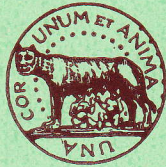


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# The New Books

*VIGO: A FORGOTTEN BUILDER OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC.*  
By Bruno Roselli. 280 pages. Boston:  
The Stratford Company. \$2.00.

In these days of iconoclastic and plagiarized biographies it is a relief to encounter one which is both constructive and original. Dr. Roselli has not only brought to light a little-known artificer of the United States of America and furnished him with credentials which make his position henceforth secure in our history—however that security may subsequently be reinforced by further research inspired by this volume—but he has provided Americans of Italian descent with a realization of historical possession which they have hitherto lacked in spite of the contributions made by Amerigo Vespucci, Giovanni da Verrazzano, and the Caboti. The work of Francesco Vigo, the Piedmontese soldier of fortune and trader, is very definite as uncovered and commented on by our author. It admits of no qualifying clauses. That it is not to be found in any American history or biography, except incidentally, may be variously interpreted—ignorance, carelessness, ethnic prejudice, anything is possible.

It is usually dangerous to dislocate an historical premise and to reconstruct history from its new position, but there seems to be little doubt that had the North West Territory not been ceded to the young Republic by England in 1783, there would have been no inspiration for the Louisiana purchase of 1803, for the Texas annexation of 1845, the cessation of the Oregon Country of 1846, for the vast Mexican cession of 1848, and for the Gadsden purchase of 1853, and today the western boundaries of the United States would have been the Appalachian range as far as the Ohio river to its confluence with the Mississippi, and the Mississippi to the Gulf. It is futile to speculate on what would have been the fate of the vast regions west of this frontier with England, France and Spain contending for supremacy, but obviously no Monroe Doctrine could have been formulated.

Historians, who have been curious to learn why England ceded the North West Territory so readily, have discovered that a Virginian named George Rogers Clark, elder brother of William Clark of Lewis-Clark expedition fame, had in the name of his State, or of the Continental Congress, captured most of the posts there—in particular the key-post, Vincennes, recently rescued from oblivion by a couple of novels, "Alice of Old Vincennes" and "The Crossing." They have let it go at that. Their usual story runs about as follows:

After the fall of Quebec Vincennes remained under French sovereignty until 1777, when it was occupied by a British garrison. In

1778 an agent of Clark took possession on behalf of Virginia, but it was soon reoccupied by the British, who held it until Feb. 25, 1779, when it was recaptured by Clark and passed finally under American jurisdiction.

All this is perfectly true and might inspire nothing further were it not for the fact that the papers of Clark and his contemporaries mention a certain "Spanish merchant," who, at the risk of his life, furnished Clark with the information necessary for the immediate retaking of Vincennes and with the sinews of war by which the act might be performed. This "Spanish merchant" was Francesco Vigo, born at Mondovì, Province of Cuneo, Piedmont (and, as Dr. Roselli has discovered), on Dec. 3, 1747.

Thus with the forgotten, or ignored, data furnished by Clark and his friends it was already possible to make the reasonable deduction that, without Vigo, Vincennes and the other military posts would still have been in possession of the British when the delegates, met at Paris, in 1782-83, to fix the terms of American independence and that, consequently, England would not have ceded the North West Territory. Hence, the entire history of the United States would have been changed from its birth.

Thus, the man who prevented that change looms as a person of some consequence, one whose life it is imperative to reconstruct, if our history is to be handed down as a trustworthy record. So Dr. Roselli thought, as he patiently conducted his researches in Italy, Havana, New Orleans, Chicago, and Detroit, and forced from their archives whatever they had to surrender in regard to the "Spanish merchant," who had given the United States, without any exaggeration, nothing less than an empire—to say nothing of a readjustment of the inscriptions and the legends of old Vincennes herself.

With information thus assembled from original sources we have a very distinct character revealed, an altogether impressive, resourceful, and convincing character—convincing as to his enterprise and modesty—with a patriotism for his adopted country which brooks no compromise. As often happens in such searches after biographical truth, contingent facts were also brought to light, some of importance, all of interest: we learn for the first time the identity of the settlers of Vincennes which made them so susceptible to the propaganda of the Piedmontese, the mystery surrounding the closing years of Clark with their melancholy and misanthropy, and, more important than all, the patient, self-sacrificing, eminently successful toil of Vigo to keep his great gift "American," so that another Congress of Paris, thirty-one years later, did not even question the title.

Dr. Roselli's style is caustic, at times

ironical—the natural reaction of the historian who is amazed, rather than elated, that his work should be necessary.

Walter Littlefield

*MAZZINI: PROPHET OF MODERN EUROPE.* By Gwilym O. Griffith. 382 pages. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$3.00.

With this biography of Mazzini, Mr. Griffith contributes another vivid page to the most stirring adventure of modern times: the Italian Risorgimento, and his name may well rank with those of Trevelyan, Thayer and Bolton King, who have so admirably recounted the various phases of the struggle for unification to the English speaking world.

None of the biographers of the founder of "Young Italy" has so eloquently told of the exile's unquenchable thirst, his ineffable yearning for a moral regeneration of humanity, a union of the peoples, a Utopia of justice and peace led by an Italy reborn, none has brought as clearly to light the true extent of his contribution to those events which led to the formation of the Italian Kingdom, as does the author of the present volume.

Mr. Griffith understandingly, sympathetically portrays the "enfant prodige" who astonishes the Somaschi Fathers with his knowledge, the student agitator at the university, the disillusioned "carbonaro," the political prisoner dreaming the liberation of Europe and Italy, the uncompromising conspirator carrying through the continent the flaming torch of "Young Italy," ever obedient to his political and religious ideals.

The effect of the Mazzinian gospel is beautifully and persuasively expressed:

"... It was a breath, a spirit. It was a viewless presence overtaking men on the wayside, surprising them at their daily tasks, whispering to them in their dream, and breathing into them a new hope, a new purpose. Its republican dogma might make little impression, its political argument might fall into confusion; but its word of faith and hope, its call to Italians to hold their Italianity as a solemn trust, not for themselves but for humanity—these things touched the spirits of men with an electric flame."

Keen indeed are the author's interpretations of the various Mazzinian insurrections and their bearing upon the definite achievements of Garibaldi and Cavour. Pisacane's ill-fated expedition of 1857 undoubtedly pointed the way to the Garibaldinian invasion of the South three years later, and Mazzini's republican machinations in 1860 were not the least important of the motives which drove Cavour to the conquest of the Centre and the South for the House of Savoy.

(Continued on Page 271)

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Founded in 1923

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## The Cover This Month

"Pennsylvania Farmhouse" is probably one of the best-known paintings of Claude Gallo, an Italo-American painter who has been singled out for praise in the past by such authorities as John Sloan and Forbes Watson.

About the figures in Gallo's paintings there is an air of solidity and vitality; his execution, too, is direct and straightforward, as open and unaffected as the man himself. Thus, on being asked once about his art, he protested he was not an art critic, but finally admitted "you might say it's half modern, a quarter primitive, and the rest myself. If that means I'm a 'modern,' at least it's better than being an academician and doing candy box covers."

Waiting on tables in a fashionable restaurant in New York nets him enough to live on, and "an artist needs no more" according to him. At 37, unmarried, he finds more joy, rest and zest in the hours devoted every morning in his East Side flat to his painting than anything else.

Born an artist, Claude Gallo had always wanted to paint, but the opportunity, since his birth in a town near Turin in Italy, up to his 25th year, had been denied him. He came to the United States at the age of 12 with his family, to Hillsville, Pa., where he would help his uncle sell fruit, and occasionally do some sketching. But the necessity of having to support his mother and two sisters precluded his doing any serious art study, till, at 25, he came to New York and applied himself to it.

His greatest ambition is to have a home in the country, where he can raise flowers in profusion, for they are his consuming hobby. But it is only in summer that he would like to bask in a country sun. For ordinary living, he thinks New York "the best city in the world, because one can find the whole world here."

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# TOPICS OF THE MONTH

By Rosario Ingargiola

## THE END OF PROHIBITION

**A** BRAHAM LINCOLN once said: "The best way to get a bad law repealed is to enforce it strictly."

Perhaps no better example of Lincoln's wise maxim has ever been shown than in the development and application of the prohibition statutes. There seems to be little doubt that the Prohibition law will eventually be repealed. The last word will now be up to the forty-eight States of the Nation which before long will decree the official doom of National Prohibition after thirteen years of chaos and tyranny.

It has been repeatedly said that the trouble with the Prohibition law was the severity and strictness with which fanatics of all sorts insisted that it be applied, although it was clear to all sensible persons that literal compliance with the law was impossible. Possibly the Eighteenth Amendment would have stayed a little longer on our statutes but for the stubborn insistence of intolerant and unreasonable Drys.

It will be interesting to note now the reactions of the Drys. When the Eighteenth Amendment will be taken off the books they will constitute a minority, a sort of outlaw group with no legal status behind it. Doubtless, they will then experience the pangs and distress of being in a minority and fighting for a lost cause. The Drys were in a minority years ago, but when they finally achieved their triumph

they became an organized tyrannic majority to whom a person who held different views from theirs was a traitor to say the least.

Perhaps this happens to all causes for which men fight and suffer. It seems to be in the nature of things that a minority, on reaching power, eventually degenerates into an oppressive oligarchy.

This brings to my mind a few lines by L. H. Robbins which are very appropriate and which may help to console the crestfallen champions of the Dry cause. Here they are:

*"How a minority,  
Reaching majority,  
Seizing authority,  
Hates a minority!"*

### ALIMONY: AN AMERICAN RACKET

**I**N Continental jurisprudence the institution of alimony is practically unknown. Nor was it known to Roman law. It is a purely indigenous American product, a typical growth in the flora—or shall we say the fauna?—of matrimonial life. Like many other American institutions of recent times, it has deteriorated to such an extent that one might be well-nigh justified in calling it an American racket.

Take an actual recent case, one which is characteristic of the many that come daily before our American Courts.

A penniless Italian, who fought in the World War and who is an American citizen, was imprisoned continuously for two years and seven months for non-payment of alimony to a young and foolish wife with no children and actually earning her own living. Needless to say, the man's failure to pay the alimony was due to financial incapacity, not to willfulness or obstinacy.

The curious thing about these cases is this: that while the man is in jail, unable to earn any money, alimony nevertheless continues to run and the arrears pile up. The result is that, as soon as one prison term ends for one contempt, another begins. Thus a man can be imprisoned for life for failure to pay alimony to his wife.

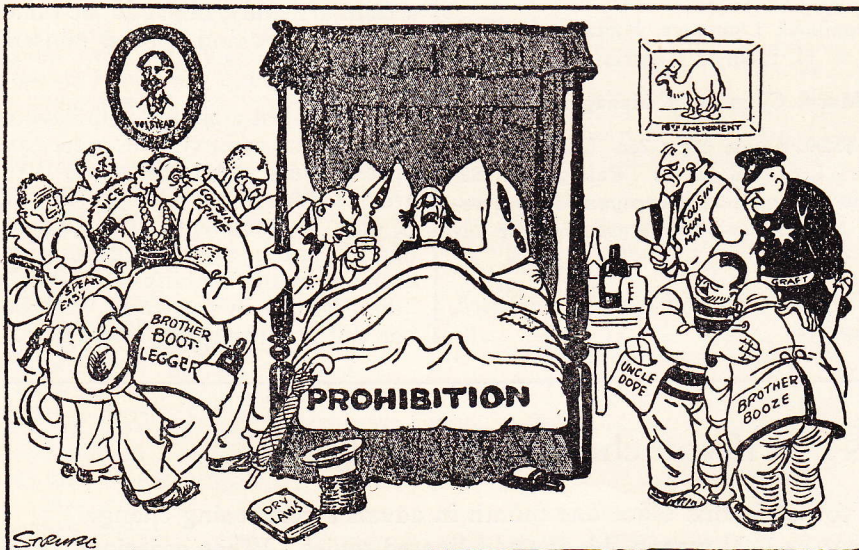
This would undoubtedly have happened to the penniless Italian if a brave and humane Justice of the Supreme Court had not come to his rescue. Judge Bonyng, over in Brooklyn, set the man free, quoting Section 5 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of New York which provides that "excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor shall cruel and unusual punishment be inflicted."

The duty to support one's wife is of course a legal as well as a moral obligation. No one will dispute this. Yet the abuses and injustices which are committed under our alimony laws are such as to justify the demand for a complete revision. Modern complexities, coupled with the economic depression, necessitate a radical change in our alimony statutes. It is about time we realize that even an alimony prisoner has certain constitutional rights which should not be violated with impunity.

### THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR SPEAKS

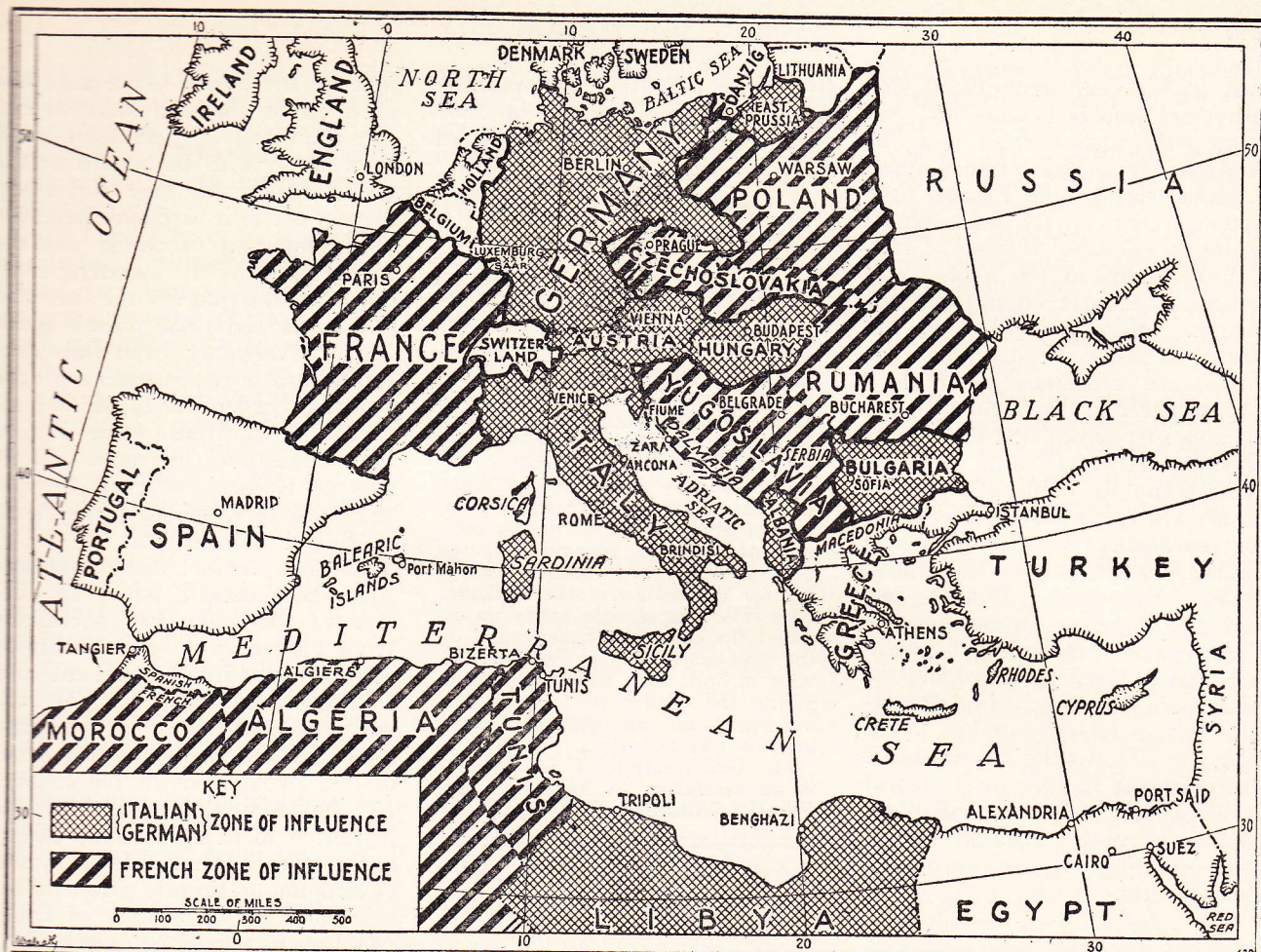
**T**HE first public act of the new Italian Ambassador Augusto Rosso in this county was a speech which he delivered recently on the occasion of a monster banquet given by the Philadelphia community to a large group of Italian graduates from the American colleges and universities. The occasion was unique and in a way very significant. More than one hundred graduates, young men and women who will soon enter public life, were feted and wished Godspeed in their

(Continued on Page 272)



"The relatives have been summoned"

—From the London Daily Express



The new appearance of the "balance of power" in Europe

# Italy and France

## The Struggle for the Balance of Power

By Francesco Grilli

*"Ideals are extremely potent centers of gravitation."*

—(Keyserling)

**A**N American correspondent has very recently reported: "What is obvious is that Southeastern Europe is as full of powder barrels as in 1914 and that the match of a fanatic now as then might cause an explosion." In a Europe that is on the verge of bankruptcy, disordered, and with the spectre of communism staring it full in the face, it is rather idle to talk of immediate wars. But what is important in the above statement is that it involves two

major Powers: France and Italy.

The bitter rivalry between these two sister-Powers is very commonly known—a rivalry which is the more embittered by the extremists of both countries. Such things as Balkan hegemony, naval parity, and economic and colonial differences have by this time become historic problems in the foreign relations of the two nations. Spread over thirteen years of diplomacy, and although they will need more than the mere hand of man to solve, they by no means threatened to disturb the peace of Europe. But within the last few months, with a certain abrupt suddenness Franco-

Italian relations have certainly taken a turn for the worse, and whatever understanding seemed probable must now calmly be dispelled.

It is said that Premier Paul-Boncour made an attempt to come to some sort of understanding when he appointed Senator Henry de Jouvenel as the French Ambassador to Rome. M. de Jouvenel's choice was thought to be a happy one, for he is reputed to be not only a man of ideas and courage who would hold his place with dignity, but what counted more, he was very sympathetic to Fascism and Italy. But soon reports came

that on his very first official visit Mussolini snubbed him, and rumors were also current that the Ambassador wished to return home.

More recently, the Fascisti have not neglected to try and convict Professor Charles Eydoux, Director of Studies at the Ecole Polytechnique at Paris, on an espionage charge. Moreover, what is still worse, as far as Franco-Italian relations are concerned, is Hitler's rise to power in the German Reich. It cannot be denied that the Fascist press in Italy has been cordially sympathetic to Hitler's rise—for hasn't Hitler modelled himself on the personality of Mussolini, and do not his Nazis also call themselves "Fascists?" Putting two and two together, therefore, the French soon come to the conclusion that between the Duce and the Nazi there can be no other alternative than a rebirth of the Triple Alliance. This is the situation that confronts us in the most recent developments in Franco-Italian relations—a situation that cannot help upsetting the nerves of the Quai D'Orsay.

I

IN the "scramble for colonies" that followed the period after 1870, the choicest fruits on the African continent went naturally to France and England. Italy, who for some time had cast her eyes in the direction of Northern Africa as most accessible to her for colonial expansion, found herself blocked first by the French seizure of Tunis in 1881 and later by the Franco-British Declaration of March 21, 1899, which recognized the Libyan hinterland as a French sphere of influence. Italy, therefore, got the leavings—the desert sands of Libya and the wastes of Somaliland. Nor do we need to remember that it was due primarily to French propaganda in Italy and the supplying of arms to Abyssinia

by France, that Italy was prevented from occupying Eritrea in 1882-89, or Djibouti on the Red Sea. Italy can well say:

"We were twice belated: We did not take part in the conquest of Africa when it was barbarous, and we did not participate

---

The rivalry that exists between the sister Latin countries of Italy and France has in recent months been brought once more to the fore. The immediate cause was apparently the alleged shipment of some arms by Italy through Austria for Hungary, although there are other and more deep-seated reasons for the friction existing between these two countries striving for dominance in the Balkans. The following article takes up in detail the historical background of the problem, showing the point of view of both Italy and France, and giving the reader the perspective necessary for an adequate judgment of the situation.

Mr. Grilli, author of this article, is an instructor of history in St. Francis College in Brooklyn.

---

in the division of Africa when it was already penetrated by civilization." (Roberto Cantalupo, *L'Italia Musulmana*, Roma, 1929, p. 20).

Moreover, the promises made to Italy at the time of her entrance in the World War on the side of the Allies have certainly not been kept. Article 13 of the secret Pact of London (April 26, 1915) stipulated: "In the event of France and Great Britain increasing their colonial territories in Africa at the expense of Germany, those two Powers agree in principle that Italy may claim some equitable compensation, particularly as regards the settlement in her favor of the questions relative to the frontiers of the Italian colonies of Eritrea, Somaliland, and Libya and the neighboring colonies belonging to France and Great Britain." But we know

how at the Peace Conference the partition of the vast German empire again left Italy out in the cold as it were, with no regard to the above Article 13, save for a sop thrown out to it here and there, the most important of which was the rectification of the western frontier of Libya whereby the Oases of Ghadames and Ghat passed under Italian sovereignty. But Italy now wants also a readjustment of the southern borders of Tripoli. Moreover, she demands from France some concessions in regard to Italians in Tunis. The chart on this page will serve to show why such a demand is important.

For that reason, then, Italy was somewhat justified when she demanded the following concessions from France: (1) Italy should be accorded equality of treatment with France in tariff matters; (2) Italians should be permitted to enlarge their public schools in proportion to the development of the colony; (3) Italian agriculturists should be permitted to enjoy to some extent at least the facilities offered by the government to French citizens with respect to the acquisition of land; (4) Italians should be permitted to participate in the political life of Tunis.

Of course the French regard these demands as nothing short of a demand for a codominion, and therefore nothing has yet been done to determine the status of Italians in Tunis.

THE question of colonial expansion lies at the very core of Italian social and economic welfare. It is needless to point out the fact that Italy needs colonies. It is clear that the ever-growing population of Italy is incapable of finding sufficient means of subsistence in the mother country, which is already densely populated and poor in natural resources. Emigration which, before the World War, had

THE POPULATION OF TUNIS

Showing why Italy desires concessions from France in regard to the Italians there.

	1881	1886	1891	1896	1901	1906	1911	1921	1926
French .....	708	3,500	9,973	16,207	24,201	34,610	46,044	54,476	71,020
Italians .....	11,206	16,763	21,016	55,572	71,600	81,156	88,082	84,799	89,216
Maltese .....	7,000	9,000	11,706	10,249	12,056	10,330	11,300	13,520	8,396
Spanish .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,214	600	587	664	517
Greeks .....	.....	.....	.....	.....		683	696	920	646
Other Europeans .....	.....	.....	.....	.....		1,516	1,767	1,736	3,486
Total .....	18,914	29,263	42,695	82,028	111,071	128,895	148,476	156,115	173,281



served to relieve economic pressure on Italy, has not only been checked by quota laws but it has also been discarded by the Fascists as a satisfactory solution of the problem of over-population. "Fascism," observed Dino Grandi in a speech in the Italian Chamber in June 1927, "must have courage to declare that emigration, when directed toward lands not under Italian suzerainty, is a positive evil." "We have lost a million Italians in that manner in five years," echoed Mussolini. It is the fear that Italian emigrants will be absorbed by the countries of immigration—thus the fear that Italy will thereby lose forever the talents and fortunes of some of her most enterprising sons. It is not the Fascist policy to check the growth of population but to encourage it. For this reason an outlet for the surplus population must be found in the Italian colonies. Italy, therefore, must not only develop her own colonies, but she must acquire new ones, if she is to succeed in her policy of caring for all her citizens within the strict boundaries of Italian possessions. France, of course, recognizes this need for colonial expansion. Such a man as M. de Jouvenel himself once stated: "Italy needs to overflow! She must overflow! It is elementary justice that Italy should overflow!" But the important thing is that France is most determined that this expansion shall not take place at her own expense.

## II

"In Franco-Italian relations," a correspondent of "The New York Times" writes from Paris, "there is to be considered the perennial Italian fear of encirclement." A glance at the map will show what Rome is worried about. Across the Alps there is France. Corsica stares her full in the face on the west. The whole North African coast from the Atlantic shores of Morocco to the turn in the Tunisian coast is commanded by the French naval base of Biserta. On the other side, across the Adriatic there is Yugoslavia with the dreaded Dalmatian coast, and a little ways inland there is Czechoslovakia, Rumania, and Poland. "Add to all this French financial, military, and naval superiority," continues our correspondent, "and it is not hard to see what Italy is afraid of."

This, of course, brings up the significance of Italy's claim to naval parity "with the strongest contin-

ental Power"—namely France. This question has certainly been one of the most difficult post-war problems, and since it came to naught in the London Conference of 1930, it still remains to be solved.

It is true that France is bounded on the north by the North Sea, the English Channel, and the Atlantic Ocean, and on the south by the Mediterranean; that she has a home seacoast of 2,000 miles in addition to 12,000 miles of seacoast of her colonial possessions to defend, which to-day embrace eight million square miles of territory inhabited by sixty millions souls.

**B**UT on the other hand, while Italy has a coastline of only 6,000 miles to defend, she is armed with a more forceful argument, that is, security. It has been observed that since she lacks several of the most essential raw materials Italy is dependent on foreign countries, through sea routes, for three-fourths of her supplies. Moreover, Italy is situated in an inland sea whose outlets are controlled by foreign Powers who could very easily bottle her up in the Mediterranean if they so desired. This was very clearly recognized by Lord Balfour himself at the Washington Conference in 1921 when he said: "Italy has five neighbors, each one of which could, if it so wished, blockade the Italian coasts, so that it would not be necessary to disembark troops or engage in battle. Italy would die without being conquered;" or as Virginio Gayda has written more recently in the "Giornale d'Italia" of Rome (Jan. 26, 1930): "Mediterranean security is useful for France, but not necessary . . . Mediterranean security is, however, indispensable to Italy for the life of her forty millions of inhabitants. Hence the right is created by nature."

## III

Another glance at the map will show the general alignment of the European Powers and the significance of the balance of power in recent Franco-Italian relations. By organizing the bloc which makes up the Little Entente (Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia) and Poland, we cannot believe that France thought it was thus preventing the formation of combinations by those left out—nor that France is entirely blind to the most possible combination consisting of Italy, Hungary, Austria, Bulgaria,

and Germany. These alignments reveal the superiority of the anti-French forces, 128 against 117 millions of population, without counting colonies, in addition to which there is, as one observer has noted, the military advantage of interior lines of communications. But the same observer hurries to mention that this is balanced by the superiority of material held by the French group.

This, therefore, leads us up to the significant part which the Central Powers, and more especially, the Balkans play in the recent relations between France and Italy.

**F**RANCE has a military alliance with Yugoslavia, as well as close financial and trade relations. Moreover, France is determined to uphold the status quo arrived at the Versailles treaty, which, on the other hand, concerns Italy most vitally. Yugoslavia faces Italy across the Adriatic with the most marvelous coast in the world for submarine nests, while at the same time, it is Yugoslavia that blocks Italy in a possible economic domination in the Balkans.

It has been pointed out that the recent episode of vandalism at Trau, where a number of stone Lions of St. Mark were destroyed simply because they symbolized to some patriotic Yugoslavs the domination of Venice in the heyday of the Republic, is proof that Italo-Yugoslav difficulties go back many centuries. We need not be so radical. Let us be content by recalling that before the Yugoslav nation had come into being—in that rather famous "bargain" agreed to by the Allies in the secret Pact of London by which Italy entered the World War on their side—Italy was promised, among other things, "North Dalmatia," and several islands off the Adriatic coast. At the close of the war perhaps the allied Powers would have considered themselves honor-bound to respect Italy's claims. However, it was left to none other than to President Wilson, who did not feel himself bound by any such claims, to upset the terms agreed to in the Pact of London, and thus Italy was obliged to give up most of her claims. By the treaty of Rapallo (November 1920) Italy obtained the peninsula of Istria, the islands of Cherso, Lussin, and Lagosta, and the port of Zara. Later, and influenced especially by the prestige of D'Annunzio's foolhardy expedition, Mus-

solini reopened negotiations and in 1924 Yugoslavia and Italy signed a treaty of collaboration and neutrality, by which Italy was given complete sovereignty over Fiume and only the small port of Baros at Susak (a suburb of Fiume) was left to Yugoslavia.

But even though at length Fiume and Zara are in Italian hands, the important thing is that a hostile Yugoslavia holds "that amazing coast line which made futile every attempt of the allied fleet to keep the Adriatic clear . . . and all that Italy has to face it with is a bare shallow coast, with no port from Venice to Brindisi except Ancona, which is of little use."

France, on the other hand, is extremely watchful of Italy's position in Albania as established by the two treaties of Tirana (1926 and 1927). Both France and Yugoslavia fear the eventuality of a customs union between Italy and Albania with considerable alarm, and both Belgrade and Paris have served notice early in January of this year that any such accord would be dangerous to the peace of Southern Europe. To this opinion the British were inclined to agree, so that Italy has since modified her demands to tariff concessions and immigration privileges.

IN this atmosphere, then, France could not help being alarmed when the Austrian Socialists in January suddenly charged their Fascistically inclined government with having permitted the passage of a tremendous shipment of arms—which Foreign Minister Benes of Czechoslovakia says amounted to 180,000 rifles and 200 machine guns—from Italy and destined for Hungary. When the news of this reached Paris, France, with England, dispatched a note, couched

in terms of an ultimatum, to the Dollfuss Cabinet in Vienna demanding that several questions in regards to the Hirtenberg arms affair be answered within fifteen days and that the arms be returned or destroyed. The Austrian Government, of course, regarded the incident philosophically on the theory that the French complaint really was directed against Italy, but was filed with Austria "because that is always safer."

The Italian press viewed the incident of the Franco-British note as an attempt at submitting Austria, which now seems to incline toward Italy, to stinging humiliation. "La Tribuna" of Rome goes so far as to see a parallel between this Franco-British note and the Austro-Hungarian note to Serbia that precipitated the World War and notices that whereas the Austro-Hungarian ultimatum can be explained by the fact that the heir to the throne had been assassinated, the present Franco-British note only follows "a miserable complaint by Austrian Socialists over a few truckloads of rifles." "La Tribuna" continues: "The note touches the height of impudence when one reflects that never as in this period has the traffic in armaments between France, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Rumania been so open, so hurried, and so heavy."

The crux of Franco-Italian recent relations lies in the fear of a possible rebirth of the pre-war Triple Alliance. Edouard Herriot himself believed while Premier that a Triple Alliance actually existed between Italy, Germany, and Hungary. But on January 15, 1933, Mussolini himself, in an unscheduled speech to the Council of Ministers, declared that the reports published in France of the existence of such an alliance were "pure inventions from the ground up."

But on the very same day, Wednesday, February 15, the Ministers of the Little Entente (Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Yugoslavia) met at Geneva and signed a treaty in the direction of "bloc politics," inspired by France for definite political motives in the Balkans. When the news reached Italy it was viewed generally as an "offensive against Italy," and Mussolini's own paper, "Il Popolo d'Italia" of Milan, called attention to the fact that 240 cannon had just been shipped from Czechoslovakian factories to Yugoslavia, and went on to charge that French military officials were at the head of the spy organization recently uncovered in Austria. It was also asserted that since 1930 shipments of arms from Czechoslovakia to Yugoslavia have included 10,000 rifles, 7,000,000 rounds of ammunition, 3,000 machine guns, 150 cannon, 450,000 rounds of field artillery ammunition, 100,000 rounds of naval and 9,000 of heavy artillery shells, 1,000 rounds of anti-aircraft gun ammunition, and 30,000 kilograms (66,000 pounds) of explosives. What are the rifles of Hirtenberg by the side of these? "They are biblical motes compared with beams," answers "La Tribuna." And against whom is this armament accumulated? That is the question that interests Italy.

Italy's answer is very well set forth in the words of the "Giornale d'Italia" of Rome:

"We will say, in order to make matters quite precise, that France ought to give us explicit proof that she is not associating herself and that she is even opposed to the policy of warlike preparation by Serbia, and that not only for Italy's sake but for the sake of European peace. Up to the present time such proof has been lacking."

#### SONNET

HAVE you come far to see me?—"Master, far."  
Return then whence you came and say to them  
That you have seen the Master, touched the hem  
Of his red woolen garment, smelt the jar  
In which he keeps his oil, and that you are  
No longer as you were, but that a gem  
Of wisdom glimmers in your diadem—  
Smell too, before you go, the vinegar:

Then you may say you left no stone unturned  
To know the Master, understand his lot,  
His message and his mystery—and then,  
When I have passed beyond the world of men,  
You need not cry one day, 'Woe, much I learned,  
But what was most important I forgot!'

M. J. Valency

# The Alien and Our Laws

By Nathaniel Phillips

IN MY discussion of the subject, "The Alien and our Laws," I shall treat of the development of the law affecting the exclusion of the would-be immigrant. I shall then take up the question of deportation, i. e., the expulsion of the alien already dwelling in the United States.

I shall then discuss the obligations of the aliens under the law and the rights which the law accords him, as well as the legal disabilities under which he dwells.

The importance to the whole country of a proper adjustment by the alien to our economic, social and political life becomes manifest when we realize that, according to the census figures, for 1930, out of a total population of 123,000,000 in the United States, there were 14,000,000 foreign-born, 17,000,000 native-born both of whose parents were foreign-born, and 8,000,000 native-born one of whose parents was foreign-born.

The history of immigration, since the founding of the Republic—except for a sporadic period of anti-foreigner agitation such as gave utterance to the ill-fated Alien & Sedition Acts of 1798—and the Know-Nothing activities of a few decades later—has, until recently, been one of welcome to the stranger who sought to make, in America, a home for himself and his family. The sentiment of the nation was that of an open door policy—spreading to the far hamlets and to the teeming cities of the old World the gladsome tidings of a haven for the oppressed of mankind, and encouraging immigrants to come here and help build the growing empire of the Western World.

Excepting the Alien Act of 1798, there was no national legislation excluding would-be immigrants until the Act of 1875. This

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With the economic depression becoming more and more intensified with the passage of time, the question of the alien's status under American laws, and his right to hold a job as against a citizen, is coming increasingly to the fore. The following article is by a member of the New York Bar, and President and General Counsel of the National League for American Citizenship, which has done considerable work in harmonizing the relations between foreign-born parents and native-born children who seem unable to understand one another's viewpoints. The article itself is based on a talk recently delivered by Mr. Phillips over Radio Station WEAf.

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statute was very narrow in its scope, excluding only convicts and professionally immoral women.

THE right of a nation to exclude would-be immigrants was succinctly expressed by the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Nashimuru Eleu v. United States*, 142 U. S. 659, wherein the Court said:

"It is an accepted maxim of International Law that every sovereign nation has the power as inherent in sovereignty and essentially in self preservation to forbid entrance of foreigners within its domains or to admit them only in such cases and upon such conditions as it may see fit to prescribe."

In 1862 the first general immigration law was passed. It added a number of excludable classes, e.g., lunatics, and persons likely to become a public charge. The year 1885 saw the passage of the Contract Labor Law—prohibiting the importation of labor under contract.

The next year saw the enactment of the first law since the

Alien & Sedition Acts for the expulsion of aliens already here—viz. the return within a year after entry of any immigrant who had entered contrary to the Contract Labor Laws. Subsequent legislation added to the classes that were excludable and increased the power to expel aliens already in the country, until we come to the Act of 1903 which, for the first time, provided for the exclusion and expulsion of aliens on the sole ground of forbidden opinions, viz., "anarchists, or persons who believe in or advocate the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States or of all government, or of all forms of law, or of assassination of public officials."

The rapid increase in immigration—it had reached a total of 1,026,000 for the fiscal year which ended June 30th, 1905, resulted in the Act of 1907 which added to the excluded classes, e. g. the feeble-minded, persons suffering from tuberculosis, etc., and those who had been convicted of a crime or had admitted their guilt.

THE year 1917 saw the enactment of the present basic Immigration Act, involving "radical changes in policy tending toward greater strictness." A literacy test was added, requiring all aliens over 16 years of age to be able to read in some language. Furthermore, the authorities were granted drastic increases in the power of deportation. In most cases the power to deport was increased so that it might be exercised within five years after the time of entry. In other cases, e. g. anarchists, deportation was authorized—without any time limit.

Just as the right of exclusion has been judicially passed upon, so, too, has been a nation's right to expel aliens. The United States

Supreme Court in the case of *Fong Yuo Ting v. U. S.*, reported in 149 U. S. 696, said:

"The right to exclude or expel aliens or any class of aliens absolutely or upon certain conditions in war or peace is an inherent and inalienable right of every sovereign and independent nation, essential to its safety, its independence and its welfare."

This right has been qualified by usages of International Law and Treaties.

In fact, however, not only may aliens be deported, but naturalized citizens as well, thru the revocation of their naturalization. This was decided in 1912 in the case of *United States v. Racerat*, reported in 222 Fed. 1018.

During the World War immigration almost ceased. In 1918 it fell to its lowest point—110,618. By the Act of October 16, 1918, aliens could be expelled without limit of time after entry, upon proof of belief in or advocacy of anarchy, membership in certain organizations or even knowingly having in their possession certain forbidden documents or publications.

In 1921 occurred the passage of the Quota Law. Aimed at the increased migration from countries of Eastern and Southern Europe, it marked a complete departure in immigration legislation. No longer was individual fitness the test. The policy of numerical restriction was established—the countries from which the earlier immigrants had come being favored at the expense of the nations from which large numbers had come in more recent years. The total number of aliens of any nationality was limited to 3% of the number of foreign-born of that nationality residing in the United States according to the census of 1910.

**T**HE ACT of 1924 continued the quota principle but substituted the census of 1890 as the basis upon which quotas were to be permitted, and reduced the number to 2%. It also provided that, beginning with 1927, the basis of computation of the quota from each country should be changed to the number of persons in the country having that "national origin" by birth or ancestry. This was arrived at as follows:

The maximum immigration was fixed at 150,000 a year. The population of 1920 was taken as a basis. Assume that the population of the United States that year was 100,000,000; assume further, that the number of people in the United States that year of English origin was 12,000,000, or 12% of the total. The Act permitted 12%



"Dispossessed"

From an etching by Forain

*Courtesy of the Grand Central Art Galleries, New York*

of 150,000—or 16,000—English to enter the United States. In no case was the quota to be less than 100. The national origin quotas became effective on July 1st, 1929.

The restriction of immigration has reduced the number of immigrants; the deportations have, however, increased. In 1921 over 800,000 aliens were admitted. The deportations were 4,517. In 1926 less than 500,000 were admitted; the expulsions increased to 10,904. At the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930, the number admitted still decreased while the deportations increased to 16,631.

In 1929 Congress passed a most drastic deportation act. Heretofore, persons deported, except as "radicals," could re-apply for admission. This Act provided that no deportees should be permitted to return to this country, and made their attempt to return a felony. This means that expulsion is permanent banishment.

This power to deport aliens—lodged as it is in the hands of officials who administer the law largely according to regulations which they have themselves promulgated, and in very few cases subject to judicial review—the fact that this power is often mercilessly exercised has called forth

repeated protestations from those interested in problems affecting the alien.

This was recognized by the National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement, commonly known as the Wickersham Commission, in its report to the President of the United States on the Enforcement of the Deportation Laws. Said the Commission:

"The most temporary resident of the United States, owing allegiance to another government, is, while he is on our soil, given the equal protection of our laws, and it is not consistent with the spirit of our institutions or the express language of our bill of rights to deny the substance of these guaranties to resident aliens, either directly or indirectly."

**S**TUDENTS of the question believe that the present restrictive immigration policy is likely to remain the permanent American policy—or, at any rate, will remain our policy for a long time. But what of the aliens safely admitted and safe from any possibility of expulsion? What of their status up to the time their naturalization has made them the complete political equal of their native-born neighbors—except, of course, the distressing fact that they are not eligible to the Presidency of the United States?

America has been most generous in her treatment of the aliens. This attitude is in sharp contrast to the way aliens were generally treated in other countries. In ancient and in mediaeval times, the treatment accorded aliens was most harsh. In fact, as the eminent publicist, Mr. Max Kohler, points out, "the term 'ellento' (foreigner) in Roman Law was carried into the German language, to describe as 'elend' the 'miserable condition of the foreigner.'"

But, of course, even in America, aliens have been held to certain obligations to the Government and they have been held to certain disabilities. The alien is subject, for example, to the Income Tax Law if he is a resident. If he is a mere transient, or if his stay in the United States is limited to a definite period by the Immigration Laws, he is not deemed a resident within the United States for income tax purposes.

However, a statute has been upheld which requires an alien to pay a tax as a condition of his right to acquire property by inheritance.

That the Government can require military service of an alien was fully evinced in the World War, especially as to one who had declared his intention to become a citizen. It has been held, however, that the right of a Government to compel an alien to render military service did not apply when it would necessitate his fighting against the country of which he was still a subject or citizen.

Generally speaking, political rights, like voting, jury duty and holding public office, are reserved to citizens. But the alien is subject to many disabilities in no way political in their nature. For example, a report to the House of Representatives in 1921 on the limitations of the rights of aliens to own land revealed the fact that 20 states had prohibitions against aliens holding land, and that in three other states there were amendments pending to eliminate the constitutional provisions safeguarding aliens in their right to own land. In fact, even in the District of Columbia—the seat of government of the nation—the ownership of land was found to be limited to aliens who had declared their intention to become citizens.

In addition to the limitation regarding ownership and control of real estate, the chief disabilities of aliens are, the right to employment in public works, the right to enjoy equally with citizens public property like public lands,

hunting and fishing, and the right to engage in occupations which require official licenses and in certain professions like law, medicine, etc., which are generally limited to United States citizens.

THE economic crisis thru which we have been passing brings sharply to the fore a question of imminent concern to the alien—his right to work. That this is no academic phantasy but a very genuine and real issue is borne out by the fact that it became necessary for the United States Supreme Court to reassert the aliens' right to labor. The State of Arizona passed a law which said that if any employer engages more than five workers at least 80% of those workers must be citizens. The 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides that a state shall not "deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Mr. Justice Hughes, speaking for the Supreme Court, in the case of *Truex v. Raich* (239 U. S. 33) declared that the Arizona Statute violated the 14th Amendment and made the following memorable pronouncement:

"The right to work for a living in the common occupation of the community is of the very essence of the personal freedom and opportunity that it was the purpose of the Amendment to secure. \* \* \* (The contrary) would be tantamount to the assertion of the right to deny them

entrance and abode, for in ordinary cases they can not live where they can not work."

We found a manifestation of the short-sighted discrimination between alien and citizen in the right to work, in the elimination of a large number of municipal hospital workers in New York City on the ground of alienage. When asked by the press to express my views on that policy, I said:

"There should be no question of citizenship status involved in the problem of providing employment for those willing to work. There is neither moral, economic, nor civic comfort in the substitution of a starving alien for a starving citizen."

Surely, nothing is to be gained by a return to the attitude of centuries back—when strangers were known as "barbari" and so we came to our word "barbaric" meaning uncouth, wild, uncivilized, when all it meant was "alien," "stranger in a strange land." Surely in America, of all nations, there should be the kindest good-will to those who are still aliens in our midst. Ours is a country, sown by wanderers, nurtured by the offspring of newcomers—helped to fruition by the scions of all the world's peoples. Not the harsh hurt of discrimination but rather the helping hand of mutual good-will and understanding will aid all of us—alien and citizen striving together—to pass thru the Valley of the Shadow to the coming of a brighter day.

#### LINES FROM "FRANCESCA DA RIMINI"

(Translated by Arthur Symons)

By Gabriele D'Annunzio

"O beautiful, and perchance  
A holy thing, being born in this most  
ancient  
Sarcophagus that was the sepulchre  
Perchance of some great martyr or of  
some  
Glorious virgin.

The Redeemer treads  
Under his feet the lion and the snake;  
Mary saluted by Elizabeth;  
Our Lady and the Angel bids "All hail!"  
The stags are drinking at the running  
brook.

And now the blood of martyrdom re-  
flowers  
In purple and in fire. Behold, behold,  
Sister, the ardent flame!  
Behold the roses that are full of fire!

From "An Italian Anthology" by Florence Trail

# An Economic Conference for the World

By John A. Donato

WITH definite arrangements already under way, the proposed World Economic Conference this summer is expected to prove a momentous occasion. As a bold first step in solving international problems, it may well resemble another Gabriel tooting the horn of plenty as a warning to the world that our judgment day of this economic crisis is at hand. Fully realizing the importance of a thorough consideration of major problems, experts from all parts of the world have convened at Geneva to prepare a program for discussion. This virtually precludes the possibility of those rambling qualities which have characterized similar meetings in the past. It is a most noteworthy indication that perhaps the nations have realized at last that it is about time something, internationally, was started.

In drawing up their report, the delegates agreed upon certain principles which they consider necessary to world recovery. These can be said to constitute the world's chief troubles:

1. Monetary and credit policy
2. Prices
3. Resumption of the movement of capital
4. Restrictions on international trade
5. Tariff and treaty policy
6. Organization of production and trade.

The main object of their long and complicated report, boiled down to simple terms, centers on a rise in the level of world prices and a maintenance of that level. That is what the experts desire, as does practically everyone. To that end they advocate a readjustment of international debts and tariffs, the abolition of exchange restrictions, the stabilization of currencies on the gold standard, a policy of cheap money and credit expansion in

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Plans for a World Economic Conference to take place this summer or early autumn were proceeding apace in the various world capitals when suddenly the whole matter was relegated to a minor position by the sensational banking "holiday" in the United States that took place just before President Roosevelt's inauguration. The following article, written in late February, therefore does not deal with the new problems posed by the suspension of gold payments in the United States, and this should be borne in mind. As Walter Lippmann said in his "Today and Tomorrow" column on March 7th: "That this creates a new situation in the world is clear . . . . The bases of our forthcoming negotiations with Great Britain have been radically changed and the whole policy directed to the World Economic Conference has to be reconsidered." Most of the problems discussed in Mr. Donato's article are still, however, problems to be faced.

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countries possessing ample gold, and the balancing of public budgets. In these the governments stand on a common platform, at least theoretically. What policies they may pursue when negotiations actually begin is another matter; but in aims and general methods they seem to be of one mind, and that would seem to be a fine beginning.

At first it appears that the issues are much too varied and complex; that the program is too extensive to hope for successful achievement in one international conference. But the experts have come to the conclusion that "it is not quite possible to make progress by piecemeal methods." These several principles of world-wide importance are so interrelated and dependent upon each other that it would be impossible to discuss them separately. Prices are affected by currencies, currencies by debts and tariffs, debts and tariffs by currencies and prices.

Some have been moved to comment on the hopelessness of the outlook. The circle seems to be without a beginning where it is possible to take hold. So much must be done, they fear, that nothing can be done.

WALTER LIPPMANN, brilliant editor and commentator, takes objection to this view in that "it fails to take account of one of the great realities of economic behavior, namely the capacity of men to discount the future when they have hope." In Mr. Lippmann's opinion, it is upon this hope that statesmen must rely to stimulate confidence and lift the price level through the speculation of the markets. He says: "This looks like lifting the world by its own bootstraps, and in a sense it is just that. The bootstraps are man's inveterate willingness to gamble on his hopes, and the governments will do well to offer the hopes that will provoke the gamble."

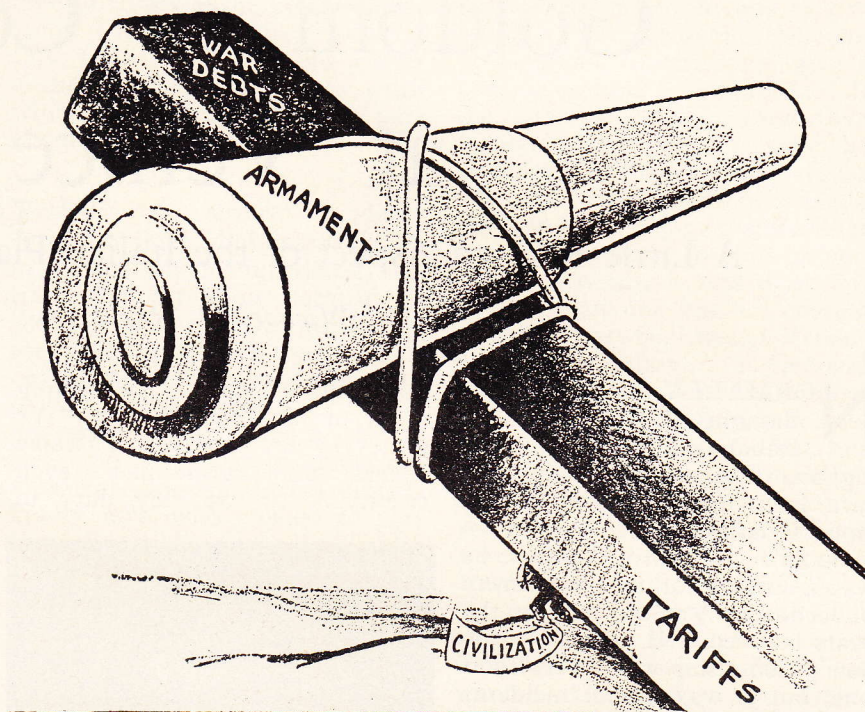
Though as yet individual countries have made only preliminary plans, it would appear that they have been busy offering the "hopes that will provoke the gamble." The United States desires a concentrated drive to lower international trade barriers that world commerce may be revived. Great Britain looks for a new world economic structure on the basis of her debt negotiations with the United States. France hopes for currency stabilizations and the return of Britain to the gold standard. Germany desires solution of the world economic and financial problems through international cooperation. Italy advocates a new "economic league of nations" and Russia hopes for a pact of economic non-aggression. With these national programs as closely allied in aim and principle as they are, much may be accomplished, granted, of course, that "each nation goes prepared to discuss facts

with the purpose of reaching a common accord for the best interest of all," according to a bulletin of the American Federation of Labor.

This accord resolves itself pre-eminently into the outcome of the debt disentanglements. It becomes increasingly evident at every juncture that debts and obligations will become the major issue of the discussions. As outlined above, the desires and hopes of the debtor nations point to some agreement affecting their status as such. Nothing stands out in the long decline leading to the present crisis as chronically the root of the trouble as do these self-same reparations and war-debt obligations. Professor Gustav Cassel, the noted Swedish economist, traces the downfall of our monetary machinery to the failure of the agreed gold-economizing policies of the nations, through the insistent demands of the creditor nations for gold as the medium of payment. As the machinery for payments of debts could not be adjusted so as to make war-debt payments possible, "these could ultimately be accomplished only by an import of gold into the countries which ultimately had to receive net payments of this nature." France and the United States, as the two main countries forced to demand payment in this manner, refused to do anything to overcome the particular difficulties besetting the transfer of payments. Cassel says that both of them "increased their tariffs and made the greatest efforts by all sorts of restriction to prevent payments in such forms as would expose their internal markets to an undesired foreign competition."

**T**HIS system did much to disrupt the stability of world trade and production. The result was "a severe pressure upon commodity prices in the gold losing countries, increased competition in the world's markets, and in consequence a world-wide price fall of unparalleled dimensions." It is easily understood, then, how the one maladjustment in the general scheme effects all other features. For this reason—this very interdependence—their comprehensive study is an imperative necessity at the forthcoming conference.

The revival of confidence depends largely on certain definite steps to improve these conditions. In the opinion of many observers, the cancellation of war debts is the first of these moves. Next, there



—From the Washington "Daily News"

#### His Cross of Gold

should be an agreement on a systematic gold-economizing policy. A third important need is the restoration of a reasonable freedom of trade and of international capital movements. The work of restoration has to begin at these three different points simultaneously. In addition, as a means of generating a glow of confidence, a thorough understanding on all topics between the American, British and French governments is indicated, so that the world may feel assured that the three greatest powers in the economic system are working together. In an atmosphere of this kind, to revert to Walter Lippmann, "Prices would almost certainly rise at least temporarily and the opportunity would then be presented to proceed with the more complicated measures that are essential to permanent recovery."

The road to recovery must lead inevitably in the direction of a more equitable balance between debts and trade concessions. Herbert Hoover, in his last public address before leaving office, stressed the importance not only of a debt settlement but of linking that settlement with other issues that now retard world recovery. He said:

"These debts are but a segment of the problem . . . We should have assurances of cooperation that will positively result in monetary stability and the restoration of world prosperity."

Questioned concerning the re-

turn of Great Britain to the gold standard, Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald was convinced "that there are a number of economic as well as financial conditions which must be fulfilled before restoration of the international gold standard can be made a practical possibility." He considered the debt parleys with President-elect Roosevelt of great importance to the world-at-large, indicating that the two governments would discuss at length the main economic troubles as a preliminary adjunct to the world conference.

**A**S advantageous as debt revision may seem to most, a defiant attitude has nevertheless been maintained by business men in America who, firmly convinced that foreign loans are a major cause of the depression, feel incensed at any suggestion of revision. Appearing before the Senate Finance Committee in its "economic laboratory," Bernard M. Baruch, eminent financier, voiced the general disapproval in citing America's stupidity in sending billions as the provoking gesture toward depression. Reviewing the proposals for debt revision, he stated:

"Every debt we forgive to other nations lifts a burden from their distressed business and adds it to our more distressed business, thus doubling our handicap."

(Continued on Page 257)

# Goldoni as Consul at Venice

A Little Known Aspect of the Italian Playwright's Career

By Michael D. Randazzo

**N**ORMALLY, GOLDONI is thought of as that famous Italian playwright of the eighteenth century. Very few turn their thoughts in the direction of that particular section of Goldoni's life during which he was a Consul for the government of Genoa at Venice; that is, the years between 1741 and 1744. Goldoni's Consulship was a very short one, but it was full of incidents that were not always to the taste of the playwright.

The Consulship at Venice was not the first taste Goldoni had of that sort of work. In fact, years earlier (in 1733 to be exact) he had served Bartolini, the Venetian Resident Minister at Milan, in some sort of diplomatic way. It should be immediately said that the word "diplomatic" is not exactly the term to be applied, since Goldoni did not do work which could be called such: but, he did work with an ambassador, and the nature of his tasks certainly gave him some of the experience he found valuable when he obtained the Consulship in 1741.

In 1733 Goldoni brought his tragedy, the "Amalасunta," to Milan, where he expected fame and financial success. His dreams were broken, however, by the criticism of the play. Caffariello, the famous soprano of the day, thought the title was too long and unmusical; while another was of the opinion that there were too many characters in the play. All in all, Goldoni became so discouraged that he threw the play into the fire. Still crest-fallen, he went to the Venetian Resident Minister and told him the whole story. The Minister enjoyed the episode so much that he offered Goldoni the post of private secretary. This post, however, was really only that of confidential attendant. The nearest we can get to a knowledge of what Gol-

doni's duties were is by reading a bit of his "Memoires":—"We got every day some ten or twelve letters and sometimes even twenty... It was my duty to



Carlo Goldoni

—From a woodcut by Piazzetta

read them, to make extracts, and out of them to compose an official dispatch, grounded on the intelligence that seemed most reliable."

**G**OLDONI, however, was not interested in his work; nor was he interested in the succession of wars that shook Europe in the first part of the eighteenth century. His accounts of events, sieges, etc., are unreliable in many instances. At most he was just a spectator with no heart in what was going on before him. What finally made him leave his post was a scrap he got into as a result of a spree. He narrates in his "Memoires" how he got mixed up with a young woman—an adventuress—and how he went out to supper with her and other companions after having copied an important secret diplomatic

document. This document he had locked up in his desk, according to his account, before going out for the evening. The rest is better told by himself:—

"On coming home, I met one of the Resident's servants. They had been asking for me everywhere. The Resident had been up since five in the morning, having sent for me. He had been told that I had been out all night. He was very angry. I ran to my room, took both the folios, and brought them to the Minister. He received me ungraciously. He even suspected me of having shown the King of Sardinia's Manifesto to the *Provveditore Straordinario* of the Venetian Republic. This charge offended me, and grieved me. I lost my temper—a most unusual weakness in me. The Minister threatened to have me arrested. I hurried out of the place and went straight to seek asylum with the Bishop of the city. The Bishop took my part, and offered to make my peace with the Resident. I thanked him, but I had made up my mind. I only wanted to be justified and to depart." Thus ended Goldoni's first diplomatic career at Milan.

In 1736 Goldoni moved into Genoa where he was fortunate enough to meet the woman who was to be his constant and loving companion for the rest of his life; that is, Maria Nicoletta Connio, the daughter of Agostino Connio, a Genoese attorney. At the end of a month's courtship he married the girl and soon after he left with his wife for Venice. On October 9, 1736, Goldoni arrived in Venice, landing "at Santa Mater Domini, at a house over the bridge of the same name which my mother had fitted up for us and where she and my aunt were already expecting us. Our welcome was hearty; the affection and peace, the perfect



harmony which reigned between these three women, was an example." These last lines put into relief the domestic nature of which Goldoni was the example all his life.

IT IS probable that Goldoni's father-in-law was somewhat instrumental in obtaining the post of Consul for him; but, of this we cannot be too sure, since there is no exact evidence to prove it. Be that as it may, Goldoni was sent to Venice in that capacity in 1741, after the Giunta di Marina of Genoa had ratified his application in December of 1740. In January of 1741, Venice recognized the new Consul by a decree. Goldoni did not fail his responsibilities in any great way. He entered his duties with much ardor and interest; though this might have been due to his belief that the post would net him a handsome income. Goldoni had accepted the office with never a question as to the salary attached thereto. From his "Memoires" we learn how he immediately ran into expenses by increasing the bounty of his table and how he added to the sumptuousness of his home in order that he might live up to the dignity of his office. When he received the information that there was no salary attached to his office he was ready to give up. Several incidents occurred, however, which held Goldoni to his post.

Goldoni tried in every possible way to put himself abreast of the news he was supposed to send to his government every week. He was unfortunate enough to step into office at a time of great tension, politically speaking: at this time Europe was being shaken by the reverberation caused by the Austrian Succession disputes. We glean from a reading of a recently published collection of Goldoni's diplomatic dispatches that insofar as giving a true account of the political questions were concerned, Goldoni in most cases gave satisfactory reports. (*Corrispondenza diplomatica di Goldoni*—By Raffaele di Tucci, Treves Ed. Milano, 1932.) Often, however, he missed the true import of the moves by one or the other of the European nations which were more or less constantly at each other's throats. To go into the details of this period would mean the writing of a thick vol-

ume of history; therefore, no attempt will be made here to write this history. What the writer wishes to stress here is the work which Goldoni thought to be part of the duty of his office.

THERE are several incidents in Goldoni's diplomatic career in Venice which immediately attract the attention because of their peculiar nature insofar as they shed light upon the psychology of the man, and his desire to be of utmost helpfulness to his government. In fact, it should be stated that these incidents demonstrate the great zeal of this kindly man who wished to perform his duties in true diplomatic fashion. Whatever may be said of Goldoni as a Consul, he certainly did unravel several affairs of importance that brought out the skill and courage he possessed. This is especially so since when he first took office he did not know the exact nature of his duties; nor did he know for a long time. Goldoni inquires of the Genoese government as to what duties his office entails in a dispatch dated the 25th of February 1741; "I hope you will deign to prescribe whether I should limit myself only to the authority of the Consulship which is that of protecting the few ships that come here from your port . . . or if I should extend my activities over to other matters. . . ." From time to time this inquiry is made by Goldoni in order that he might not be displeasing to his government. Nothing is really specified to him, however, and so he sends his weekly report always with the expressed hope that his government be not displeased with his work.

One of the first opportunities Goldoni found to help his government was the affair of Caffarelli. Venice was losing much of its merchant marine business, and in order to reestablish this business the dearth of which Venetian merchants felt very much, Venice decided to work out a plan whereby the Venetians would get the better of the trade market. This meant that foreign merchants in the Venetian port would be left out in the cold insofar as getting a chance at loading and unloading their merchandise was concerned. The system worked thus: If a merchant desired to load his boats at the Venetian

port, all he had to do was to give notice of the fact to the Venetian government which would give a permit to him to go ahead. If the merchant was other than Venetian the chances were he would not get the permit because the port facilities were already taken up by Venetians whether these were ready to ship or not. In other words, it was most difficult for anyone but a Venetian to obtain port facilities at Venice. Leonardo Caffarelli, a Genoese merchant, was one of the foreign merchants who tried unsuccessfully to get his boats loaded, but due to the fact that two Venetians had already gotten the permission, he could not do so. Goldoni at once went to the Venetian government to plead Caffarelli's case. He pleaded his case so well that at length the government gave Caffarelli all the facilities he wanted. Goldoni was also instrumental in getting the Venetian government to reduce the drastic extremities of the law. A dispatch dated the 5th of August 1741, testifies to the freedom of business accorded to Caffarelli: "The other day Leonard Caffarelli reached this port with a shipful of marbles. . . and he was given full freedom to act." Again, in a dispatch of the 22nd of September 1741 we read: "Leonardo Caffarelli left several days ago with the best load that has ever gone out of this port, enjoying thus the fruit of my labors, always employed to the end of helping the citizens of your government." Thus Goldoni was not only valuable to his government as a sender of political dispatches, but also as a legal protector of Genoese citizens.

ANOTHER time the Venetian government, through its department of sanitation, had decreed that there should be a quarantine of six days on Genoese ships. In a dispatch of June 3, 1741, Goldoni says: ". . . at times the government of this (Venetian) Republic employs its department of sanitation in order to cover up political ends." Goldoni is always careful to word his insinuations in such a way as not to antagonize the Venetian government. He was able, in the end, to prevent any arbitrary action on the part of the Venetian government, although he gave the credit for the harmony of action between the two governments to

the Genoese sagacity in bringing about better relationship.

From a dispatch dated the 22nd of April 1741 we gather the interest with which Goldoni threw himself upon the task of saving another Genoese subject, this time a young girl, from the evil hands of her father. It seems that a certain individual by the name of Francesco Perello had taken money and a daughter from the possession of his wife, and led the daughter into evil ways. The wife had gone to Goldoni for help and he gladly volunteered his services. Goldoni vows to have the man arrested at all costs: "I will have him (Perello) arrested in order to save the honor of a tender daughter, citizen of your government..." In another dispatch of April 29th, 1741 we find Goldoni exultant in the happiness that the young girl had been saved: "I have finally, thanks to God, succeeded in getting back the poor girl from the hands of that evil Francesco Perello . . . She is now in my custody, and she shall stay here until the opportunity presents itself to send her back . . ." It is easy to understand Goldoni's attitude in this matter: he was a good, quiet, home-loving man. It is no wonder, then, that this episode filled him with horror and disgust, and urged him to take immediate measures regardless of cost. Even the Genoese government was glad of Goldoni's action in the matter, going so far (rare occurrence!) as to reimburse him for all his expenses.

Goldoni's help resulted also in great benefit to another unhappy individual who had been caught in the toils not of his own making. A certain Genoese young man, Angelo Uccello, had been decoyed aboard a ship, the "Mediterranean," by an English captain, John Dorfin, who had promised to take him to Naples. Instead, he was brought to Venice against his wishes. His request to be let off the ship was refused. Goldoni tried to get another Englishman help him get the young man off the boat, but the Englishman would have nothing to do with the affair. This forced Goldoni to go to the Tribunals of Venice for aid. With their help Goldoni was finally able to win his point. The facts of the case were sent by Goldoni to his government in the dispatch of

June 3, 1741. His government did not fail to praise him for his zeal in a matter dealing with the protection of a citizen of their land.

**G**OLDONI was not, however, to leave his post without some trouble which almost succeeded in denigrating the honesty and integrity of his character. This was caused by the arrest, at the behest of Goldoni, of a certain Domenico Bologna, a former secretary of the Genoese embassy at the court of Vienna. In a dispatch of November 4, 1741 we glean the first signs of the affair: "It has come to my ears that a certain Domenico Bologna who has served your Republic in the capacity of secretary in Vienna is in this city (Venice). I have caused to move against him . . ." Goldoni's next dispatch (Nov. 11, 1741) to the Genoese government sheds more light on the subject. It seems that the said Bologna had been represented to Goldoni as an irresponsible, incompetent, rascally sort of person. It should here be said that Goldoni had caused Bologna's arrest before getting an answer from his government informing him that Bologna had already been divested of his responsibilities and post. According to Goldoni's dispatch of the 11th of November, Bologna had taken 54,000 fiorini from a certain Domenico Sauli in Vienna, which he had never returned.

Of course, Goldoni remarks that Bologna's arrest is extraordinary since neither the culprit had been nor the crime taken place in Venice. Goldoni informs the Genoese Senate that Bologna's goods have been seized. The Senate meanwhile had asked Goldoni to proceed against the man and try to get 500 ducats he owed the Genoese government. In the dispatch of the 18th of November Goldoni informs his government that Bologna is still in jail, and he says that after Sauli's affairs have been settled Bologna must be set free. Speaking about Bologna's debt to the Genoese government, Goldoni states that another complainant, Cristoforo Spinola, who has a suit against Bologna for 120,000 fiorini, has made it impossible to get the whole amount owing to the Genoese government. In a dispatch dated the

25th of November, 1741, we learn that Bologna has been released from prison. Goldoni still hopes to obtain the 500 ducats, however, as he states in a dispatch of December 23, 1741. But Goldoni only succeeded in spending money in the case, money which he hoped his government would pay him back some time (Dispatch of April 14, 1742).

The matter did not end here, however, for Bologna was not the man to keep quiet about the affair. Goldoni tells us in his dispatch of December 2, 1741, how Bologna insisted that he (Goldoni) give him, by way of a suit, money wherewith to live. Not only this, but Bologna sent an account of himself and the affair to the Genoese government in which he paints the whole matter as an attempt to denigrate his character, saying further that he was the victim of calumny. He reacted by degrading and blackening Goldoni's character. What gave a semblance of justification to Bologna's counter-calumny was a twist of fate, so to speak. Among the sequestered goods of Bologna, Goldoni found (according to his "Memoires") two gold boxes ornamented with diamonds. In his dispatch of November 25, 1741, however, he speaks only of a cross of diamonds which he gave to Spinola upon identification.

**T**HE boxes were given by Goldoni to a man who, he thought, would buy them. The man proceeded to pawn the boxes and then absconded. Goldoni had to borrow money in order to redeem the articles. Goldoni suffered much in the eyes of those who did not like him and those who knew nothing of the true state of affairs. Just about this time another incident took place which further poisoned opinion about him. Some money passed through his hands, a portion of which was to be sent to Genoa, and the rest to go to a theatre proprietor in Venice. Goldoni performed his share of transaction, but there were some who made the transaction look different on its face. They accused him of having kept part of the money—a thing which was utterly untrue. People are always ready to believe things, however, and in Goldoni's case they were ready to stretch a point. In

fact, he hardly ever lived the episode down in spite of proofs of innocence. To get the facts of the story we are forced to read his "Memoires," for he never mentions the event in his letters.

What really forced poor Goldoni out of office was something which had to do more directly with his Consulship. On the day of December 15, 1742, the Marquis De Mari, Spanish representative in Venice, although he was of Genoese antecedents, asked Goldoni to see him. In their talk together De Mari informed him that a certain Theodor of Neuhoff was present in Venice. This Theodor was a charlatan of the first water who lived by his wits. After many adventures in different countries he had succeeded in establishing himself in Corsica at a time when this island was fighting for its freedom from Genoa in the early part of the eighteenth century. Theodor, who arrived in Corsica in 1736, soon had the people believing he could get the help of European countries for their cause. The people collected some money with which he was to solicit help. The Genoese, meanwhile, were taking measures to oppose Theodor, who had by this time called himself Theodor I, King of Corsica. The impending storm forced Theodor to flee—with the money. Thus we have Goldoni's quiet announ-

cement of Theodor's presence in Venice, by a dispatch of December 15, 1742. This news was of interest, naturally, to the Genoese government, which now realized that the Corsican rebellions were no longer merely internal disturbances. Goldoni's government could always rely upon him, however, especially since he was always ready to reiterate his desire to serve his government. In the particular dispatch of December 15, 1742, Goldoni wrote that he would do anything to help his sovereign government. Here is how the Genoese government understood him: "Having read Goldoni's dispatch, etc. . . , it would be convenient to procure his death." Imagine, however, the peace-loving Goldoni doing away with a man! Yet, he had put his foot into it.

A dispatch of Dec. 22, 1742, describes the trouble Goldoni had in searching for Theodor. Nothing availed, however: Theodor seemed to have disappeared completely (Dispatch of Jan. 5, 1743). All this tired Goldoni so much and discouraged him to such an extent (he feared that the affair had greatly reduced good opinion about him) that he asked for a vacation and that Bardi, another candidate for the consulship, be put in his place (Dispatch of March 16, 1743).

Instead of the two months he had asked for, the Genoese government gave him three, which was a polite way of telling him that they had had enough of him in office. So ended Goldoni's troubles and Consulship.

Goldoni was not cut out to be a diplomat. He was too easy-going, gentle, and good-natured. He could never put on the garb of duplicity without which a diplomat cannot get along. Also, Goldoni's heart was fundamentally dedicated to his art: the writing of plays (although he did not compose any plays while in office). Diplomacy and art were two worlds unfortunately too wide apart for Goldoni. Though his reports of European events were more or less accurate, what Goldoni basically lacked for his work was interest and aptitude. That he helped cannot be questioned. The above necessarily brief account of some of his work, diplomatic and private, testifies to the helpfulness, kindness and goodness of the man who was asked to act the part of a Consul for so short a term. In all, however, Goldoni was highly disappointed in his office: the office he thought was going to make it possible to earn a handsome salary and bring much honor to his person.

## AN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE FOR THE WORLD

(Continued from page 253)

"Surely," he added, "it is a fair rule to refuse relief unless the burden of a debtor's taxes on his income is as heavy as our own."

Summing up these diagnoses of the ailment, Dr. Irving Fisher insisted that our economic malady consists in "primarily too much debt and too little money and credit—the 'debt disease' and the 'money disease.'" As a result purchasing power has shrunk to a surprisingly low level and some of it has even gone into hiding.

The whole thing, from these statements, would seem to be America's own difficulty. But it is no secret that what is America's difficulty amounts to a source of anxiety to the whole world. Make no mistake about it, America's decision to sit in at the World Economic Conference is an occasion for unconfined satisfaction to every nation.

However, irrespective of this continual bickering, the main difficulty lies in getting started. We cannot afford to wait while the world makes ready for this conference. Much can be accomplished beforehand. It is no use postponing one of the many measures necessary to recovery until another has been accomplished. The beginning of the circle must be found. The conference must awake sometime in July to find on its doorstep some definite promises and evidences of cooperation. A spirit of negotiations bred of supreme confidence must accompany each nation. Whatever the private grievances, they must realize the inevitable—a cancellation of war debts, a rise in general price levels, and a restoration of a certain freedom of trade.

The only danger against which the nations must take guarded pre-

cautions is the possibility that a speculative rise in prices will be mistaken for a permanent rise and that other substantial reforms will then be regarded as unnecessary. The crisis will not be cured by speculation alone. The principal governments should avoid a false start of this nature and should be ready to advance policies in agreement with many other parts of the program. They must abandon the attitude of waiting for further developments in the situation. Once a rise is started, suggests Walter Lippmann, "props can rapidly be put under it to hold it." A clearcut incentive, accompanied by a common desire to work unhampered by selfish national motives, should go far toward the making of history in international settlements. At any rate, the world devoutly hopes so.

# Italian Viewpoints on Calendar Reform

By Dr. Amedeo Giannini

SINCE 1900 there has been throughout the world a lively and active movement for reform of the calendar. In some quarters emphasis has been laid on the stabilization of Easter and the other movable religious feasts. In other quarters more importance has been attached to the complete reform or simplification of Easter and the other movable religious feasts. In other quarters more importance has been attached to the complete reform or simplification of the calendar.

The proposals for reform have been the subject of debate and consideration at numerous international meetings of various kinds, such as the Congress of the International Chamber of Commerce, the meetings of the International Astronomical Union, and the conferences of evangelical churches. Studies of calendar irregularities have also been made under a variety of auspices.

Particular importance is attached to calendar reform by business and economic organizations, especially in England and the United States. In both these countries an intensive propaganda has been carried on among all classes of the public through specially organized committees and associations, which have prepared and circulated a great number of booklets, pamphlets and circulars. Their methods of demonstrating the necessity for calendar reform have embraced all those means of popular persuasion which are so peculiarly the property of the Anglo-Saxon peoples. In America a special review has been started, devoted exclusively to the discussion of calendar problems, under the title *The Journal of Calendar Reform*. There is also an international league in which Americans predominate but which seeks adherents throughout the world to advance this cause.

The promotion of calendar reform has increased considerably since the war, that is, almost iron-

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The article is reprinted by permission from the "Journal of Calendar Reform."

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ically, at the very time when the Gregorian calendar has been at last accepted by the countries of the Greek Orthodox Church and by some of the Mohammedan nations.

In this connection it will be noted that among the many calendar systems used by various peoples at different times, only three have remained in current civil use until recent times, namely the Julian, Gregorian and Mohammedan. The Gregorian reform of 1582, attributed to a Pope, was not intended to supplant the Catholic ecclesiastical calendar, which did not in fact coincide with the solar year. It only attempted to reconcile a few discrepancies, mainly seasonal and astronomical. It was immediately accepted by the Catholic nations, and later adopted by certain Protestant countries—Holland, Germany, Switzerland (1701), England and America (1752), Sweden (1753). It was not accepted by the nations of the Greek Orthodox Church (Bulgaria, Greece, Roumania, Jugo-Slavia, Russia) until after the World War. Even more recently certain Mohammedan countries, such as Turkey and Egypt, have given it their adherence, supplanting for civil use the old Moslem calendar.

THE advantage of a single calendar for all nations is so evident that all objections to the Gregorian plan have been gradually overcome, and it is now in use throughout the greater part of the civilized world. Nevertheless, the Gregorian calendar is not perfect; it has certain obvious inefficiencies.

Outside of England and America, however, the movement for calendar reform has not yet assumed the proportions which it has attained in those countries, except with certain special business and economic interests. As far as Italy is concerned, even those special interests have remained outside this movement.

One of the early results of the movement, however, was that the League of Nations Commission on Communications and Transit decided nearly ten years ago to consider the problem, in the belief that the reform would be of assistance to economic and social life, particularly in world transportation. In 1923 the Commission formed a special committee to investigate and study calendar problems, and this action was communicated to governments and religious authorities with a request for their cooperation. Questionnaires were sent out to a large number of international organizations, and the responses were submitted and considered by the special committee.

At the conclusion of three years' work, this committee did not feel that it had sufficient grounds for any definite pronouncements on calendar reform, mainly because the governments had not been able to obtain any considerable reaction from the public, beyond the opinions of certain technical, academic and economic experts and organizations. It suggested, therefore, that in every country a national committee should be organized to canvass public opinion and to report results from time to time.

In 1927 the International Chamber of Commerce voted indepen-

identify a resolution urging that the League of Nations call a formal international conference on calendar reform, with power to present official recommendations. The League, mindful of the work which had already been done by its Commission on Communications and Transit, responded by making calendar reform the main subject for consideration at the Fourth General Conference on Communications and Transit, in 1931, to which all important nations would send official delegates.

For the purpose of preparing this program and providing the essential material for deliberation and discussion, a preliminary meeting was held at Geneva in June, 1931. Three months later the General Conference met and dealt with calendar reform in sessions lasting over a week, with delegates from 44 countries participating.

The deliberations fell into two parts, the first dealing with proposals for the stabilization of Easter, the second with plans for general calendar reform.

On the matter of a fixed Easter, the delegates were faced with a homogeneous and unanimous opinion. It appeared that the stabilization of Easter would meet with the approval of all groups, even of the religious authorities. The Holy See, in a letter under date of March 7, 1924, from the Apostolic Nuncio at Berne, had made it known that the stabilization of Easter would not involve any dogmatic difficulties even though it meant the abandonment of traditions sanctioned by past Ecumenical Councils. If the general good required this change, the Catholic Church would not be an obstacle, although it would wish first to obtain the vote of an Ecumenical Council. The non-Roman churches with practical unanimity declared their willingness to accept the reform.

Furthermore, the English government in 1928 had passed an act definitely fixing Easter for the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April, with a proviso that the law was to go into effect only upon the adoption of similar legislation by other nations. After passage of this law, the British government had requested other countries for their opinion of the plan, but the replies were all non-committal, these other countries desiring to await further study and action by the

League of Nations or by the Catholic Church. Most governments replied that action by them was impossible unless first accepted by the churches; otherwise they would run the risk that the people would ignore the civil date prescribed for Easter and continue to observe that fixed by the religious authorities. Thus the initial step taken by Great Britain seem to have been a bit hasty, and up to the present time it has not obtained the desired result. It did, however, influence and guide the passage of the so-called "Easter Act" of the League of Nations at the conference in Geneva in October, 1931.

In regard to general calendar reform, the League Commission in 1931 did not reach any complete conclusions. More than 160 projects for revision of the present calendar were discussed and sifted. The advantages and disadvantages of each of the principal projects were presented and considered. Finally the Commission rejected all but two proposals—the perpetual 13-month plan, and the perpetual 12-month equal quarter plan, known in America as the World Calendar. These two plans were referred back to the governments for further study and consideration.

Italy has, therefore, appointed a national committee on the subject and has sought the opinion of the principal academies of the kingdom, such as the Lincei Academy, the Royal Lombard Institute, the Royal Venetian Institute and the Royal Academy of Sciences at Turin.

The most significant of the reports received from these institutions were those of the Lincei Academy and the Academy of Sciences, which definitely recommended the stabilization of Easter but reached no conclusion as to the possibility or desirability of a perpetual calendar.

THE Italian National Committee, which was appointed by the government, on the nomination of the National Council for Research, contains representatives from business, manufacturing, agriculture, science, finance, transport, politics and religion. Its members are Luigi Baimonti, Director of the Legal Bureau of the General Fascist Confederation of Land Transport and Internal Navigation; Mario Zamboni, National Fascist Confederation of Maritime and Aerial Transport Enterprises; Dr. Adolfo Nesi, General Fascist Banking Con-

federation; Antonio Navarra, National Fascist Confederation of Merchants; Prof. Mgr. Antonio Pellizzola, ecclesiastical counsel of the Royal Embassy of Italy to the Vatican; Commander Mario Barenghi, National Director of Social Aid; Prof. Giuseppe Tassinari, Royal Superior Institute of Agriculture at Bologna; Prof. Filippo Angeletti, Director of the Royal Astronomical Observatory at Palermo; Prof. Giuseppe Armellini, Director of the Royal Astronomical Observatory of Campidoglio, Rome; Prof. Carlo Alfonso Nallino; Gian Battista Toffolo, Royal Vice-Consul, *Secretary*; Prof. Amedeo Gianini, *Chairman*.

Conclusions of the Italian committee, up to the present time, have been limited to three statements: first, that the time is not yet ripe for a calendar change; second, that the best proposal for reform is one which will equalize the quarters by having three equal three-month periods of 91 days each, and a final three-month quarter of 92 days; third, that when the question of a perpetual calendar is considered, the opinion of the Church should be invited as to the most convenient date for the extra day or days required to fill out the year. In relation to this latter point, it should be noted again that the Catholic Church does not show itself averse to taking up the question of Easter stabilization at an Ecumenical Council.

The practical problems involved in calendar reform cannot be judged from a single angle or viewpoint. There are certain bankers, for instance, who would like a year arranged with mechanical precision for the computation of due dates, payments and interest. There are certain railroad executives, who, looking at the calendar from the standpoint of their own business, would favor a calendar peculiarly adapted to the columns of a railroad timetable, or permitting a greater simplification and regularity of their schedules. There are hotel keepers, too, who think of the calendar solely in terms of their business, and there are merchants handling articles of fashion who would like a perpetually regulated year solely because it would make their affairs simpler and perhaps more profitable.

These arguments must be dismissed as matters of special plead-

# A Vision Fulfilled

## Studying at the University of Perugia

By *Lucille Arnold Harrington*

THE great Polish novelist, Henry Sienkiewicz, once said, "Every civilized man possesses two fatherlands, his own and Italy." It is the very profound truth revealed in these words which accounts, I believe, for the phenomenal success and far-reaching influence of the Royal Italian University for Foreigners at Perugia. On the desk of the secretary lies a Visitor's Book in which are recorded not only the tributes of illustrious visitors, native and foreign, but also the sentiments expressed at parting by the students themselves. During the seven years of its existence, these students have come to the University from every continent and almost every nation on earth. Without Sienkiewicz's illuminating phrase, it would be astonishing to find how often the word used to express the feeling of these foreigners for the place they are leaving is nostalgia. And nostalgia certainly connotes fatherland and home! An Austrian writes, "I shall always think with nostalgia of Italy,"—a Dane, "In leaving Perugia, I feel as I did in leaving my own country,"—a German, "Today, upon the eve of parting, there arises in me a profound sadness and nostalgia,"—a Belgian, "In Brussels, I shall feel again the nostalgia for this beautiful and enchanting Umbria." Nearly all express a sadness in leaving tempered only by the hope of return. "Perugia, non addio, ma arrivederci!"

That students from every quarter of the globe should hail in unison the ancient mother,—*"Salve antiqua, quam exquisivi, mater!"* should acknowledge so unreservedly the strength of the tie binding them to her, is, I think, a cause for pride and deep satisfaction among those who love Italy, and likewise

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The writer of the article was first attracted to the University at Perugia in 1932 as a means of continuing her studies in Dante, and was so impressed by the excellence of the opportunities afforded for the study of all phases of Italian culture that she is returning in 1933. She is engaged in teaching and lecturing in Boston.

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a cause for paying tribute to the ideals and organization of the University that has been the source of such recognition and love. And to Americans with their passion for enormous, measurable, and, above all, rapid achievement, the University for Foreigners at Perugia presents a phenomenon profitable to examine.

Largely, one gathers, through the invincible faith and devotion of the Rector, Gr. Uff. Astorre Lupatelli, this magnificent enterprise was inaugurated seven years ago. It was a stroke of genius that made the seat of the University that beautiful "Empress of the Hill Towns," Perugia. It is in itself a storehouse of treasures, reminiscent of its sovereignty in ancient Etruria, in the days of Rome's glory and dominion, and in the no less splendid eras of Mediaeval and Renaissance Italy. Here St. Francis of Assisi was imprisoned as a young lad; here San Bernardino preached; here Perugino taught Raphael to outstrip the master. And from a hundred points of vantage in the town, the lovely panorama of the Umbrian hills and plains lies before one's enchanted vision.

IN such ideal surroundings, then, was established a University, the purpose of which was to diffuse throughout the world a knowledge of the language, thought, and culture of Italy. This was to be

achieved by attracting to the University students from all nations. They were to receive instruction in literature, art, history, geography, political theory, music,—in fact in every phase of Italian civilization. This learning was to be imparted by a group of acknowledged authorities and leaders in the various fields,—for literature, men of letters and renowned critics; for art, museum directors; for politics, leading statesmen. Academicians, Ministers of State, Senators, savants from other countries, as well as illustrious professors from Italian Universities were to become members of a faculty that would accomplish the great task of impressing a consciousness of the glorious past and the "dynamic present" of Italy upon the eager and responsive minds of foreign students.

The completeness with which the dream has been fulfilled, the ideal realized, must have exceeded the most daring hopes of its founders. The enrollment has steadily increased from two hundred and five in 1926 to five hundred and thirty-two in 1932,—and this in spite of a world-wide economic crisis. Fifty-two countries have sent students to Perugia. The United States and all the nations of Europe are well represented but so, too, are such widely diverse regions as China, Armenia, South Africa, Brazil, Egypt, Liberia, Australia, and Mexico! And after two or three months, these students have returned to their own lands as apostles of Italian culture. Many, indeed, came with the purpose of making the summer months profitable by using them to qualify as teachers of Italian in foreign countries. Of these candidates for a teacher's diploma, the Board of Examiners in 1932 wrote, "They revealed an

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# The Co-Founder of Detroit: Alfonso Tonti

By *Edoardo Marolla*

**T**HAT the co-founder of Detroit was an Italian is a fact that is not generally known. Yet it was with the effective cooperation of Alfonso Tonti, brother of the famous Enrico Tonti, the man of the iron hand, that the soldier-adventurer, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, laid the foundation of the present metropolis of Detroit. To the elder Tonti, Enrico, history has been somewhat kind and every American school child has heard the story of the famous bronze hand and of its intrepid owner who to the end remained loyal to his betrayed chief after his own countrymen had turned on him. But the younger Tonti, Alfonso, historians have somehow overlooked. No textbook mentions his name, no monument has been erected to his memory, and even in the city he helped to found he is unknown and ignored by all. It still remains for his co-nationals and for all lovers of fair and unbiased history to give to this Italian the honor due him.

Alfonso Tonti was born in 1659, the son of Lorenzo and Angelina de Liette) Tonti. His father was the inventor of Tontine insurance. Nothing is known of his early life except that he was destined for a commercial career. With this in mind he emigrated to America in 1648 and we find him in Montreal, then the center of the fur trade, where it is probable he went in order to become associated with his brother, Enrico, who was then head of the vast Illinois territory. However, sensing greater opportunities, he became attached to Cadillac and in the spring of 1701 plans were laid for the founding of a fort and town on the strategic Detroit River.

**E**NRICO TONTI had already been on the site in 1679 with five soldiers and had reported on

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The following article is another in Atlantica's series on early Italian explorers in this country. Mr. Marolla's name is familiar to our readers, for he has contributed articles of a similar nature in the past. A resident of Iron Belt, Wisconsin, he spent a year in Notre Dame University's school of journalism, and since then he has been writing on Italo-American topics. Mr. Marolla conducts a column, "Italo-Americana," in a Detroit Italian weekly.

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the advantages of the place. Cadillac became interested and determined to build a city there. Thus the idea of building a town on the present site of Detroit was conceived in an Italian mind. But the Chevalier de Collieres, governor of New France, gave it little notice and Cadillac travelled to France where he obtained the personal approval of Louis XIV. While in France, he showed his confidence in Tonti by appointing him commander of his post at Mackinaw, then the main trading center of the region. Upon his return to America, Cadillac enrolled one hundred Frenchmen, fifty soldiers and fifty civilians, together with a number of Indians. Tonti, then a captain, was made second in command of the entire expedition and was given complete charge of the military mission. This position gave him authority to treat with the Indians of the territory and his jurisdiction in some instances exceeded that of Cadillac. The site of Detroit was reached late in the afternoon of July 23, 1701, and the standard of Catholic France planted on top of a bluff. Possession of the Country was taken in the name of Louis XIV.

Land was cleared, a stockade built, and Ste. Anne's Church, the first building in Detroit, was erected within a short period of time. Father de L'Halle was the

first pastor. The fur trade was encouraged and tilling of the land begun. In a letter to Count Pontchartrain, Cadillac writes: "After the fort was built, and the dwellings, I had the land cleared there and some French wheat sown on the 7th of October, not having had time to prepare it well. This wheat, although sown hastily, came up very fine and was cut on the 31st of July. I also had some sown in the spring, as is done in Canada; it came up well enough, but not like that of the autumn. The land having thus shown its quality, and taught me that the French tillage must be followed, I left order with M. de Tonty (Tonti) to take care to begin the sowing about the 20th of September and I left him twenty arpents of land prepared. I have no doubt he has increased it somewhat since my departure. I also had twelve arpents or more sown this spring, in the month of May, with Indian corn which came up eight feet high; it will have been harvested about the 20th of August and I hope there will be a good deal of it. All the soldiers have their own dwellings."

**F**OR some reason Cadillac had incurred the enmity of the governor of New France and in 1704 was called to Montreal and arrested. Tonti was appointed his successor and thus became the second governor of Detroit, only about three years after its actual beginning. As governor he was, of course, in complete command. This position he held for only a year but in this short time completely rebuilt Fort Pontchartrain which had been destroyed by the Indians in 1703 and made it one of the strongest in the country. But it appears that Tonti began selling powder to the Indians and was also accused

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# Concerning Lord Byron

A SHORT STORY

By *Alessandro Varaldo*

MADE the acquaintance—as a young man immersed in literature—of an old lady who had been one of the last passions of Lord Byron. At least, that is what they said.

(Parenthetically let me say this: that what I am about to relate takes place in Genoa in the year of grace 1923, and that the heroine of this adventure—who was not called Gamba and who was Genoese and not Ravennian—must have been fourteen years old to have been born April 19, 1809.)

She was a fascinating old lady: tall, dressed in black silk with a lace turban of a dull pallor, abundant white hair like the reflection of pearls, with an even set of teeth, and exhaling a faint odor of sandalwood. She was always smiling and always cheerful.

I remember her as she sat in a *voltaire*, framed by the window that faced on the sea, and it was the same sea that caressed the slope of Albaro hill, at that time still dotted with villas and with mysterious little pathways bounded by red brick fences, the same sea that had been contemplated by Byron, Dickens and Pisacane, the beach of romantic duels and tragic trysts, the sea and the shore as depicted in old prints, a profusion of evening redness with threatening clouds, together with the good villagers who would doff their berets on meeting the *padroni*.

The old lady smiled at the young man and showed herself to be not at all hesitant when an indiscreet question rose to my lips:

"Is it true that you knew . . .?"

"True. Does it interest you?"

I knew by heart "The Corsair" and "The Bride of Abydos" and "Lara" and "Sardanapalus." I replied impetuously:

"Very much! Very much!"

And then, more indiscreet:

"Is it true that . . ."

Again she finished the sentence for me, smiling:

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Alessandro Varaldo has to his credit some thirty volumes of novels and short stories, and his dramatic works are also many and varied. In his books one will not find complicated situations nor are profound problems discussed, but there are always interesting characters and pleasing passages.

A characteristic of many of Varaldo's books is the narration of a historical subject, by which the author succeeds in reconstructing, without too much meticulousness, certain periods in the past.

Of late Varaldo has devoted himself largely to the detective story, achieving undoubted success with three volumes, one of which "Il Sette Bello" is said to be one of the best works of its kind.

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"... he was in love with me? I don't think so. But I must confess to you that I didn't like him."

"Didn't like him! Byron?"

Good God, what a blasphemy!!

"And yet, my dear boy . . ."

Her tone changed:

"WHEN you are at least ten years older, you will see that it is not enough to call oneself Leopardi to have a humped back forgiven, or Byron a club foot, or Foscolo a bad character and vile talk . . . at least, not by a child of fourteen, who had not read any poetry and who believed only what her own eyes told her. Byron! What did I know about him? They said he was a fool who wrote in English, and I used to see him every day: medium stature, long nose, one eye larger than the other, forehead a little too high, his upper lip short, together with a thick lower one, a large chin, and a neck and a body thin enough to scare one! And how he was dressed! His suit was ready made—worn, big, spotted and baggy. And he was lame too, which irritated him greatly, so much so that to conceal this defect he would walk with a peculiar amble, somewhat in the manner of a carriage horse."

"Whatever are you saying!"

"The truth. Add to that that he seemed older than he really was, because of a very pallid face and an air of fatigue and boredom that made him heavy in appearance. However, if he smiled and showed his sound and beautiful teeth, if he looked at you with his penetrating steady gaze, if he happened to be in one of his not unusual moments of gaiety, if he talked, especially, in that soft tone of a spoiled child, the result was quite different. He could be liked, and he was liked."

"Ah, really?"

"Certainly. I saw him often with a beautiful English woman, the Countess Blessington, and with her husband, a gouty overstuffed man, two of the very few children of Albion who happened to be in Genoa that year: the Countess, in fact, had come among us in order to meet Byron, who had taken extraordinary pains to find her suitable lodgings, and had even thought of "Paradiso," the villa *par excellence* at Genoa, which can be seen today on the summit of Albaro hill from any point along the *Via XX Settembre* and the *Corso Buenos Ayres*. It was, as a matter of fact, because of the Countess that Lord Byron noticed me. They were riding by one magnificent April afternoon: the two powerful roans seemed to be tired, but not so the two very happy riders. They drew up their horses at the side of the embankment nearest the sea and remained motionless and absorbed, contemplating the infinite. I was coming up the embankment with an armful of wild flowers. The horseman had not seen me, but his Amazonian companion had: and she smiled at me and then said to her escort: 'Look, my lord, what a beautiful rose among the wild rosebuds!' I was the beautiful rose, I might even say I was rosy, so red did I feel, for, being a child and naive, a compliment flattered me. The horseman turned, looked



at me, and, either to convince me or to convince himself, asked: 'My beauty, will you sell me your flowers?' Sell the flowers? It seemed to me to be an awful thing, and I answered no, almost roughly. 'Not even for two gold coins to hang from your ears?' And he held out two shining sterlings. The Countess, who understood my contrariness, hastened to intervene. 'You are a poet, they say, my lord, but I don't find you different from other men: you think that with money you can buy anything! Help me down, please.' Her companion alighted from his horse and offered his hand and knee to the lady, who lightly jumped from her saddle. She came toward me, smiled sweetly, and asked me: 'Will you exchange your flowers for my kisses, my dear?' I threw in her arms my floral load and ran, without daring to ask for the offered compensation. That evening, at home, I was more than a heroine. Having related my adventure in secret to my sister, the whole affair seemed too big to allow of its being kept secret. And I had to repeat it, repeat it, repeat it! People envied me, and Cecchino Saredo, a cousin who, in secret (an open secret, to be sure) was destined, in time, to marry me, became jealous over it. He was a type, this Cecchino Saredo. He was extolled as destined for great things because of a certain air he assumed and which today I can classify as self-sufficiency. Whereas those in the family saw only the romantic side of my adventure, Cecchino built air-castles about I don't know what all evening. The next day he vented his anger at me, tormented me over it, and then agreed to stop it providing I would have him meet the poet. Meet the poet? But did I know him, I who, at the offer of the two gold coins to hang in my ears, had practically repelled him?

"'It doesn't matter,' insisted Cecchino, 'we will wait along his way; he certainly will recognize you, and you will introduce me as...'

"...my cousin.'

"'No. I prefer fiancé.'

"I reddened.

"'But Cecchino!'

"'Well, aren't we, inwardly? Come, like a good girl, do me this big favor.'

" | LET myself be convinced. We stationed ourselves near the house where Byron lived and it

wasn't long before we saw him, for he would go out of the house every afternoon. In the bright afternoon sun he recognized me; he was glad, he smiled at me, stroked my hair, then looked at the young man beside me, who seemed to be much older than his seventeen years.

"I blushed and lowered my gaze.

"'I am her fiancé, my lord!'

"Confused, burning with redness, and ashamed, I felt as though I were about to faint. For some time I remained leaning against the stone fence. When I raised my eyes again I found myself alone: the poet and Cecchino had disappeared.

"Weeks passed without my seeing either Byron or Cecchino. Communication at that time was not easy: between those of us who lived from the beginning of spring at *Villa San Nazzaro*, and the Saredos, who lived at San Teodoro, under *la Lanterna*, the distance was so great that people would say they had to make their wills before undertaking the trip. The only holiday on which the whole family was to get together was San Giovanni, still some time off. But if the men saw little of each other, news traveled nevertheless. There was open talk of a coming trip of Lord Byron to the aid of Greece, at the head—it was said—of a phalanx of knights in black armor, called Byron's Blacks. There was pointed out a handsome young man, Dr. Bruno, only recently out of the University, who was to accompany him, together with a pirate and two poets, one English and the other French. All this news, however, only reacted partially on my imagination: what did I know of Greece and poets? The pirate interested me, but as something distant. What interested me more than anything else, instead, was that Cecchino was said to have accompanied Byron. It was said at that time that my cousin had entered into the good graces of the poet, who had even recommended him as steward to a patrician family. My father brought this news with him to dinner, which was in those days at one o'clock.

"'Cecchino has made a good position for himself, which will become still better with time!'

"'Cecchino has a head on his shoulders!'

"'And it will be a pretty match,' added my father.

"They all looked at me, and I blushed.

" THE next day, on the deserted little street of *San Nazzaro*, I met Byron: he was sitting on a rock and switching away at some wild shrubbery with his riding-whip. To allow me to pass, he stopped, and raised his head: his dark features became serene, and he smiled at me.

"'Ah! it's you, *bellezza!* You're the one who is to marry that handsome clod, young Saredo? Listen to me: a poet always talks like a moribund. Never marry him, for he cannot make you happy. He is a parchment, full of numbers, and his heart is more barren than that of a notary. He can neither understand, appreciate or love you. Listen to me: you are a flower and signor Saredo appreciates only artichokes. Don't marry him, *bellezza!* you would be unhappy all your life. Mark my words: a poet always talks like a moribund.'

"He rose, whipped at the wild shrubbery, and left me forsaken."

The old lady bowed her head sadly.

"I needn't remind you—need I?—that, almost a year later at Missolunghi Byron died. And I, then completing my fifteenth year, was asked in marriage by my cousin Saredo, who had made an enviable position for himself. 'Within a year we'll have the marriage,' said my father, rubbing his hands. Just at about that time arrived the news of the death of the poet, and it made a great impression. In Genoa they all had known him and loved him, even Uncle Mauro, the canon of *San Lorenzo*, in spite of his narrow Catholicism. 'I have prayed for Lord Byron,' said he that evening. 'But wasn't he a Protestant?' asked my mother, 'I don't know,' he replied, 'let us remember only that he gave alms enough to redeem—yes, let us admit it—a rather immoderate life.' That evening there was to be a big dinner at our house to feast Cecchino and me, especially Cecchino, an important young man. Now, imagine, while I was dressing I seemed to feel my sight being obscured, the room assumed a moribund aspect, as though it were drawing in upon me, and a somewhat irate but sweet voice repeated: 'Mark my words: a poet always talks like a moribund.' I fainted. The feast was postponed. For 20 days I hovered between life and death. When, one summer morning, I became aware of the warm

and cheerful sun shining through the open panels of the shutters, I murmured to my mother bending over me: 'I don't want to marry Cecchino.' They thought I was still out of my senses, but much later, when I was cured, I was adamant in my resolution. Only to my uncle, the canon, did I relate everything in confession. My uncle shook his head and smiled, probably thinking they were but the caprices of a romantic young girl. But, conscientious man that he was, in order to convince me he studied

my cousin to form his own judgment. The result was this. To my bewildered father and mother he declared that I was right, and that Cecchino would not have made me happy. So I didn't marry him, and found myself well off."

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Concluded the fascinating old lady:

"I have always believed in poets and always followed their advice..."

She paused, but then continued: "...with some reservations."

"Is there, perhaps, another me-

mory behind those reservations?"  
"Naturally, but enough for today; I am tired."

My curiosity, however, prompted me to ask once again:

"Did you ever see the beautiful Countess Blessington again?"

"Yes, many years later. And for the first time I lost faith in Lord Byron when I read in his published letters that English women last longer than we do."

And I smiled. Ah! how right she was, fresh and fascinating as she was at her age!

## THE CO-FOUNDER OF DETROIT: ALFONSO TONTI

(Continued from page 261)

of embezzling furs belonging to the company. Though these charges were not proved, Tonti was removed in September 1705 and M. de la Forest placed in temporary charge.

Cadillac returned to Detroit in 1706 and immediately pardoned Tonti for any wrong doing he might have done. Tonti remained at the post and while there, it is said, secretly worked against his trusting commander, but again we have no positive proof of his doing so.

In the meantime the post was prospering and was well on the way to becoming the permanent trade center of the vast territory. In July 1717, sixteen years after its founding, Tonti was again appointed governor. It was customary at the time for the governor to engage in trade and from his profits he was required by law to pay all the expenses of the post. These expenses included the salary of a surgeon, a missionary, interpreter, presents for the Indians, and food and lodging for the garrison. To meet these expenses Tonti borrowed heavily and invested in trade but did not succeed as well as he expected. He then tried the expedient of turning over the trade to a company composed of five individuals who paid him a sum sufficient for his needs and expenditures on the post. To reduce expenses, he limited the number of stores to two, both

owned by the same persons. This meant that competition was eliminated and as a result prices of commodities soared. Many charges were brought against him because of the high prices and he was twice called to Quebec. But each time he managed to clear himself of any accusations and continued at his post. However, although the high price of commodities in Detroit was in no way illegal, it took most of the trade away from Detroit and the French and for a time it appeared that the Indians would carry their furs to the English at Toledo. To avoid any such possibility, Tonti was removed from command in the early part of 1728.

**A**LFONSO TONTI was married in Montreal February 17, 1869 to Anna, daughter of Picote de Belestre, later prominent in Detroit. Madame Tonti and Madame Cadillac joined their husbands in Detroit in September 1701 and were the first white women in the territory. Some time later (the exact date is not known) Madame Tonti gave birth to a daughter, Teresa, the first white child to be born there. Thus to an Italian goes the honor of being the first white born in the city of Detroit. Eight other children were born to the couple. Of these one became a nun in the Convent of Notre Dame. From the others and from the children

of Madame Cadillac, the aristocracy of Detroit traces its beginnings. In 1714 Madame Tonti died and three years later Tonti remarried to Marianna, daughter of Francois La Marque. He had no children from this marriage.

Alfonso Tonti died at Detroit on November 10, 1727. He was buried in Ste. Anne's cemetery, the Rev. Father Bonaventure of the Recollet Fathers officiating.

While it is true that Alfonso Tonti does not appear to have possessed all the attributes of his better-known brother, the fact remains that he played a large and important part in the building of Detroit. It was he who was in command of the military expedition to the site; it was he who was in charge of most of the active building and clearing of the land, and it was he who was governor, and as governor in complete command, of the new post for almost twelve years. It is true a number of charges of misconduct were brought against him but not one of these seems to have been proved. Even had they been shown to be true, these charges were of a semi-political nature and could not take away the honor which is due him for his part in the founding and building of our great automobile capital, for his contribution still shows its fruit today. Italo-Americans can point with pride to his share in the building of America.

# The Royal Italian Academy

By Alice Seelye Rossi

AMONG the many achievements of this decade of the Fascist regime, which have given new splendor and greater prestige second to none to Italy, is the founding of the Royal Italian Academy.

In creating such an institution, some three years ago, Fascist Italy gives but another proof of how the Regime takes pains to promote also intellectual activities and higher culture among the Italians, thus offering them the opportunity for better asserting themselves in the various fields of knowledge.

The Academy's aim, in fact, is "to promote and coordinate the Italian intellectual movement along scientific, literary and artistic lines, to preserve the purity of National characteristics, according to the genius and traditions of the race and to favor its expansion and influx beyond the confines of the State."

To this noble task are designated the most representative personalities of the intellectual life of the country—a choice list of names, headed by the illustrious Guglielmo Marconi, president of the Academy.

All Academicians are granted the honors, titles and prerogatives due to high State officials, while the president of this highest of Italian cultural institutions is a member of the Grand Council of Fascism.

The important part the Italian Academy has in the life of the nation is also manifest in its sumptuous quarters, the Farnesina Palace, a superb expression of the Italian Renaissance, which the Duce assigned it. In few palaces is there to be found greater profusion of art than in the Farnesina, where artists such as Peruzzi, Raphael, and Sodoma left the imprint of their genius, to which in later days Gaspar Poussin, Annibale Carracci and Carlo Maratta added lustre by completing and restoring its art treasures.

During its few years of life, the Academy has not only provided for the aesthetic dignity of its quarters, but has also created a centre of important initiatives, intended to promote special studies.

To begin with, it provides the annual fund of half a million lire placed at its disposal by the gov-

ernment, from copyright perquisites granted by law in 1925, for the distribution to societies and scholars of "encouragement prizes" in numbers heretofore unknown in Italy.

Moreover, the Academy assigns yearly four conspicuous prizes of 50,000 lire each known as Mussolini prizes, and promotes by means of its own special funds studies in foreign countries, such as those undertaken by Giuseppe Tucci in Tibet and A. Pagliaro in Persia. Furthermore, it attends to various noteworthy publications; among them is the edition of "A trip throughout Italy" of Goethe's father, the first to appear in print, personally supervised by the Academician Arturo Farinelli, from the manuscripts kindly lent by the Grand-Duchess of Saxony.

THERE is no important event in the cultural life of the nation that the Academy does not take part in. During the Virgilian year, besides organizing commemorative ceremonies, the Academy undertook a series of interesting features greatly appreciated by scholars, and which furthermore had a highly educational purpose for the general public. Among them was a cruise



H. E. Senator Marconi, president of the Royal Italian Academy, with the Duke of the Abruzzi

to the places of the Aeneid, a competition for a Virgilian song, besides the Neal competition, which Mussolini entrusted to the Academy, for the best work commemorative of the Virgilian bimillennial and of Fascist achievements.

Through the Academy's endeavors, archaeological excavations were promoted in characteristic places connected with the epic Virgilian narratives, such as Butrino, Cuma and Ardea, and the poet's tomb at Posillipo was restored. The scientific research section is also very active, undertaking various interesting publications.

Furthermore, the Academy contributes greatly towards strengthening international ties, as testify the recent important celebrations of Bolivar, Mistral, Goethe and Washington. The latter received an eloquent tribute in the speech of the Academician Formichi at a commemorative ceremony which was largely attended by Americans, by the *chargé d'affaires*, in Ambassador Garrett's absence, and by many noteworthy personalities of both the cultural and political world. At the close of the Washington celebration, which was the last of a cycle undertaken in the course of the year by the Italian Government, President Marconi read two cables, which the Academy was sending on that occasion, to Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Hence the Royal Italian Academy is becoming more and more an intellectual centre, not only for Italy, but for the world at large. In fact, some of the recent conventions, as the one of the Volta Foundation, which was entrusted to the Academy and which brought together eminent men from different parts of the globe, as well as the one of Physics, held with great success last year, and the recent congress of European history and politics, to which illustrious personalities adhered, are among the most important periodical events of the intellectual life of the whole world.

Thus, under the emblem of the Roman fasces of old, while returning to her ancient splendor, Rome is again a centre of learning, resuming her role of *caput mundi*.

# Atlantica's Observatory

## PARTY VOTING

THE Italians, praise be, do not always follow party lines in a sheeplike way when it means a choice between voting for their party or for a representative of their countrymen. Word reaches us of an example from the West that is heartening, and at the same time it makes us wonder whether the Italian-Americans of the small towns west of New York have anything at all to learn from their big city countrymen.

In Iron County, Wisconsin, not long ago, Paul R. Alfonsi, a young commercial instructor green to politics, managed to win nomination and later election as Wisconsin's first Italian assemblyman. That in itself is remarkable, as is also the fact that within a few weeks after arriving at the capital, he managed to put through the Legislature a bill making Columbus Day a legal holiday, despite the fact that in that State neither Washington's nor Lincoln's birthdays are legal holidays.

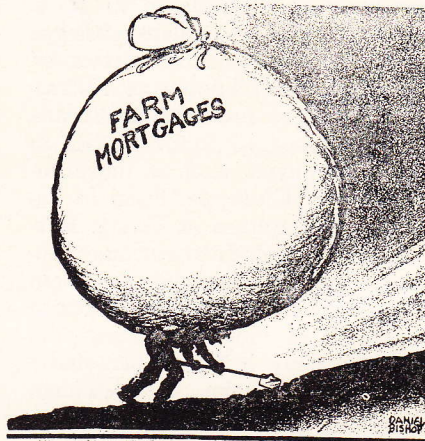
But the point most worthy of mention follows: The little mining town of Pence, from which Alfonsi hails, is a "little Italy" in itself, within Iron County. The Italians of Iron County, who are in a majority, voted Democratic in every single instance but one, and that exception was for their countryman Alfonsi, a Progressive. Says Edoardo Marolla, in communicating this information to us, "Had the Italians here followed the example of the New York Italians and voted only according to party, Wisconsin would not now have an Italian assemblyman who in a few weeks has brought exceptional honor to the Italians of his State and nation."

## THE MIAMI ATTEMPT

AT about the time this item appears, the man who attempted the life of President-elect Roosevelt, to the world's consternation, and killed Mayor Cermak of Chicago, will have met a just fate at the hands of the Florida authorities.

To the Italians in America it was a double tragedy. Every single one of them shared the shocked indignation of the coun-

try over the unfortunate incident. Every single one of them, in addition, was dismayed that such an assassination should have been attempted by one of their race.



The Man With the Hoe

—From the Muskogee "Phoenix"

As a race, the Italians in this country have had difficult obstacles to overcome, not the least of them the absurd belief in the past on the part of some that the few criminals they include constituted the whole group. By dint of their probity, their loyalty to American institutions, and their law-abiding industry, they have succeeded in practically dissipating this shallow opinion.

It must have been disheartening for them to have to feel that some of the ground they had laboriously gained in this direction would be lost, and this through the action of a single, irresponsible and unbalanced individual. Yet the nation as a whole will realize, we are sure, that one fanatic like Zangara does not, by the greatest stretch of the imagination, represent the Italians in this country. Their achievements have been too many to be discredited by an incident like this, over which, though it is none of their fault, they are sincerely hurt.

## VERDI IN GERMANY

IN GERMANY during the past year the most popular composer was Giuseppe Verdi. This would seem to be strange, considering the wealth there is of composers of German origin. Yet there are the figures, as they were recently

compiled for the period between August 1931 and July 1932. During that year, the operas of Verdi had 1420 performances throughout the theatres of Germany, with those of Wagner following with 1385. And third on the list was another Italian, Puccini, with 793 performances.

This has taken place in a country that really becomes enthusiastic over opera. In the United States, it is estimated that during the same period a total of no more than 250 operatic performances of all kinds were held. These figures tell strikingly, by showing the comparative lack of American support for the institution of the opera, why the Metropolitan Opera Company, for example, is finding it so difficult to keep a permanent repertoire in New York alone.

## ITALIAN VIEWPOINTS ON CALENDAR REFORM

(Continued from Page 259)

ing. The world is very complex, and the calendar must meet impartially all its complex requirements for time measurement. A new calendar must be examined, not merely from the standpoint of transportation or industry or accounting, but from the broader aspects of religion, economics, social life and history. In other words, it must harmonize all the requirements of a people's life—it must even transcend national boundaries, because the international uniformity of the calendar has come to be so important that even the Greek Orthodox and Mohammedan nations have finally been forced for reasons of economic convenience to adopt the Gregorian system, even though this change has meant a colossal overturning of age-old traditions.

Personally, I am not yet convinced that all the mechanical advantages of a perpetual calendar are capable of being realized, owing to the complicated nature of the minds and opinions which must be reconciled. I place a great deal of importance on the preservation of the week and the quarter. The week is the fulcrum of life for the great mass of people. The quarter is a time division of great convenience and long standing.

# The Art World

By Maurice J. Valency

## MARIE HARRIMAN GALLERY

THREE Cezannes, three Picassos, a couple of Derains, a Van Gogh, and three fine Renoirs make the current show at this gallery one of the finest in town. Most of these paintings have not been seen in this country before.

"La femme a l'éventail" of Picasso has been hung in the place of honor, but to my way of thinking, Renoir dominates the show. "Le chapeau blanc" is delightful—the head and half the figure of a plump girl, painted against a flowered motif which is repeated in her dress. There is a lightness and creaminess about the painting, which will suggest strawberry shortcake, if you like to think in such terms. Or, if you prefer,—music—the sound of a street-organ on a sunny afternoon in Spring, in Paris, playing something you've heard before. But for "La femme a l'éventail," it is kettledrums and clarions, of course, for she is studied and archaic in a pose of command, serious and Semitic, and seriously and thinly painted with a scraped technique in rich red and blue.

"Le plateau marocain" is not a landscape, but a still-life, a good commercial Matisse, featuring a good commercial pineapple. "Paysage Provence" is painted in thin turpentine washes, and you will enjoy staring at it, but perhaps you will not entirely approve of "La lutte d'amour," a sketch by the same master, Cezanne, in which quite a lot is going on, though nobody seems to be getting anywhere, which is perhaps one reason why the great man abandoned that sort of thing at a certain stage of his career.

## MARTH, MARTHA, THOU HAST TROUBLED THYSELF—

IT IS necessary to sympathize with the "young American sculptor" who was reported in the

Art Section of the "Times" not long ago, to have said, "Ah, but those fellows in Greece in the centuries B. C. had an easy time of it,—they had only their own backyard to worry about—we have everything, wherever and whenever it happened. It's a thousand times harder for us."

Dear me.

But undoubtedly we are obsessed with the past. The Greek, Egyptian, Hittite, Assyrian, Italian, Hindu, Dutch, Chinese, Cambodian—had we bothered their artists as they bother ours, what tidings of the past? Indeed we have much to know, we have many names to learn before we are permitted to stray beyond the school-house fence. For life has become difficult and dangerous since the days when all you needed to know to pass muster as an intelligent man was how to keep a knife out of your back.

We worship our dead. They seem to us of untold significance. We are eternally curious about them and their doings, and devote much life to poking about among

their bones, as if we could thus discover some secret of incalculable value. Far more certain than any present tyranny is the tyranny of the past. We are eternally haunted by memory, and tortured by what we do not remember, for ours is a continual recapitulation and backward-turning. And endlessly the texture of our existence is cheapened as it passes through the bony, exquisite fingers of the dead.

At the International Exhibition of the College Art Association, you may see these truisms beautifully illustrated. Dead fingers have guided the brush and tempered the palette for much of this work of painters who appear to be still in the flesh. National traditions and customs, national schools, and hereditary ways of thinking and doing, have here been brought together, at considerable expense, and with much show of spirit to enlighten, to delight, but perhaps also to point the forbidding moral. For the modern spirit, if it is anything, is syncretistic. It borrows from



Rienzo Bongiovanni—"Masks"

One of the Italian paintings at the "International 1933" Exhibition of the College Art Association

everywhere; originating little, it reconciles without harmony the most disparate sources, in a fever of putting together. You hardly need an international exhibition to see what the art world is about. A single painting will sometimes do. Surely Love itself is not as blind, nor Misery so avid for company, nor Justice forlornly weighing and cutting, as this mad urge of our decadence to achieve the new by hashing up the old, to find among the charred bones of the past what sadly remains of the feathers of the Phoenix.

### PAUL FIENE

I AM often bewildered by sculpture, and apt to find myself mouthing over idiotically the words of the Koran. Make not unto thyself graven images, says the Koran, lest on the day of judgment it be required of thee to quicken them with life. I should like to be about on that occasion, unless my presence is required elsewhere, to see some sculptors, scared and red in the face, blowing and puffing around their pieces in the desperate attempt to bring them to life. This much compensation perhaps Allah will allow me for the hours of torment I have spent in trying to surround the pompous commonplaces of the museums.

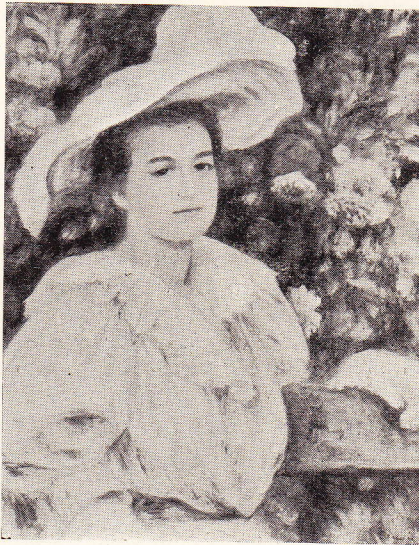
The modern sculptor seeks to emancipate his art from the other arts in which it has become entangled, and this is certainly to his credit. That sculptural form may be other and grander than pictorial form is a hypothesis that has borne, and will bear, magnificent fruit. It is not painting however that sculpture must fear as its most subtle foe. It is literature. The basis of romantic sculpture is romantic literature, it has derived its inspiration largely from words. Sculptural energy may be the mountain, but between the mountain and the prophet there has been much traffic, and there will be more.

Sculpture is the last of the arts to rebel against its traditions. It seeks others everywhere, and it has been most successful in its search, for the modern sculptor's creed has already become so complicated that it is a wonder that anyone, even a sculptor, can understand it. And it is only slightly less wonderful that any artist thus hampered by a creed can

produce anything. They do, of course, but this is among the wonders of art.

The new sculpture seeks sculptural form in the primitive and permanent shapes of nature; it seeks permanence in simplicity, and truth in words of one syllable. It seeks to lay bare rather than to construct, it desires not to express, but to abstract, and to cooperate with, rather than to enslave, the medium. And sternly it repudiates all save sculptural energy.

This is magnificent in the way of theory, but unfortunately no-



Renoir—"Girl in White Hat"

—Marie Harriman Gallery

body quite knows how to do these things. None the less, modern sculpture has to some extent given up the romantic; it ceases, largely, to be narrative, anecdotal, and sentimental. Thus far the revolution in sculpture has had results. Sculpture has taken up exposition, and the sculptors, argumentation, while all the world wonders. Thus the future of sculpture is bright with hope. But I should not like to hazard a guess as to what the future holds for Paul Fiene. He may be conscious of, but he does not do what it says in Mr. Wilenski's book. He is hardly in the main current of modern sculpture, but he is not particularly well-grounded in the antique either, nor in the tradition of Rodin. His animals are in the main like animals, though some will remind you of the various kinds of bread in an Italian bakery—a form of sculpture by no means to be sneezed at. His portrait heads are like portrait heads. I do not like his bronze

figures, and the large cast, while it was done without a model, is clearly model-ridden, and a wealth of unimportant detail detracts from its essential form. Like some of Fiene's other pieces at Gallery 144 West 13th Street, it is also somewhat pretty. The moral is, it takes a long time to be a sculptor. It is comparatively simple to write criticism, or even a book.

### RAPHAEL SOYER— VALENTINE GALLERY

OF THE poet Caedmon it is related, that he belonged to a monastery in which it was the custom on feast days after supper for the harp to be taken down from its nail, and passed to the brothers as they sat at the board. And as it came to the turn of each monk to sing, he would take the instrument into his hand, and improvise a song upon the holy words of scripture. But Caedmon could not sing. What agonies the poor man felt as he sat night after night as small as possible at the end of the table, while the harp came nearer and nearer, we can only guess at. But Bede tells us that at last, one night, Caedmon could bear it no longer, and he ran away from the festal board and hid himself to the stable. There he lay down with the unsinging cattle, and went miserably to sleep. And he was awakened by a great light and behold, a bright stranger stood before him. "Caedmon," he commanded, "sing me something." And Caedmon looked up and said with the simplicity of sorrow, "I can't sing nothing; that's why I'm in the stable." But the Stranger said, "Nevertheless, for me you shall sing." And "What am I to sing?" said Caedmon submissively. And He said, "Sing me of the creation of the world." And Caedmon sang of the creation in excellent song, Caedmon, the humblest of men, who was thereafter accounted, as everyone knows, the greatest singer of his time.

There is a moral to the story. The Stranger makes strange distinctions. To one He comes unbidden, to another, after much prayer, He does not come. Few are called, but He makes no distinction between the proud and the humble, the high and the low. You may announce it with fanfare, triumphantly, or shyly you may bring forth beauty in lowly

places, but the beauty is not less nor more for that.

About Soyer's work there is a gentle humility which fore-shadows genius as surely as the rich crash and rumble of the spectacular French. This is the recessive side of art. By no means assertive, these paintings wait until they are spoken to, but they will answer you with the tongues of men and angels.

It must be admitted that "Gitel" rather runs the show. Whatever you may be looking at, the often repeated lady with the wistful and ophthalmic gaze, the pathetic and somehow reproachful slouch, is never far to seek. She is pathetically and perhaps a little reproachfully painted, in outline rich and fuzzy, in color suave and sensitive. The tech-

nique is wistful and subtle, and subtle and wistful is the characterization, for these pictures have not a little in them of the dramatic. She is a wee bit bellicose in Number 6, striking against a background of gray-green; she is thoughtful and subdued in Number 1. Then at the other end of the room, we have her scratching her back. One hand supports her mop of hair; she scratches her back with the other and seems to be deriving a measure of satisfaction from her occupation. The composition is queer. Her two arms make a large initial W in the middle of the canvas. It is not otherwise a particularly successful job. "Metropolitan Movies" is more interesting, and on the whole much more successful. The girl in the orange sweater comes off, I think, rather badly, but next

to her hangs a fine canvas depicting a dark-haired girl in a blouse of rich red over against a background of well-mixed mud. This was all to the good, but I went back and had another look at Gitel.

The landscapes sparkle. "Front Street—Lent" is delightfully spotted and in a pious spirit, the carts holding up their poor stumps to heaven, and the atmosphere cheerful and serene. And "Under the Bridge" is an excellent piece of work. Soyer has a real gift for landscape. They are bolder because they are less intimate than his genre paintings and his portraits. This is a fine artist, and he needs little praise to make you like him. He will probably capture your heart at once, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

## An Italian Mayor in Massachusetts

By *W. F. Mulcahy*

ONE of the most unusual records of success of a son of Italian-born emigrant in this country is that of Hon. Andrew A. Casassa, Mayor of Revere, Massachusetts. Mayor Casassa's parents came from Genoa and settled in Boston early in the second half of the last century. Here he was born, in 1886, the younger son in a family of one brother and three sisters. The Casassa family moved to Revere while the Mayor was yet a child and by hard work, honest business methods, and righteous living the parents came to occupy a respected position in the community.

Mayor Casassa attended the Revere schools and later Boston University Law School. He was barely twenty-one when he began his political career, being elected to the school committee in 1910. He served three years on this Board and three years as selectman while Revere was still a town. Then, in rapid succession, he held the offices of Town Solicitor, City Solicitor, State Representative, and State Senator. He was reelected to each of these positions and made an enviable reputation in the legislature. In 1928 he was elected mayor and has been twice reelected, a real tribute to his honesty, courage, and his far-sighted solicitude for the welfare of his people.

Since Mayor Casassa's advent at

City Hall, Revere has been benefited by many improvements and innovations. A fine system of traffic signals, much needed playgrounds for the children, an overpass that is a monument of engineering science, and lower taxes are some of his accomplishments in the face of the present wide-spread depression. The people have confidence in this man, whom they have never had reason to doubt. It



Mayor Andrew A. Casassa  
of Revere, Mass.

may be an indication of future conditions that in this city with its polyglot mixture of races an Italian has been chosen mayor. At any rate, it is an unanswerable argument against racial prejudice.

A significant feature in Mayor Casassa's career is the fact that in his more than twenty-five years of public life he has never suffered defeat. His recent re-election to the office of mayor in Revere establishes a local precedent which will not soon be equaled. An added tribute recently was his election to the presidency of the Massachusetts Mayors' Club.

The Mayor has the welfare of his city at heart and in his advanced position is proud of his race and origin. His only cause for regret is that his parents were not destined to witness his final success, both having passed on in 1920. To them, however, he gives full credit for both his political success and his honorable station in civil life.

Unlike preceding mayors, Mayor Casassa gives all his time to the business of city government. In private life he is a practicing attorney. He resides in the beautiful Point of Pines section of the city in a fine home where his wife is a charming hostess and devoted helpmate. It is to be hoped that the future will bring higher position and fresh honors to the only Italian mayor in Massachusetts.

# The Theatre

By Anthony H. Leviero

THREE plays that poke around the roots of American life came before the footlights last month, but that elusive phantom, a native American drama, gained no immortal substance from them.

It seems that Eugene O'Neill must ever be the mentor, the true interpreter, above all the supreme poet, among the authors who worry over the soul of our bizarre republic. There seems to be a tone of dissatisfaction in the saying of this. But it is because there are not enough plays by Eugene O'Neill and far less by other dramatists which might possibly beg comparison with his. Rather, these latter remind us of O'Neill by way of sorry contrast. What the American public needs, if in its barrenness it cannot gestate a few more genuine poets, are more frequent revivals of the works by the author of "Desire Under the Elms," "Mourning Becomes Electra," "The Great God Brown," "Anna Christie" and "Strange Interlude."

We must be thankful for Miss Katherine Cornell and the high place she has attained in the realm of dramatic expression, just as we are thankful for Eugene O'Neill. Why, though, must our chroniclers of things theatric so often say that the work before them provides an excellent vehicle for all of So-and-So's nuances of dramatic expression while the play as a whole is rather thin and uninspired?

It is indeed a rare and beautiful experience to view and feel what any artist worthy of the name expresses, yet in the theatre should we not subordinate the artistry of the artist-actor to the more exalted purpose of the poet-dramatist? Is not the play the thing? Should we write plays to fit the particular qualities even of a gifted actor, or should the play, made to throb with the most profound experiences and yearnings of the human soul, seek the artist best fitted to express its content for his less articulate fellow mortals?

And so we must say that in Sidney Howard's "Alien Corn" Miss

Cornell gives a splendid performance in a play that moves along ordinary channels in depicting the ancient struggle of the spirit against the powers which would drag it down. Yet "Alien Corn" suffers only by comparison with O'Neill's magic art and not with many of its neighbors in Broadway theatres.

"Alien Corn" has a backbone of sincerity and is strong thereby. Beyond that it goes only a little way on the road to artistic achievement. A spirit tortured by environment has never been a rare thing, not in life nor in the theatre. Miss Cornell's struggle among Philistinism in the Kansan corn is much the same struggle that the lady had in the New York City environment of "Another Language."

We find the same sort of thing in "American Dream," a trilogy of the spirit tortured in three different generations. Mr. George O'Neill, its author, has put some lyric touches in his work, but he lacks the evenness of his famous namesake. Economic questions and a lack of facile turnings of sequence mar "American Dream," and in the last of the three one-act plays communism and sex run amuck and the spirit and the poetry fail.

Plays about the Negroes in this country have a way of engendering an atmosphere of nativeness and power, qualities which are hard to conjure in the more conventional phases of our life except by our greater artists, for the earthiness and richness of Negro spirituals, the flavor of the Negro character, are difficult handicaps to compete with. Hall Johnson has made his first essay into the arts of the theatre in "Run, Little Chillun," and it is the qualities we have mentioned which make it worth one's while to see it. The plot of his play is rickety, but it brings us to the small-town origin of Negro life and spirituals.

THE Sutton Players are still bravely carrying on in their home theatre in Fifty-sixth Street. We say bravely, for it must be an ordeal

to emote before an audience like the one among which we numbered ourselves. It might better be described as a bevy. Mr. John Connery was featured in the "Mighty Conlon," a comedy about minor political intrigue such as was revealed by the Seabury inquisition. Mr. Connery gave a fair performance, but the rest of the cast submerged whatever humor and living qualities originally were in Oliver White's script. Once the audience was surprised into a laugh by a line that was besmirched with vulgarity rather than clever.

## JOHN GALSWORTHY

THE founder of the Forsythe dynasty died on February 1. Perhaps the easy circulation of books has caused the public to overlook to a great extent John Galsworthy's importance as a dramatist. But as a matter of fact it is a moot question: will his plays or his novels survive longest?

Shortly after the turn of the present century Mr. Galsworthy made his debut as a dramatist, and on the day of his "The Silver Box" the English theatre received an infusion of much needed new blood. His naturalism, combined with simplicity and a style of subtle, penetrating power doomed the artificial and hackneyed manner which predominated on the English stage and against which George Bernard Shaw, as a dramatic critic early in his career, was a persistent and powerful foe.

Most of Mr. Galsworthy's plays are aimed against social injustice, without, however, any touch of high-pitched emotion or straight propaganda. He merely tells his story—but in the telling of it is his strength. The effectiveness of his drama, though, often might not be so apparent in the printed book as when it is a vehicle for a good company of actors. Mr. Galsworthy accepted the Order of Merit, the British Empire's highest reward for literature, but he refused knighthood. And there is a clue to a fine, restrained nature.



## THE NEW BOOKS

*(Continued from Page 242)*

The book is exceptionally well written, it is vastly interesting, it is by far the most stimulating biography of Mazzini ever written.

Anthony M. Gisolfi

*THE ROMAN WAY.* By Edith Hamilton. 281 pages. New York: W. W. Norton and Company. \$3.00.

"We are the inheritors not of Greece, but of Rome," and whether or not it leaves us sad, we accept that fact. Through government, morality, religion, and the arts, through the very manner of looking at life, Miss Hamilton traces the divergence of the Roman from the Greek, and the accord of the Modern with the Roman. From the present confusion between magnitude and magnificence, patterned after the Roman's striving after "bigger and better Greece," our modern way of life runs a parallel with Rome. It is from the Latin writers that Miss Hamilton draws her material, but her method is so broad-sweeping, that it is no mere literary account that she gives.

"Virgil, Rome's greatest poet," says Miss Hamilton, "is one of the world's greatest romanticists." To the reader whose Latin has been gathered in the schools, whose tongue is glib with the phrase "the Latin classics," the linking of Roman and romantic is unorthodox. But this keen upsetting of tradition is Miss Hamilton's virtue, and her explanation is so simple and clear that it brings forth a quick "Of course."

"Beauty," she explains, "was never quite real (to the Romans). Reality, facts, they saw as we do, chiefly ugly and unpleasant ...

"When a people see chiefly ugliness in the world, they will find a refuge from it ... The writers of Rome's golden age turned to Romance.

"What we today call realism, the view that life is devoid of beauty and meaning, always has romance for a companion ... The Greeks, who would have nothing to do with extremes, knew neither the one nor the other. They were realists to whom the real was beautiful and the direct expression of that spirit is classic art."

So Catullus, beyond his love poetry, unique in passionate intensity, can write of the reality about him with the disgust and disillusion of a modern realist and can then turn to weaving the fantasies of a full-flown romanticist. Cicero, in his letters, can bring low the magnificence of stately personage—"Pompey, the solemnly inefficient, Brutus, the usurer, Portia, the indiscreet, Anthony, the waster"—and yet can use all the pomp and grandeur of a romantic in his orations. Even Horace, of all Latin writers, most closely kin to the Greeks, with "that most delightful

gift of enjoying keenly all life's simplest pleasures," looks upon death as a romanticist when he declares it is "sweet and seemly to die for one's country."

In the Augustan era the romantic Roman rose to full glory in the poetry of Virgil and the heroic history of Livy. But by the same process that classicism had become pedantic and superficial, romanticism exaggerated its virtues and became sentimental. To Seneca we owe the heritage of the sentimental drama, in which "every man went joyfully to die for his country and every mother wanted to send her son for the same purpose. The poor and lowly were happier than the rich and powerful; the old farm of boyhood's days to be preferred to marble halls; a mother always a mother, and so on."

With the decline of literature came the decline of the State. It was the human animal that had fallen from glory.

*"The Roman character had great qualities, great potential strength. If the people had held together, realizing their interdependence and working for a common good, their problems ... would not ... have proved too much for them ... A narrow selfishness kept men blind when their own self preservation demanded a world-wide outlook. History repeats itself."*

Edith Witt

*RETIREMENT OF NATIONAL DEBTS.* By William H. Withers. 344 pages. New York: Columbia University Press. \$5.00

For those who are interested in the debt problems of the several nations, here is a compact though a trifle too technically-written volume. It may prove helpful as an index of information in any study of the latest debt negotiations. As an added incentive to reading, the author presents his own theories of debt burden, although in view of the recent preponderance of theoretical fodder, another theory may well meet with an indifferent response.

However, Mr. Withers plies some definite course through the maze of recent policies of debt management, methods of their retirement and the various effects of such retirement. The first four chapters present a condensed history of recent debt managements in the more prominent countries. Despite the fact that the author involves us in a rather intricate discussion concerning the methods of estimating debt burdens, we are able to at least learn the approximate extent to which the nations are indebted to each other.

The greater part of the book deals in some detail with the effects of debt retirement on the most salient features of international economics and finance. In this respect, Mr. Withers answers some of the urgent questions which have lain in the minds of many this long time. He gives us an insight into what are the possible and probable causes of the current economic disturbance, which, in its turn, has

affected the burden of debt. This last, Mr. Withers finds, "consists largely in the failure of capital accumulations to be stimulated and in unfortunate changes in the distribution of wealth."

As in so many utterances of present-day economists, the author lacks a convincing tone for the simple reason that he has said nothing startlingly new. He writes: "The problem of debt retirement is very clearly one of eliminating debt burdens rather than of canceling nominal claims." Again a statement of some problem or other. We suspect that mere statements of problems have already so glutted the printed pages as to seem deplorably dry reading. Furthermore, he avers, "Burden theory is absolutely essential to it," referring to the problem above. This merry-go-round of stated problem and gratuitously forwarded theory is, we fear, the very straw that breaks the camel's back. So, save for a factual presentation of the condition of world debts, ably supported by admittedly authoritative chart compilations, the book is solely what may be termed part of an economist's standard repertoire.

The one redeeming feature, if such it be, that focuses our attention, is summarized in the following:

"Instead of scrutinizing debts so closely, the public financier should examine the effects of institutions for saving, production and tax systems."

Even here we seem to detect some faint echo of the world-wide clamor for production control. At least the statement suggests some constructive examination of the practical issues of our social system. They are the factors of change which cannot be reasonably ignored in any measurement of debt burden or, for that matter, any burden, economically speaking.

Educationally, the book does offer some groundwork for the study of the national debt situation, its major tenets and traditions. It should prove a handy companion, interesting alike to students of economics, business men and government officials; at least, so the publishers trust. But, as a stimulant to the mass seeker of information concerning the debt muddle and all that it connotes, we reiterate, Mr. Withers' work is too technically savored.

J. A. Donato

*INVITATION TO RENAISSANCE ITALY,* by Rachel Annand Taylor. 350 pages. New York: Harper & Brothers. \$4.

The reader upon whom the title of this volume were thrust might scent another attempt at popularization. But he has to read only a chapter or two to have his suspicions entirely dispelled, for he will find that thoroughness of preparation, breadth of knowledge and sincerity of feeling which have an appeal only for those duly appreciative of the author's highly cultivated intellect.

Just as readily, however, will the reader be struck by Mrs. Taylor's stylistic peculiarities and her intense lyricism. Her thoughts are usually wrapped in a cellophane of lyrical

*(Continued on Page 278)*

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## TOPICS OF THE MONTH

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(Continued from page 244)

chosen professions. The notable feature of the affair was the presence of the parents of these young guests of honor. The presence of these hard-working parents, representing as they do the sacrifices and the will to succeed of the old generation, conferred a distinct solemnity to the occasion.

The Italian Ambassador, aware of this fact, paid glowing tribute to the parents and emphasized the efforts which they have made and still make in behalf of their children.

However, it seems to me that the best part of the Ambassador's speech was his allusion to the relations of Italian-Americans generally with the country of their ancestors. I take the liberty of quoting from his speech the following excerpt:

*"The community which is now paying tribute to you asks you to be mindful and grateful toward the Country of your origin and to your race. I have often heard it said that an Italian cannot become a good American citizen if he forgets the land of his origin, as no man can become a good husband if he forgets his own mother. If it be true that this principle applies to all children of Italians generally, who live in this country, it is more true that it should apply to you, because you are called to exercise activities in the cultural field. With you, young men and women of the professions, the cultivation of this principle should become a real mission."*

The Italian Ambassador has eloquently re-stated a conception of spiritual relationship which we have emphasized time and again. The Italian Government, through its head and leader, has also given expression to these sentiments time and again. This is as it should be, for the only allegiance that Italian-Americans can give to the land of their origin is one of a spiritual, moral and cultural nature. Even the most rabid one hundred percenters must admit that this is no crime.

### THE PACIFIST: A NEW CHALLENGE

IS a man or woman who refuses to be forced to fight in war a proper person to be admitted to American citizenship? In other words, should a pacifist, who is willing to serve as a non-combatant, but not as a soldier in the actual wholesale slaughtering, a fit person to become an American citizen?

The Supreme Court of the United States has frequently answered the question in the negative, although Chief Justice Hughes and Justices Holmes, Brandeis and Stone have dissented from a majority of five of their associates on the Bench.

As far as the lower Courts are concerned, the several decisions of the highest tribunal in the land have imposed upon them the duty to follow the rule laid down by the Supreme Court.

Public sentiment may not have agreed with the final disposition of the matter; but, at any rate, it had seemed pretty certain that the question was closed once and for all, when along came Judge Everett, of Lima, Ohio, the other day, and in a bold opinion, reversed the Supreme Court of the United States by admitting to citizenship Dr. John P. Klassen, an avowed pacifist.

A noble, courageous act: a decision of far-reaching import: a heroic challenge to all precedents, traditions and prejudices. Judge Everett has put his conscience above medieval rulings and jingoistic claptrap. He deserves to be commended as a man of ideals, vision and courage.

The case will be appealed, no doubt. Indeed, Judge Everett, in explaining his decision, refers to the Supreme Court ruling and adds that "there has been wide discussion since then as to whether war should not be outlawed and the nations required to settle their differences in Courts of justice the same as individuals. For this I am going to give the Supreme Court another opportunity to pass upon this question."

As the membership of the Court now stands, five Justices would be for reversing Judge Everett, four for sustaining him. The swing of one member would accomplish the desired result. While it's hard for a Justice of that high Court to change his mind, we hope that this time there will be at least one who will not think it a sign of weakness

to reverse himself. Only weak people think it wrong to change their minds.

### JOHN MASEFIELD: AN APPRECIATION

JOHN MASEFIELD, Poet Laureate of England, came to our shores on a lecture tour which took him through the United States. He departed last month, and perhaps it is not amiss at this time to say a word or two about him.

It is needless, of course, to say that Mr. Masefield is a great poet, nor was it really necessary to name him Poet Laureate in order to make sure of his greatness. His many works prove beyond doubt that he is of the race of singers and seers of all times.

Before leaving this country he made a comment on the poetic nature of the American people which is worth quoting. "They are to a considerable extent poetic and romantic," he asserted. "Numbers of young people in the small towns write poems. The sentimental strain in the American people is shown by the books they read everywhere. It is a pity that so many young people who show talent for writing poetry before they reach the age of fifteen seem to lose it soon after passing that age."

Mr. Masefield's impressions are interesting: they add to our conviction that in spite of the perplexing material turmoil of our age, there is an undercurrent of sentiment which runs through the American character.

To me one of the best things that Mr. Masefield has done is a brief poem entitled "Being Her Friend." It would be very difficult to find anything better in the love lyrics of any literature. I am delighted to give it here so that my readers may further appreciate Mr. Masefield's genius.

#### BEING HER FRIEND

Being her friend, I do not care, not I,  
How gods or men may wrong me,  
beat me down;  
Her word's sufficient star to travel by,  
I count her quiet praise sufficient  
crown.  
Being her friend, I do not covet gold,  
Save for a royal gift to give her  
pleasure;  
To sit with her, and have her hand  
to hold,  
Is wealth, I think, surpassing minted  
treasure.  
Being her friend, I only covet art,  
A white pure flame to search me  
as I trace  
In crooked letters from a throbbing  
heart  
The hymn to beauty written on her  
face.

# The Italians in the United States

## THE PRESS

Winners in the contest recently held by the "Corriere d'America" for the ten most beautiful words in the Italian language were announced last month. First prize went to Miss Mildred Camera of Brooklyn, with second and third prizes respectively to Enrico Baldisseri of Providence, R. I., and Miss Stella Scardino of Rochester, N. Y. Prof. Anna Aloisi of Brooklyn won honorable mention.

The judges in the contest were Prof. G. Prezzolini, Dr. L. Covello, Dr. Rina Ciancaglini, Miss Anita Giacobbe, Prof. A. Calitri, Miss Angelina Seveso, Miss Catherine Santelli, Mr. D. Nicastri, Dr. P. Sammartino, Prof. A. Ausili and Prof. Sergio.

The winner's ten best words were: fiducia, mamma, si, salute, pane, Roma, armonia, amore, vergine, luce.

With the close of February, "The Italian News" of Boston, an English language weekly, celebrated its 12th anniversary with a special anniversary number.

Last month Judge Sylvester Sabatino began a series of articles in the "Progresso Italo-Americano" of New York on "The Italians of Brooklyn."

An interview with Miss Carla Orlando, daughter of Italy's wartime Premier, and secretary of the Italy America Society, was used recently as a feature article in the "New York World-Telegram."

"L'Aurora" of Easton and "La Stella" of Roseto, both of Pennsylvania, merged last month while maintaining their separate offices. "L'Aurora", whose editor and business manager is Domenic Tanzella, is in its 32nd year. James D. Caporaso is editor of "La Stella".

Judge John J. Freschi of the Court of General Sessions of New York last month began a series of articles in the "Corriere d'America" of New York entitled "Judge Freschi Says:", running three days a week and based on the political development of Americans of Italian origin in the United States, their problems, hopes and ambitions in the past and the present.

"The Italian News" of Boston recently published the following item:

"Eleuterio Felice Foresti was the first Italian to become American Consul. He was appointed by President Buchanan.

"Foresti was an able jurist and a man of letters during the sad period of Austria's tyranny over Italy between the years 1821 and 1848. He revolted against the foreign rulers and was prosecuted and condemned to a long prison term.

"After about twenty years of imprisonment, Foresti was released and sent into exile. It was thus that he

happened to come to the United States.

"Three years after his arrival in the United States Foresti was appointed a teacher of Italian at Columbia University, thus instituting the Chair of Italian.

"When Victor Emanuel II became King of Italy Prof. Foresti returned to his native country as an American Consul, to which office he was appointed by President Buchanan."

## SOCIETIES

In the annual report of the Italian Welfare League of New York, Mrs. Lionello Perera, its director, revealed that in 1932, 10,493 persons came to its office for help or advice; 3065 families were visited at home; 13,252 cases of social service were studied, 754 patients received care, and 1510 unemployed were given aid. Miss Carlotta Schiapelli, secretary of the League, also submitted a report, in which she stressed that the family was always the League's first concern. She praised the work of the Cooking Department of Manhattan, directed by Mrs. Emanuel Aufiero and that of Long Island, directed by Mrs. Riccardo San Venero.

The Columbia Association of Greater New York, Inc. is composed of more than 1000 policemen of Italian blood. Last month it held its annual banquet and election of officers with the following results: Maurice R. Sasso, president; Joseph Altomari and Paul Regucci, vice-presidents; Thomas J. Julia, treasurer; Luke E. Mennella, financial secretary; Alfred Donatelli, corresponding secretary; Louis J. Creash, recording secretary.

Founded in March 1931, the Columbia Association was incorporated on March 7th, 1932. The guest of honor at last month's banquet was Gr. Uff. Generoso Pope.

In the auditorium of the Roman Forum of Brooklyn, an organization of young Italo-American professional men, Immigration Commissioner Edward Corsi spoke last month on immigration problems at the Port of New York. Dr. Pasquale J. Imperato presided, and a reception in honor of the speaker followed his talk.

Following the outrageous and deplorable explosion by persons unknown of his home in Philadelphia, which caused the death of his wife, Comm. Giovanni Di Silvestro, Supreme Venerable of the Order Sons of Italy in America, sailed last month for Italy, aboard the Conte di Savoia.

Judge Eugene Alessandrini, Comm. Pio Margotti, Italian Consul and Dr. Domenico Vittorini of the University of Pennsylvania were the guests of honor at a dance held by the Aurora

Society of Philadelphia last month at the Warwick Hotel. Miss Marie Mazzoli is president of the society.

In Wilmington, Del. last month three Italian societies merged and thus formed the most powerful Italian social body in that State. They are the Cristoforo Colombo Society and the Mutual Benefit Societies, San Francesco di Paola, and Principe di Napoli. Others are expected to enter the merger later. Antonio Ventresca, building contractor, is president of the new society.

The National Republican League, recently founded by noted American Republican leaders with the aim of arousing wider interest in political affairs among the younger American generation, has announced a Foreign Language Unit. James Lovatelli of New York, well known among foreign speaking organizations for his activities in the last Republican campaign, has been appointed as Director in charge of this division.

Under the presidency of Mr. Frank Marchese, Il Circolo Dei Giovani of Bridgeport, Conn. sponsored a concert on March 5, in the sun parlor of the Stratfield Hotel in that city, featuring Mr. Albert Martini, violinist; Miss Victoria Piccirillo, lyric soprano; Mr. Frederick Smithson, pianist. The committee in charge of the affair was headed by Miss Rosaria Aucello, assisted by Miss Elizabeth De Blasio, Mr. Salvatore Aucello, Mr. Louis Bonazzo, Mr. Robert Piccirillo.

Il Circolo has organized another Circolo Dei Giovani in Mamaroneck, N. Y. Attorney Fazio is president of the Mamaroneck club.

Several weeks ago, a lecture on early American architecture was given by Janus Acampora, a very active member of both the Bridgeport and the Mamaroneck groups.

On February 4, Miss Elena Scanzillo was appointed corresponding secretary pro tem.

The Junior Auxiliary of Columbus Hospital held a meeting last month in the auditorium of the hospital for the installation of officers for the coming year. Miss Josephine Perso-neni was unanimously re-elected president. Other officers are: Madeline Repetti, Anne V. Spica, and Lillian C. Mulè, vice-presidents; Mildred Poggi, treasurer; Henrietta De Bellis, financial secretary; Estelle Kleeman, recording secretary; Josephine Fedele, corresponding secretary and Lillian C. Mulè, historian. The Board of Directors consists of Marie Aprea, Candida Acerboni and Margaret Repetti.

The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who own and operate the hospital, encourage the Juniors in their task of furnishing and maintaining the Children's Ward.

The Unity Club of Brooklyn, with a membership of more than 400, recently held a reception in honor of Hon. Vincent J. Ferreri, Assistant District Attorney, for Kings County, at the Elks Clubhouse. Among the guests of honor were Judge Gaspar Liota and Anthony Di Giovanna, Assistant District Attorney. The officers of the Club are Joseph V. Sessa, president; Stephen F. Barrera, James Breglio and Edward Lallo, vice-presidents; Arthur A. Viani, recording secretary; Frank D. Cangin, financial secretary; Thomas B. Scarpaci, corresponding secretary and Charles Geraci, treasurer.

At the annual banquet of the National Council on Naturalization and Citizenship, held recently, Dr. John H. Finley, who was re-elected president and who is one of the editors of "The New York Times," characterized the plan being proposed to deport unemployed aliens as "too monstrous and too inhuman to be defended."

#### EDUCATION AND CULTURE

More than 2000 guests attended last month the banquet at the Penn Athletic Club in Philadelphia held under the auspices of the Italian daily, "L'Opinione", in honor of the Italo-American graduates of Philadelphia Universities. Ambassador Augusto Rosso of Italy was the featured guest of honor, together with the Italian Consul, Comm. Pio Margotti, Judge Eugene V. Alessandrini, Comm. V. Giordano, editor of "L'Opinione", who acted as toastmaster, Gr. Uff. Generoso Pope, and Dr. Vincenzo De Virgili.

A student of Italian origin for the first time represented an American university at the International Conference of students also known as the "Model League of Nations" this month when Edward Geremia, a student at the Rhode Island State College in Kingston, R. I., presided over his university's delegation to the conference held on March 9, 10, and 11 at Smith College in Northampton, Mass. Mr. Geremia, a resident of Providence, is captain of the debating team and student manager of the college's athletic activities.

Professor G. A. Borgese, distinguished Italian critic and novelist, formerly of the University of Milan, delivered a lecture in English last month at the Hotel Brunswick in Boston on "Poetry in the Modern Era." Professor Borgese at present is teaching Italian language and literature at Smith College.

Miss Rosa Desimini of Washington Irving High School in New York recently won the Parson Scholarship in that school.

Prof. Franco Bruno Averardi, special visiting lecturer at Wellesley College this year and formerly of the Italian diplomatic service, spoke recently in Boston on "Italy of Today" in an international affairs course of eight lectures in the Boston State House.

The Circolo Dante Alighieri of Manhattan College gave a banquet last month in New York for its members. Among those present were Prof. P. Cantatore, founder and adviser of the Circolo, Mr. Ferraro, president, Mr. Gentile, secretary, and Mr. Spinapolic, chairman of the banquet committee.

Among the honor men recently announced at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N. J. were Lucas V. Banta and Victor J. DiFilippo of the senior class, Philip Alampi and Frank G. Sisco of the junior class and John F. Ruso of the Sophomore class.

Miss Agrippina Scire of New York was recently presented the Dante Medal, a gift of the Order Sons of Italy, by Miss Marie J. Concistrè, Italian teacher of Seward Park High School, for having received the high-



A bust by Marcello Rotundo, inspired by the word "bigot," as expressed by Al Smith

(See page 277, Column 3)

At the request of the Foreign Student Council of St. Paul, Minnesota, Miss Marie Vittoria Fedele, a student of St. Catherine College in that city, gave a brief talk recently over radio station KSTP. A native of Italy, Miss Fedele is in the college on a scholarship.

Commenting on the value of exchanging students between countries, Miss Fedele said: "Between understanding the mind of a people and loving it there is only one step, while there is nothing more distressing than to note the prejudices that frequently exist as a result of the ignorance of one people by another."

The Italians in the United States, said the speaker, made her proud of being an Italian. "The example given by these emigrants, who know how to couple their loyalty for their adopted land with a deep attachment for the glories of our race and the age-old Italian civilization, will remain with me all my life."

On another occasion, Mr. Attilio Castigliano, Italian Consul in St. Paul, Minn., also spoke for the Foreign

Student Council over radio station KSTP. The purpose of the Council is to extend hospitality to students of foreign extraction in American educational institutions.

Speaking of American students abroad, Mr. Castigliano said:

"In travelling throughout Europe you will find American students in large numbers at Oxford, Berlin, Heidelberg, Munich, Rome, Milan, Paris and Vienna. While I was in Milan in 1928 I learned with a great deal of pleasure that there were over two thousand students from America studying music in that renowned musical center. In the city of Rome there are several American colleges to which young American students go to complete their education.

"As the American student who can afford to go abroad to complete his education generally belongs to a family that occupies an important position in the social and civic life of the community of which it is a part, the opinion of the young student who returns from abroad becomes the opinion of his family and of the circle of relatives and friends of the same. It is in this way that the reputation of foreign educational institutions and of foreign people is formed.

"The fact that the number of foreign students has increased is in itself evidence that the impression which the returning students carried with them was a favorable one, not only in so far as it refers to the educational institution attended but also in so far as it refers to the American people at large."

Sergio Cavallo was recently elected president of the freshman class at the College of the City of New York.

Professor Giuseppe Prezzolini, director of Columbia University's Casa Italiana in New York, recently spoke at the Harlem House on Garibaldi.

Miss Elaine Tonelli, a student at Crane College in Chicago, was the winner recently of the Italian Club Scholarship entitling her to a trip to Italy and a course in Italian literature at the University of Rome. Prof. Walter L. Bullock, head of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago, who awarded the prize, said in a letter to Prof. G. Albachiaro, head of the Italian Department of Crane College and founder of the Italian Club there, that he was pleasantly surprised at the high ratings of the applicants for the scholarship.

The new officers of the Italian Club at Hunter College in New York are Olga Romeo, Minna Gallucci, Mary Gori and Anna Tantillo.

Col. G. L. McEntee of the 78th Division of the American Army, spoke last month over radio station WOV in New York on Italy's part in the winning of the World War.

Dr. John L. Tildsley, district superintendent of high schools in New York, was the speaker at a meeting of the Italian Teachers Association on March 4th at the Casa Italiana in New York.

Under the auspices of the Board of Education last month, in P. S. 121 in New York, an Italian evening was held through the efforts of Prof. Leonard Covello, head of the department of Italian at De Witt Clinton High School. The first part of the program was the presentation of "The American Daughter-in-Law" by members of the Circolo Italiano of De Witt Clinton High School, following which the Italian Choral Society, under the direction of Maestro Sandro Benelli, sang several numbers.

Dr. Beniamino de Ritis of the Italy America Society spoke last month at the Casa Italiana in New York on the Vatican City.

### RELIGION

The elevation to the position of Cardinal of Monsignor Pietro Fumasoni-Biondi, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, was recently announced.

On the occasion of his having been made a Chevalier of the Order of the Crown of Italy, a banquet was recently held in Newark in honor of Mons. Cav. Ernesto D'Aquila, rector of the Madonna del Carmine Church in that city. Among those present were Mons. Thomas Walsh, Bishop of Newark, Rev. Umberto Donati, rector of the Church of San Rocco, Hon. Felix Forlenza, Assistant District Attorney, and Dr. Pier P. Spinelli, Italian Vice-Consul in Newark, who presented the decoration. John Padovano was chairman of the banquet committee.

Rev. Arnaldo Vanoli of the Order of Scalabrinian Missionaries, rector of the Church of St. Joachim in New York, has been made a Chevalier of the Order of the Crown of Italy.

To celebrate his having been made a Chevalier of the Order of the Crown of Italy, a banquet was recently held in Port Chester, N. Y. in honor of Rev. Giovanni Focacci of the Order of Salesians, rector of the Italian Church of the Rosary in that city. Aniello La Rosa was president of the banquet committee.

### BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL

On February 2nd the Board of Directors of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in New York held their annual elections with the following results: Cav. Uff. Ercole H. Locatelli, president (re-elected); Comm. Lionello Perera, vice president (re-elected); Mr. Domenico D'Angiola, vice president; Comm. Pasquale I. Simonelli, treasurer (re-elected).

At a recent meeting of the Italian Hospital Association of San Francisco, directors for the Dante Hospital for the coming year were elected as follows: Mayor Angelo J. Rossi, Victor A. Sbragia, Giuseppe Peschiera, Ettore Patrizi, G. Comolli, G. Bagnani, Agostino Rossi, Eliseo Barsanti, F. Bertoletti, Oliva Bossu, C. Costaganna, Giuseppe Guzzetta, J. J. Lauricella, I. Mugnani and G. Pisani.

On February 10th, 1933, Attorney Hector J. Ciotti, who is also Assistant Solicitor for the City of Baltimore, was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States in Washington, D. C. Mr. Ciotti was one of the attorneys representing the City of Baltimore when an appeal, filed by the Receiver of the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad Company, from a decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, was heard. The case involved the constitutionality of an act of the Maryland Legislature which attempted to exempt the railroad property from taxation. The act in question had previously been declared invalid by the Circuit Court. The amount of taxes due to the City of Baltimore by the railroad company is approximately \$70,000.00.

Mr. Ciotti, who is a graduate of Loyola College with the degree of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts and of the University of Baltimore with the degree of Bachelor of Laws, was formerly assistant General Counsel for the Maryland Casualty Company of Baltimore and is the only attorney of Italian descent in the city of Baltimore admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States.

A. P. Giannini, chairman of the Board of the Bank of America and the Transamerica Corp., was recently invited by President-elect (at that time) Roosevelt to a private conference. Rumors had it that Mr. Giannini, who was an ardent supporter of Roosevelt in California, had been sounded out concerning a position in the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and to discuss agricultural and industrial questions.

Dr. Thomas C. Case has been appointed physician to the Department of Police in New York City, the first Italian to be named part of the medical corps of that city's Police Department.

Mr. Frank Massa, one of the younger research engineers with the R. C. A.—Victor Co. at Camden, N. J., presented a paper on the new high-quality ribbon telephone receiver recently developed, before the Institute of Radio Engineers at the Atlantic City convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science on Dec. 29, 1932. Mr. Massa is advancing rapidly in the important and highly specialized field of radio acoustics. He was graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with honors in 1927, was awarded the Swope Fellowship for that institution, and returned there in 1928 to earn his degree of M. S. These degrees were given in Electrical Engineering, from which field Mr. Massa has transferred his efforts to that of acoustics. One of his most important contributions to science, the development of a meter for measuring the intensity of noises, is being used extensively today for industrial noise measurements of machinery, traffic, factories, offices, etc. An article, "Use of Pressure Gradient Mi-

crophones," of which he is the co-author, appeared in the January issue of the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, describing some of his late researches in acoustical affects. Mr. Massa is but twenty-six years of age, having been born in Boston, April 10, 1906.

The latest American methods of oil drilling and marketing will shortly be put into effect in Italy as a result of a three months' survey of the domestic oil industry just completed by two representatives of Premier Mussolini, Romolo Angelone, Italian Commercial Attache, said recently.

The study, according to the "New York World-Telegram" was made by Alfred Castelletti and Alberto Velani, executives of the Italian Railways Administration, temporarily detached from their posts to make the study.

The Italian officials arrived in the United States last November and spent the greater part of their time in Oklahoma, East Texas and Mexico. The last week was spent in New York conferences with executives of a number of American oil companies. They sailed Saturday on the steamship Rex.

According to Signor Angelone, Signors Castelletti and Velani studied the latest drilling methods and marketing of oil from the time the crude leaves the ground until it is ready for retail sale.

This information, Signor Angelone said, will be made available for distribution to all persons engaged in the Italian oil industry.

The Italian government, he added, carries a sum in each annual budget for oil drilling, and this year alone approximately 7,000,000 lire (about \$300,000) was appropriated for that purpose.

As a result of the survey, he indicated, it is likely that some large orders for American drilling machinery shortly will be placed by Italian companies, with the approval of the Mussolini government.

The Cross of Chevalier of the Crown of Italy has been conferred upon Colonel Gerard L. McEntee of the 78th Division, United States Army, by King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, it was announced at the Italian vice-consul's office in Newark.

Colonel McEntee was with the American Expeditionary Force at the Italian front. He saw action in Corso. With permission of the War Department Colonel McEntee has delivered several lectures on the part Italy played in the World War.

Representative Peter A. Cavicchia requested Congress to permit an Italian decoration for an American officer and offered his name. The recommendation to Italy was made by Dr. Ornello N. Simone, former vice-consul. A certificate of the decoration was received by Dr. Pier P. Spinelli.

A small but select group of relatives and eminent Italo-Americans gathered at the home of Giuseppe Gerli at 270 Park Avenue, N. Y. one evening last month to congratulate him on his recently being made a Grand Officer of the Order of the Crown of Italy.

I suffered the stuffiness and intellectual cowardice of England, incident after incident of editors who would not answer straight questions, attempts to bribe one into compliance or to punish one for the contrary. I have been for seven years and for three winters in Italy. On one sole occasion an editor was scared by something I had to say in an interview which he thought contravened a general recommendation or order. The interviewer appealed to highest authority and got his answer:—"Print it. Tell Mr. Pound his ideas on Napoleon are rotten." As a challenge compare the straight talk of the debates in the present Italian chamber,

as reported in the *Stampa*, with the evasions and slidings and ambiguities of parliamentary language in other countries.

#### SPORTS

Another Italo-American joined the long list of world's boxing champions of that race when Young Corbett 3rd of Fresno, Calif., realized his life-long ambition by defeating Jackie Fields for the welterweight title last month in San Francisco. For more than four years Corbett, whose real name is Ralph Giordano, was known as the uncrowned title-holder, because of the unwillingness on the part of champions to trade punches with him in a championship bout.

Ralph Giordano, or, as he is known, Young Corbett 3rd, is the second Italo-American to hold the welterweight title, Baltimore Joe Dundee having held it before him.

As a result of the recent victory over Billy Townsend at Madison Square Garden last month of Tony Canzoneri, lightweight champion of the world, whom most sports writers concede to be the best boxer in any division today, one sports writer wrote: "There may be some argument regarding the rightful rulers of other divisions . . . but Tony Canzoneri stands alone and unchallenged among the lightweights."

### THE NEW BOOKS

(Continued from page 271)

prose. She states with finality that "the Italian Renaissance is an exciting period and can be conveyed only with some imaginative excitement" and gives an intensely subjective and keenly imaginative portrayal of scholars and artists, popes and princes, courtiers and ladies. The ethics discovered to underlie the conduct of these people are based on "those absolute values of passionate experience which are the only excuse for the infinite and intolerable anguish of existence." These ethics may prove slightly disquieting but they are invariably of interest. Though in the end the poetic vein becomes somewhat fatiguing, the evaluations, especially those religious in character (the Catholic ritual, Luther, Protestantism) are penetrating and reveal a thoroughness of understanding.

References to the "masculine temper" of the Renaissance, the "hermaphroditic genius of Leonardo," the "charming insolence" of Cellin's Perseus, may be taken soberly by the casual reader, but they are novel in flavor and challenging in vividness.

The volume bears with it the conviction that an understanding of the Renaissance is only to be arrived at through a devoted and sympathetic reconstruction of its many manifestations. These manifestations may be seen in a different light but their portrayal by the author loses none of its value or beauty because of this.

If ever a book were meant to convey thought and feeling, Mrs. Taylor's most assuredly fulfills this purpose.

Anthony M. Gisolfi

UPTON SINCLAIR PRESENTS  
WILLIAM FOX. "A Feature Picture of Wall Street and High Finance." By Upton Sinclair. 377 pages. Published by the author. Los Angeles, Cal. \$3.00.

William Fox began in the cloth examining and shrinking business, changing afterward his source of livelihood for a nickelodeon, then a "common show," then a string of 125 shows, and then vaudeville theatres and whole chains of motion picture "palaces," to say nothing of the huge film-producing machine bearing his name. In the year 1929 William Fox was one of the two or three greatest names in the motion picture industry, an in-

dustry that thought in terms not of millions, but of tens and even hundreds of millions.

As everyone knows, soon after the crash, William Fox was ousted from control of his companies, the Fox Film Corporation and the Fox Theatres Corporation. This book is the "inside story" of the affair, in which the cast includes names like Hoover, Hays, Ford, Rockefeller Jr., Wiggin, H. L. Stuart, H. L. Clarke, Zukor, Baruch, and scores of others—shall we call them—"extras" high in the financial world.

Upton Sinclair, of course, has been writing exposes for years, exposes which, strangely enough, are more widely read abroad than here, and this story (different from its predecessors in that it is not novelized, but is a straight factual narrative) is peculiarly his province. As he puts it, William Fox approached him, presented his proposition, and after they had come to an agreement concerning responsibility for the facts, they talked together for days, weeks, months, with two stenographers nearby taking down everything Mr. Fox said. And the story is truly an amazing one, revealing as it does avarice, duplicity and jealousy in high Wall Street quarters. The array of figures and facts, far from detracting from the readability of the book, make it of still greater interest for those who would like a glimpse of how the financial rulers actually operate.

If circulated widely enough, this book will probably make as great a sensation as did Sinclair's "Jungle," "The Brass Check," "Oil" and "The Wet Parade," and there seems to be no reason why it should not.

CROWELL'S DICTIONARY OF  
BUSINESS AND FINANCE. Revised  
edition. 601 pages. New York: Thomas  
Y. Crowell Co. \$3.50.

The recent orgy of financial terms in the nation's press has made still more necessary and valuable a reference book of this kind, which, as its name implies, is a quick reference work to business, financial and legal words that are not universally understood. The fourth printing of this

work, it is really more than a dictionary, for some of the definitions constitute articles in themselves.

A long and extensive appendix lists, among other things, a comprehensive and detailed description of the monetary system of the United States, the value of foreign coins in American money, postal information, and several different interest tables.

GREAT DETECTIVE STORIES OF  
THE WORLD. Edited by Joseph  
Lewis French. 1139 pages. New York:  
Albert & Charles Boni. \$1.00.

According to Carolyn Wells, an authority on detective stories, murder and robbery constitute their principal themes. Examples of both types are to be found in the present collection, which aims furthermore to present the detective story, in fact or fiction, in chronological sequence from its inception.

The first outcropping (says the editor) of analytic deduction—on which all criminal detection is based to this day—was "The Sultan and His Three Sons" a very short tale by the Chevalier De Mailly in 1719. Half a century later Voltaire wrote his "Zadig." But detective literature was really born with the "Memoirs" of M. Vidocq of the Paris Suretè, published in 1828. Fiction claimed detective literature only with the publication in 1841 of Poe's "Murders in the Rue Morgue," which, together with others he wrote later, founded a new branch of literature which has since enjoyed increasing popularity.

Most of the stories contained in this volume are excerpts from novels by such eminent personages as Balzac, Dumas, Dickens, Wilkie Collins, Gaboriau, Stevenson, etc. And of course Conan Doyle's immortal character Sherlock Holmes is here to be found in "The Red-Headed League," as well as Poe's classic, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue." They are probably the finest in the collection.

Though one might question the wisdom of using excerpts (even long excerpts) from novels for inclusion in an anthology of this sort, it cannot be questioned that the bulky and interesting volume is certainly worth its low price.

# Things Italian in American Books and Periodicals

## A Bibliography of Recent Publications of Interest to Italian-Americans

### PERIODICALS

PACIFIC PROGRESS — *Time*, Feb. 13, 1933.

Based on a recent art exhibit of a radical nature in San Francisco, this article goes into a detailed history of the brother of marionette artist Remo Bujano, "grizzled, close-cropped Beniamino Bujano, an artist of unquestioned ability who paints somewhat in the manner of Diego Rivera but whose sculpture looks like that of an Italianate Paul Manship."

THE SCREEN IN ROME — By Herbert L. Matthews — *The New York Times*, Feb. 12, 1933.

A review of recent events in the Italian cinema world, including reviews of "L'Armata Azzurra," the first Italian air film and a truly national undertaking; "Il Dono del Mattino," a screen adaptation of a popular stage comedy; "5 a 0," which is about a football game that ends with such a score; and "La Segretaria per Tutti," a comic sketch produced by a theatrical repertory company.

ITALY AND THE GREAT WAR - FROM NEUTRALITY TO INTERVENTION — A review of former Italian Prime Minister Antonio Salandra's book, by Walter Littlefield — *The New York Times Book Review*, Feb. 12, 1933.

"This book," says the reviewer, "should have been written years ago. In 1915 it would have clarified Italy's urge to war; in 1919 it would have justified her claims at the peace conference." The book is an explanation and justification of Italy's negotiations just prior to her entrance into the World War, by the man who guided Italy's destinies at the time.

FRANCE AND ITALY WIDEN THE EUROPEAN RIFT — By H. L. Matthews — *The New York Times*, Feb. 19, 1933.

A comprehensive feature article by the Paris correspondent of the *Times* giving the historical background behind the present friction between the two sister nations and showing the various problems at issue between them.

EXPOSING OUR HUMAN FOIBLES — *The Literary Digest*, Feb. 25, 1933.

An article on Vittorio Podrecca's "Teatro dei Piccoli," which recently ended a long run, based on a review by John Anderson in the *New York Evening Journal*.

EUROPE'S SQUABBLE OVER ARMS-SMUGGLING — *The Literary Digest*, March 11, 1933.

A compendium of editorial opinion selected in the "Digest's" usual manner from representative newspapers, on the question of alleged arms-smuggling into Hungary.

PUMPING AND PRUNING — *Time*, Feb. 20, 1933.

The weekly newsmagazine describes at some length the various measures that have been decreed recently by Mussolini to put Italian industry on a sounder basis.

"Still a stranger to many otherwise well posted citizens of the world is the new Benito Mussolini, the Duce who has taken to digesting balance sheets, mastering trade statistics, engineering huge combinations of Italian industry and grappling intelligently with the octopus of hard times."

PARALLEL OR COINCIDENCE? A PROBLEM OF DANTE INTERPRETATION — By Prof. H. D. Austin — *Studies in Philology*, Jan. 1933.

HISTORY OF TUBERCULOSIS — By Arturo Castiglioni — *Medical Life*, January and February, 1933 (2 issues).

Two consecutive issues of this "monthly journal of medical history" are devoted entirely to this important work by the eminent Professor of History of Medicine at the University of Padua in Italy. It is translated by Emile Recht from the Italian.

FASCISTS EFFICIENT IN HANDLING NEWS — By Herbert L. Matthews — *The New York Times*, March 12, 1933.

In this special correspondence from Italy, it is shown in detail, and with a few examples, just how the Fascists censor, or, as they prefer to call it, "control" the press, including even dispatches to foreign papers.

IMMIGRANT ARTS IN AMERICA — By A. H. Eaton — *School Arts Monthly*, February 1933.

IMPROVING OUR IMMIGRATION — By R. C. White — *The National Republic*, February, 1933.

ON GOING TO ROME — *The Commonwealth*, March 8, 1933.

This leading editorial article in the Catholic weekly concerns itself with the coming trip of many Catholics to Rome to take part in the penitential exercises of the Holy Year of Jubilee, and consists for the most part of an imaginary speech on their part to the Pope.

MUSSOLINI'S POPULARITY: A Reply to W. A. V. Hooft — By A. di Domenica — *The Christian Century*, Jan. 18, 1933.

WAR LEGENDS: ITALY AND THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE — By Count Carlo Sforza — *The Contemporary Review*, December 1932.

THE FOREIGN-BORN AND PROHIBITION — By C. Panunzio — *Annals of the American Academy*, September, 1932.

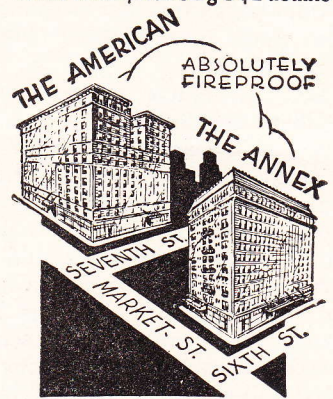
IS FASCISM A RELIGION? — By W. A. V. Hooft — *The Christian Century*, Dec. 28, 1932.



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in **ST. LOUIS**

ba e pura, un complimento mi solleticava. Il cavaliere si voltò di scatto, mi guardò e, forse per vincere me o per vincersi, mi chiese: Bellezze, vuoi vendermi i tuoi fiori? Vendere i fiori? Mi parve una cosa enorme, tanto che risposi di no, quasi ruidamente. "Neanche per due monetine d'oro da appenderti alle orecchie?" E mi porse due sterline lucenti. La contessa che comprese la mia contrarietà s'affrettò ad intervenire. "Siete poeta, dicono, mylord, ma non vi trovo dissimile da altri uomini: credete che col denaro tutto si possa comprare! Portetemi il ginocchio, vi prego." L'altro scese da cavallo e porse mano e ginocchio alla dama che leggera balzò di sella. Mi venne poi incontro, mi sorrise dolcemente e mi chiese: "Vuoi cambiare i tuoi fiori coi miei baci, carina?" Gli gettai tra le braccia il mio carico floreale e fuggii senza osar di ripetere il compenso. Quella sera, in casa, fui più di una eroina. Raccontata la mia avventura in segreto a mia sorella, parve la cosa enorme così da non consentire a celarla. E dovetti ripeterla, ripeterla, ripeterla! Mi si invidiò e Cecchino Saredo, un cuginetto che in segreto (un segreto di pulcinella) mi si era destinato a sposo, col tempo, ne fu geloso. Un tipo Cecchino Saredo. Lo si preconizzava destinato a grandi cose per una certa aria che si dava e che oggi posso classificare di sufficienza. Mentre i familiari non vedevano che il lato romantico della mia avventura, Cecchino vi almanacò su non so che per tutta la

serata. Tanto che l'indomani mi fece il broncio, me ne addolorai, ed acconsenti di cessarlo ad un patto: che gli facessi conoscere il poeta. Conoscere il poeta? Ma lo conoscevo io forse, io che all'offerta delle due monetine da appendermi alle orecchie, fatta scontenta, l'avevo quasi respinto da me?

— Non importa, insistè Cecchino: ci metteremo sulla sua strada, ti riconoscerà certo e tu mi presenterai come...

— ... mio cugino.

— No. Preferisco ... fidanzato.

Arrossii.

— Ma Cecchino!

— Non lo siamo forse ... **in pectore?** Su via, da brava, fammi questo grande piacere.

**M**I LASCIAI convincere. Ci appostammo presso la casa abitata da Byron e non tardammo a vederlo, chè ogni pomeriggio lo passava fuori di casa. Mi riconobbe, era lieto, c'era un sole da paradiso terrestre, mi sorrise, mi accarezzò i capegli, poi guardò il giovanotto che avevo accanto e ch' dimostrava assai di più de' suoi diciassette anni.

Imporporai abbassando il viso.

— Sono il suo fidanzato, mylord!

Confusa, ardente di rossore, tutta vergognosa mi sentivo quasi svenire. Rimasi qualche po' di tempo appoggiata al muricciolo. Quando alzai gli occhi mi vidi sola: il poeta e Cecchino erano scomparsi.

Passò qualche settimana senza ch'io vedessi nè Byron e nemmeno Cecchino. Le comunicazioni allora non

erano facili: fra noi che abitavamo dal principio di primavera la villa di San Nazzaro e i Saredo che risiedevano a San Teodoro, sotto la Lanterna, c'era da compiere un viaggio con relativo testamento. L'unica festa in cui la famiglia tutta doveva riunirsi prima dell'estate era San Giovanni, lontano ancora. Ma se gli uomini poco si vedevano, le notizie correivano ugualmente. Si parlava apertamente del viaggio di Lord Byron in aiuto della Grecia, a capo — si diceva — d'una falange di cavalieri, in armatura nera, chiamati i **Neri** di Byron. Si additava un bel giovane, uscito da poco dall'Università, il dottor Bruno, che doveva accompagnarlo, con un pirata, e due poeti, uno inglese ed uno francese. Tutte quelle notizie porò non agivano che parzialmente sulla mia fantasia: che sapevo di Grecia e di poeti? Il pirata m'interessava, ma come una cosa troppo lontana. Ciò che più di tutto m'interessò invece fu l'annuncio che Cecchino avrebbe accompagnato Byron. Si disse allora che mio cugino era addentro assai nelle grazie del poeta, il quale persino lo aveva raccomandato come intendente ad una famiglia patrizia. Mio padre portò quella notizia a pranzo, chè allora si pranzava all'una dopo mezzogiorno.

— Cecchino si è fatta una bella posizione, che diventerà magnifica col tempo!

— Cecchino è una testa quadra!

— E sarà un bel partito, aggiunse mio padre.

Tutti mi guardarono ed io arrossii.

L'indomani, sulla deserta straduccia di San Nazzaro, incontrai Byron: era seduto sopra un sasso e sferzava col frustino un cespuglio selvaggio. Per lasciarmi passare s'interruppe, sollevò il capo: il viso buio si rasserenò, mi sorrise.

— Ah; sei tu, Bellezza? Sei tu che devi sposare quel bel mobile del giovane Saredo? Ascoltami: un poeta parla sempre come un moribondo. Non sposarlo, non può farti felice. E' una cartapeccora zeppa di numeri, ed ha il cuore arido più d'un notaio. Non può nè comprenderti, nè apprezzarti, nè amarti. Ascoltami: tu sei un fiore e il signor Saredo non apprezza che i carciofi. Non sposarlo, bellezza: saresti infelice tutta la vita. Dammi retta: un poeta parla sempre come un moribondo.

S'alzò, frustò il cespuglio selvaggio e mi piantò in asso.

**L**A VECCHIA signora affascinante curvò il capo, tristemente.

— E' inutile ch'io ti rammenti — vero? — che, quasi un anno dopo, a Missolungi, Byron moriva. Ed io che compivo quindici anni, fui chiesta da mio cugino Saredo, il quale s'era fatta una invidiabile posizione. "Fra un anno le nozze, disse mio padre frengendosi le mani." Proprio in quei giorni giunse la notizia della morte del poeta e destò enorme impressione. A Genova tutti lo conoscevano, e tutti gli volevano bene, anche lo zio Mauro, canonico di San Lorenzo, a malgrado lo stretto cattolicismo di sanfedista. "Ho pregato per Lord Byron," dichiarò lo zio quella sera. "Ma non era un protestante?" domandò la mamma. "Non so, rispose lo zio, ricordiamo soltanto che ha fatto tante

## MISTERO

**T**UTTA, in divin silenzio, sotto l'empirea cupola  
ripalpita di stelle l'immensa oscurità.

Sei tu, divin silenzio, forse il linguaggio incognito  
dell'infinita, arcana, pensosa Eternità?

Lente, alla luna intorno, si svolgono le nuvole  
e calan, vaporando diafane, giù giù.

O nuvole calanti, siete voi forse i placidi  
sogni che al cor dell'uomo discendono di lassù?

Sognano i cuori, e intanto per lo gran mar dell'essere  
la terra a ignoto porto li turbina con sè.

Forse, progenie stanca, gli astri che in ciel sorridono  
son occhi d'immortali che vegliano su te?

Va la gran nave umana per li stellanti oceani  
dell'infinito, e nulla, nulla il mortal ne sa.

O dove vai tu dunque, gran nave infaticabile  
cui d'ogn'intorno avvolge l'oscura Eternità?

Giovanni Marradi



elemosine da riscattare una vita — si diciamolo pure, — un po' disordinata. Quella sera gran pranzo da noi per festeggiare Cecchino e me, soprattutto Cecchino, giovane importante. Ora figurati che mentre mi abbagliavo mi parve di sentirmi oscurare la vista, la camera assunse un aspetto moribondo, come se mi si stringesse addosso ed una voce un po' irata ma dolce ripetè: "Dammì retta: un poeta parla sempre come un moribondo." Senni. La festa fu sospesa. Stetti venti giorni fra la vita e la morte. Quando una mattina d'estate m'accorsi del sole caldo e allegro, che si insinuava attraverso le stecche delle persiane, mormorai alla mamma curva su di me:

"Non voglio sposare Cecchino." Mi meditavo ancora fuori dei sensi, ma assai tempo dopo, guarita, fui irrevocabile nella mia risoluzione. Al solo mio canonico, in confessione narrai tutto. Lo zio crollò il capo, sorrise, pensò forse ch'erano fisime di fanciulla romantica. Ma, uomo di coscienza, per convincermi, studiò mio cugino e volle farsene un giudizio. Il risultato fu questo. A mio padre ed a mia madre sbalorditi dichiarò che avevo ragione e che Cecchino non mi avrebbe fatto felice. E non lo sposai, e me ne trovai benissimo.

La vecchia signora affascinante concluse:

— Ho sempre creduto ai poeti e ne ho sempre seguiti i consigli...

S'interruppe, ma poi continuò:

— ... con qualche tara.

— C'è un altro ricordo sotto, forse?

— Naturalmente: ma per oggi sono stanca.

La mia curiosità però chiedeva una cosa ancora:

— Ha più veduto la bella contessa di Blessington?

— Sì, molti anni dopo. E per la prima volta perdetti un po' di fede in Lord Byron quando lessi nel suo epistolario che le donne inglesi durano più di noi.

E mi sorrise. Ah! che aveva ragione lei, fresca ed affascinante alla sua età!

## L'ULTIMA TAPPA DI CASANOVA

di Filippo Sacchi

Gli ultimi anni di Casanova, gli anni in cui, finita la vita avventurosa, passa il suo tempo a scrivere romanzi filosofici ed a risolvere quesiti di matematica nel ritiro di Dux, in Bohemia, sono rievocati dal Sacchi con nostalgica ironia. Da parecchi anni uno dei migliori corrispondenti, Filippo Sacchi ha recentemente pubblicato un romanzo di ambiente coloniale, "La Casa in Oceania," che ha richiamato una cordiale attenzione da parte della critica italiana.

**E** SI', quando arrivò a Dux, il povero Casanova non era già più, in condizioni da poter essere pericoloso.

Fu nell'ottantacinque, già sessantenne, che il conte Giuseppe Waldstein, signore di Dux e Teplitz (che lo aveva conosciuto anni prima a Parigi, in un pranzo) che lo portò in qualità di suo bibliotecario privato. Lo aveva ritrovato quell'inverno a Vienna, solo, malato e in miseria, scoraggiato tanto che rimuginava di ricoverare in un chiostro. Era ancora senza dubbio l'antico uomo di mondo, conversatore imbattibile, osservatore acutissimo, esperto di tutti i paesi e di tutti i segreti, che copriva le sue mancanze di educazione, di cultura e qualche volta di gusto col fascino d'una natura inquieta, irruente e geniale: però ormai affievolito dagli acciacchi, inacidito dalle mortificazioni, rotto per sempre in quella sua bella sicurezza baldanzosa ch'era stata lo strascico stellato della sua vagabonda fortuna. Quanto all'amore, s'era scostato dal suo cammino da un pezzo. Già quel decennio tra il '70 e l'80 era stato per Casanova il periodo del suo collocamento a riposo, il periodo nel quale l'uomo che delle donne aveva provato tutto, il rifiuto, il disprezzo, la gelosia, il tradimento, s'era trovato per la prima volta davanti al solo affronto contro il quale non c'è difesa: la bontà che la donna ha per l'uomo a cui non è più compromettente dimostrarne. Rideva, guardandosi nello specchio, al solo pensare di dover riprendere la sua vita d'avventuriero. A Dux i Waldstein tengono corte: convitano ospiti d'Austria, Boemia e Moravia, danno concerti, caccie, festini, rappresentazioni

pastorali dove Titiri e Amarilli piangono e danzano davanti a parterres di parrucche in mezzo a cui civettano le più belle donne dell'aristocrazia danubiana. Ma Casanova doveva prender poca parte ai sollazzi dei suoi giovani padroni, se nelle lettere dello zio principe di Ligne lo vediamo nominato sempre per la sua irascibilità e i suoi litigi, mai per la sua socievolezza. E' vero che ogni tanto per svagarsi e per illudersi si toglie da quel piccolo mondo che ha in uggia e va a Dresda, nella grande Dresda rococò, la Dresda che, punto d'incrocio tra la moda francese ed il costume d'Oriente, stava imparando in quel momento i poufs à sentiment e i pettegolezzi dell'Eremitage. Va a trovare il fratello Giovanni, a informarsi delle novità librerie di Padova o di Amsterdam; soprattutto a risentire per un momento, inebriante per lui come l'odor di polvere, l'aria del salotto cosmopolita, dove intorno alla tavola del trictrac si potevano incontrare il diplomatico che veniva da Londra, l'ufficiale che partiva l'indomani per la Polonia, o la dama che aveva assistito venti giorni prima a un ricevimento al Petit Trianon. Va anche a teatro, e vede ballare la André, e le manda versi e lettere dove chiama lei la regina della danza e s'è amico delle muse. Corti svaghi, che gli fan sentire più duro, al ritorno, il peso della mediocrità quotidiana.

**A** DUX CASANOVA aveva un paio di stanze nell'avancorpo destro del palazzo, prospiciente il grande cortile. Non sarebbe stato male se non gli avessero dato maledettamente ai nervi di qua i cani, di là gli stallieri

che facevano un baccano indecente nelle scuderie. In genere quella servitù di Dux era insopportabile. Non passava giorno senza che il vecchio non piantasse qualche bega coi cuochi, gli staffieri o i lacchè, per via dei maccheroni che erano troppo cotti, o del latte che non era servito ben caldo, o della parrucca che non era pettinata a dovere. Quelli si prendevano la rivincita mettendo in giro sul suo conto storie abominevoli, come quella volta che, la figlia del portinaio del castello essendo passata inavvertitamente a nozze, sparsero pel paese che il seduttore era stato Casanova. Casanova, invece di gradire questo indiretto omaggio reso ai suoi sessant'anni, andò su tutte le furie e tanto fece, gridò e tempestò finchè obbligarono la ragazza a metter fuori il nome del responsabile, ch'era un pittorello dei Waldstein. E' vero che un po' la colpa era sua, ed era un pezzo per esempio che le mamme di Dux si lagnavano perchè per strada diceva delle stupidaggini alle ragazzine. Questo doveva essere, mio Dio, l'ultimo fastidio d'amore di Casanova!

Si isolava contro quella bassa corte dei "barbari di Dux" chiudendosi nella torre d'avorio della sua dignità scientifica. Questa volta il diavolo, fattosi eremita, prende dei gusti da poligrafo, secondo le tendenze dei tempi. Pubblica un ponderoso romanzo filosofico, stende un progetto di riforma del calendario gregoriano, scrive dei dialoghi sull'immortalità dell'anima, lavora anni interi intorno a quesiti di alto calcolo geometrico. Come Petrarca per le opere volgari, non avrebbe mai creduto che l'immortalità gli potesse venire dalle memorie, mescolate per sfogo o per gioco, piuttosto che dalla sua duplicazione del calco. Prende la sua nuova vocazione molto sul serio, e non trova niente di strano che i suoi ammiratori gli mandino delle lettere che cominciano, tra le altre cose, con philosophes... Diventa serio, austero, intrattabile, ma a un certo mo-

nata al conte Waldstein stesso, perché incontrandolo non gli ha dato il buon-giorno per primo. Il documento tipico di questo Casanova dell'ultima maniera, dottorale e ipocondriaco, è la sua corrispondenza con Opiz, una corrispondenza cominciata tra un reciproco deferente scambio di idee su argomenti scientifici nel tono e nello stile tra accademico ed enciclopedico che caratterizza il secolo, e finita sei anni dopo tra gli impropri più grossolani. Gli impropri, si capisce, sono di Casanova il quale da dichiarato misantropo inferocisce contro quel mite Opiz che aveva abbracciata la causa della filantropia. Meno male che da quegli impropri Opiz cavò una rinomanza postuma che non gli sarebbe mai venuta dall'enorme raccolta di Effemeridi erudite intorno a cui sgobbò tutta la sua vita: un altro esempio incoraggiante della giustizia che c'è in questo mondo, alle volte.

**E**RA in una di quelle lettere che il vecchio Casanova aveva scritto di essere vissuto da misantropo e di voler morire da misantropo. Tenne la parola. L'ultimo segno che resta di lui è un biglietto, indirizzato un mese prima della sua morte alla poetessa von der Recke, esecrabile tipo di **bas bleu** zelante e sentimentale ch'era accorsa al capezzale del vecchio Casanova per offrirgli i suoi loquaci conforti. Casanova non la volle nemmeno

ricevere. "Divina Elisa, scansatemi dal dover resistere più oltre alle vostre preghiere. Io non posso ricevervi. Sono stato ormai munito di tutti i viatici spirituali necessari a un cristiano, pel trapasso da questa vita terrena alla dimora felice dell'Eterno, e voglio che nessuna traccia di ridicolo si mescoli a questo viaggio così serio. Perché la morte è un debito che neppure un gentiluomo paga volentieri." Se mai una volta un Carlyle lunatico scriverà (perché no?) dell'"eroe come libertino," si ricordi di questa morte ch'è eroica — se l'eroismo consiste nel disprezzo inflessibile di tutti i surrogati.

\* \* \*

**M**I SONO fatto condurre da Marr a vedere dov'è stato sepolto Casanova. Marr è un uomo straordinario. Non è un letterato, è il proprietario di un'officina di costruzioni meccaniche che dirige e amministra di persona, il quale a tempo perso s'è divertito, così per suo conto, a diventare uno dei più forti specialisti di studi casanoviani che esistano. Quest'uomo ha copiato da sé una ventina d'anni fa, prima che fossero trasportate via da Dux, tutte le carte casanoviane in facsimile, una batteria di grandi volumi in foglio con indici da far rabbrivire un amanuense. Vi riceve nel suo studio dove tra mastri e modelli di macchine ha accumulato tutto quello ch'è stato scritto e stampato su Casanova, vi spalanca davanti quei

suoi libracci e li, mentre voi scorrete le lettere della piccola Manon Baletti (cara Manon! **Minuit! addieu!...** **Dimanche soir a minuit...** E poi quegli errori d'ortografia proprio della donna cara, **addieu! addieu!**) o il manoscritto del "Plebiscito fatale," o le note per le memorie (**Mon voyage a Dunkerque, Generoso Marini et sa fille...**), lui in giacca di velluto, con un pipa lunga un metro, ilare e cortese sotto le folte sopracciglia brizzolate e rossicce, va su e giù, tra voi e gli impiegati della stanza vicina e tra una lettera e un cliente vi spiega calmo, se volete, la calcinazione del mercurio della marchesa d'Urfè e la storia della prigionia di Venezia. Poi vi porta fuori a vedere Dux. Si gira un po' il castello, la piazza, e poi si finisce alla chiesa di Barbara. E' una cappellina qualunque, con un sagrato eroso ombreggiato d'acacie e un laghetto vicino, ma tutto smorto e quasi appannato dal fumo. Sul muro c'è un'iscrizione che ricorda dov'era la tomba di Casanova, e davanti è cresciuto un arbusto. Ho spiccato un ramo di quell'arbusto.

... Dico all'amico: "Non rida, ma lei sa come noi siamo superstiziosi alle volte. Ne piglio un ramoscello. Chissà che non serva da talismano e che non mi porti fortuna, no?"

L'altro ride alzandosi il cappello sulla nuca. — "Ah, ah! **Sehr gut, sehr gut.**"

Però poi l'ho perduto.

## PSICANALISI DELL'AMORE

(Vita degli Istinti)

di Mario Musella

Leggendo il Dott. Mario Musella avviene di ricordarci di Paolo Mantegazza. Un Mantegazza moderno, però, del ventesimo secolo che del vecchio ha ritenuto la grazia dello stile e il dono della semplificazione scientifica. Il problema dell'essenza dell'amore è per l'ennesima volta analizzato in questo scritto ma su terreno puramente scientifico ed ai lumi della psicanalisi freudiana.

**P**OCHI sanno veramente che cosa sia l'amore e quei pochi che dell'amore conoscono l'intima essenza son condannati inesorabilmente a non amare più.

L'amore, di cui con tanta grazia parlano i poeti, è uno stato mentale fugace e illusorio che maschera l'esaltazione momentanea di uno degli istinti più esigenti e più ciechi della natura.

I mille occhi della ragione distinguono in un uomo il "padre" o il "fratello," l'"amico" o il "consimile" e in una donna la "madre" o la "sorella," la "compagna" o l'"amata," ma senza la maschera protettiva del sentimento, l'istinto dell'amore che spinse Isotta a Tristano e Paolo a Francesca, distinguerebbe soltanto il maschio nell'uomo, e la femmina nella donna.

Come quegli animali marini che nel fondo dell'oceano si orientano verso la

luce non per acuzie di percezione visiva, ma per semplice forza di attrazione e repulsione termica, gli istinti dell'uomo per attrazione e repulsione si orientano verso il "piacere" e il "dolore."

Dai suoi grandi antenati, i mammiferi antropomorfi, l'uomo eredita biologicamente gli istinti.

Mentre però negli animali inferiori gli istinti sono i veri e soli padroni della condotta vitale dell'individuo, nell'uomo essi lottano con un nemico tenace e invincibile: il pensiero.

Il pensiero rinnega ciò che gli istinti affermano. Se gli istinti prevalgono nella lotta l'uomo è travolto nelle anomalie erotiche che rivelano l'indelebile impronta della stirpe.

Aggressivo nasce l'uomo e il suo istinto di aggressione è così forte da obbligare la donna, nella difesa, ad un'arma subdola: la seduzione.

Allontanandosi dalla giovinezza, per l'affievolire degli impulsi, l'uomo si crede sinceramente tenero: ma nella virilità dell'amore l'uomo ama la donna come il lupo l'agnello.

La seduzione, nella donna, è tenace sino alla morte. Dinanzi all'aggressività maschile la donna retrocede per attirare più sicuramente il nemico nella rete dei suoi minuscoli inganni.

Le femmine degli animali inferiori sono più schiette e sincere; esse lottano col maschio da pari a pari.

La "mantis religiosa" un piccolo animale, eletto lo sposo, lo divorza a pezzi dopo le nozze e le **flarie** che vivono sovente nel sangue dell'uomo che soggiorna ai tropici ripetono con elementarità il medesimo rito.

D'altronde l'uomo si evolve nell'amore lentamente, grado a grado.

Il bambino appena nato non palesa che un solo istinto, quello della conservazione. Con la sua fame senza misura, il bambino si riempirebbe di latte come un otre; e però la **diestetica moderna** impone alle mamme una severa disciplina nell'alimentare il loro figliuolo.

Il bambino deve alimentarsi in ore stabilite, con intervalli esatti, decisi

perchè non turbata dalla impulsività dell'istinto la funzione della nutrizione possa compiersi integralmente.

Un regime dietetico mal sorvegliato provoca gravi malattie, l'atresia, la morte.

**M**ANO a mano che l'istinto di conservazione si evolve, il poppante, dopo due o tre mesi dalla nascita, comincia a succhiare avidamente la sua mano o il pupattolo di stoffa o di gomma. Spesso egli resta in beato a riposo, attaccato alla mammella della genitrice senza nutrirsi.

Intimamente l'istinto del piacere ancora in abbozzo si appaga e il godimento è già tanto notevole da provocare nel bambino che dorme delle rievocazioni automatiche. Nel sonno il bambino ripete con le sue labbra il movimento caratteristico del succhiare.

L'istinto di perpetuazione si delinea; si formano le cosiddette sfere erogene: le faville da cui divamperà, assai più tardi, l'amore.

Già negli anni, il bambino è il tiranno degli affetti materni. Il maschio è egoista, geloso, prepotente; la femmina è docile e furba.

Verso i dieci anni le diversità di sviluppo definiscono le preferenze, le simpatie familiari. Il maschio si sente "attratto" dalla sua mamma; la femmina invece si allontana verso il suo babbo.

Turbamenti profondi subisce allora la psiche; turbamenti che lasciano anche nell'uomo maturo normale la loro minuscola traccia nei sogni.

Questi turbamenti psichici sono definiti dalla scienza moderna con la parola "complessi." Due sono i complessi dell'uomo: quello di Mirra a tutti noto e quello di Edipo più noto ancora.

Il significato di queste passate leggende ha la sua profonda radice nella vita degli istinti dell'uomo. Ma l'uomo normale si libera dalla stretta morsa affettiva dei parenti per proie-

tare sugli estranei i propri sentimenti, le prime simpatie.

Guai a quei bambini troppo imbambolati dall'affettuosità eccessiva della propria mamma; essi saranno più tardi menomati nella virilità dell'amore e soffriranno di quel peculiar tormento che non diede mai pace a Leonardo.

Leonardo "sentiva" così profondamente, nell'incoscienza, la sua mamma da riprodurne la tenerezza persino nelle figure d'uomo dei suoi quadri, mentre Michelangelo che pativa della medesima omologia di costituzione, per l'assenza di questa tenerezza, mascolinizzava nelle pitture tutte le sue donne.

La prima donna amata somiglia quasi sempre la nostra mamma e il primo uomo amato somiglia il nostro babbo. Ma con l'indipendenza successiva degli affetti la nostra fantasia elegge liberamente l'amato o l'amata.

E' nell'adolescenza che la gelosia ha la sua origine. Difendere e proteggere la propria sorella è la prima gelosia. E terribile è quell'odio apparentemente inesplicabile che si palesa fra due fratelli o fra due sorelle.

Se il suo pensiero non si evolve e si rafforza, l'uomo resta lo schiavo miserabile dei suoi istinti. Soltanto il pensiero sa convertire la brutale affettività familiare in amore, passione, tendenza. Anche l'amore va superato presto come un morbo infantile. Nella maturità l'uomo ha l'orgoglio del possesso e la donna l'orgoglio della procreazione.

Su tutta la turbolenza degli istinti la fantasia eccitata crea i fantasmi del sentimento, ma con l'avanzare della vecchiaia, dell'amore creduto spirito e pensiero non resta che il velo bianco e tenue d'Isotta agitato sulla torre disperatamente per richiamare Tristano!

Del filtro malefico di Brangaene fedele, nella vecchiaia, inutilmente noi ricerchiamo la traccia.

## SONETTO DELLA NEVE

*Sergio Corazzini, poeta della dolcezza e della malinconia, morì a vent'anni, nel 1907. Venuto dopo la triade gloriosa del Carducci, Pascoli e D'Annunzio, il giovanissimo poeta romano evocò note di purezza quasi infantile, ed è a ragione che occupa uno dei primissimi posti nella poesia italiana del novecento.*

**N**ULLA più triste di quell'orto era,  
nulla più tetro di quel cielo morto  
che disfaceva per il nudo orto  
l'anima sua bianchissima e leggera.

Maternamente coronò la sera  
l'offerta pura e il muto cuore assorto  
in ricevere il tenero conforto  
quasi nova fiorisse primavera,

ma poi che l'alba insidiò co' l'lieve  
gesto la notte e, per l'usata via,  
sorrison venne di sua luce chiara,

parve celato come in una bara  
l'orto sopito di melanconia  
nella tetra dolcezza della neve.

Sergio Corazzini

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# AVVENIMENTI E DISCUSSIONI DEL MESE IN ITALIA

Italia e Francia, in quest'ultimo mese hanno di nuovo richiamato l'attenzione della stampa mondiale. Giusta indignazione per gli atti di vandalismo perpetrati su opere d'arte in Dalmazia si è verificata non solo in Italia ma dappertutto il mondo civile. I giornali della penisola hanno apertamente rivolto le loro accuse contro la Francia, la quale indirettamente ne sarebbe la causa, mercè la politica che essa persegue nei Balcani e le sue relazioni colla Jugoslavia. Questo stato di cose, questo spirito antitaliano, che anima ogni minimo movimento della sorella latina non si limiterebbe solamente alle classi dirigenti. Anzi, a quanto afferma **Critica Fascista** "il popolo non è diverso. Sotto la guida e dietro l'esempio dei suoi ministri e dei suoi scrittori egli s'è fatta la stessa mentalità antitaliana. Vorremmo interrogare un contadino dei Vosgi per sentire cosa ci risponde."

Continuando a svolgere la sua idea l'articolista si domanda: "Chi ha sempre ostacolato il movimento logico e fatale del nostro paese alla potenza? Chi in tutte le conferenze e trattati si è schierato contro di noi? Chi ha osteggiato la nostra infiltrazione economica e la nostra espansione spirituale nell'Oriente e nei Balcani, chi tenta di sottrarre alla nostra esportazione i mercati europei?" Perché mai questo sentimento antitaliano che si manifesta in ogni classe e che accomuna in un unico fronte il comunista Cachin e il realista Leon Daudet? La risposta, secondo **Critica Fascista**, è semplice perchè "Fascismo è lo strumento migliore, la leva più forte, perchè l'Italia conquistò la potenza. I francesi l'hanno capito benissimo e noi lo sappiamo perchè conosciamo la loro intelligenza e sottigliezza."

Ada Negri ha testè pubblicato un libro di prose. G. Lipparini nel **Corriere della Sera**, crede che "le pagine ch'essa ha raccolte in un volume dal titolo effimero, **Di giorno in giorno**, sono poesie, anche se composte in una prosa agevole; e così la loro pretesa caducità scompare. Direi anzi che in questo libro di prosa sono contenute alcune fra le più belle liriche della poetessa."

Contro Freud e le sue teorie psicoanalitiche è da un pezzo che si sono schierati un buon numero di scienziati. Ora è la volta di B. Malinowski, oriundo polacco, professore di antropologia all'università di Londra. In un libro recentemente apparso: **La sexualité et sa repression dans les sociétés primitives**, egli studia la compagine

famigliare degli indigeni dell'isola Trobriand, nella Nuova Guinea. Recensendo il volume, nella **Stampa**, Nicola Chiaramonte, osserva che "l'intento perseguito da Malinowski nel descrivere la struttura famigliare dei suoi primitivi è sostanzialmente di presentare una critica empirica di quella parte delle dottrine psicanalitiche, mitologica e romantica nel fondo, che stabilisce un antagonismo irriducibile tra impulsi propri e genuini dell'uomo e sovrastrutture sociali e culturali. Difatti la civiltà si riduce in qualche modo, per Freud e i suoi scolari, ad un tentativo dell'uomo per sfuggire, reprimere, trasformare quella specie di colpa originale che si esprime nel complesso di Edipo, e dimenticare l'atroce origine di ogni civiltà, il parricidio totemico. Gli indigeni delle isole Trobriand offrono a Malinowski un limpido esempio di società in cui manca ogni traccia e la possibilità medesima del complesso di Edipo."

Di Sinclair Lewis, premio Nobel, il cui nuovo romanzo è uscito in questi giorni simultaneamente in quattordici lingue, si occupa il **Corriere della Sera**, tracciandone un simpatico profilo. Il Lewis, che ha recentemente visitato l'Italia, si è anche soffermato a Milano. L'articolista del **Corriere** lo descrive "lungo, magro, dinoccolato. Un paio di lenti cerchiato d'oro, un abito marrone che gli casca addosso. Potrebbe essere un professore, un banchiere, o un **clergyman**. Vagamente clericale è quella corona di capelli lisci e rossicci intorno alla involontaria tonsura della calvizie. Il viso è asciutto, acceso, curiosamente tormentato e irregolare." Le impressioni d'Italia riportate dallo scrittore americano meritano di essere trascritte "Sinclair Lewis trova che la Galleria è nel suo genere uno dei punti più interessanti del mondo. Teme che se si stabilisse a Milano lavorerebbe pochissimo, perchè sarebbe tutti i momenti in Galleria. E a Capri ha lavorato? Perchè Sinclair Lewis viene diritto da Capri. Scritto nemmeno una riga, ma lavorato in un certo senso sì, perchè ha steso la prima orditura del suo futuro romanzo, quello che seguirà **Anna Vickers**."

L'Armata Azzurra è il titolo di una nuova film che sta riscuotendo attualmente la lode della stampa in Italia. Girata con la cooperazione delle autorità aeronautiche questa pellicola, secondo quanto scrive il **Lavoro Fascista** "vuole essere più che altro una documentazione ed una glorificazione della

Aviazione Militare Italiana. A questo scopo, la Regia Aeronautica ha fornito al regista Gennaro Righelli tutte le possibilità di materiale e di lavoro, cosicchè è stato possibile prendere sul vero, senza ricorrere a trucchi di sorta, tutti gli episodi salienti del film."

Su Felice Casorati, ha tenuto in Firenze, il dicembre scorso, un acuto e brillante discorso Giacomo Debenedetti. Dall'**Italia Letteraria** di Roma, che riporta un frammento del discorso, stralciamo le poche righe di apprezzamento sul pittore torinese. "Casorati non è di certo un primitivo e nemmeno un impressionista. Anzi, se si rievochi il suo mondo in una panoramica superficiale e veloce, si ricorderà prima di tutto l'incisività e nettezza dei rilievi, la ricca felicità delle definizioni plastiche. E tuttavia gli schemi della plastica pura rimangono, al suo confronto, ingenui e grossolani. Casorati può apparire nuovamente polemico perchè, anche di fronte a questo nuovo strumento intellettuale della critica, si mostra evasivo. E si dimostra evasivo perchè il suo idolo pittorico è più ricco e più lontano che quello della realistica definizione chiaroscurale del vero."

Pirandello e la sua ultima commedia, "Trovarsi," data lo scorso gennaio a Roma, dalla compagnia di Marta Abba, ha offerto lo spunto a Silvio D'Amico di fare alcuni rilievi non solo sulla commedia in particolare ma altresì sul nostro drammaturgo in generale: "Al titolo famoso d'un romanzo dello stesso Pirandello, **Uno, nessuno e centomila**, vien da pensare naturalmente apprendendo la sorte dell'eroina di **Trovarsi**, Donata Genzi: grande attrice che è sì 'centomila,' tante sono le anime a cui dà vita ogni sera, nel vario esercizio dell'arte sua; ma per sè non riesce a essere 'una'; non sa farsi, accanto alla sua esistenza d'artista, una sua vita di donna, per sè, come donna, è puramente e semplicemente 'nessuna.'

"Che significa tutto questo? Che l'attrice in tanto 'si trova,' in quanto rinuncia a sè stessa." Che il suo destino non è di essere donna, ma artista. Che il Teatro non è confessione di sè stessi, bensì è lo sforzo di evadere da sè per diventare 'un'altro.' Che non l'arte copia la natura, ma, se mai, la natura copia l'arte. Che la vita vera, la vita che merita d'essere vissuta non è quella fluida, inconsistente e vana, della cosiddetta realtà, ma quella composta nella perfezione immarcescibile dell'opera d'arte."

# DALLE PAGINE DELLA LETTERATURA ITALIANA

## UNA LETTERA DI MICHELANGELO

*Questa lettera fu scritta da Michelagnolo, vecchio, all'amico Vasari, in occasione della morte del suo zio Urbino.*

**M**ESSER GIORGIO, amico caro.—  
Io posso male scrivere, ma pur, per risposta della vostra, dirò qualche cosa. Voi sapete come Urbino è morto: di che m'è stato grandissima grazia di Dio, ma con grave mio danno e infinito dolore. La grazia è stata, che dove in vita mi teneva vivo, morendo m'ha insegnato morire, non con dispiacere, ma con desiderio della morte. Io l'ho tenuto ventisei anni, et allo trovato lealissimo e fedele; e ora che io l'avevo fatto ricco e che io l'aspettavo bastone e riposo della mia vecchiezza, m'è sparito; né m'è rimasto altra speranza che rivederlo in paradiso. E di questo m'ha mostro segno Iddio per la felicissima morte ch'egli à fatto: e più assai che l'morire, gli è cresciuto il lasciarmi vivo in questo mondo traditore, con tanti affanni; benchè la maggior parte di me n'è ita seco, né mi rimane altro che un'infinita miseria. E mi vi raccomando e pregovi, se non v'è noia, che facciate mie scuse con messer Benvenuto del non rispondere alla sua, perchè m'abbonda tanta passione in simil pensieri, ch'io non posso scrivere; e raccomandatemi a lui, e io a vo' mi raccomando. A di 23 di febbraio 1556.

Vostro Michelagnolo Buonarroti  
in Roma.

## L'IDEALE

### Favola Moderna di E. L. Morselli

*Di Ercole Luigi Morselli si conosce universalmente il "Glauco," dramma mitico. Le sue "Favole moderne, non inferiori ai lavori drammatici, meritano certamente di essere più largamente diffuse.*

**Q**UANDO la nave fila, con vento fresco e largo, i delfini vengono a centinaia e corrono e saltano e folleggiano da poppa a prua, da prua a poppa: così come fanno gli uomini intorno al loro Ideale.

Ma un marinaio dalla mano sicura, discende allora sulle catene del bombresso, armato d'una lunga fiocina provata: e gli altri s'affollano sul castello, attenti e pronti a issare la cima. Cento volte hanno veduto i delfini quella manovra minacciosa; e pur non lasciano di correre, di saltare, di folleggiare sotto il loro castello fuggente.

A un tratto, un'onda rossa: una fuga per l'acqua, e un subito ritorno: un issare cadenzato; uno slancio furioso di coda sulla superficie, un lago di sangue e un cane che lo lancia.

Tale la sorte di chi si affolla all'ideale con troppa fede.

## COME DANTE SI SBARAZZO' DI UN SECCATORE

**D**ANTE, essendo per certa occasione tutto malinconico, desiderava starsi solo. Venne a lui un cortigiano del Polenta signor di Rimini, con cui vivea Dante, e richiestolo più volte perchè egli stesse così pensoso disse Dante: Per grazia lasciami stare, che io ho cosa in testa che molto mi preme. Tornando il cortigiano più importuno a richiederlo che cosa s'avesse, et egli non volendo dir il suo segreto, rispose: Io stava pensando qual sia la maggior bestia che sia nel mondo. O! disse colui, non vi lamboccate più il cervello, che ve lo dirò io: la maggior bestia dell'altre è l'elefante. Rispose allora Dante: Caro elefante lasciami stare e vattene pei fatti tuoi.

—dalla "Leggenda di Dante"

## IL PRIMO RICONOSCIMENTO DELL'ARTE DANNUNZIANA

*Giuseppe Chiarini, come si sa, fu il primo a riconoscere e rivelare il genio di G. D'Annunzio. Ricevuto dal Poeta il volumetto di versi, il Chiarini, critico temuto ed ammirato, scrisse nel Fanfulla della Domenica, 2 maggio 1830 un articolo rivelatore e profetico alcuni brani dei quali riportiamo qui appresso.*

In questa gran piena di poesia che passa, passa, travolgendo forse con sè qualche cosa buona fra le molte cattive, brutte, noiose, ridicole, mi piace stendere oggi la mano ad un recente volumetto elzeviriano, e tentare di trarlo a riva.

Più che seguitare ad esprimere ogni giorno i nostri superbi disdegni, il nostro disgusto profondo pei poeti novellini, più che esaurire il vocabolario dei medici per stigmatizzare questa naturale malattia dei giovanetti italiani, da qualche anno un po' rincrudita; mi pare convenga a noi che

non siamo più giovani, e che perciò presumiamo d'aver più giudizio, ragionare un po' con questi bravi figliuoli, aver la pazienza di leggere i loro libri, e dir loro francamente la verità, francamente sì, man con amorevolezza. Tanto, dire ad Arno che non corra, è cosa perfettamente inutile: cerchiamo piuttosto, se si può, di regolare il corso delle acque.

Il mio nuovo poeta è un giovinetto di sedici anni, che fa ora i suoi studi liceali nel collegio Cicognini di Prato; si chiama Gabriele d'Annunzio e si presenta al pubblico nientemeno che con un intero volume di odi barbare.

Il nostro giovane poeta ha già il senso del ritmo e del periodo poetico... la frase gli si affaccia agile e numerosa alla mente insieme colla immagine; sa cercare e trova... la proprietà, l'esattezza e l'efficacia della espressione. Tuttavia ho notato... più d'un verso sbagliato... imperfezioni di metro e di ritmo... improprietà... superfluità... qualche debolezza.

Giuseppe Chiarini

## PROFUMI E ARMONIE PRIMAVERILI

La primavera torna; la campagna si copri del verde vellutato dei frumenti, interrotto a quando a quando dai gialli tappeti delle rape in fiore i mandorli esalarono amare fragranze dalle loro bianche ghirlande; la viola manmola, ametista odorosa, fiori celatamente tra l'erba. Sulle vette dei freschi platani e delle querce severe, tra i longevi cipressi e le gracili acacie, i fringuelli cantarono; da ogni lato s'alzarono al cielo profumi e armonie; profumi e armonie primaverili, onde lo spirito s'esalta, perchè sentiamo che v'è in noi qualcosa di così ricco e fecondo come l'olezzo degli alberi e il canto degli usignoli. Pensieri d'amore s'alzano anch'essi verso il cielo, e ci pongono negli occhi lacrime che hanno, come l'odore del biancospino, una soave amarezza.

F. Martini

## PIOGGIA D'APRILE

**U**NA scossa di pioggia a mezzogiorno  
Immolla l'aria dolce e brilla al sole  
Ramingo di questo mese piovorno,

E il suon delle campane ora mi vuole  
Alla finestra, all'aria dolceacerba.  
Nei boschi sole e acqua nutron viole,

Imperlano le primole fra l'erba;  
Terra e stagion si sciogon dall'inverno.  
La mente pigra e allegro il cuor non serba

Cruccio del tempo che fugge all'eterno.

Riccardo Bacchelli

# TEATRI E CONCERTI

## G. STERNI E IL TEATRO D'ARTE

Con un "Curioso Accidente," la deliziosa commedia di Goldoni, Giuseppe Sterni ci ha dato il 5 marzo, la sua quarta recita della presente stagione.

L'effetto salutare, quanto inaspettato, di queste vecchie scene, è ovvio immaginarlo; il dialogo, pregno di candore, di questi ingenui personaggi settecenteschi, è servito ad acuire in noi, se mai ce ne fosse ancora il bisogno, quel senso nostalgico verso una vita e un mondo più riposanti e tranquilli.

Il crescente convulso balbettio su i palcoscenici di Broadway, dall'armistizio in qua; la febbrile ed eccitante fantasia dei nostri giovani autori, e dei nostri moderni direttori di scena, i quali ci presentano ripetutamente, sino alla sazietà, ossessi e paranoici, pazzi e criminali, ci ha fatto salutare con gioia questo ritorno, dopo tanta assenza, di papà Goldoni.

Niente spari e niente sangue, in questa vecchia commedia goldoniana, eppure l'interesse dello spettatore cresce ed aumenta di scena in scena. I personaggi dai chiari e simpatici volti, dal sorriso onesto e alquanto furbesco, ci trasportano, con la loro parlantina, forse un poco canzonatoria, in un mondo remoto e quasi inverosimile, dove i tumulti e le passioni di noi moderni sono sconosciute, e se un accidente, fosse anche curioso, dovrà proprio accadere siate certi che accadrà ma con le debite anticipate precauzioni. Settecento beato e ingenuo.

La compagnia del Teatro d'Arte, diretta da Sterni, va lodata incondizionatamente per aver presentato la difficile commedia in modo inappuntabile.

E' doveroso menzionare in modo particolare l'intelligente e viva interpretazione del personaggio principale da parte dell'artista Giuseppe Sterni.

Sarà bene, prima di chiudere questa brevissima rassegna di rilevare un appunto apparso recentemente nel New York "Times" in riguardo al Teatro d'Arte. Il successo ottenuto da Sterni e dalla sua compagnia è stato possibile, secondo il nostro massimo quotidiano, mercè l'affluire di americani alle recite del Teatro d'Arte. Per quel che ci consta, noi personalmente abbiamo notato, nelle diverse recite, specialmente quest'anno, un equo numero d'italiani e di americani; e mentre ci è materia di orgoglio la constatazione di questo nuovo interesse da parte di americani per la nostra lingua e il nostro teatro, non possiamo nasconderci d'altronde che gli italiani della nostra colonia non hanno risposto con quell'entusiasmo che sarebbe giusto aspettarsi per un'impresa sì nobile, quale è quella del Teatro d'Arte Italiano.

Noi, da parte nostra, invitiamo i nostri lettori, tanto i vecchi che i giovani, a frequentare più spesso queste recite. I vecchi sentiranno in esse una eco della patria lontana; i giovani ascolteranno dalla voce viva degli ar-

tisti quella lingua che nessun testo delle loro scuole potrà mai vivificare.

La recita di aprile del Teatro d'Arte sarà: "Romanticismo" di G. Rovetta.

S. Viola

## TRE SINFONISTI ITALIANI CONTEMPORANEI

Di G. C. Paribeni

### Ottorino Respighi

Nato a Bologna nel 1879 fece gli studi musicali con Martucci nel Liceo Rossini. Sebbene egli come compositore abbia coltivato quasi tutti i generi musicali esistenti (eccettuato forse il solo genere corale senz'accompagnamento), nella grande varietà delle forme il musicista bolognese ha tuttavia trovato una comune piattaforma per l'esplicazione delle qualità più segnalate ch'egli possiede. Queste si riassumono nella musicalità pura, cioè nella facoltà di trasformare un sentimento generale e vago in immagini sonore concrete e di per sé stanti. Stato di grazia prettamente musicale, a cui basta chiedere appena l'appiglio ad un soggetto — per lo più plastico — per generare visioni che possono vivere di vita indipendente dallo stesso soggetto ispiratore, per sola virtù delle successioni foniche e del ritmo che le anima e dà loro una fisionomia plastica.

### Alfredo Casella

Iniziati gli studi colla madre a Torino, dov'era nato nel 1883, li continuò a Parigi in quel Conservatorio. Nella sua produzione, specialmente in quella più recente si sente che il travaglio, prodotto dallo sforzo di cercare uno stile personale ed italiano, si è pacato in una maturità creativa più limpida e serena, dalla quale si appalesano meglio le doti istintive e caratteristiche del musicista: e cioè la facoltà costruttiva, istintivamente e conscientemente antiimpressionista, una nobile tenerezza di sentimento, frenata e contenuta dal pudore antiromantico, un umorismo impassibile, e manifesto, infine la simpatia per l'elemento popolare e folkloristico.

### G. F. Malipiero

Nato a Venezia nel 1882 ha ricevuto la sua educazione musicale prima a Vienna con lo Spöcker e poi a Venezia e Bologna con M. E. Bossi.

Dagli esegeti della sua opera Malipiero è stato definito come un "romantico nello spirito, ma classico per la sobrietà e semplicità delle forme." Questa definizione va intesa nel senso che i soggetti preferiti dal maestro veneziano, specialmente nella musica strumentale — sia per orchestra, sia da camera, sia pianistica — rivelano un'indole particolarmente inclinata al sogno, all'irreale, alla vaga nostalgia di cose lontane, alla bizzarria macabra, ai violenti contrasti di passioni o di aspetti plastici, alla breve, ma incisiva descrittività.

## IMPRESSIONI DI PADEREWSKI

Di BRUNO BARILLI

*Il più originale dei critici musicali italiani ha scritto su Paderewski una pagina inimitabile. In questi giorni che il grande pianista trovasi di nuovo in mezzo a noi sarà indubbiamente riletta con piacere.*

Paderewski siede e attacca. Con una forza continua e un magistero ostinato e focoso, questo grande pianista quasi settantenne, supera, via via, lo spazio taciturno, gelido e inyalicabile, gettando, con le arcate irruenti e interminabili del suo stile, un ponte di soccorso anche ai più lontani e derelitti fra i suoi ammiratori.

Le sue mani galoppo romanticamente sulla tastiera. Sono zampate impazienti, balzi improvvisi, crudeltà, slanci felini, e crisi spietate di bravura: poi i residui di un rogo: scintille, oscurità e pianto.

Con un entusiasmo impassibile e una violenza tutta interiore, accumula le sonorità corporee dell'istrumento, le batte ai fianchi, le spinge furiosamente ai vertici della potenza, lassù, contro di esse come contro fiere e mostri invincibili, poi ricade come un vincitore spossato, si trascina sulla riva del fiume, si piega e beve a piena bocca la melodia notturna e inesaurevole. Intorno si diffonde, allora, il rintocco corto, attutito e doloroso che fanno i campanacci delle mandre perdute fra la neve nelle nebulose solitudini. E un trillo lunghissimo brilla disperatamente, come un lume, dopo la caduta d'una valanga azzurrina.

Non parleremo punto di tecnica né di scienza nell'arte di Paderewski; parlarne, vorrebbe dire spalancare la porta all'invasione di tutti i cretini che aspettano nell'anticamera, e fare un grave torto all'artista glorioso. Come tutti i grandi, egli suona in piena innocenza, purchè abbia campo libero intorno a sé, la folla innumerevole e muta gli fa spuntare le ali.

La sua grandezza la misuri specialmente in Liszt e in Chopin.

In Chopin, Paderewski ci mostra la luna nel pozzo.

Egli trasforma in uno spettacolo figurativo ogni astruseria tecnica. Portato da temperamento, Paderewski, trova un equilibrio geniale e tutto personale: ruba, rallenta il tempo e d'istinto stabilisce una compensazione meravigliosa di ritmi e di espressioni. Il timbro caratteristico del suo tocco, il suo fraseggiare pieno di una suprema distinzione, tutto quel suo giuoco ispirato e luminoso, s'innalza sull'aria pesante e viziata nella quale boccheggiano, così numerose, le tartarughe musicali ed entra in una atmosfera rarefatta ove ha principio il vibrare felice dei paradisi.

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