreciation from the Club, praising Mr. Campon's "masterly presentation of a subject which is recognized to be of real importance."



# ATLANTICA

in Italiano

## LA DOTTRINA DEL FASCISMO DEFINITO DA BENITO MUSSOLINI

**C**OME ogni salda concezione politica, il Fascismo è prassi ed è pensiero, azione a cui è immanente una dottrina, e dottrina che, sorgendo da un dato sistema di forze storiche, vi resta inserita e vi opera dal di dentro. Ha quindi una forma correlativa alle contingenze di luogo e di tempo, ma ha insieme un contenuto ideale che la eleva a formula di verità nella storia superiore del pensiero. Non si agisce spiritualmente nel mondo come volontà umana dominatrice di volontà senza un concetto della realtà trascendente e particolare su cui bisogna agire e della realtà permanente e universale in cui la prima ha il suo essere e la sua vita. Per conoscere gli uomini bisogna conoscere l'uomo; e per conoscere l'uomo bisogna conoscere la realtà e le sue leggi. Non c'è concetto dello Stato che non sia fondamentalmente concetto della vita: filosofia o intuizione, sistema di idee che si svolge in una costruzione logica o si raccoglie in una visione o in una fede, ma è sempre, almeno virtualmente, una concezione organica del mondo.

Così il Fascismo non si intenderebbe in molti dei suoi atteggiamenti pratici, come organizzazione di partito, come sistema di educazione, come disciplina, se non si guardasse alla luce del suo modo generale di concepire la vita. Modo spiritualistico. Il mondo per il Fascismo non è questo mondo materiale che appare alla superficie, in cui l'uomo è un individuo separato da tutti gli altri e per sé stante, ed è governato da una legge naturale, che istintivamente lo trae a vivere una vita di piacere egoistico e momentaneo. L'uomo del Fascismo è individuo che è nazione e patria, legge morale che stringe insieme individui e generazioni in una tradizione e in una missione, che sopprime l'istinto della vita chiusa nel breve giro del piacere per instaurare nel dovere una vita superiore libera da limiti di tempo e di spazio: una vita in cui l'individuo, attraverso l'abnegazione di sé, il sacrificio dei suoi interessi particolari, la stessa morte, realizza quell'esistenza tutta spirituale in cui è il suo valore di uomo.

Dunque concezione spiritualistica, sorta anch'essa dalla generale reazione del secolo contro il fiacco e materialistico positivismo dell'Ottocento. Antipositivista, ma positiva: non scettica,

nè agnostica, nè pessimistica, nè passivamente ottimistica, come sono in genere le dottrine (tutte negative) che pongono il centro della vita fuori dell'uomo, che con la sua libera volontà può e deve crearsi il suo mondo. Il Fascismo vuole l'uomo attivo e impegnato nell'azione con tutte le sue energie: lo vuole virilmente consapevole delle difficoltà che ci sono, e pronto ad affrontarle. Concepisce la vita come lotta, pensando che spetti all'uomo conquistarsi quella che sia veramente degna di lui, creando prima di tutto in se stesso lo strumento (fisico, morale, intellettuale) per edificarla. Così per l'individuo singolo, così per la nazione, così per l'umanità. Quindi l'alto valore della cultura in tutte le sue forme (arte, religione, scienza) e l'importanza grandissima dell'educazione. Quindi anche il valore essenziale del lavoro, con cui l'uomo vince la natura e crea il mondo umano (economico, politico, morale, intellettuale).

**Q**UESTA concezione positiva della vita è evidentemente una concezione etica. E investe tutta la realtà nonchè l'attività umana che la signoreggia. Nessuna azione sottratta al giudizio morale, niente al mondo che si possa spogliare del valore che a tutto compete in ordine ai fini morali. La vita perciò quale la concepisce il fascista è seria, austera, religiosa: tutta librata in un mondo sorretto dalle forze morali e responsabili dello spirito. Il fascista disdegna la vita "comoda".

Il Fascismo è una concezione religiosa, in cui l'uomo è veduto nel suo immanente rapporto con una legge superiore, con una volontà obiettiva, che trascende l'individuo particolare e lo eleva a membro consapevole di una società spirituale. Chi nella politica religiosa del Regime fascista si è fermato a considerazioni di mera opportunità, non ha inteso che il Fascismo, oltre ad essere un sistema di governo, è anche, e prima di tutto, un sistema di pensiero.

Il Fascismo è una concezione storica, nella quale l'uomo non è quello che è se non in funzione del processo spirituale a cui concorre, nel gruppo familiare e sociale, nella nazione e nella storia, a cui tutte le nazioni collaborano. Donde il gran valore della tradizione nelle memorie, nella lingua, nei

costumi, nelle norme del vivere sociale. Fuori della storia l'uomo è nulla. Perciò il Fascismo è contro tutte le astrazioni individualistiche, a base ed è contro tutte le utopie e le innovazioni giacobine. Esso non crede possibile la "felicità" sulla terra, come fu nel desiderio della letteratura economicista del Settecento e quindi respinge tutte le concezioni teologiche per cui a un certo periodo della storia ci sarebbe una sistemazione definitiva del genere umano. Questo significa mettersi fuori della storia e della vita che è continuo fluire e divenire. Il Fascismo politicamente vuol essere una dottrina realistica; praticamente, aspira a risolvere solo i problemi che si pongono storicamente da sé e che da sé trovano o suggeriscono la propria soluzione. Per agire tra gli uomini, come nella natura, bisogna entrare nel processo della realtà e impadronirsi delle forze in atto.

Antividualistica, la concezione fascista è per lo Stato; ed è per l'individuo in quanto esso coincide con lo Stato, coscienza e volontà universale dell'uomo nella sua esistenza storica. E contro il liberalismo classico, che sorse dal bisogno di reagire all'assolutismo ed ha esaurito la sua funzione storica da quando lo Stato si trasformò nella stessa coscienza e volontà popolare. Il liberalismo negava lo Stato nell'interesse dell'individuo particolare; il Fascismo riafferma lo Stato come la realtà vera dell'individuo. E se la libertà dev'essere l'attributo dell'uomo reale, e non di quell'astratto fantoccio a cui pensava il liberalismo individualistico, il Fascismo è per la libertà. E per la sola libertà che possa essere una cosa serio, la libertà dello Stato, e dell'individuo nello Stato. Giachè, per il fascista, tutto è nello Stato, e nulla di umano o spirituale esiste, e tanto meno ha valore, fuori dello Stato. In tal senso il Fascismo è totalitario, e lo Stato fascista, sintesi e unità di ogni valore, interpreta, sviluppa e potenza tutta la vita del popolo.

**N**E' INDIVIDUI fuori dello Stato, nè gruppi (partiti politici, associazioni, sindacati, classi). Perciò il Fascismo è contro il socialismo che irrigidisce il movimento storico nella lotta di classe e ignora l'unità statale che le classi fonde in una sola realtà economica e morale; e, analogamente, è contro il sindacalismo classista. Ma nell'orbita dello Stato ordinatore le reali esigenze, da cui trasse origine il movimento socialista e il sindacalista, il Fascismo le vuole riconosciute e le fa valere nel sistema corporativo degli interessi conciliati nell'unità dello Stato.

Gli individui sono classi secondo le categorie degli interessi; sono sindacati secondo le differenziate attività economiche cointeressate; ma sono prima di tutto e soprattutto Stato. Il quale non è numero, come somma di individui formanti la maggioranza di un popolo. E perciò il Fascismo è contro la democrazia che ragguaglia il popolo al maggior numero abbassandolo al livello dei più; ma è la forma più schietta di democrazia. Il popolo è concepito, come dev'essere, qualitativamente, come l'idea più potente perchè più mo-



rale, più coerente, più vera, che nel popolo si attua quale coscienza e volontà di pochi, anzi di Uno, e quale ideale tende ad attuarsi nella coscienza e volontà di tutti. Di tutti coloro che dalla natura e dalla storia etnicamente, traggono ragione di formare una nazione, avviati sopra la stessa linea di sviluppo e formazione spirituale, come una coscienza e una volontà sola. Non razza nè regione geograficamente individuata, ma schietta storicamente perpetuantesi, moltitudine unificata da un'idea, che è volontà di esistenza e di potenza; coscienza di sé, personalità.

Questa personalità superiore è bensì nazione in quanto è Stato. Non è la nazione che genera lo Stato, secondo il vieto concetto naturalistico che servi' di base alla pubblicistica degli Stati nazionali del secolo XIX. Anzi la nazione è creata dallo Stato, che dà al popolo, consapevole della propria unità morale, una volontà, e quindi un'effettiva esistenza. Il diritto di una nazione all'indipendenza deriva non da una situazione di fatto più o meno inconsapevole e inerte, ma da una coscienza attiva, da una volontà politica in atto e disposta a dimostrare il proprio diritto: cioè, da una sorta di Stato già "in fieri". Lo Stato infatti, come volontà etica universale, è creatore del diritto.

La nazione come Stato è una realtà etica che esiste e vive in quanto si sviluppa. Il suo arresto è la sua morte. Perciò lo Stato non solo è autorità che governa e dà forma di legge e valore di vita spirituale alle volontà individuali, ma è anche potenza che fa valere la

sua volontà all'esterno, facendola riconoscere e rispettare, ossia dimostrandone col fatto l'universalità in tutte le determinazioni necessarie del suo svolgimento. E perciò organizzazione ed espansione, almeno virtuale. Così può adeguarsi alla natura dell'umana volontà, che nel suo sviluppo non conosce barriere, e che si realizza provando la propria infinità.

**L**O Stato Fascista, forma più alta e potente della personalità, è forza; ma spirituale. La quale riassume tutte le forme della vita morale e intellettuale dell'uomo. Non si può quindi limitare a semplici funzioni di ordine e tutela, come voleva il liberalismo. Non è semplice meccanismo che limiti la sfera delle presunte libertà individuali. E' forma e norma interiore, e disciplina di tutta la persona; penetra la volontà come l'intelligenza. Il suo principio, ispirazione centrale dell'umana personalità vivente nella comunità civile, scende nel profondo e si annida nel cuore dell'uomo d'azione come del pensatore, dell'artista come dello scienziato: anima dell'anima.

Il Fascismo insomma non è soltanto datore di leggi e fondatore di istituti, ma educatore e promotore di vita spirituale. Vuol rifare non le forme della vita umana, ma il contenuto, l'uomo, il carattere, la fede. E a questo fine vuole disciplina e autorità che scenda addentro negli spiriti e vi domini incontrastata. La sua insegna perciò è il Fascio littorio, simbolo dell'unità, della forza e della giustizia.

## ANTONIO MEUCCI, INVENTORE DEL TELEFONO di Francesco Moncada

**A**NTONIO MEUCCI nacque a Firenze nella prima metà di aprile del 1805. Ci risulta che fu battezzato il 15 aprile del 1805 da Padre Rossi nella grande Basilica di S. Giovanni Battista di Firenze. Suo padre era un impiegato governativo e sua madre una buona donna dedita alle faccende di casa. Frequentò le scuole elementari (le scuole di leggere e scrivere, le chiama Meucci) e a 15 anni entrò come studente nell'Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze, dove imparò il disegno e la meccanica. Dopo 6 anni di studio intenso e diligente, Antonio Meucci uscì laureato e si impiegò subito come macchinista nel teatro della Pergola di Firenze sotto l'impresario Lanari.

Viaggiò con la compagnia teatrale attraverso l'Italia; fu a Roma, Ancona, Foligno, Livorno e in altre città. Macchinista teatrale voleva dire conoscenza non solo della meccanica e del disegno, ma anche della fisica e della chimica, dovendo egli dare le luci e i colori alle scene e al teatro.

Sposò poco tempo dopo una simpatica e intelligente sartina, analfabeta, ma

dotata di capacità amministrative non comuni. Era lei difatti che amministrava la piccola azienda familiare. Si chiamava Ester.

Meucci era un uomo di studio, semplice, buono, credulo, tormentato dalla smania degli esperimenti. Nel 1835 la giovine coppia scritturata dall'impresario **Don Francisco Martin Y Torres**, partì per l'Avana. Al teatro Tacone di quella città, Antonio Meucci faceva il macchinista e attrezzista e la signora Ester la direttrice della sartoria. La vita all'Avana trascorreva placida e serena con la realizzazione di vistosi guadagni provenienti dagli stipendi e dai regali.

Nel 1842 Antonio Meucci arrivò ad ottenere diversi trattati di elettricità riguardanti la galvano-plastica e il galvanismo; studiò Becquerel, Jacobi, Messner ed altri e pensò di dedicarsi nelle ore libere all'industria della galvano-plastica, che allora era conosciuta solo nei grandi centri europei, tra cui primeggiava Parigi. Un certo Gaetano Negretti di New York gli forniva le batterie e gli strumenti necessari.

**P**ER mezzo del Capitano Generale di Cuba, Senor O'Donnell, Meucci ebbe l'incarico di galvanizzare oggetti per la truppa, come sciabole, bottoni, medaglie. Lo studio dell'elettricità lo appassionò. Meditando sul trattato di magnetismo animale del Mesmer, ebbe l'idea di applicare l'elettricità alla cura di certe malattie. Cominciò gli esperimenti con i negri con risultati considerevoli. Un giorno si presentò nel suo laboratorio, che era attiguo al teatro, una persona ammalata di dolori reumatici alla testa. Voleva provare la cura elettrica. Meucci che godeva quando doveva fare un esperimento, accettò di cuore la proposta. Fece sedere l'ammalato nel salotto (l'appartamento di Meucci consisteva di tre stanze) gli mise in mano due conduttori che comunicavano alla batteria e nella bocca una linguetta metallica saldata ad un conduttore di filo di rame pure in comunicazione con la batteria. Meucci nel laboratorio aveva in mano e nella bocca lo stesso strumento onde regolare la forza elettrica che doveva amministrare. Quando l'ammalato ricevette la scarica elettrica diede un grido. Nello stesso momento Meucci avvertì un suono. Evidentemente era stato quel grido che attraverso il filo conduttore era arrivato a lui. L'operazione venne interrotta. L'indomani Meucci coprì la linguetta metallica e ripetette lo stesso esperimento invitando la signora Ester a gridare e a parlare attraverso quel filo. Avvertì di nuovo dei suoni. L'idea del telefono era nata. Questa avvenne nel 1849.

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Intanto il contratto con la compagnia del teatro Tacone era scaduto e Meucci, ansioso di continuare i suoi esperimenti in un ambiente più largo che avesse potuto offrire maggiori possibilità di trovare mezzi meccanici adatti, nella primavera del 1850 s'imbarcò per New York insieme al tenore Salvi. Aveva con sé un capitale che s'aggrava sui \$20.000. A New York andò ad abitare per qualche settimana a Leonard Street; ma avendo saputo dell'arrivo di Giuseppe Garibaldi, andò a trovarlo in casa del patriottico commerciante Pastacaldi ad Irving Place presso cui abitava pure Felice Foresti, il martire dello Spilbergh.

Insieme al tenore Salvi e a Garibaldi, Meucci pensò d'impiantare una fabbrica di candele steariche, da lui stesso inventate, onde dare lavoro ai patrioti esuli per ragioni politiche.

Garibaldi, Meucci e Salvi si misero allora in giro per trovare un posto adatto fuori New York. Andarono a Hoboken, visitarono alcuni paesetti del New Jersey, e finalmente a Southfield (oggi Rosebank, S. I.) trovarono e affittarono una casa con il terreno circostante, casa e terreno che dopo qualche mese Meucci e Salvi comprarono. Installarono una fabbrica di candele, in cui lavoravano molti esuli italiani, tra cui quel Giovanni Morosini che poi diventò uno dei più esperti e ricchi finanziere d'America. Ma la fabbrica di candele amministrata da un generale tormentato dal desiderio ardente di unire e liberare la sua Patria, da un inventore che si logorava a fare esperimenti e da un tenore che sentiva la nostalgia del



teatro e cantava ogni giorno era destinata a fallire e fallì infatti dopo un anno. Il Salvi che era in debito verso Meucci cedette la sua parte e ritornò a fare il cantante. Allora Meucci pensò d'impianare una fabbrica di birra e non conoscendo l'inglese affidò gli affari ad un certo Jim Mason che aveva conosciuto a Santiago di Cuba.

**P**ASSARONO così due anni ed essendo cambiate le condizioni politiche italiane, nel 1854 Garibaldi salpò per l'Italia. Antonio Meucci rimase così solo in balia alla mala fede di quel Jim Mason che approfittando della credulità del suo amico intento solo a fare esperimenti ridusse la birreria e la famiglia Meucci al fallimento con cambiali false ed altri raggiri. La povera signora Ester non poteva muoversi perchè già paralitica in seguito a fortissimi dolori reumatici.

Intanto Antonio Meucci era arrivato, tra le altre cose, ad inventare una carta speciale fatta con i vimini del mare. Gli sembrò per un momento di salvarsi perchè una compagnia americana per tale invenzione offrì a lui e al suo socio Mr. Ryder la somma di \$100.000, pagabili a \$10.000 all'anno. S'impianò una fabbrica di carta all'Ohio in cui Meucci era direttore stipendiato. Ma tosto la resa di Richmond fece fallire la compagnia. Antonio Meucci era così arrivato al 1870 povero, ma con una grande invenzione da lanciare nel mondo: il telefono. Dopo notti insonni ed esperimenti continui nel 1860 era riuscito a perfezionare i suoi strumenti telefonici. La parola umana veniva trasmessa per mezzo dell'elettricità. Aveva impiantato un telefono nella sua casa tra la stanza cosiddetta di Garibaldi, il "cellar" dove egli aveva il laboratorio e la birreria. Era così che la signora Ester, paralizzata, veniva messa in comunicazione col marito e con le persone di casa. Meucci ha la percezione di aver fatta una grande invenzione. Cerca capitalisti, scrive in Italia, ma nessuno risponde. Ad un certo Bendelari, che partiva per l'Italia affida i disegni e lo incarica di trovare aiuti; ma il Bendelari torna senza nessuna speranza. Meucci pubblica allora un articolo nell'"Eco d'Italia" di New York, annunciando la sua invenzione. Nessuno si offre in aiuto. Intanto i fallimenti accrescono le difficoltà e la miseria. La proprietà viene assaltata dai creditori. Come se ciò non bastasse, un giorno mentre andava col ferry-boat "Westfield" a Staten Island, esplose la caldaia. Oltre cento persone morirono, e Meucci ferito gravemente fu costretto di stare a letto per 6 mesi. In un momento di disperazione la signora Ester vendette gli strumenti del marito per \$6 ad un certo Fleming, che aveva una bottega di ferri vecchi a Clifton.

Quando Meucci fu ristabilito ritornò a cercare aiuti per assicurarsi l'invenzione del telefono e arrivò a formare la "Teletrofono Company" insieme a certi Zilio Grandi, Tremeschino e Breguglia con un capitale di \$20, la somma cioè che occorreva per interessare l'avvocato Stetson, onde scrivere a Washington e ottenere il "caveat". E il "caveat" che assicura i diritti d'invenzione per un anno, venne. Occor-

revano \$250 per avere il brevetto, ma quella somma non fu possibile trovarla. Nel 1872 il signor Bertolino, notaio pubblico che poi doveva diventare il segretario di Meucci, prestò al nostro inventore \$10 per rinnovare il "caveat" e così con i danari di un altro amico. Meucci rinnovò il "caveat" per l'anno 1873.

Fu allora che pensò di rivolgersi al signor Grant, presidente della District Telegraph Company di New York. L'amico Bertolino gli faceva d'interprete. Il signor Grant si prese in consegna i disegni e la spiegazione tradotta in inglese dallo stesso Bertolino promettendo che avrebbe messo a disposizione i fili telegrafici e tutto l'occorrente per fare gli esperimenti. Non è possibile sapere quello che Grant fece. Certo si è che portò Meucci alle lunghe per due anni ed infine disse che le carte e i disegni avuti in consegna erano stati smarriti. Il quarto anno, 1874, Meucci non potette rinnovare il "caveat" per mancanza di mezzi. Si arrivò così al febbraio del 1876, quando A. G. Bell annunciò al mondo la grande invenzione. Antonio Meucci lesse sui giornali la notizia, protestò, incaricò l'avvocato Stetson di scrivere a Washington; amici suoi si mossero ma senza risultato. Allora vecchio, povero e deluso nelle sue migliori aspettative attese rassegnato il riposo della morte.

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**N**EL 1883 comparve sui giornali una nuova descrizione della invenzione del telefono. Meucci volle tentare l'ultimo assalto. Nominò suoi curatori gli amici Lemmi e Bertolino e l'incaricò di pubblicare sui giornali americani un articolo di protesta, dichiarando che Meucci e non Bell era l'inventore del telefono e invitando chiunque volesse interessarsi a recarsi a casa sua per esaminare i documenti, il "caveat" del 1871 e gli strumenti telefonici. Qualche giorno dopo i signori Lemmi e Bertolino ricevettero varie lettere tra cui una da Mr. Willoughby, che entrò in trattative.

Si fece un contratto con i signori Goodwin, Dearden, Work e Willoughby i quali altro non erano che gli amministratori della "Globe Telephone Company" con un capitale di \$10.000.000. Cominciarono allora i preparativi per la battaglia legale tra la "American Bell Telephone Company", già forte di influenze politiche e ricca di milioni dopo sette anni di vita (e basti dire che l'"Am. Bell Tel. Co." guadagnava allora \$10.000.000 all'anno netti) e la nascente "Globe Tel. Co." formatasi nel 1883 per la costruzione e la vendita di strumenti telefonici e la compra di brevetti.

Nel giugno del 1885, il Dr. Beckwith, che allora era il "General Manager" della Globe Tel. Co., venne incaricato di esaminare i documenti di Meucci e di completare le prove per iniziare il procedimento legale. Il 20 agosto dello stesso anno già erano stati raccolti 36 "affidavits" di americani e italiani che avevano parlato al telefono di Meucci e di altri, tra cui un certo Mariani, che avevano esaminato l'interno degli apparecchi telefonici già nel 1860. Un certo Mattia Egloff testimoniò di avere anche cantata la Marsigliese al telefono.

Il 9 novembre del 1885 dinanzi al Segretario di Stato Lamar, ai suoi assistenti e all'avvocato Generale del "Department of Interior", il Dr. Beckwith, come "General Manager" della "Globe Tel. Co." fece la relazione della vita e delle invenzioni di Meucci, presentò gli affidavits, il "Memorandum Book" di Meucci (un grosso quaderno in cui l'inventore soleva trascrivere i risultati dei suoi esperimenti) i disegni e gli strumenti telefonici ricostruiti dal Meucci stesso. La lotta cominciò in via amministrativa. Il Segretario di Stato Lamar con sentenza del 15 gennaio del 1886 dichiarò che vi erano prove sufficienti a stabilire la priorità del Meucci nell'invenzione del telefono e rimandò il caso alla corte giudiziaria. Praticamente il segretario Lamar aveva deciso in favore del nostro inventore. Intanto l'"American Bell Tel. Co.", a scopo d'intimidazione, aveva sfidato in corte la "Globe Tel. Co." per avere costruito e messo in uso apparecchi telefonici soggetti al monopolio di Bell. Il 10 novembre del 1885 si era infatti iniziata a New York la causa tra l'Am. Bell Tel. Co. e la Globe Tel. Co., che proteggeva Meucci.

**L**A deposizione del nostro inventore durò 38 giorni formando un volume di 172 pagine. Dinanzi ai giudici, avvocati e tecnici Antonio Meucci ricostruì col lapis i disegni del suo telefono e sostenne una specie di esame minuzioso. Intanto il Dr. Beckwith nel febbraio 1886 forma ad Elizabeth, N. J. la "Meucci Tel. Co." con un capitale di \$5.000.000. Vengono fatti gli impianti. Ben 200 persone si sottoscrissero come abbonati al servizio telefonico. Un'altra "Meucci Tel. Co." viene formata a Memphis, Tennessee con un capitale di \$5.000.000. L'"American Bell Tel. Co." porta in corte la "Meucci Tel. Co." del N. J. per "Infringment". Si hanno così due cause sulla stessa materia ed esse in un certo senso vengono abbinatae.

Testimonianze, prove, disegni, giudizi dei tecnici si susseguono per quasi due anni, formando volumi grossi come vocabolari.

Finalmente il 19 luglio del 1887 la corte emise una sentenza che può qualificarsi come una solenne buffonata lugubre. Non potendo smentire i documenti e le prove del Meucci, la corte prestò fede al tecnico dell'"American Bell, Tel. Co.", Prof. Cross, e non esitò a chiamare il telefono Meucci "String Telephone" or "lovers' telephone", e cioè telefono meccanico, non elettrico, molto in uso tra i fanciulli italiani e inventato da un cinese 250 anni fa.

Un maggiore insulto non si poteva fare ad uno scienziato e inventore come Antonio Meucci, che aveva dato più di trenta altre invenzioni e che il "World" giornale americano del 19 ottobre 1889, chiama "una delle figure più importanti nel mondo scientifico del tempo". Tutti gli studi, gli esperimenti, gli sforzi, tutto il genio del Meucci riconosciuto dagli stessi avversari, tutto venne equiparato alla mentalità di un ragazzo delle scuole elementari italiane! Non c'è bisogno d'essere professori di fisica per vedere che, come il telefono di Bell, il telefono di Antonio Meucci, pur essendo diverso nella for-



ma e nei mezzi meccanici, era elettrico. Un piccolo imbuto di legno il cui buco inferiore era coperto da un diaframma metallico. Al diaframma stava avvicinato un magnete della lunghezza di 8 o 10 centimetri; la parte superiore del magnete stava dentro una piccola bobina formata di fili di rame in comunicazione alle batterie elettriche e ai fili conduttori.

La parola attraverso il diaframma veniva trasmessa per mezzo della corrente elettro-magnetica che si creava, e veniva trasmessa non per le vibrazioni dell'aria ma per le ondulazioni elettriche. Questo in breve era il telefono di Meucci e questo era ed è il telefono di Bell. Perché parlare di "String telephone"? Si tratta evidentemente di malafede o di uno dei soliti grossi errori giudiziari di cui è piena la storia e la vita.

Il 13 gennaio del 1887 il governo degli Stati Uniti iniziò una causa a Boston, Mass. per cancellare il brevetto di Bell, ottenuto, secondo l'accusa, con frode. A sostegno della sua tesi l'avvocato Generale degli Stati Uniti portò avanti, tra l'altro i documenti ed il nome di Antonio Meucci. Ma quella causa rinviata di anno in anno morì per esaurimento o soffocata dai milioni nel 1896.

\* \* \*

**Q**UESTA è a grandi linee la tragedia di Antonio Meucci: la tragedia del genio che quando non viene accettato come Galilei, viene beffato e sopraffatto come Meucci. Il nostro sfortunato ma grande inventore morì il 18 ottobre del 1889. I funerali furono fatti a spese dello Stato Italiano.

La casa del Meucci che diede asilo a Giuseppe Garibaldi dopo la caduta della gloriosa Repubblica Romana,

comprata dal tedesco Mr. Backmann fu da questi donata alla nazione italiana il 5 luglio 1882. Hanno avuto cura di essa la società dei "Reduci Patrie Battaglie" che fabbricò il Pantheon, poi il "Tiro a Segno" e finalmente la grande organizzazione dell'Ordine Figli d'Italia, che sostiene tutte le spese necessarie per il mantenimento. Per iniziativa dell'Ordine Figli d'Italia e del Generale Guglielmotti venne eretto davanti alla casa il monumento ad Antonio Meucci inaugurato il 16 settembre 1923. Ogni anno il 2 giugno e delle volte anche il 4 luglio la colonia italiana di New York e dintorni è andata in pellegrinaggio a Rosbank, S. I. a commemorare Giuseppe Garibaldi.

Quando Meucci era vivo si vedeva apparire alla veranda pensoso, con quella barba michelangiolesca, bagnata di lacrime di commozione a ringraziare e a incoraggiare i presenti. In questi ultimi tempi è stato l'illustre ingegnere Daniele Santoro di Staten Island che ha preso la felice iniziativa anche della commemorazione del nostro inventore.

Antonio Meucci, accanto al Generale Palma De Cesnola, archeologo insigne, fondatore e direttore del museo di New York, accanto a Beltrami, scopritore delle sorgenti del Mississippi, a Dassi ed altri ancora, tutti italiani della prima emigrazione cosiddetta "eroica" rappresenta non soltanto il genio italiano in terra straniera ma anche il contributo prezioso che gli italiani hanno dato per la formazione della grandezza americana.

Oggi che le forze delle nostre colonie sembrano unirsi e cementarsi per resistere meglio all'urto invadente delle forze sociali contrarie, il nome di Antonio Meucci risorge come autentico valore italiano e può servire di sprone a lottare con accanimento per la conquista del nostro posto in America.

## IL DOTTOR PIFF

### NOVELLA DI

### Corrado Tumiatì

**C**ERTAMENTE sognavo: sebbene il sonno mi stesse sul volto come una maschera di ferro dietro la quale sentivo il mio pensiero muoversi libero e disporre immagini e parole in una apparente coerenza.

Mi pareva d'essere giovane e infelice. Faust a rovescio, maledicevo la mia giovinezza inesperta, romantica, tutta passioni. Amavo una donna che mi pareva bellissima e innocente, ma soffrivo di quel vincolo che mi straniava la vita. Facevo parte di un gruppo di coetanei, ma fremevo di vederli crudeli, indifferenti anche nei piaceri fisici: tuttavia mille forze oscure urgevano in me spronandomi ad imitarli ed a confondermi con loro. Povero, benedicevo la mia libertà, ma invidiavo le ricchezze altrui come solamente un povero sa invidiare. Mi dibattevo fra questi contrasti cercando invano una via d'uscita e dovevo soffrirne fino alle lacrime perchè udii piano, quasi soffiata

al mio orecchio, una voce che mi chiese d'improvviso, chiaramente:

— Perchè piange?

— Io? — chiesi.

— Un uomo che piange è sempre un imbecille.

— Ma lei, chi è? — domandai a quella voce.

— Disgraziato — commentò questa senza rispondere.

— Insomma — mi parve di gridare — mi lasci in pace. Non desidero che questa.

— E' appunto quella che le offero.

La voce dell'uomo era pacata: avrei potuto dirla paterna se una continua ironia non ne avesse incrinato il suono. E l'ironia non s'addice ad un padre, spoglia come è di carità. L'uomo era alto, forte. Un uomo come tanti, ma teneva il volto coperto, tranne gli occhi che erano chiari e freddissimi.

— Insomma — chiesi ancora — chi è lei?

L'ignoto mi tese un biglietto di visita, un comune biglietto sul quale stava scritto: **dottor Piff.**

— Conosco questo nome — dissi piano — poco rassereno. — Un medico.

— Chirurgo — corresse la voce.

— Infatti, ho letto nei giornali qualche cosa. Operazioni arditissime.

— Oh, arditissime... L'ardimento non esiste che nella pigra fantasia umili. Quello che ad essi sembra eccezione è per noi modo normale di vivere e di operare.

La sentenza fu enunciata senza superbia, ma con una tranquilla sicurezza.

Tuttavia, m'affrettai a rispondere, turbato:

— E' molto interessante quello che lei dice, ma non serve: io non sono un ammalato e non ho bisogno di lei.

— Caro signore, dove è un infelice, ivi è un ammalato. E nessuno è più infelice di lei.

— No, no. Se soffro è questione di temperamento, d'indole, di costituzione.

La voce rise.

— E' appunto quello che penso. Ed è quello che mi ha permesso di riuscire.

— A che cosa?

— A curare, a guarire. I sentimenti che la turbano sono simili ai veleni. Ostacolano o inibiscono la condotta, paralizzano la vita. L'amore distrugge il piacere, la giustizia vieta il potere, l'onestà costringe alla miseria, l'entusiasmo annebbia la critica, il dolore spegne la vita, l'allegria nasconde la realtà. L'uomo vero non ha bisogno che d'istinti e d'intelligenza. Questa per guidare quelli. Tutto il resto è ingombro, malattia, e va curato, estirpato.

— Forse è vero — dissi piano, quasi a me stesso.

— E' vero — replicò l'altro, tranquillamente. Ed aggiunse:

— La mia automobile è alla porta.

— Perchè? — chiesi, agitatissimo.

— Per condurla con me. Per guarirla.

Non volevo muovermi, eppure m'accorsi di seguirlo. Mentre stavo per uscire, vidi apparire sul vano di una porta mia madre e la donna giovane che io credevo di amare. Facevano gruppo, parevano stringersi l'una all'altra, atterrite. Udii quest'ultima sussurrare all'altra:

— Chi è quell'uomo? Ho paura.

\* \* \*

**N**ELL'IMBUTO biancoverde d'una strada la macchina precipitava. Al termine del viaggio che mi parve eterno e brevissimo mi trovai in una piazza brulicante di macchine silenziose. Due grandi velivoli che battevano bandiere reali stazionavano in mezzo a quelle davanti ad un palazzo altissimo di un'architettura logica e spietata. Nell'interno, tutto parlava d'ospedale: le mura bianche, lucide, gli angoli smussi, l'odor d'etere, le vesti candide di servi silenziosissimi e fuggitivi. Evidentemente ero atteso, perchè in una sala fui accolto da un piccolo uomo dal viso mongolo il quale mi chiamò per nome, pregandomi di attendere. Mi feci coraggio e gli chiesi dove mi trovassi ed a quali esperimenti avrei dovuto sottostare. Qui i miei ricordi sono un po' incerti perchè l'uomo parlava un linguaggio tecnico e non inte-



amente comprensibile. Ricordo solamente che egli insisteva nel dire che si trattava di applicazioni chirurgiche della dottrina d'uno psicologo americano secondo il quale noi non piangiamo o ridiamo perchè siamo tristi o lieti, ma, al contrario, siamo tristi o lieti per il fatto delle lacrime e del riso. A spiegazione del suo dire volle mostrarmi due casi. Introdusse dapprima un uomo dall'aspetto lugubre che ero stranamente vestito d'abiti sgargianti e chiassosi. All'infelice, che era stato in passato un uomo troppo gioviale e ridanciano, erano stati recisi i nervi del riso. Precluso ormai alla letizio, il poveretto si sforzava con le vesti e con la mimica delle braccia di ritrovare il suo buon umore, ma non vi riusciva e s'adirava col medico.

— Felice, felice — badava a ripetere singhiozzando, sono felice, capisce?, e non posso più ridere.

— Per quale ragione? — chiedevo falto.

L'uomo singhiozzò: — Un'eredità.

— Per dio — fece il medico — vistosa?

Con uno scroscio di lacrime, l'operato rispose: — Tre... tre milioni.

Il medico non si perse d'animo: — Si faccia coraggio — disse — troverà il punto giusto, l'operazione è troppo recente... Potremo fra qualche giorno completarla...

Non disse in qual modo, ma s'affrettò a congedare il paziente che pareva farsi minaccioso. A questo tenne dietro un secondo che mi sembrò l'opposto del primo. Vestiva a lutto e raggiava di letizia in tutto il volto. Uomo troppo dedito alla malinconia, facile al dolore, s'era lasciato estirpare le ghiandole lacrimali e s'agitava ora di non poter piangere.

— Ah, ah, ah! — rideva di tutto cuore — questa maledetta allegria! Sono tre giorni soli, ah, ah, ah, che mia moglie è morta e non vale ch'io viva al buio e mi veda a lutto. Sono disperato, capisce, disperato, ah, ah, ah.

**I**L MEDICO evitava di guardarmi. Diceva parole vaghe: — Quella povera signora. Stia tranquillo, passerà, troverà anche lei il punto giusto...

— Il punto giusto? — sghignazzò l'altro, glielo darò io il punto giusto...

Due inservienti trascinarono via l'uomo che rideva e agitava un nerissimo ombrello.

Io avevo perduto ogni coraggio. Guardai smarrito il medico e gli chiesi: — Non toccherà anche a me un caso simile?

Sorrise. — Non sono che esperimenti. Con lei sarà un'altra cosa.

— Che cosa? — chiesi terrorizzato.

— Non si tratterà più di operazioni parziali, ma di intervento radicale.

— Sarebbe a dire? — chiesi con un filo di voce.

— Altissima chirurgia. L'isolamento totale del cuore. La soppressione di tutti i sentimenti.

— Non ci saranno complicazioni? — domandai timidamente.

Al "no" che seguì alla mia domanda avvertii un senso di felicità inespri- mibile. L'ultima che io abbia provata.

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Vivevo in una grande città. Quale fosse, non ricordo. Forse Parigi, forse Milano o Nuova York, Amburgo o Calcutta. La cosa non aveva per me importanza alcuna. La mia calma era inesorabile, la mia ricchezza smisurata. Se l'avessi dovuta registrare mi sarebbe bastata forse una paginetta di cifre. Banchiere o finanziere d'altissima classe, di quelli che si trovano solamente nei treni o nei romanzi internazionali. Manovrano con la solita tastiera telefonica i mercati più vari, tenevo sotto i miei ordini i più forti capitani d'industria che mi parevano dei ragazzi con le loro passioni e i loro "ideali tecnici". Oggi arricchivo una nazione, domani l'impoverivo, egualmente indifferente. I suicidi come le grandi fortune che la mia forza determinava m'erano estranei, lontani come può esserlo il movimento della folla a chi ha da condurre un velivolo. Aprivo le porte della gloria ad uomini di genio se le loro scoperte servivano a muovere meglio i miei ingranaggi, ma li spegnevo in silenzio se li disturbavano. Quelle vertigini e quelle disperazioni di semidei non mi toccavano.

Del mio passato non m'era vicina che una persona. La piccola donna che avevo creduto d'amare e che s'era accontentata di vivere nel mio raggio, battendo i tasti d'una macchina calcolatrice. Se incontravo talvolta la luce impossibile dei suoi occhi imploranti mi infastidivo come d'un rumore inutile. Un giorno mi dissero che mia madre era morta. Ricordo che continuai a telefonare.

Raramente dormivo solo. Le donne che mi occorrevo e mi eccitavano erano quelle che non hanno ragioni per negarsi. Delle altre non mi curavo. L'oro — le vere monete d'oro — necessario alle spese del giorno e della notte correva tra le mie mani come la sabbia fredda. Piccolo segno tangibile della mia potenza, mi piaceva tenerne, a sacchetti, nelle due casseforti. Naturalmente, la folla dei ricchi affluiva alle mie feste lussuose. Di loro, come di tutti, non mi curavo. Avevo l'impressione che gli uomini fossero pedine d'un freddo gioco, numeri d'un calcolo che la mia lucida indifferenza concludeva sempre a mio favore. Ero veramente libero, arido, solo.

**T**UTTAVIA, ad un certo momento, avvertivo che la mia calma spietata non era più così ferma. Dovevo essere una sera di festa perchè vedevo in una stanza da ballo uomini e donne accacciarsi ondeggiando nello strepito animate d'un jazz. Ebbi la sensazione d'esser costretto a ritrarmi nel mio studio sebbene mi vi recassi con l'intenzione di sentir ripetere alla radio una cifra che m'era sembrata inesatta. Avevo acceso l'apparecchio e notizie da tutto il mondo invadevano la stanza da la stazione di Londra. Ad un tratto, dopo l'annuncio di non so qual vittoria sportiva, dieci parole spiccarono distinte e terribili al mio orecchio: **Si annuncia da Chicago la morte del dottor P.fi.** Sentii l'urto, pesante, del mio corpo sul tappeto.

Mi riscossi dopo un minuto eterno e non mi riconobbi. Piangevo. Strano pianto che mi pareva ardente come un fiato di vulcano e fresco come una pioggia. Avrei voluto gridare e forse gridai perchè vidi appressarmi ansimante la donna di prima, quella che mi aveva sempre seguito. E mi parve il sole, tanto raggiava quel suo volto bellissimo. In una piena di parole che parevano traboccare dalle dighe rotte del cuore dissi quello che provavo. Rividi chiaro il passato, ricordai che quell'uomo terribile non m'aveva toccato con un solo ferro, ma per lunghi giorni s'era chiuso con me in una stanza, a parlare. Le bende che m'avevano fasciato erano false. Non coprivano nessuno ferita. Tutti i sentimenti più cari e discordi affluivano tumultuosi in me forzandomi ad una ribellione che somigliava troppo alla pazzia: perchè trascinai la donna presso i due forzieri nascosti, ne feci scattare il segreto, li aprii. A piene mani afferrammo quell'oro splendido, corremmo per le stanze popolate e lo disperdemmo in mezzo alla gente che acclamava, spaurita e incredula. Vedemmo che tutti vi si gettavano sopra, udimmo grida di gioia selvaggia, lamenti di feriti. Poi più nulla.

Ero solo con lei. Andavo non so dove, forse verso un umile lavoro. Reggevo sotto il mio braccio il suo corpo giovane come un grande ramo fiorito. Mi pareva che la nostra vita gravasse sulla terra solida con tutto il peso delle sue pene e delle sue speranze. Cantavo. Ero felice.

## GUARDIAMOCI CON GLI OCCHI ALTRUI

di Alice Seelye Rossi

**D**URANTE la mia permanenza negli Stati Uniti, patria di mia madre, molti tra i miei amici mi spinsero a scrivere le mie impressioni. "A noi piace di sapere come gli altri ci vedono" affermarono. Malgrado il cinquanta per cento di sangue americano ereditato da mia madre (che appartiene ad una famiglia del New England e si è laureata all'Università di Vassar, sono cresciuta in un paese latino ed in me prevale l'elemento italiano.

Appena in America dovetti sperimentare l'uso dei più svariati liquori e cocktails, dai vari sapori e nomi ma dall'effetto ugualmente traditore. Raramente potei far loro onore e spesso, nel rifiutarli, dovetti scusarmi dicendo che noi Europei non siamo abituati a liquori così forti e che li ho assaggiati soltanto negli Stati Uniti. Questo paradosso suscitava grande ilarità. Ciò malgrado l'America, tanto "wet" talvolta, si trasforma in "dry" in altre oc-



casioni. Mi ricordo specialmente di un banchetto offerto ad un Ambasciatore in una delle città più importanti degli Stati Uniti. Vi partecipavano tutte le personalità del luogo e l'intero corpo diplomatico. Il menu comprendeva le più squisite portate servite in modo impeccabile; toasts, musica, fiori... Ma nel chiaro cristallo solo acqua pura, versata generosamente con copioso ghiaccio. Un palato europeo, e tanto più se italiano, sente allora la nostalgia dei vini delicati e del delizioso spumante che accompagnano sempre simili simposi.

Un'altra cosa che mi ha colpito subito è l'aspetto giovanile delle donne americane. E' impossibile poter giudicare la loro età. Mi sono chiesta se hanno scoperta la fontana della gioventù, cercata invano da Ponce de Leon, o se il prodigio è opera degli esperimenti di Voronoff. Qualsiasi sia il suo segreto essa certamente sa conservare sempre un aspetto giovane e in nessun luogo ho visto donne meglio conservate. Quanto allo spirito giovanile dei "nonni" è dimostrato dal loro amore per la danza, nella quale competono con la giovane generazione.

La caratteristica della vita americana è il moto perpetuo. Per quanto sia generale tendenza del secolo l'irrequietezza, credo che il record di questa sia battuto dagli americani e specialmente dalle donne. Queste ultime, malgrado le statistiche che contraddicono questa impressione, sembrano costituire la grande maggioranza del popolo americano. E' forse l'aver semplificato, con tanti metodi moderni, le cure domestiche, quello che dà alle donne tanta libertà e che le spinge a vivere fuori dalla propria casa. In un paese dove l'uomo, per il suo potere economico, ha tanto prestigio, è invece la donna che regge lo scettro del comando. Ciò rivela un atteggiamento cavalleresco verso la femminilità ma c'è da temere che la donna ne profitti e diventi un po' troppo egoista e dominatrice. In Italia è l'uomo che regge tutte le istituzioni ed ha il pieno comando di tutte le sue maschie prerogative. Però benchè apparentemente la donna sia a lui sottomessa, egli non ha mai alzata una barriera tra lei e l'educazione superiore. Infatti le donne italiane frequentano le Università dai tempi più remoti mentre questo privilegio è stato concesso nelle altre nazioni, e non in tutte, soltanto recentemente.

Agli italiani, educati ad un stretto senso dell'economia, non fa buona impressione lo spreco, abitudine così frequente agli americani, anche se ciò si giustifica con il bisogno di smercio e di consumo che fanno le grandi industrie del paese.

Un'altra caratteristica delle donne americane e la loro continua ricerca della novità. Esse sono molto più aperte di noi latine ad ogni nuova corrente spirituale. Abbracciano facilmente una nuova fede, avidamente anche se non profondamente, e si dedicano alla pratica e allo studio delle nuove dottrine. In Italia non siamo pronte ad accettare innovazioni, specialmente nel campo religioso che è dominato dalla religione tradizionale del paese, che è la Cattolica. Questa sete per ogni nuova idea prova forse che, in America, le

vecchie religioni perdono terreno e forse che la Chiesa Americana non sostiene con sufficiente fermezza la vera religione, quella della Bibbia.

Nel campo del sentimento e dell'amore, se dovessi giudicare gli americani dalle tante cose viste e udite mi troverei assai imbarazzata. Apparentemente qui la nuova generazione considera l'amore e manifesta i sentimenti in modo assai diverso dal nostro. L'amore è un episodio della vita e non un sentimento dominante o una travolgente passione. Forse ne è responsabile l'intensità della vita americana, così piena di passatempi e così brillante. A proposito di sentimento devo anche aggiungere che sono stata spesso colpita dalla apparente indifferenza degli americani di fronte alla perdita degli esseri amati. Ho ricevuto spesso delle lettere, scritte con l'abituale tono frivolo, che in fine ed a titolo puramente informativo mi annunciavano la perdita di persone carissime. Mi sono chiesta allora se è l'educazione che spinge gli americani a reprimere i loro dolori o se essi sentono differentemente da noi. In Italia il sentimento è profondamente radicato nel cuore del popolo e i legami familiari sono tanto stretti che è ritenuto quasi sacrilego il volersi separare dalla propria famiglia.

Tra gli abitanti del Sud ho trovati più affinità. Apparentemente non vive la stessa intensità di vita ed essi sembrano molto fieri del loro passato. Essi hanno grande signorilità e cultura e molti tra i migliori diplomatici americani appartengono a famiglie del Sud. Tra questi desidero menzionare la nobile figura di Thomas Nelson Page, per tanti anni Ambasciatore americano a Roma. Gli italiani sono assai grati allo scrittore americano per le belle pagine che ha dedicato alla nostra guerra.

Nel Sud si parla meno del "dollaro". Forse possono maggiormente apprezzare il valore intellettuale e il genio. Essi apprezzano un'opera d'arte per il suo valore intrinseco e non per il vantaggio finanziario che se ne può ricavare.

L'unico punto di contrasto l'ho trovato nelle mie discussioni sul problema della razza negra. Il miscuglio delle razze è deprecato in questo paese democratico più che in qualunque altro. Ma questa questione delle razze è, per l'America assai delicata e un giorno essa rimpiangerà il momento nel quale è sbarcato in questo paese il primo gruppo di negri.

Ma ogni paese del mondo ha i propri problemi da risolvere.

## LA CAMPAGNA PRESIDENZIALE

di Matthew A. Melchiorre

**I** DELEGATI dei due partiti politici si riunirono a Chicago il mese scorso e si lasciarono soddisfatti di aver nominato, in seno ad ogni partito il "prossimo presidente degli Stati Uniti". Cosa importa se ambedue i partiti hanno fatto la stessa dichiarazione?... "lo spirito di colui che, durante gli ultimi iunghi quattro anni ha diretto la nave dello stato e l'ha condotta in salvo in mezzo a nebbie e uragani" "...questo autentico americano, Herbert Hoover" disse il repubblicano Joseph Scott, mentre il democratico John E. Mack afferma che "... la sua abilità realizzatrice fa di lui un pratico americano, quello del quale sentiamo oggi urgente bisogno... Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

I discorsi contengono, con parole differenti, le stesse cose ma l'affinità tra i due partiti si limita a questo. I delegati repubblicani si riunirono col solo scopo di nominare l'attuale presidente malgrado le disapprovazioni della platea. Nè questa disapprovazione fu solo espressa dalla folla: i delegati stessi mostrarono tanto poco entusiasmo che il Chairman Snell fece dir loro che quando egli avrebbe pronunciato il nome di Hoover non doveva più ripetersi "la sgarbata mancanza di entusiasmo notata il giorno prima".

Prima della convenzione dei Democratici i Repubblicani si riunirono sotto lo stesso tetto. La loro riunione fu breve e arida. Anche l'acclamazione che seguì la nomina di Hoover fu del genere di quelle "fatte su misura". Fu diretta da un certo Charles Shepert

Hutson, un litografo di Los Angeles. Dalla piattaforma egli sventolò un certo numero di cartelloni numerati, segnali convenuti per la banda, le luci, l'organo e i palloni. Il programma di ogni cosa era stato accuratamente stabilito per mantenere la dimostrazione almeno mezz'ora.

Ma tra i democratici le cose si svolsero differentemente. La lotta si annunciò sin dal principio e, quando i delegati entrarono in scena, trovarono gran fermento. I giornali si impadronirono di queste notizie che, apparentemente, contenevano quanto il popolo desiderava poichè la lesse avidamente e passò la notte intera accanto alla radio.

Anche i piccoli commercianti di Chicago ebbero ragione di esser grati al partito democratico. I repubblicani arrivarono e partirono silenziosamente e senza spendere denaro. Ma i Democratici riempirono la città e si sparsero lungo le rive del Lago Michigan. Erano allegri e lo dimostrarono mettendo mano al portafoglio. Ai non-iniziati i Democratici apparirono la grande maggioranza mentre i Repubblicani sembravano privi di vitalità e annoiarono tanto i delegati che la folla. Il "Grande Vecchio Partito" diede segno di vita quando il Chairman della piattaforma, Garfield, accennò al 18.mo emendamento. Quando cominciò a leggere il proclama la platea fece un tal baccano che l'oratore fu costretto ad interrompere. La discussione del proclama si limitò a due ore, durante le quali parlarono diciassette oratori in favore e contro.



Tra i più autorevoli citiamo il Senatore Bingham e John McNab. All'una e trenta del mattino i voti furono annunciati e 681 contro 472 erano in favore del rapporto della maggioranza. Il significato del proclama consiste nel suggerire che un Congresso Repubblicano proponga agli Stati un altro emendamento. Questo nuovo emendamento consentirà agli Stati antiproibizionisti l'uso delle bevande alcoliche ma non la riapertura legale dei "Saloons". Inoltre il governo federale promette la protezione e il controllo a tutti gli Stati "dry".

Questo proclama Repubblicano significa ancor meno di quanto dice perché permette ai candidati Repubblicani di non riconoscere questo programma qualora ne siano contrari. Il Presidente Hoover può, se vuole, deludere il suo partito con la scusa che le sue oneste convinzioni sono contrarie a queste modificazioni.

I Democratici videro l'opportunità di chiarire la situazione per gli elettori antiproibizionisti e si dichiarò "wet" con un altisonante proclama che mise ancora più in rilievo le deficienze del proclama avversario. Eppure un'occhiata al programma democratico farebbe sorridere molti. Per esempio il loro programma di politica estera si riassume con la vaga parola "Pace". A proposito dei Veterani essi dichiarano che saranno compensati con "piena misura di giustizia e generosità." Che cosa significano queste parole? Tutti lo ignorano.

E che cosa se ne è fatto di Al Smith, il beniamino della platea di Chicago? Mentre il Governatore Roosevelt si avviava lietamente verso Chicago per accettare la sua nomina, il candidato del 1928 era già sulla via del ritorno, sconfitto. Non si può capire come mai non si incontrarono prima della convenzione, non riunirono i loro sforzi per condurre il partito democratico alla vittoria. Senza l'appoggio di Smith, Roosevelt dovrà sostenere un'ardua lotta contro i freddi e calcolatori Repubblicani.

La campagna è già iniziata e il Grande Vecchio Partito ha già mostrato i denti. Il Ministro del Tesoro, Ogden Mills nel suo lungo discorso di Boston dice che il Governatore Roosevelt deve dichiarare quali sono le pecche della vecchia amministrazione e quali passi lui farà per far piazza pulita e per rimediare ai corrotti sistemi di governo di New York City. "Noi abbiamo esperienza" dice, e conclude: "E' forse questo il momento opportuno di mettere dei veterani in seconda linea e di mandare le reclute all'assalto? Non lo credo."

D'altra parte i Democratici cercheranno di dimostrare che il Presidente Hoover si è svegliato troppo tardi dal suo letargo e che non potrà mai far nulla di importante perché non è un uomo di carattere. I Democratici aprono le loro braccia a quei Repubblicani che si oppongono alle nomine del G. O. P. Insomma essi hanno un fronte solido mentre i Repubblicani hanno più di un ostaggio nel campo avversario. La nomina di J. N. Garner, del Texas, è veduta con molto favore dai Repubblicani. Ma i suoi oppositori lo

hanno definito un "Scialacquatore del denaro pubblico".

Il popolo americano attende quest'anno presidenziale con la speranza che un miglioramento economico seguirà le elezioni. I candidati di ogni

partito faranno del loro meglio nei loro discorsi per dare agli elettori la speranza in "tempi migliori" dichiarando che il voto in loro favore farà uscire la "Prosperità" dal nascondiglio dove si cela.

## L'OSPEDALE DEL LITTORIO di Natale Colosi

**P**OCHI monumenti alla medicina sono stati eretti di importanza uguale a quella dell'Ospedale del Littorio recentemente ultimato a Roma.

La maestà dell'edificio, la sua organizzazione amministrativa e professionale dell'istituzione sono una nuova prova dell'altezza spirituale e morale raggiunta dall'Italia dopo l'avvento del fascismo.

Nel nuovo ospedale sono state riunite varie vecchie e gloriose istituzioni mediche Romane: l'Ospedale dello Spirito Santo, il Policlinico, l'Ospedale di San Giovanni e Giacomo e l'Ospedale dei Cronici.

Il bisogno di un nuovo ospedale era vivamente sentito nella Capitale dopo il rapido crescere della sua popolazione. Nel 1929 furono fatti progetti per un nuovo ospedale. Il piano fu però abbandonato poco prima che il Fascismo avesse il potere.

I lavori vennero poi ripresi e compiuti in 25 mesi con rapidità fascista. Il prezzo dell'ospedale sommò a 42.000.000 lire.

Situato sul Colle Monteverde, uno dei più belli di Roma, l'Ospedale del Littorio assomiglia ad una immensa villa, circondata da giardini fioriti e da alti alberi sui quali gli uccelli sembrano si diano convegno per cantare festosamente.

Dall'alto del colle si gode la vista della città dei Cesari, il Tevere, l'Aventino, Villa Pamphili, S. Pietro, la Basilica di San Paolo e gran parte della Campagna Romana e dei Colli Albani.

Secondo il Dott. Epaminondo Secodari di New York, già professore all'Università di Roma, il nuovo ospedale "ha i requisiti di un ospedale italiano che ha bisogno di spazio, di aria, di sole e di quiete, e racchiude tutti i requisiti di fisico e spirituale conforto per i pazienti, in un luogo lontano da ogni frastuono."

La grande città ospedale comprende vari fabbricati e ha una capacità di 1500 letti.

Vi sono sette padiglioni, tre per la medicina, tre per la chirurgia ed uno per le specialità, oltre a sette spaziose camere operatorie, alloggi per medici e impiegati, una cappella ed il piccolo convento dei Padri Camillini ai quali è affidata la cura spirituale dei pazienti.

In fabbricati separati è la camera mortuaria, i laboratori per gli esperimenti patologici, la farmacia, la camera di sterilizzazione, le cucine, i garages ecc.

Essi sono in piccole case di pietra che contrastano col verde degli alberi

e danno l'impressione di una cittadina del 500 anziché di un ospedale.

E' ben difficile descrivere in un breve articolo l'organizzazione dell'ospedale e dei servizi che gli sono annessi.

Il servizio per i casi d'urgenza è in apposito fabbricato, provvisto di una sala operatoria, di camere per malato. Annessi vi sono gli alloggi per gli Ufficiali di Polizia.

Due appositi locali, uno per uomini e una per donne accolgono i malati la cui degenza nell'ospedale sarà assai breve.

I tre padiglioni per la medicina sono identici. Ogni piano è diviso da un corridoio che riceve luce da due larghe finestre e comprende da ogni lato tre sezioni, una centrale e due laterali. In ogni piano vi sono stanze per i visitatori, camere per i dottori e per il personale assistente.

Nelle sezioni laterali due camere di insolazione ed una grande sala per i pazienti che non hanno l'obbligo di stare a letto.

Un grande terrazzo dà ai convalescenti la possibilità di godere della bellezza del panorama di Roma.

In breve ciascuno di questi padiglioni è in se stesso un vero e indipendente ospedale completo in personale e in materiale.

Una macchina centrale dà luce e calore.

I tre padiglioni di chirurgia sono anch'essi simili, ognuno a quattro piani in gran parte simili a quelli dei padiglioni di medicina con un ascensore in più ad uso dei malati da trasportarsi nella sala operatoria.

Il quarto piano è tutto occupato dalle sale operatorie esposte al Nord secondo i dettami della chirurgia moderna.

I muri delle camere operatorie sono ricoperte con vetri "Civer" che possono essere facilmente disinfettati e puliti.

Tutto è in esse non solo perfetto e completo ma, si può dire, unico.

Specialmente ricco in moderni apparecchi è il padiglione per la radiografia e fisioterapia.

I laboratori per i raggi X sono modernissimi ed a capo di essi è il Prof. Aristide Busi il più grande radiologo vivente.

Completo in ogni rispetto è il laboratorio patologico che è fornito di tutti i più recenti apparecchi necessari per gli esami chimici, batteriologici e patologici.

Questo con la stanza di autopsia e la morgue costituisce il padiglione di patologia.

La farmacia occupa due piani di un altro fabbricato nel quale sono anche



delle dispense con le provviste chimiche e farmaceutiche.

L'ospedale ha duecento telefoni interni e cinquanta esterni. Vi è un sistema di elettricità connesso ad una stazione centrale e che automaticamente entra in azione se l'elettricità avesse ad interrompersi.

Il personale ospedaliero è composto di rinomati medici e chirurghi. Essi sono scelti a concorsi e devono essere sempre pronti ad ogni notificazione telefonica a meno che il caso possa venir curato dagli assistenti o dai membri del personale residente.

In questo modo un servizio ospedaliero immediato e competente è a disposizione degli infermi giorno e notte.

I membri del corpo medico ricevono degli stipendi proporzionati alle posizioni che occupano. I poveri vengono curati gratuitamente ma un adeguato onorario viene pagato dai pazienti più agiati.

Benchè situato lungi dal rumore degli uomini l'ospedale è facilmente accessibile a mezzo di tramvia elettrica, o autobus. Una autostrada di cemento che conduce direttamente all'ospedale è stata recentemente ultimata.

Con l'Ospedale del Littorio continua le gloriose tradizioni degli ospedali di Roma ed è degno del progresso che l'Italia ha fatto sotto il fascismo e giustifica l'orgoglio degli Italo-Americani per la madre patria.

## LA PROPOSTA DI HOOVER SUL DISARMO Vista dalla Stampa Italiana

**M**OLTEPLICI e variati sono stati i commenti ai risultati raggiunti nella prima fase della conferenza per il disarmo. E senza dubbio, la proposta che in quel consenso internazionale si è imposta all'ammirazione e alla discussione di tutti è stata quella fatta dal Presidente Hoover sulla pronta riduzione degli armamenti. L'idea, che dopo tutto non è nuova, ha avuto una eco sonora specialmente in Italia, dove, si può dire, essa è nata da un pezzo. È stato difatti Mussolini il primo a capire e a sostenere che il principale rimedio per la crisi economica è proprio il disarmo completo o parziale.

I giornali italiani hanno impiegato co'onne ad elogiare la proposta del Presidente Hoover e pubblicato articoli editoriali in sostegno della tesi americana.

Crediamo utile di riportare senza ulteriori commenti i brani più importanti di quegli articoli maggiormente autorevoli:

Il "Popolo d'Italia" di Milano: — A un anno preciso di distanza un grande avvenimento di carattere internazionale viene a riconfermare l'identità di vedute esistente fra i Governi di Roma e di Washington sui problemi di alto interesse mondiale. L'adesione di Mussolini alla proposta del Presidente Hoover per una moratoria da concedersi alla Germania e la nuova ampia adesione del Capo del Governo fascista alle proposte americane per la riduzione e la limitazione degli armamenti sono conseguenze dirette dell'atteggiamento e del pensiero del Governo italiano sui problemi che interessano la pace e la prosperità del mondo.

Queste idee hanno trovato nelle proposte del Presidente degli Stati Uniti d'America la più larga e precisa interpretazione che fosse possibile sperare, e il Governo italiano logicamente vi aderisce.

Il mondo ha bisogno di riconquistare la fiducia nella stabilità della pace, ha bisogno di sperare, ma più di credere, in un avvenire di tranquillità e di pa-

ce e ha bisogno innanzi tutto di dedicare mezzi, uomini e denaro alla ricostruzione dell'organismo economico internazionale.

L'esistenza di enormi, costosi e pericolosi armamenti congiura contro questo bisogno dell'umanità ed è un attentato alle stesse possibilità di ripresa e di salvezza che il mondo tuttora possiede.

"La Stampa" di Torino: — Dall'apertura della Conferenza del disarmo è stata senza dubbio quella di oggi la giornata più importante e decisiva. Due popoli, due uomini appaiono in primo piano per la loro volontà costruttiva, gli Stati Uniti e l'Italia, Hoover e Mussolini.

Se le loro intenzioni, se i loro piani avranno una pronta e rapida realizzazione, l'Europa e il mondo avranno ricevuto il colpo vigoroso di timone che farà loro riprendere la ascesa verso i tempi migliori; altrimenti sarà la decadenza irreparabile verso la catastrofe e il caos.

Sul progetto integrale degli Stati Uniti, a cui il Governo italiano ha aderito senza riserva, come già l'anno scorso aderì alla moratoria Hoover, rimasta ineficace per le opposizioni incontrate, deve giocarsi la sorte della Conferenza di Ginevra.

La sorte della Conferenza del disarmo con i problemi che vi sono connessi, nell'attuale pauroso precipitare delle situazioni economiche è la sorte della presente civiltà. Occorre che i Governi, su cui gravano le maggiori responsabilità, vi riflettano senza indugio.

Il "Corriere della Sera" di Milano: — Significa anche la possibilità, la quasi certezza di una contemporanea adesione degli Stati Uniti alla proposta del colpo di spugna sulla lavagna delle riparazioni e dei debiti di guerra.

Riduzione degli armamenti e degli effetti vi mirari; so'uzione del problema dei debiti politici: questioni connesse, logicamente e necessariamente connesse per gli Stati Uniti. Non sembra

che su questo punto vi possa essere dubbio. E' di ieri una informazione da Washington, diramata dall'Agente Reuter, secondo cui "i funzionari del Dipartimento di Stato a Washington hanno ammesso che il piano Hoover per il disarmo implica necessariamente e in modo netto che gli appelli europei per l'annullamento e la riduzione dei debiti di guerra rimarrebbero inattuati se l'Europa non si decidesse a disarmare". E, d'altra parte, la commissione è nella logica stessa delle cose. La risoluzione dei due problemi è il passo primo, il più importante, forse, per una ripresa decisa dell'economia mondiale. L'aver eliminato quel fattore di massimo perturbamento che sono i debiti politici, sarebbe, certo, già gran cosa. Ma la fiducia che è in gran parte il riflesso delle situazioni politiche, non rinascerebbe piena finché la gara degli armamenti, ormai prossima al limite, gli odii, le diffidenze fra le Nazioni, continuassero a proiettare ombra di probabili avventure belliche sull'imminente avvenire.

Di fronte a questa situazione è colpevole temporeggiare. Bisogna risolversi. E la strada da seguire è quella da tempo segnata dal Duce, ora indicata dal Governo americano. Conviene risolversi se non si vuole che l'ineluttabilità dei fatti e l'umanità sia gravata da nuovi e maggiori lutti.

Il Mattino di Napoli: — L'America interviene con una forza che, apparentemente estranea al dibattito del disarmo, può portarvi formidabili pressioni indirette. E' la forza che le viene dall'essere creditrice dell'Europa per dodici miliardi di dollari.

Gli Stati Uniti parlano a Ginevra per essere ascoltati a Losanna.

Mentre a Losanna l'Europa constata che il problema delle riparazioni è connesso a quello dei debiti di guerra, a Ginevra l'America lascia comprendere che il problema dei debiti può essere connesso al disarmo.

Si può criticare la intransigenza americana nel reclamare il rimborso dei prestiti di guerra, ma quando gli Stati Uniti dichiarano di rifiutare un alleviamento di debiti a paesi che spendono decine di miliardi in armamenti, portano un argomento che è difficile ribattere.

Le spese militari europee, delle quali la Francia ha forzato pericolosamente il ritmo, sono l'ostacolo che impedisce all'opinione pubblica americana di ammettere la cancellazione o la riduzione dei debiti. L'America non intende fare rinunzie che essa ritiene destinate a preparare nuove guerre.

La Tribuna di Roma: — In Francia qualcuno s'infuria addirittura contro la proposta Hoover per il disarmo ancor più dell'anno scorso contro la moratoria. Il socialista Paul Boncour, ministro della guerra, ha ripetuto a Ginevra la pregiudiziale della sicurezza e si è appiattato dietro la tesi tecnica dello Stato Maggiore francese. Il radicale socialista Herriot, presidente del Consiglio, ha ripetuto a Losanna le pregiudiziali di resistenza ad una soluzione netta del problema delle riparazioni. Cioè in Francia la vittoria elettorale delle sinistre non ha in nulla



modificato quella politica internazionale che non è di destra nè di sinistra, ma è una politica di compromesso, la quale o con governi cosiddetti di destra o col signor Briand, o col signor Tardieu o col signor Herriot, è stata ed è una politica di contrasto con una realtà tutta differente da quella immaginata dalla diplomazia.

La politica della Francia non può mutare che con una gran potenza di revisione soprattutto interna. In realtà oggi la contraddizione cieca in cui si trova questa politica è il maggiore e più vero impedimento ad un assetto europeo.

Questa non è polemica, è dolorosa constatazione.

## Influenza di donne nei gruppi letterari del rinascimento del Prof. Walter Bullock

**I**N generale le donne la cui influenza, in salotti ed in giardini servi' ad ispirare un intero gruppo di poeti possono essere divise in tre categorie: principesse, grandi dame che si interessavano alla religione e raffinate cortigiane.

Una descrizione delle attività di tali circoli può ritrovarsi in molti "Dialoghi", nelle cronache e nelle lettere famigliari di quel tempo. Ad esempio la miglior pittura del circolo letterario di Urbino ci è data nella serie di conversazioni che noi ritroviamo nel "Cortegiano" e così la più viva descrizione della piccola corte di Asolo ai tempi di Caterina Cornaro ci è data da un'altra serie di conversazioni immaginarie nell'"Asolano" di Pietro Bembo, scritto un certo numero d'anni dopo il "Cortegiano".

Il Circolo di Milano, che attorniava Beatrice d'Este è descritto dal Calmetta nella sua "Vita del Serafino".

"La sua corte" — egli dice — "era composta di uomini dotati di ogni merito, e specialmente di poeti e di musicisti che avevano l'obbligo di comporre nuove ecloghe, commedie e tragedie e di metter in scena nuovi spettacoli e rappresentazioni".

E, dopo aver nominati alcuni fra gli uomini più valenti che facevan parte del Circolo di Beatrice d'Este fra cui Nicolo da Correggio, Gaspare Visconti, Antonio di Campo Fregoso, e aver notato il suo interessamento anche per le opere dei poeti di tutta Italia, egli conclude:

"In questa maniera la poesia e la letteratura in lingua volgare che, dopo gli splendori del Petrarca e del Boccaccio era andata degenerando, è stata riportata alla sua primiera dignità prima per la protezione di Lorenzo de' Medici e dei suoi contemporanei e dopo per l'influenza di questa Dama e di altre donne del suo tempo."

Altrettanto famoso fu il Circolo della Sorella di Beatrice, Isabella d'Este Gonzaga di cui furon membri Mario Equicola, Pietro Bembo e Antonio Tebaldeo.

Nel 1508 Isabella leggeva con Mario Equicola i poeti latini e pochi anni dopo Lodovico Ariosto le lesse il suo ancora incompiuto "Orlando Furioso" proprio come più di mezzo secolo dopo Tasso doveva leggere la Gerusalemme alla pronipote di Isabella, Lucrezia.

Ella stessa scriveva versi che teneva segreti; non si rifiutava però di cantare d'innanzi alla sua Corte sonetti e

altre liriche composte da grandi scrittori allora viventi.

Per questo Niccolò da Correggio, nel 1506 le scriveva:

"Per le canzoni che lei mi chiede, scelte dal Petrarca, glie ne invio una che io amo più di tutte e che comincia "si è debole il filo a cui s'attiene". Insieme le invio una mia canzone composta sullo stesso metro e che lei potrebbe cantare sullo stesso tono, ed anche un poema che imita quello delle "chiare, dolci e fresche acque".

Un anno dopo Pietro Bembo le scriveva "Le mando dieci sonetti e due strambotti, non perchè essi sian degni delle Sue nobili mani, ma perchè io desidero che versi miei possano venire da Lei cantati".

Una piccola gelosia e forse anche un poco di gelosia esisteva in quel tempo fra Isabella e sua cognata, Lucrezia Borgia divenuta Duchessa di Ferrara.

Se Isabella era più colta Lucrezia eccelle nella danza e conduceva una vita più brillante; Ferrara aveva poi certi vantaggi su Mantova e la cultura di Lucrezia era sufficiente per impressionare anche un critico severo come lo fu Pietro Bembo: uno dei suoi poemi ci dice che Lucrezia recitava essa pure poesie Italiane.

Numerose altre donne la cui influenza dominò il Rinascimento possono essere nominate, ad esempio, Laura Dianti, chiamate Eustochia che fu l'amante di Alfonso I. Dopo la morte di questi ella ebbe un piccolo circolo nel salone di Palazzo degli Angioli, a Ferrara e nella sua villa del Verganese.

Veronica Gambarà, anche non solo era il centro del suo gruppo d'artisti a Correggio ma durante il suo soggiorno a Bologna nel 1530 quando l'imperatore ed il Papa vi si incontrarono, aprì un salotto in quella città che presto divenne un ben noto ritrovo di letterati.

A Siena, vi era Madonna Iardonica Fortiguerra cui Alessandro Piccolomini dedicò alcuni dei suoi lavori.

Molti salotti di gran dame divennero centri per l'espansione di nuove idee anche nel campo della fede.

Vittoria Colonna aveva il più famoso fra questi; essa era egualmente valente quando leggeva le sue composizioni a gruppi puramente letterari (come fece a Ferrara nel carnevale del 1538, secondo una lettera del Cardinale Accolti) o quando discuteva in piccoli circoli con uomini quali Valdes o Ochino su soggetti religiosi.

Giulia Gonzaga anche si occupava di letteratura e di religione. La sua corte di Fondi era il più famoso centro letterario dell'epoca; vi convenivano Marc'Antonio Flaminio, Vittore Soranzo, F. M. Molga, Claudio Tolomei, Francesco Berni, Bernardo Tasso e, sopra tutti, il brillante e sfortunato Cardinale Ippolito de' Medici che aveva per lei una profonda devozione.

Frequentavano la sua corte anche uomini che si occupavano di problemi di religione, alcuni dei quali erano sospetti di eresia; fra questi Pietro Paolo Vergerio, Pietro Carnesecchi, Juan Valdes e altri, le cui discussioni sempre tendevano a partirsi dai soggetti letterari ed a convergere su pericolose discussioni religiose.

Caterina Cibo Varano, Duchessa di Camerino che aveva studiato Greco, Latino ed Ebraico era pure in continuo contatto con eretici come con poeti.

Ed è strano trovar dedicati a Lei i liberi, e poco ortodossi "Ragionamenti, di Agnolo Fiorenzuola" e nello stesso tempo i pii dialoghi di Bernardo Ochino nei quali la Duchessa stessa vien fatta figurare come una delle interlocutrici.

Noi notiamo che il Fiorenzuola nella sua dedica (1525) chiama la sua corte "Accademia" e dice che le colte discussioni che vi avevano luogo erano tali "delle quali mai si sarebbe sdegnata l'Accademia Ateniese di ragionare."

Con maggiore brevità si può parlare dei saloni letterari delle Cortigiane del tempo: uno o due esempi saranno sufficienti: la più famosa di esse è Isperia al principio del secolo che ebbe grande interesse alle cose letterarie e che, secondo il Bandello, diede grande aiuto a Domenico Capuana nella composizione dei suoi poemi.

Tullia d'Aragona, autrice di un trattato sull'Amor Platonico e di numerosi poemi lirici, nei quali fu molto aiutata da Benedetto Varchi, anche aveva un ben noto circolo letterario.

Quando essa era a Ferrara nel 1537 Stabellino, sotto il nome di "Apollo novellista" scriveva ad Isabella d'Este "E' sorta in questa terra una gentil cortegiana di Roma..."

Tullia contava Varchi, Girolamo Muzio, Bernardo Tasso, Filippo Sbrozzi e altri fra i suoi più ferventi ammiratori e quando, dopo Ferrara andò a Firenze il Duca Cosimo la dispensò dal portare il velo giallo che era obbligatorio per le donne della sua professione scrivendo di suo pugno sotto la petizione "Fasseli gratia per poetessa."

Un'altra donna di lettere che pure era cortigiana fu Veronica Franco che fu, fra tutte le donne del Cinquecento la poetessa più ispirata. Il suo salotto a Venezia fu assai frequentato dai poeti e dagli artisti del tempo.

Molti sono i poemi che Ella ha lasciato ed il più noto è uno degli ultimi da lei scritti nel quale Ella rimprovera un suo corteggiatore per il suoi metodi importuni, e lo consiglia se davvero vuole conquistare il suo cuore a seguire un'altra via, condurre una severa vita di studio e provarle che Egli ne trae profitto dato che, solo per questo potrà piacergli.



Anche Veronica Franco non appartenne a nessuna accademia delle quali noi abbiamo visto che assai raramente le donne del Cinquecento potevano esser membri. Ma perchè avrebbero dovuto esserlo?

Ogni donna, in quel tempo aveva ben altri campi per manifestare il suo interesse ai poeti, o a un poeta.

Così l'Angeletta di Giulio Camillo era nella retta strada per esser patrona delle Muse: in un grazioso poema il poeta dichiara che:

"Nessuna voce sì dolce e delicata  
"fu mai udita . . .

## Il Brig.-Gen. Luigi Palma di Cesnola di Edoardo Marolla

Nel corrente anno si celebra il primo centenario della morte del Brigadiere Generale Luigi Palma di Cesnola, che fu uno dei più famosi soldati cattolici Italo-Americani ed un illustre archeologo, autore e direttore di museo. Egli ha lealmente difeso l'unione durante la Guerra Civile prima ancora di essere cittadino e il suo nome dovrebbe essere conosciuto da tutti i cattolici e da tutti gli Italo-Americani perchè con il suo lavoro ed il suo ingegno ha onorato i suoi connazionali ed i suoi correligionari. La famiglia Cesnola si stabilì in Piemonte fin dal 1282, Luigi nacque a Rivarolo, vicino a Torino il 29 Giugno 1832. Sua madre fu la Contessa Eugenia Rocca di Castelvechio. Egli fu educato alla Regia Accademia Militare di Torino (1843-48) e a 17 anni si arruolò nell'Esercito rivoluzionario Sardo. Fu il più giovane ufficiale dell'Esercito e fu promosso sottotenente sul campo di battaglia di Novara il 23 Marzo 1849. Nel 1851 fu promosso Tenente e durante la guerra di Crimea entrò nello Stato Maggiore. Attratto, come tanti altri, dalla terra scoperta da un suo connazionale lasciò l'Italia e arrivò a New York nel 1860. Si do-

. . . . come quella di Angeletta  
"Quando fra le mie braccia Ella leggeva  
"Ad alta voce questi miei versi  
"Che forse ci renderanno immortali."

E le donne del Cinquecento anche senza le accademie poterono fare per la letteratura Italiana qualche cosa di altrettanto buono nell'intimo dei circoli nei loro salotti e nei loro giardini di cui non erano uno sperso punto nella circonferenza ma il centro vitale ed essenziale.

miciliò in questa città e, per vivere, insegnò le lingue. Nel 1861 sposò Maria Isabella Reid, figlia del Capitano Samuel C. Reid, ufficiale di marina.

Con la sua brillante preparazione ed esperienza militare, il di Cesnola, che aveva già combattuto per la libertà d'Italia, dedicò tutta la sua energia alla guerra civile, in aiuto degli Stati del Nord. Prima di tutto aprì una scuola militare dove istruì più di 700 studenti, ma il suo temperamento fu attivato da un lavoro più attivo e nel 1871 si fece nominare Maggiore dell'11.º Reggimento di Cavalleria di New York. Fu promosso nel 1862 Colonnello del 4.º Reggimento di Cavalleria. Ferito e prigioniero nel 1853 nella battaglia di Aldie fu detenuto nella prigione di Libby fino alla primavera del 1864. Appena libero combattè sotto il comando di Sheridan, nella campagna di Shenandoah Valley sino alla fine della guerra.

Si guadagnò la stima e l'amicizia di tutti con la sua conoscenza della tattica militare e col fascino della sua personalità. Lincoln gli diede il grado di Brigadiere Generale e lo nominò Console Americano a Cipro. Vi si recò nel 1875

e vi dimorò per 11 anni. Scrisse un libro su "Cypro". Fu rispettato dal governo Turco, amato dagli indigeni e fece importantissimi scavi che hanno reso illustre il suo nome. Da sola, senza esperienza e senza mezzi esplorò la città scoprendo 60.932 tombe. Dissappelli più di 35.537 oggetti della civiltà Cipra e Mediterraneo con poco profitto personale. Cinquemila oggetti si perdettero in un naufragio; il governo Turco si impadronì della più grande parte; qualche pezzo fu venduto in Europa ma il rimanente fu collezionato dal di Cesnola e fu acquistato dal Metropolitan Museum of New York per un terzo del valore che se ne sarebbe potuto ricavare vendendolo pezzo per pezzo.

La salute della moglie lo costrinse a lasciare Cypro e nel 1876 si recò a Londra. Ritornò subito dopo a New York dove nel 1877 fu eletto segretario del Metropolitan Museum e, dopo due anni, Direttore. Tenne con onore questo posto sino alla morte, che lo colpì 25 anni dopo.

Naturalmente il successo gli procurò molti nemici fra i quali Gastone L. Feuardent, che attaccò l'autenticità della sua collezione nel giornale "Art Amateur". Di Cesnola si difese fieramente e fu citato in giudizio dal Feuardent. Il processo durò dall'Ottobre 1883 al Febbraio 1884. La lotta fu accanita e terminò con la vittoria del di Cesnola. L'autenticità della collezione fu confermata da comitati d'investigazione, esperti, artisti, e, anche recentemente, nuovi studi archeologici, hanno messo in valore la sua assoluta autenticità e il suo inestimabile valore. Nel 1900 il vecchio soldato visitò l'Italia acciainato dalla stampa. Ebbe tredici onorificenze dal Re d'Italia e la laurea ad honorem dal Columbia College.

Gli amministratori del Museo che hanno da vicino potuto osservare il suo lavoro, hanno proclamato che egli, con la sua abilità amministrativa e la sua instancabile attività, ha messo a posto le fondamenta di questa grande istituzione americana.

### FEMININE INFLUENCE ON RENAISSANCE LITERARY GROUPS

(Continued from Page 218)

poems and letters. In one of the latter she rebukes a suitor of hers for his importunate methods, and declares that his behaviour will only serve to make her conclude that he is a worthless wastrel. If he wishes to have any hope of her love, he must follow another course, lead a calmer life of learning, and prove to her that he is regularly profiting by his studies, for nothing can please her more than this. "You know very well" she writes "that, among all those who endeavour to make their way into my affections, they are most dear to me who strive to excel in literary exercises and to practice the learned arts, of which (albeit a woman of but little knowledge

indeed in proportion to my inclination and desire) I am so fond. It is such a delight to me to converse with men of learning, in order to have an opportunity of learning myself, that if Fortune permitted I should form all my life and spend all my time delightfully in literary Academies."

Veronica was not the only lady of literary interest in her century who could not be a member of an Academy. As we have noted, hardly any, great or small, could do so. After all, why should they? Any lady could illustrate her interest in poetry, for example, by her interest in poets—or even in one poet. So Giulio Camillo's simple Angeletta was in her way

a patroness of the Muses: in a charming little poem he declares that

"Never was voice so sweet or delicate  
Heard. . .

. . . as was then my simple Angeletta's  
When in my arms she read aloud those  
verses  
Which yet, perhaps, shall make us both  
immortal. . ."

And as for Academies,—the lady of letters in the Cinquecento did not need to join one. She could make for herself something at least as good, forming her own circle in her garden or drawing-room:—a circle in which she would herself be, not a mere point on the circumference, but the appropriate and essential centre.

(The end)



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