

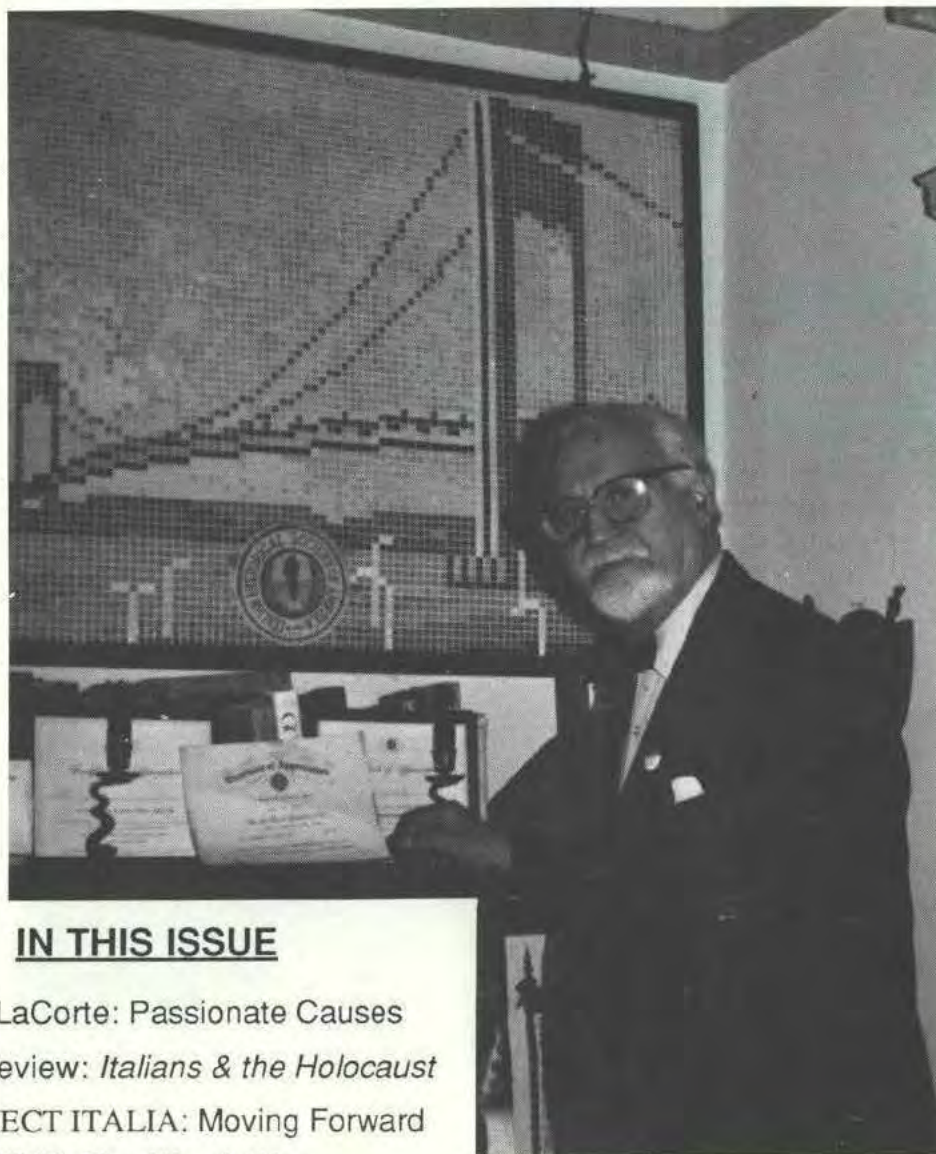
Vol. 1 No. 1



Spring, 1988

# *THE ITALIC WAY*

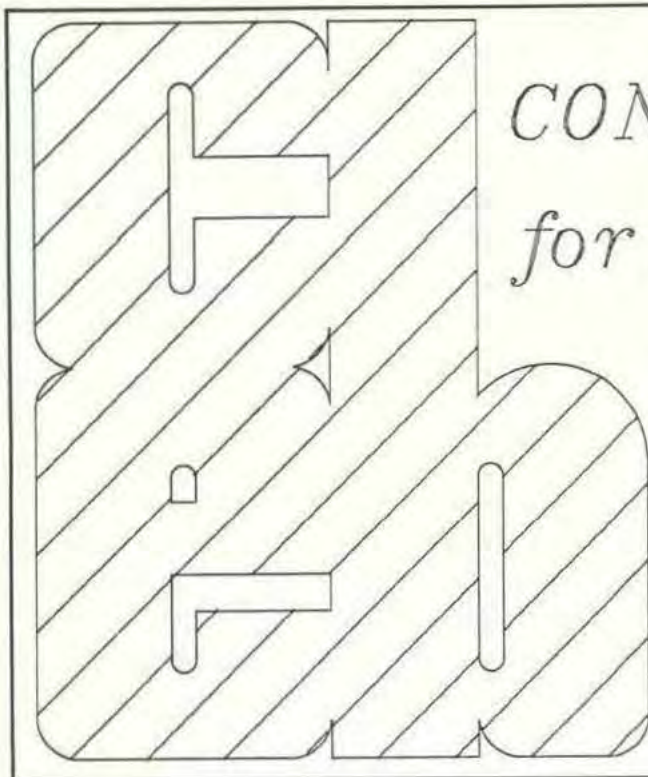
The Newsletter of THE SOCIETY FOR ITALIC STUDIES, Inc.



## IN THIS ISSUE

- John LaCorte: Passionate Causes
- Book Review: *Italians & the Holocaust*
- PROJECT ITALIA: Moving Forward
  - 1930, The Way it Was
  - Special Youth Section

Activist John LaCorte stands before a mosaic of the Verrazano Bridge. It was only through LaCorte's tireless efforts that Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazano was finally given recognition.



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An Invitation to Join

## *The Society for Italic Studies*

We are a new Italic organization. Even our name and logo are meant to convey a new perspective on the Italian heritage. Frankly, we believe there must be vigor and direction within the community if Americans of Italian descent are to achieve their fullest potential.

Joining The Society links you to a burgeoning network...both national and global...of individuals dedicated to rekindling an ancient spirit.

### Our Format

The Society is a results-oriented organization with an overriding goal: education. That is, to educate the Italic community and the general public in what being of Italian origin is all about. To accomplish this we emphasize youth acculturation and mass media works, two areas that nearly all existing Italian-American organizations have not focused on.

Our national newsletter, *The Italic Way*, is addressed to the discerning reader and transcends organizational bounds. It is meant to be neither glitzy or earthy — little if any “food or fashion” — as we say. Moreover, it is a forum for all to speak freely, not just a select leadership.

*Project Italia* is our most ambitious of works. A film record of the Italic peoples (i.e., ancient and modern, native and foreign), this proposed 6-part television series will explore the 2,500 year history of a multi-faceted people. (see the *Project Italia* section)

The *Aurora* program is aimed at the youth of America. *Aurora* means the “dawn” and its purpose is to carry the first light of heritage to those who will carry on after us. *Aurora* is a specially designed course of Saturday instruction for 5th and 6th graders. Italian language and culture wrapped up in a two-part program complete with crafts, games, and fieldtrips. *Aurora* is meant to whet children’s appetites for formal language instruction at the junior high and high school levels.

The preservation and promotion of the Altar of Peace (*Ara Pacis*), in Rome, is our fourth goal. This magnificent monument was originally consecrated by Caesar Augustus on July 4th 13 B.C. to celebrate the start of the Roman Peace (Pax Romana). It was during the Roman Peace that Italic humanism, Greek thought, and Judeo-Christian ethic were joined to create Western Civilization. The *Ara Pacis* is a symbol of the unity of the Italian heritage and the common roots of Western man. An international peace prize is being planned for 1991 as a biannual event.

### WON'T YOU JOIN US?

Annual membership in The Society for Italic Studies is only \$10. There is no further obligation nor any meetings to attend. Your \$10 entitles you to an annual subscription to *The Italic Way* and discounts on future tours and gift items. But most of all, membership in The Society brings you a fresh perspective on the Italic heritage. Won't you grow with us?

---

### Application for Membership

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Circle any special interest

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*The Italic Way*



Vol. No. 1

# *The Italic Way*

Spring, 1988

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## Letters

Address all letters to: LETTERS, The Italic Way, PO Box 818, Floral Park, NY 11001

This Space is Waiting for YOU



# QUIZ

Rate your sensitivity to ethnic references from the recent media news.

1= Doesn't bother me 2 = Questionable taste 3 = Insulting

**From Time Magazine, 3/7/88**

(Referring to the winter Olympics) "What happened, America? The question has been on the lips of downcast viewers upset as the nation hovered around seventh in the overall medal standings, near such world powers as the Netherlands and Italy." Score \_\_\_\_\_

*(Ed Note: Italy ranks # 5 in the Free World economic standing, ahead of Great Britain. Before marking your answer, substitute Great Britain for Italy in the above quote to judge the author's tone. By the way, Britain won no medals at the winter Olympics, France won 2, Italy 5, and the USA 6.)*

**From Mike Royko's column in the Chicago Tribune, 12/14/87.**

(Reflecting on the amount of inuendos he has heard about Gov. Cuomo of New York) "And the more politically successful they (Italo-Americans) become, as in Cuomo's case, the more knowing the smirks become, the more frequent the half-stories are peddled: 'I heard...It's common knowledge that...Eventually it'll come out that...' This is what I call the Godfather Syndrome..." (Score high if you agree with Royko) Score \_\_\_\_\_

**From the Oprah Winfrey Show with guests T.V. reporter Sam Donaldson and Geraldine Ferraro**

Donaldson: "Yes, the press, we examine everything. I mean, you're the first Italian-American nominated...for vice president, and of course, we're all going to examine to see whether you have Mafia connections. Now that may be unfair."

Ferraro: "May be?"

Donaldson: "Come on. Let's not pretend on this show we don't understand what goes on in real life, what people talk about on the streets."

Score \_\_\_\_\_

**From The national bestseller, The Story of English, by Robert MacNeil and two British authors.**

"There was, however, one Italian import whose vocabulary has had an influence on the language out of all proportion to its significance in the Italian-American community: the Mafia. Now treated as synonymous with organized crime (which it is not), the Mafia has added terms like *godfather*, *the family*, and *capo* to the language. Hollywood's love affair with "gangster movies" has ensured a wide dissemination of criminal slang: *hoodlum*, *racketeer*, *rough house*, *hatchet man*, *doing the dirty work*, *hot seat* (originally *the electric chair*), *protection racket* and *loan shark*. The fact that these words - in the minds of many - now come with Italian accents, is to do with the power of the media not the Mafia."

*This is a tricky one because it blames the media but essentially "formalizes" the the Italian link with criminal jargon. No other ethnic group mentioned in the book had a similar albatross hung from its neck. For argument's sake let's carry this technique to another "logical" conclusion with this mythical passage:*

"There was, however, one Anglo-American import whose vocabulary has had an influence on the language out of all proportion to its significance in the Anglo-American community: the Klu Klux Klan. Now treated as synonymous with racism (which it is not), the KKK added terms like, *member of the Klan*, *lynch party*, *grand dragon* to the language. Hollywood's love affair with the "old South" has ensured a wide dissemination of racist slang: *good ole boy*, *White supremacy*, *free, White, and 21*, *coon hunt*, *tokenism*, *stretching a neck*. (originally *to hang someone*),. The fact that these words - in the minds of many - now come with Southern Anglo-American accents, is to do with the power of the media not the KKK."

Score \_\_\_\_\_

Now rate your sensitivity:

- 4 - 6 very tolerant
- 7 - 9 chip on your shoulder
- 10 - 12 stay away from books, TV, & movies

Total Score \_\_\_\_\_



# All'Italiana

## RISING STAR

Some Americans still envision Italy as a marginal economic power, sort of a persistence of vision dating back to the immediate post-war year. In truth, Italy has climbed to number 5 position in the Free World's top-ranked economic powers displacing Great Britain.

Now, some economists are predicting that the Italians will move into third place by the year 2025, right behind the U.S. and Japan, displacing France and Germany. No less an authority than John Kenneth Galbraith, American economist, has said, "The two countries with the most promise for the future are Italy and Japan."

## CUOMO'S PRIORITIES

New York's Governor Mario Cuomo has been leading two fights in his state - one against capital punishment, the other for greater support for children.

Although the New York Senate once again passed a motion to restore the death penalty by a 38-17 vote, the Governor has vowed to veto it yet again. Gov. Cuomo often cites the fact that it was an Italian, penalologist Cesare Beccaria, who first proposed the abolition of capital punishment back in the 18th Century. Still, it is safe to say that many of the state's Italo-Americans concur with neither Cuomo nor Beccaria.

However, the Governor hopes that his "Decade of the Child" will appeal to a broad spectrum of the population. An essential part of the Family of New York concept that the Governor cherishes, the proposed Decade of the Child seeks to alleviate many of the problems parents and children face in light of the

breakdown of the family and hard economic realities. It remains to be seen if those same realities will be kind to Cuomo's dream.

## BOMBA & BOITANO

This year's winter Olympics witnessed some highs and lows for Americans. However, italophiles couldn't lose. Sunny Italy equalled the U.S. and West Germany in gold medals won and managed to be the only country with palm trees (beside the USA) to win 5 medals overall! Italy's two golds were captured by one man, flamboyant Mario Tomba (la Bomba). The only challenge "la Bomba" couldn't seem to conquer was his hoped-for date with East Germany's gold medalist Katerina Witt.

America owes one of its gold medals to San Francisco's Brian Boitano, an Italo-American with the right stuff.

## ZERO MINUS THREE

They have been talking about it for years, but now it looks as though the Italian Government is serious about getting rid of three useless zeroes in the lira. Most Italians are tired of counting their money in millions and billions, especially since Italy's magnificent economy has actual made the lira as strong as the dollar. If it happens, the American tourist will find that his dollar only gets him 1 lira and 20 centesimi instead of the previous 1,200 lire.

## MORE BAD TASTE

*Positano*, an Italian eatery in Manhattan, used the creative

"genius" of ad agency Kirshenbaum & Bond to produce a socko ad for the local press. The copy read: "An authentic Italian Restaurant where no one's been shot. Yet." The owners of *Positano* now join such notables as Puzo, Coppola, and Mancuso in perpetuating the Italic stereotype for their own profit.

## NAZI ATROCITY

Among other charges against him, Austrian President Kurt Waldheim has been accused by former Greek government minister, Gerassimos Apostolatos, of having known about the Nazi massacre of thousands of Italian soldiers on a Greek island (possibly Corfu) in September of 1943. The Italians were slaughtered when they stood off German troops for three days at the time of the Italian armistice. They were forced to surrender and were then summarily executed.

## HOSTILE ITALIANS

In this era of hostile corporate take-over, the Italians are no slouches. Feeling their power as the fifth-ranked industrial nation, Italian corporations are seeking to dominate the European market and even some U.S. sectors.

Olivetti, under the dynamic leadership of Carlo De Benedetti, is continuing its efforts to take control of Belgium, or more accurately, Societe Generale de Belgique, that country's largest and most pervasive company. Many Belgians and many more Frenchmen, (the French would like to keep La Generale in the "family") are visibly disturbed at the thought of this possible Italian coup.

Meanwhile, Pirelli Tires recently lost a bid to acquire Firestone Tire &

# All'Italiana



Rubber. If successful, Pirelli would have become America's second largest tire manufacturer.

## THE SWALLOWS RETURN

Like clockwork, the swallows flew back to the mission of Capistrano on St. Joseph's Day, March 19th. But while most of us know who St. Joseph was, it is safe to say that hardly anyone remembers San Juan de Capistrano. Born *Giovanni* in the town of *Capistrano* (the Abruzzi) this future saint began his career as inquisitor or persecutor of heretics and Jews in Italy. His great deed was in raising a crusade to end the Turkish seige of Belgrade (Yugoslavia) in 1455.

Whether the swallows are devoted to St. John or St Joseph is anyone's guess.

## ITALIAN SHAME

A 1986 BBC documentary recently aired on the A & E cable network revealed a disturbing fact about Italian morality. Reporting that the Italians had the lowest birth-rate in Europe, the program went on to say that the reason was that Italian women had the highest rate of abortions in Europe.

Fear of contraceptive devices was the most voiced concern of women who underwent abortions. From all accounts, it is married women with children who abort rather than teenagers or unmarried women. The report indicated that Italian women, for the most part, are solely responsible for the decision to terminate pregnancy, the men either unwilling to interfere or not caring.

The program was partly produced by Channel 5, Milan.

## OUT OF AFRICA

After a ten year lapse, this past March Italian space scientists under the leadership of Professor Luigi Broglio have launched the *San Marco D* satellite from their launchpad off the coast of Kenya.

Italy is a member of an exclusive group of nations having their own launch facilities (the U.S., U.S.S.R., France, China, India, and Japan are the others). The Italian launch site is of special interest to NASA (USA) because of its ideal environmental conditions for equatorial orbits. The U.S. as well as Germany have paid the Italians for use of the site.

The *San Marco D* was the fifth of a series of satellites used for atmospheric research. Italy's space program, unlike France's Ariane and the U.S. NASA, specializes in small to medium payloads. Because of this, it is expected that demand for the Italian space facilities and know-how will increase in the years to come.

## TEUTONIC PRIDE

In one crude sentence, Italian sportswriter Sergio Passero of the prestigious *Corriere Della Sera* managed to insult the Number 1 woman tennis-player in the world and a good part of the German Federal Republic.

Describing 18 year old Steffi Graf as, "German, blonde and very ugly..." Passero received the condemnation of the German press. In effect calling for a boycott of German vacations on the Italian Adriatic, the Teutonic press insists that an Italian apology be made "...through official channels."

## A BRIDGE NOT FAR

Spanning the straits of Messina, between the Italian mainland and Sicily, has presented political and technical problems for many years. Now, however, it appears that Italians clearly want to bridge their differences to finally attach Sicily to the mainland.

Planners are trying to decide among a bridge, a tunnel, or a "suspended tunnel" as the safest and most cost effective method of crossing the straits. Fear of earthquakes and military vulnerability have made the bridge and tunnel ideas unattractive. A "suspended tunnel" on the other hand, would float from anchored cables at the bottom of the straits and remain below the surface. This fascinating idea is the brainchild of British engineer Alan Grant but is based on the bouyancy principle developed by Sicilian genius Archimedes 2,500 years ago.

## VIDEO HERITAGE

FIAT magnate Giovanni Agnelli's foundation has produced a visual encyclopedia of Italian civilization in English. Titled, *De Italia*, this masterwork contains seven major sectors of Italian civilization, 15,000 texts and 20,000 images.

When one considers that according to UNESCO one-third of the whole world's historic and artistic patrimony is contained within Italy's borders, this video documentation is a valuable addition to our cultural heritage. The Agnelli Foundation will distribute *De Italia* to American libraries and schools later this year.



# World Notes

[We present this section to inform our readers of events and trends that may be of interest with regard to ethnic opinions or cultural values.]

## PUERTO RICANS OFFENDED

Makers of the movie "Wall Street" have agreed to delete from future video copies a line of dialogue that compared Puerto Ricans to cockroaches.

Both the producer, Edward Pressman, and the director/writer, Oliver Stone ("Platoon") have claimed that the insulting comparison was voiced by a *bad guy* (our italics) and did not represent beliefs held by Pressman or Stone.

## VINTAGE ARGENTINA

Argentina is *the* largest wine producer in the Western Hemisphere. Moreover, it is fourth in production after Italy, France, and Spain.

The central wine-growing area of Argentina is the province of Mendoza which lies along the Andes mountains adjacent to Chile. In the late 1800's a combination of new rail transport, French capital, French vines, and significant numbers of Italian vineyard farmers brought the vintage up to European standards.

Argentine wines have only a 0.2% share of the U.S. wine market. Prices range from \$4 to \$10 per bottle.

## STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

Last year's Howard Beach (Queens, NY) incident in which a Black man was run to his death during a racial incident brought about some strange happenings.

Popularly thought of as an "Italian" neighborhood, the resulting trial convicted three young, White, Howard Beach men, Jon Lester, Scott Kern, and Jason Ladone. Obviously, the neighborhood is ethnically mixed.

Stranger still was the appearance of Confederate and Italian flags

among White protesters who countered a Black-sponsored demonstration. Few realized the irony of the mixing of the two flags. Less than a century ago eleven Italian immigrants suffered mob lynching in New Orleans at the hands of sons of the old Confederacy.

## THE RIGHT TOUCH

Some University of Pittsburgh psychologists compared the frequency of touching between "caregivers" and children aged 2 to 5 years old. The survey was done at beaches and playgrounds in Greece, the USSR, and the USA, and a generalized conclusion about ethno/cultural touching was reached. To wit: Greek and Soviet kids are "held, soothed and touched playfully" much more than American kids.

## CONQUERORS HONORED

Not too long ago the Germans and the Swiss issued commemorative stamps to mark the founding of Augsburg, Germany, by Caesar Augustus and his conquest of Switzerland.

Augsburg, in fact, translates as "Augustus' Town". Likewise the city of Cologne was originally "Colonia Agrippina". Curiously, a form of ancient Latin called Romansch is still spoken by some 50,000 Swiss and is recognized as the 4th official language of the Swiss Federation (Italian, German, and French being the others).

## AT THE WHEEL

The Alfa Romeo Spider Graduate has been chosen 1988's "Most Fun Car to Drive" by Success Magazine, because, "slip behind the wheel and you're Marcello Mastroianni tooling

through the Italian countryside..."

## EYE TO THE SKY

Chile will be the future home for the world's most powerful telescope. An estimated \$235 million will be spent by Italy, France and West Germany, with lesser contributions to come from other European partners, to complete the giant scope by the millenium.

Northern Chile was chosen as the site country because of its clear, dry air and matchless view of the heavens. The mega-scope will measure 16 meters in mirror diameter. By comparison, the largest telescope in existence, in the USSR, measures 6 meters across. Mount Palomar in the USA measures only 5 meters.

## GREEK PRIDE

Melina Mercouri, Greece's Minister of Culture, has proposed a "world cultural summit" this year to be held in Greece, of course.

"I would like a summit of culture, like you see (a summit) for arms, and where else to do that than in Greece?"

Ms. Mercouri has also proposed a "Greek month" here in America.

## SPACE RACE

France is by far the senior partner in Europe's Ariane Rocket program. The French own nearly 60% of Arianespace, the private company which handles the program. In contrast, West Germany owns 19.6%, Italy 3.6% and Britain 2.4%. Besides, all launches of the rocket are from French Guiana, conducted in the French language, and guarded by French security.



# World Notes



## CENSORED IN JAPAN

A Japanese film distributor arbitrarily cut a 40-second piece of film from Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci's epic *The Last Emperor* in order not to offend his country's right-wing patriots. The clip was actual footage of the Rape of Nanking in 1937-8 by Japanese troops. Not all sectors of Japan's society wish to admit wrong-doing in the pre-war and war years. Signor Bertolucci protested the mutilation performed on his masterpiece.

## THE GAYS ADVANCE

Denmark is about to become the first nation to recognize marriages between homosexual partners. The rights of inheritance, tax deductions, alimony, and to social services would be guaranteed.

Meanwhile, by majority vote, northern New Jersey's 125 Episcopal parishes gave their blessing to homosexual relationships and unmarried couples.

## BIG BIRD GOES HEBREW

Video tapes are now available in Hebrew for Sesame Street, i.e. Shalom Sesame. Hosted by Itzhak Perlman and Bonnie Franklin, the tape series is geared to American children who are learning Hebrew.

## AMERICA'S ROOTS

According to the Census Bureau, here's how the USA stands ethnically:

German	52 million
Irish	44 million
English	40 million
Afro	16 million
Scottish	14 million

French	14 million
Spanish	12 million
Italian	12 million
Polish	8 million
Dutch	8 million

As for the most popular mother tongues other than English:

Spanish	7.7 million speakers
German	5.1 million speakers
Italian	4.1 million speakers
Polish	2.5 million speakers
French	2.4 million speakers
Yiddish	1.2 million speakers

## AUTHOR FINDS HIS PLOT

Hugh J. Schonfeld, the British biblical scholar and author of *The Passover Plot*, died last January at the age of 86.

The 1965 bestseller sold two million copies here and abroad. It's controversial theme revolved around Mr. Schonfeld's theory that Jesus of Nazareth was a Jewish activist who plotted his own crucifixion in order to fulfill the ancient messianic scriptures.

## AVE LUCRE! (Hail Profit)

A recent survey of some 200,000 college freshman found that 76% of them considered being financially well off an "essential" or "very important goal" in their lives. Only 39% thought that creating a "meaningful philosophy of life" was worthy of pursuit.

## A GREEK GIFT

The need for teachers of modern and ancient Greek by three Queens, NY high schools is being filled by authentic Greek teachers courtesy of the Greek government.

All travel and salary expenses for the teachers is picked up by Greece in order that the students not "... forget

their background", according to a representative of the Greek consulate. (Note: The Italian consulate has a similar program in the New York City schools.)

## LONDON'S LATIN LOOK

Responding to Prince Charles' description of a design for a new wing on London's National Gallery as a "monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much loved friend", planners have opted for the tasteful design of famed American architect Robert Venturi. Venturi's classically modern stone exterior will complement the existing neighborhood. So much for early carbuncle!

## ...FEW ARE CHOSEN

Out of the 25 million or so direct descendents of the Mayflower pilgrims, only a relative handful are honored by admission in the Mayflower Society. In fact, one past president rejected anyone who failed to provide birth, marriage, and death certificates for every generation back to the year 1620!

The need to set themselves apart from the masses, as well as each other, has prompted many Anglo-Americans to band together under such unlikely categories as: descendents of Revolutionary soldiers, scions of the earls and barons who promulgated the Magna Carta (A.D. 1215), relations of General Sherman's veterans who marched through Georgia, descendents of colonial tavern keepers, and of all things, heirs of the illegitimate children of British kings. Such are the trials of the well-bred.

\*\*\*\*



## Editorial

It is probably fair to say that most Americans honestly believe that there is no serious discrimination against the Italic community. (We use the term "Italic" to mean descendants of Italy ancient and modern, native and foreign). Certainly there is no denying that just about every field of endeavor within America is open to us in varying degrees. Moreover, our economic wealth is impressive, thanks to family unity and natural drive. Nevertheless, we are witnessing an erosion of image quite unwarranted and unprecedented among world ethnic society.

For all its impressive contributions to civilization, in general, and to the nations its sons and daughters have served, the Italic community continues to be maligned with myths and stereotypes. From ancient Italy to its modern scions, the images are being consistently revised or all together expunged. Take for example the 1987 book, *The Story of English*, by Robert MacNeil et. al. Here is an impressive work that details the evolution of the English language through the various ethnic groups that contributed to it. Without question, the Italians received the least flattering of treatment with the sole gifts to the language being food names and criminal jargon.

Perhaps it is more difficult to swallow this "erudite" discrimination since common sense and minor education have taught us that one-third of English vocabulary is derived from Latin (an Italic language) and that words like *stucco*, *volcano*, *fiasco*, and many others came directly into English from Italian. Not the least, it was Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot) who planted the flag of England on these shores and laid the basis for English North America. The authors decided to brush aside these details preferring instead to link us with such un-Italic phrases like, *up the river*, *hotseat*, and *racketeer*.

Then too we have the case of the Bicentennial. A perfect time to remind America that Ancient Italy did more than produce a few mad emperors. Here was the opportunity to show how the Founding Fathers read Livy, Machiavelli, and Mazzei. It was a time to link our republic with the great institutions of Rome - the Senate, the House (Centuriate Assembly), and the Supreme Court (the Board of 100). Who would deny that it was ancient Italy and not Greece that first allowed the poor (plebians) a voice in government and even the veto power. And of course, our republic would not be complete without its Italic symbols — the eagle and the fasces. Instead, we were ignored.

Thus was born The Society for Italic Studies. Not merely an organization to write indignant letters but one to preserve the truth through education and mass media. It is certainly not our intention to be a divisive force in America or to further segment a society that contains unrestrained interest groups. If anything is clear from the study of Italic history it is that we have always been the mainstream and ultimately a guiding force in the development of civilization. Bettering our image and consequently our influence within this diverse community can ultimately lead to the betterment of the entire community.

*"Let us give the youth of Italian extraction that spiritual patrimony of their race (sic) that most of them would otherwise miss, and in turn they will bring to the civilization of this country not a weak and empty soul but the visible signs of a conscientious personality of which America will be proud."*

- Mario Petruzelli, "The Value of Italian Culture in American Citizenship", *Atlantica*, May 1937.

## The Italic Way

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# Forum of the People



## THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE: A HIDDEN GIANT

By Robert J. Di Pietro

It is a common practice in the field of language planning to construct linguistic profiles for the languages of the world. Accordingly, English has been labeled a "Language of Wider Communication" or LWC, for short. The label LWC indicates that the language is used across a broad societal spectrum, e.g., as a language that binds a people together nationally or as a medium for trade and technological exchange between different nations.

While Italian is not as wide-spread as English, it, too, deserves the title of LWC. Many of its own native speakers may be surprised to learn that it is a widely spoken language throughout the world. Commerce around the Mediterranean is often conducted in Italian. In Europe, it ranks second only to German in numbers of speakers of national languages. In fact, it is ahead of both English and French in the European Economic Community. Italian remains an official language in Somalia (East Africa) and is still widely used in Eritrea and Ethiopia, as well as in Switzerland where Italian enjoys equal status with French and German. Unofficially, Italian is spoken widely in Canada, the United States, and Australia. Toronto, Ontario, to cite one such place, has the greatest numbers of speakers of Italian of any city outside Italy. It outranks French in numbers of speakers in Ontario even though French enjoys official status as one of the national languages of Canada. Italian is fast becoming the second language of Australia and it ranks just below Spanish in numbers of speakers of languages other than English in the United States.

The need to know Italian is acute among many American students who choose to study in Italy. According to the *Chronicle of Higher Education* Italy comes right after England and France in attracting American students. Italian universities, especially the University of Bologna, have long attracted American medical students. In Washington, D.C., there is an organization (the Morgagni Society) which is made up solely of American graduates of Italian medical schools. Of course, many Americans continue to go to Italy to study art, history, politics, literature and archaeology.

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## "Italian is fast becoming the second language of Australia . . ."

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The Italians are also very active in publishing. While English looms over all other languages in numbers of publications, accounting for over 80% of published books and articles in some scientific fields, Italian ranks along with the other European languages in numbers of published works. In some fields, it is ahead of languages with far wider reading publics such as Spanish and Portuguese.

In spite of these facts, Italian has not received recognition as one of the critical languages to be studied by American students. While school boards and school authorities readily find justifications to introduce French, German, and Spanish into their curricula, few people express support for Italian instruction. At the same time, the rising numbers of students enrolled in existing Italian programs have brought about a critical shortage of Italian teachers.

What to do about this state of affairs? Each and every one of us interested in the survival of Italian language instruction in American educational establishments must press the authorities to help Italian teachers become certified and to open classes of instruction at all levels. Many have recognized the impressive cultural stature of the Italian language but few have yet to perceive it as an economic, scientific and political means for wider communication — a veritable giant hidden among the rushes!

[Robert J. Di Pietro is a Professor of linguistics at the University of Delaware and an advisor to *PROJECT ITALIA*.]



# Books

## TRAVEL

**ON PERSEPHONE'S ISLAND.** By Mary Taylor Simeti. A journal of life on a Sicilian island. 336 pages. CR4750. \$16.95.

**A TREASURY OF ITALIAN FOLKLORE AND HUMOR.** By Henry D. Spalding. A collection of entertaining stories, anecdotes, play excerpts, jokes, quips and proverbs spanning 2,500 years. 340 pages. BR61457. \$8.95.

**VENICE: The Most Triumphant City.** By George Bull. A guide book that conducts the tourist through five centuries of history as well as to the monuments of the city Evelyn Waugh called "the greatest surviving work of art in the world". 47 color illus., 42 b&w. BR51286. \$12.95.

**ITALY: A Picture Book to Remember Her.** By a photo tour that captures some of the most famous sites from the Trevi Fountain to the Valle d'Aosta. 64 pages color photos. BR68065. \$10.95.

## LITERATURE

**THE DIVINE COMEDY OF DANTE ALGHERI.**

Vol. I: Inferno

Vol. II: Purgatorio

Vol. III: Paradiso

Charles S. Singleton, Translator. Includes facing Italian and English texts and commentary. Softcover. 883 + 850 + 809 pages. SB43059. \$56.50.

**THE SINGER OF THE ECLOGUES: A Study of Virgilian Pastoral.** By Paul Alpers. A new account of Virgil which brings to light the way the aesthetic of the pastoral derives from emotional, ethical, and social realities. Includes a new translation of the Eclogues. 275 pages. SB41819. \$16.95.

**THE DECAMERON OF BOCCACCIO.** John Payne, Translator. Revised and annotated by Charles S. Singleton, this version of the Decameron preserves the translator's language and style and adds new annotation and interpretation. 748 pages, boxed. SB44959. \$59.95.

**THE GREEK WAY, THE ROMAN WAY: Two Volumes in One.** By Edith Hamilton. The famed classicist leads us through some of the most brilliant writing of the great masters of antiquity, with lucid and insightful commentary. 473 pages. BR32289. \$11.95.

## HISTORY

**IN THE SHADOW OF FLORENCE.** By Judith C. Brown. Provincial society in Renaissance Pescaia, analyzes changes in the size and structure of population, in economic life, and in public administration after it was conquered by Florence in the 14th century. BR32229. \$9.95.

**THE ROOTS OF TREASON: Ezra Pound and the Secret of St. Elizabeth's.** By E. Fuller Torrey. How one of the century's leading poets was drawn into the Fascist orbit, a cultural history that raises questions

about both medical ethics and literary politics. 339 pages. Paperbound. BR20937. \$7.95.

**THE ITALIANS: History, Art, and the Genius of a People.** Ed. by John Julius Norwich. Encompasses 2,000 years of civilization calling up some of the most beautiful, dramatic and significant images in the whole of Western civilization. 294 illus, 70 color. BR42043. \$22.95.

**PLANNING THE ETERNAL CITY.** By Robert C. Fried. Roman politics and urban planning since WW II, assessing its effectiveness and identifying the factors shaping its performance level. Maps. 348 pages. BR41919. \$14.95.

**FROM DICTATORSHIP TO DEMOCRACY: Coping with the Legacies of Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism.** Ed. by John H. Herz. 11 essays on the difficulties encountered in reestablishing liberal democracies in Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, Vichy France, Austria, Salazar's Portugal, Franco's Spain, and Greece after the colonels. 311 pages. BR68383. \$9.95.

**THE ESCAPE FROM ELBA: The Fall and Flight of Napoleon 1814-1815.** By Norman Mackenzie. A waltzing game on the comic-opera island kingdom played against the background of unrest in France, muddle in England, and warlike quarrels among the Allies trying to redraw the map of Europe at the Congress of Vienna. Illus. BR66730. \$13.95.

**THE CIVIL WAR.** By Caesar. Trans., with intro, by Jane F. Gardner. Traces the swift rise to power of Julius Caesar, whose terse and restrained style elegantly conceals the true propagandist aims of his writing. 7 maps. 360 pages. BR70570. \$11.95.

**JAPANESE AND ITALIAN AIRCRAFT: Military Aviation Library WW II.** By Bill Gunston. Detailed descriptions of the planes, in text and dozens of action photos, profiles, cut-aways and line drawings. Fully illus., many color. BR20015. \$9.95.

**THE ETRUSCANS: Their History, Art and Architecture.** By Maja Sprenger et al. A broad yet detailed picture of their culture and accomplishments over eight centuries. 367 illus, 46 color. BR40475. \$54.95.

**EVERYDAY LIFE IN ROMAN AND ANGLO-SAXON TIMES.** By Marjorie & C.H.B. Quennell. Incorporates their two books on ancient Britain from Roman to Viking times, with text revised by archeologists and incorporating more recent research. Well illus. BR71574. \$11.95.

**THE OXFORD HISTORY OF THE CLASSICAL WORLD.** 32 essays on the history, literature, philosophy, art, and culture of Greece and Rome, each by a distinguished authority. 882 pages. GR5080. \$55.95.

**VENICE.** By Alvise Zorzi. A chronicle of the growth and greatness of the city, illustrated with 203 full color and 140 black and white plates. 280 pages. SB11619. \$49.95.

**FROM ROMAN BRITAIN TO NORMAN ENGLAND.** By P.H. Sawyer. "A learned, stimulating, and refreshingly novel book... Sawyer writes with force and imagination. Can be recommended to anyone with the slightest interest in early English history." *American Historical Review*. 294

pages. SB53729. \$21.95.

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN ITALY.** By Cecil J.S. Spriggs. First published in 1943, this is a first-hand account of the rise of Italian fascism and of the rule of Mussolini, written before the death of the Italian dictator and when the last was yet to be said about him. The book offers an appreciative critical history of Italy under fascism and the failure of democracy. 216 pages. SB56719. \$19.95.

**PALJO AND PONTE: An Account of the Sports of Central Italy from the Age of Dante to the XXth Century.** By William Heywood. A unique work which describes the social and cultural history of the Palio alla Lunga, the Giuoco del Mazzascudo, and the Palio alla Tonda. Illustrated. Reprint edition. 267 pages. SB21469. \$13.95.

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**WHO WAS WHO IN THE ROMAN WORLD.** By Diana Bowder. "This is the very model of a modern book of reference. The work of a dozen skilled scholars, it covers all well-known and many lesser-known personalities from the whole of Roman history." *Archaeology*. 256 pages. SB54329. \$29.95. Special 2 Vol. Set SB54439. \$55.00.

**DAILY LIFE IN PAPAL ROME IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.** By Maurice Audrieux. A social history of Rome at the brink of the modern world, richly illustrated by works by Italian artists of the time. 223 pages. SB13229. \$22.95.

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The Italic Way

## The Italians & the Holocaust

by Susan Zuccotti  
Basic Books \$19.99

War-time Italy has rarely been treated with a dispassionate tone. Books like *A Bell for Adano* and movies like *Sahara* began the trend toward the "poor, war-weary Italians" that eventually stereotyped two generations into believing that Italians were not serious folks when the shooting started. Well, Susan Zuccotti's book, *The Italians and the Holocaust*, may be just the beginning of new revelations about the Italian conduct in World War II.

Here, in a well-documented tome, is a portrait of a people truly descended from the humanist traditions of Roman and Renaissance Italy. A people who refused to participate in a genocide that most of the collaborating powers of Europe accepted even with occasional relish. Of course, the individual lapses into barbarism by certain Italian Fascist elements is revealed. But they pale in significance to the heroic and tolerant acts by thousands of Italian citizens, soldiers, and even Fascists.

part of it or played a senior role in its government. 468 pages. SB58409. \$24.95.

**RENAISSANCE ROME, 1500-1599: A Portrait of a Society.** "An informative and lively survey of Rome in a notorious period of urban recovery and external disrepute." Renaissance Quarterly, 241 pages, illustrated, soft cover. SB55109. \$15.95.

**HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF FASCIST ITALY.** Philip V. Cannistrano, Editor. This exhaustive work presents hundreds of substantial articles, alphabetically arranged, on virtually every aspect of the history of fascism in Italy. 857 pages. SB50199. \$21.95.

### ART

**THE GENIUS OF VENICE, 1500-1600.** Jane Martineau and Charles Hope, Editors. The catalogue of a notable Royal Academy of Arts exhibition in 1983-84 traces the evolution of the High Renaissance in Venice through the finest work of Titian, Giorgione, Veronese, Tintoretto, and hundreds of other painters, sculptors, and artists. Includes 376 illustrations. 413 pages. SB 10669. \$33.95.

**ETRUSCAN BRONZES.** By Sybille Haynes. An authoritative up-to-date, and exceptionally comprehensive study which presents an outline of Etruscan history and its political and social background and then studies some 300 bronzes, many less well known and hitherto unpublished. 359 pages. 40 color plates, 300 monochrome illustrations. SB21919. \$159.50.

**GREEK AND ROMAN JEWELRY.** by Reynold Higgins. A discussion of jewelry from the Minoan, Mycenaean, Greek, Etruscan, and Roman civilizations during a period of more than 3,000 years. 64 pages of plates. 243 pages. SB12949. \$27.95.

# Review

Statistically, some 85% of Italian Jewry survived World War II, the highest percentage rate in Europe. This impressive rate can be attributed to a number of reasons. First, as an Axis partner, Italy did not suffer the initial onslaught of the German war machine which brought the horrid SS in its wake. Second, Mussolini and his Fascist government were not essentially anti-Semitic. Certainly, Jews suffered some economic and social privations beginning in 1939 due to the Fascist anti-Semitic laws (promulgated to please Hitler). However, as Ms. Zuccotti writes, not until the German occupation of Italy in 1943 were any Jews (foreign or Italian) deported from Italy. This contrasts markedly with the French Vichy government which sent thousands of French Jews to Germany and their deaths. Finally, and perhaps significantly, the actual Jewish population of pre-war Italy was only 47,000 which allowed for greater ease in hiding and less ethnic tension.

Ms. Zuccotti suggests that Italian pride was one cause of their low degree of anti-Semitism. Italy was always the junior partner in the Axis and the Italians resented German treachery and dominance. Still, why did groups of individual Italian soldiers go out of their way to perform decent acts to save Jewish lives? Such occurred in Greece during the Italo-German occupation. Greek Jewish women who had been concentrated in German detention centers were allowed to leave if they were married to Italian soldiers. There followed what surely must have been a unique rescue when hundreds of Italian soldiers went to the center to claim their Jewish "brides". It was a tweak of the nose of the SS but was it only out of Italian resentment or something deeper?

*The Italians and the Holocaust* should be required reading for students in every nation, for it demonstrates that common people can rise above racial and political doctrines if they maintain their humanity. The Italian people certainly deserve more truthful histories of their participation in the Second World War and Susan Zuccotti has shed great light on the subject. - R. Wiley, J. Mancini

**GREEK AND ROMAN SCULPTURE IN AMERICA.** By Cornelius C. Vermeule. A lavishly produced, 8-1/2" x 11" volume which catalogues and illustrates 336 masterpieces of Greek and Roman sculpture from all periods. 30 full color plates. Softcover. 243 pages. SB15109. \$19.95.

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**FIVE CENTURIES OF ITALIAN PAINTING, 1300-1800.** By Terisio Pignatti. A catalogue of masterworks from the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation collection, featuring scores of excellent color plates, exhaustive cataloguing of works depicted, and brief essays on the artists and their times. 229 pages. Softcover. SB22799. \$9.95.

**RAVENNA MOSAICS.** BY Giuseppe Bovini. 11-1/2" x 15-1/4", this is a superbly produced volume featuring 45 color plates and 15 b&w illustrations depicting these extraordinary mosaics. 57 pages + plates. SB22329. \$55.00.

**THE PIGORINI MUSEUM.** Bruno Brizzi, Editor. 244 color and black and white illustrations along with extensive text introduce this rich museum and its extraordinary collection of prehistoric and ethnographic art. 10" x 12-1/2". 426 pages. SB13679. \$89.50.

**NICCOLO DI GIOVANNI FIORENTINO AND VENETIAN SCULPTURE OF THE EARLY RENAISSANCE.** By Anne Markham Schulz. A College Art Association Monograph featuring 100 black and white illustrations and a close study of the Venetian works of Florentino, their provenance, and the life and art of their creator. 136 pages. SB13529. \$21.95.

**COME, TAKE THIS LUTE:** A Quest for Identities in Italian

**Renaissance Portraits.** By E.H. Raimond. A close study of five Renaissance paintings which are interrelated in subject matter. 84 black and white illustrations. 219 pages. SB15529. \$14.95.

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**Creativity in Germany and Italy Today.** By Germano Celant. Charts the decentralization of internationalism and the shadow cast across the New York domination of the art world in the 1970's, revealing the resurgence of creativity in European architecture, painting, sculpture, graphic and furniture design, theater and other arts. Well illus., many color. 372 pages. BR22701. \$14.95.

**ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN BRONZES.** By Winifred Lamb. A detailed study of the smaller sculptures and utensils closely associated with daily life, admirable for their taste and craftsmanship, and valuable to the art historian because of their relation to larger, missing works. 96 pages illus. BR51248. \$15.95.

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The Italic Way



# Personalities

John N. LaCorte

by Candice Smith

Mr. LaCorte achieved international fame overnight when he recently offered \$1,000 to any teenage girl who managed to stay "pure" throughout her teen years. The money was to be paid from a special fund upon medical proof that purity was maintained. Mr. LaCorte had to rescind the offer when technical (medical) difficulties arose.

Whatever notoriety Mr. LaCorte achieved in the media from this well-intentioned offer, it served to focus attention on his perception of humanist values. We offer you this insight into this wonderful human being.

**If Columbus knocked on our door today, would the Italo-Americans support his expedition?**

John Napoleon La Corte, founder of the Italian Historical Society of America, thinks not.

*"Italians are not very supporting people; no altruistic spirit prevails," says the stocky, white-bearded La Corte.*

Mr. La Corte has been crusading for proper recognition of Italian achievements for more than forty years. Fortunately he has received help from influential people and politicians over his many active years. Sadly, he is very disappointed about that lack of greater Italo-American support in recent years. Nevertheless, his passion for the truth led him to the fact that Verrazano was first to discover New York Harbor, that Meucci invented the telephone and that Charles Bonaparte founded the F.B.I.

## VERRAZANO BRIDGE

La Corte battled nine long years to have the bridge across the Narrows named for Verrazano.

The Transit Department insisted that it was too difficult to spell. *"What about Kosciusko?"* retorted La Corte, referring to the New York City bridge named after the Polish-American patriot. La Corte ultimately locked horns with such egos as Robert Moses, super planner of New York State, and Governors Harriman and



LaCorte's Better World is his greatest dream.

Rockefeller over the name. La Corte was even driven to the point of threatening Robert Moses with the the federal agency that was to build the access ramps to the future bridge. Luckily, the wily La Corte had made political friends in Washington and was able to get a powerful phonecall placed to New York's master builder telling him, in effect, that the unnamed bridge would be fairly useless without federally-funded access ramps. The call was the coup d'gras. But just when he thought he had won the fight, John F. Kennedy was assassinated and the name *Kennedy* was replacing the name of every public facility in sight. As luck would have it, though, the fallen President's brother, Robert, gave "thumbs down" to the *Kennedy* Bridge and LaCorte had his

way. *"It was a miracle,"* says La Corte.

## MA BELL CHALLENGED

In 1856 Antonio Meucci, a native of Florence and resident of Staten Island, New York, made a primitive telephone which extended from his wife's sick room to their kitchen. The telephone was constructed of a magnet with a coil and diaphragm and was enclosed in a box of wood and paper. He called his invention the "teletrofono" and for years attempted to market it. A disastrous boating accident reduced Meucci to poverty and it was during these hard times that he was forced to pawn all possessions, selling the telephone to a junk dealer for \$6.00.

Although he had filed caveats in 1869 and 1871 announcing his intention of taking out patents, he could not obtain a financial backer to further develop the device or even to purchase a patent. In 1876, while penniless, he read that Bell had secured patents for the instrument he claimed to have invented.

Says La Corte,

*"The curator of the patent office was a drunkard. Bell bought him whiskey and he was allowed to go through the files. Meucci's papers were never found after that. I do not expect Ma Bell to become Mamma Meucci," he continues, "However, I would like the Meucci story printed in every telephone directory in the country and a \$1 million Meucci Scholarship Fund be financed by Bell Telephone."*

Over the years, LaCorte has been fighting for Meucci's recognition. And although the Sons of Italy have assumed the leadership in the



struggle and maintains the house where Meucci lived and worked, LaCorte still carries a special passion for the departed inventor. (Interestingly, the Italians fully credit their immigrant son for the telephone.)

## BACKGROUND

John Napoleon La Corte was born July 4, 1910 in Jersey City. In 1913, the family returned to Sicily to find "a better way of life." There he learned the trade of cabinet maker. However, young John soon joined a village band travelling around Sicily as a clarinet player. In 1929, in jeopardy of losing his U.S. citizenship, he returned to Jersey City. He arrived on July 4 and was invited to play at a feast where his talents were rediscovered. Combining his musical talent with an innate salesmanship, La Corte befriended local priests who would tell him who had died and who was getting married. Both events required music in those days.

Soon, La Corte concentrated on selling to earn his bread. First home furnishings, then Electrolux vacuum cleaners. Would you believe he sold an average of seven machines per day? He broke a company record by earning \$180 in one day! But selling insurance was his forte, the thing that made him a millionaire, so he claims. Last year, he was awarded his 50 year certificate by NY Life.

Today, he and his wife of 45 years, Josephine, live in a double brownstone in desirable Brooklyn Heights. He has one son and a granddaughter.

## ITALIAN HERITAGE

In the Thirties, La Corte saw the Italians in Brooklyn beginning to change.

*"Italians were ashamed to speak to*

*me in our native language. The children of immigrants who are now professional men identified their heritage with a lack of education and low class,"* La Corte recalls.

This attitude prompted La Corte to organize an Italian culture club to educate young people on history, art

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## "Italians are not very supporting people"

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and music. In 1947, the students marched in a Columbus Day Parade and passed the Irish Historical Society on Fifth Avenue. The students queried La Corte on the location of the Italian Historical Society and from this evolved another challenge.

*"It has become my obsession. I went to see politicians, businessmen and historians, but no one had the time to help start an historical society," recalls La Corte. "Finally after two years, I borrowed \$500 and went to the Brooklyn Academy of Music." "I want to engage the auditorium and invite all of the Italians in Brooklyn to be my guests. We want to organize an Italian Historical Society," explained La Corte to BAM officials.*

In May of 1949, 1,777 people filled the auditorium and the Society was launched.

*"The Italians were waiting for something like this. There was the Sons of Italy, but nothing on a cultural level. Our goal was to promote the history and culture of Italy,"* reminisced La Corte.

However, 39 years after the birth of the Society, *"the future of the Italian heritage in American is not promising. Our level of ethnicity has not risen*

*in recent times. The Orientals, Blacks and Spanish people have become a strong voice because of unselfish leadership."*

## A BETTER WORLD

Today, La Corte's greatest passion is the Better World Movement. Mayor Koch promoted the Movement by issuing a proclamation stating the Better World Movement is designed to motivate our youth to better appreciate the gift of life, to cherish basic human values and to help them develop their full human potential. This humanistic movement is promoted through the Model Student and Parent Club, salutes to veterans, educators, and the news media. Of late, La Corte has instituted the now famous virginity program in which teenaged girls were asked to take the "pledge", receiving \$1,000 if they stayed "pure". La Corte's recent interview on the Phil Donahue Show resulted in over 1,500 letters from as far away as China. The letters supported "new consciousness," and the emphasis on traditional values in order to preserve the family and society.

This elder statesman of the Italic community has found his most obsessive passion in life with the Better World program. Although some may write him off as a crank, he is very much in sync with the values that thoughtful Italo-Americans hold dear - family, piety, tolerance, and love. Were La Corte able to tap into the Middle America tele-evangelism market he would certainly be an improvement.

*"Every penny I have and every minute of my life is devoted to a Better World, and it begins with me," says La Corte.*

\*\*\*\*



United 222 B.C.  
Peace & Civ. 13 B.C.

# Project Italia

A film production to commemorate 2,500 years of Italic civilization and migrations.

SPONSORED BY:



THE SOCIETY FOR ITALIC STUDIES, INC.  
Carl A. Pescosolido, Dir.

IN COOPERATION WITH:



Channel 21  
Long Island, N.Y.  
Samuel J. Francis, Pres.

## BACKGROUND

*Project Italia* was adopted by The Society for Italic Studies in 1987 as a vehicle to commemorate 2,500 years of Italic civilization. The goal of the Project is to introduce to Italian-Americans, through mass media, a new (new to them, that is) way of viewing their heritage. Rather than the all too familiar view of an Italy of regions with diverse traditions and a history based on individuals (Michelangelo, Columbus, etc.), *Project Italia* presents Italic civilization as a continuing saga of innovative ideas and cooperative efforts. It may seem nontraditional to some but very much true to the facts.

In cooperation with WLIW/Channel 21 on Long Island, The Society plans to produce an historical documentary unlike anything seen about the Italic peoples. Entitled *Beyond Italy*, this film production will document the worldwide migrations of Italians since the time of the Roman Empire. Few realize that the great empire was only made possible with the planting of Italian colonies throughout ancient Europe and the Mediterranean. Thereafter and into our day, Italian commerce and migration reached the four corners of the earth.

To script this unique film, *Project Italia* will retain the services of Folco Quilici, Italy's noted documentary producer, and a team of researchers and writers. Funding for the script will come from the various activities of The Society. The script will be ready for production in early 1989. When completed, the film will premiere on Channel 21, Long Island, and then be distributed at no cost to public television stations around the country.

## GORE VIDAL JOINS PROJECT ITALIA

Novelist/playwright Gore Vidal has enthusiastically welcomed our invitation to join the scripting committee of *Project Italia*. Mr. Vidal joins the Project's distinguished advisory committee which includes some of America's foremost Italian-American historians, university presidents, and authors.

Now residing in Ravello, Italy (on Sorrento), Mr. Vidal was flattered by our invitation saying that The Soci-



Author/playwright Gore Vidal

ety was the first Italian-American organization to recognize his Italian ancestry. Moreover, he related that Henry Fonda and he "used to marvel" at how they were ignored by the Italian-American community.

We are extremely proud of Mr. Vidal's hard work and success in a very demanding industry. We are doubly proud that he is at our side in *Project Italia*.

## PUBLIC TELEVISION

According to Nielsen surveys in 1987, public tv viewership has gone as high as 60% of the primetime audience or some 103 million viewers.





## DINNER AT THE WALDORF

A major fundraising effort will be held on behalf of *Project Italia* at the Waldorf=Astoria on June 24th. The day commemorates the anniversary of John Cabot's\* landing on North America in 1497 which was the basis of the English claim to this continent. Special medals will be awarded to Italo-Americans in space exploration.

The dinner will inaugurate the Commerce & Realty Group of The Society for Italic Studies. The Group is made up of Metropolitan New York business executives of Italian heritage (Italophiles also welcomed)

Tickets are available at \$225 each. This contribution is tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. Proceeds will fund the script for the television documentary, *Beyond Italy*. Call (212) 967-2243 for information and reservations, or write: Dinner, Project Italia, PO Box 818, Floral Park, NY 11001. (Journal advertising space is available.)

\*Cabot's real name was Giovanni Caboto

### THE FIRST UNIFICATION

Unification has many connotations but everyone can agree that it translates as "made one". It is this meaning which we celebrate in 1988: the joining together of all the regions of Italy in the year 222 B.C. under the rule of Rome.

For the Romans and their Italian allies who had lived for hundreds of years under the threat of Gallic (Celtic) invasion (the Gauls had laid seige to Rome itself in 390 B.C.) this consolidation must have been a grand occasion when Italic power reached the Alps. The telling

blow was the capture of Milan in 222 B.C. after which colonies were established at Cremona and Piacenza.

Most historians do not consider this event as the "real" unification of Italy. Splitting hairs between geographic, political, and ethnic unification, many feel that "unity" actually took place at the time of Augustus. Using this logic, Americans should probably not claim 1776 as our nation's founding but rather 1865 or perhaps when equal rights were given all our citizens.

If 222 B.C. marks the actual start of a unified Italy with political and ethnic integration following two hundred years later, then Italy can claim state-

hood one year earlier than China!

For this marked the year that Northern Italy joined Italy proper. Think of the irony. Rome and her Southern Italian allies originally created the nation of Italy. Yet, it was North Italy that reunified Italy in the 1860's.

One telling footnote is that it took Rome 500 years to bring together North and South Italy as well as Sicily and Sardinia, but only two hundred years more to gain a world empire. In short, before Rome could create an empire it had to first create Italy.

It is clear, therefore, that the start of Italian unification in 222 B.C. was a watershed in world history.

## Celebrate 22 Centuries of Italy's Unity (222 B.C. - 1988 A.D.)

### Give a newborn an Italic name

#### GIRLS

Amanda - worthy of love  
Amber - the amber jewel  
Amelia - industrious one  
Amy - beloved  
Angelica - angelic one  
Antonia - beyond praise  
Augusta - the exalted, sacred  
Beatrice - she who blesses  
Belinda - beautiful  
Blanche - white or fair  
Bonny - sweet and fair  
Caroline - womanly  
Carolyn - womanly  
Carrie - nickname for Carolyn  
Cecilia - blind  
Celeste - heavenly  
Charity - charitable  
Clara - bright  
Clarissa - making famous  
Claudette - var. Claudia  
Claudia - lame  
Colette - necklace  
Constance - constant  
Cornelia - yellowish  
Diana - goddess of the moon  
Donna - lady, mistress  
Elvira - fair, white  
Faith - faithful  
Felicia - happy, fortunate

Flora - flower  
Florence - flowering  
Frances - free  
Francesca - var. Frances  
Francine - var. Frances  
Georgina - farmer  
Gina - var. Regina  
Gloria - glorious  
Grace - graceful  
Hilary - cheerful  
Imogene - image, likeness  
Irma - high-ranking person  
Isadora - gift of Isis  
Jill - var. of Julia  
Jacelyn - merry  
Julia - youthful  
June - youthful  
Laura - the laurel  
Laurel - var. Laura  
Lauren - var. Laura  
Lillian - a lily  
Linda - beautiful  
Loretta - var. Laura  
Lucy - light  
Mabel - lovable  
Marcella - martial one  
Marcia - martial one  
Martina - martial one  
Maxine - the greatest  
Monica - advice  
Myra - wonderful

Norma - the model  
Octavia - the eighth  
Olivia - var. Olivia  
Olivia - the olive  
Patricia - noble, well-born  
Paula - little  
Paulette - var. Paula  
Pauline - var. Paula  
Pearl - the pearl  
Priscilla - ancient  
Prudence - intelligent  
Regina - queen  
Renata - reborn  
Renee - var. Renata  
Rose - a rose  
Rosemary - dew of the sea  
Stella - a star  
Sylvia - forest maiden  
Talia - var. Italia  
Ursula - she-bear  
Val - var. Valerie  
Valerie - strong, valorous  
Vera - the true  
Veronica - true image  
Victoria - victorious  
Viola - var. Violet  
Violet - violet flower  
Virginia - pure  
Vivian - lively

#### BOYS

Adrian - from Adria, Italy  
Anthony - beyond praise  
Augustus - sacred, exalted  
Benedict - blessed  
Bruno - brown-haired  
Caesar - long haired  
Calvin - bald  
Cacl - blind  
Clarence - illustrious  
Claude - lame  
Clement - merciful  
Cornelius - war horn  
Curt - short  
Damon - loyal friendship  
Dexter - right-handed  
Dominic - the Lord's  
Duke - leader  
Fabian - bean farmer  
Felix - fortunate  
Horace - limekeeper  
Jerome - of sacred fame  
Julian - var. Julius  
Julius - youthful  
Justin - just, upright  
Lawrence - the laurel  
Leo - lion  
Leon - lion-like  
Lester - camp of the legion  
Lincoln - settlement by the pool  
Lionel - lion-like  
Lorenzo - var. Lawrence

Lucian - descendant of Lucius  
Lucius - var. Luke  
Luke - light  
Lyle - from the island  
Marius (Mario)  
Mark - hammer  
Martin - warlike  
Maurice - dark-skinned  
Max - var. Maximilian  
Maximilian - greatest  
Miles - soldier  
Oliver - the olive  
Orlando - var. Roland  
Orson - bear  
Patrick - noble, patrician  
Paul - little  
Rex - king  
Romeo - pilgrim to Rome  
Russell - red-haired  
Spencer - keeper of provisions

Sylvester - forest dweller  
Taylor - tailor  
Terence - tender  
Tony - var. Anthony  
Valentine - valorous  
Vernon - flourishing  
Victor - conqueror  
Vincent - conquering



# Perspectives

[Highlights of historical records that shed light on modern times]

## Excerpts from *Atlantica* May, 1930

(*Atlantica* was a monthly Italian Review published during the 1920's & 30's)

[A portion of an article that explained why Italians used to be ashamed of their heritage]

"It is only a few years that the Italian language has been taught in the American schools, and those students of Italian parents have a better opportunity to carry on the tradition of their race. Nowadays no one is ashamed to confess that he is of Italian descent. We see evidence of it in the usage of the full Italian name whereas it was not so before the war [WWI]. It was necessary for Italy to shed the blood of millions of her sons so that her name be respected across the ocean, and thereby a new consciousness was instilled in the ignorant masses. Ironic but true, the sword is still mightier than the pen." - Giuseppi Cautela (novelist)

\*\*\*\*

(Reprinted by *Atlantica* from the Springfield (Mass.) Union)

"As was predicted prior to the opening of the London naval conference, the inability of France and Italy to arrive at some agreement provides one of the most serious obstacles to the success of the parley. M. Briand throws up his hands and gloomily announces that the conference will break up within a few days and the French try to blame the Italians for it. Dino Grandi, who has been playing a shrewd game at London, fails to become perturbed either at the pessimistic announcements of M. Briand or at the charge that the Italians are wrecking the conference. Instead

he is understood to have suggested a nonaggression pact with France as one possible solution to the impasse which has existed ever since the parley opened. Parity with France, however, is still emphasized.

If France refuses to become a party to such a pact as it is understood Italy is proposing it will be difficult for her to continue her pleading for security and it will not be easy to make it appear that Italy is responsible for failure of the conference. Italy's only demand has been parity with France and Grandi has left the level of that parity for France to decide. Now that the French continue to demand security Italy proposes a nonaggression pact. It is France's turn to do something."

\*\*\*\*

"The famous impresario Arturo Toscanini, who, after receiving the Academic Medal of Honor from Georgetown University, recently sailed for Europe, where he is now touring with his New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra."

\*\*\*\*

"At the recent Aviation Exposition in Detroit, the Savoia Marchetti plane, manufactured in this country by the American Aeronautical Corporation, was one of the most successful, the company having sold 25 of the amphibians." [Ed. Note: This type seaplane was used by Italo Balbo in 1933 to demonstrate mass formation flying from Italy to the Chicago World's Fair]

\*\*\*\*

"The engineer Giuseppe Bellanca was one of the three men selected by Governor Buck of Delaware, to comprise the committee to represent that State at the Tri-State Aircraft Show held in Camden last month. Mr. Bellanca exhibited two new planes of his design." [Ed. Note: Charles Lindbergh's original choice to fly the Atlantic was a Bellanca aircraft. Al-

though it was not available to him at the time, a Bellanca crossed the Atlantic a few weeks after the historic Lindbergh flight.]

\*\*\*\*

"The Jacuzzi Brothers, of Berkeley, Cal., have placed on the market an invention of theirs, a centrifugal pump with hydraulic siphon, to pump water from land. Since 1927, when the pump was invented, more than 500 of them have already been sold throughout California."

\*\*\*\*

"A.P. Giannini (founder of the Bank of America) is to return to California this month. He recently entered the famous Mayo Brothers Clinic in Rochester, Minn., last month for a few days to undergo a complete physical examination. He is to testify before the Banking Committee of the House of Representatives in connection with the activities of 'chain banking' of which 'A.P.' was the originator in the United States. Mr. J.A. Bacigalupo, ex-President of the Bank of Italy, will also testify." [Ed. Note: "chain-banking" is none other than multi-branch banking, a common institution today.]

\*\*\*\*

"The Transamerica Corporation, the huge holding company founded by A.P. Giannini and now headed by his son L.M. Giannini, which recently acquired three great organizations, the Occidental Life Insurance Company, the Occidental Corporation and the Occidental Investment Company, representing in all assets exceeding 25 million dollars, recently announced its quarterly dividends. The Corporation's profits for the past year were more than 80 million dollars. Its stock is expected to be soon listed on the New York Stock Exchange." [Ed. Note: TransAmerica is now a multi-bil-



# Perspectives

lion dollar entity]

\*\*\*\*

*"The first foreign entrant for the international 500-mile auto classic at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in May was an Italian, Baconi Borzacchini, and his entry is pointed out as being the initial step in a determined drive by Italy to halt the American string of victories in this event."*

\*\*\*\*

*"Of the only four championships recognized by the National Boxing Commission, three are held by Italian-Americans. They are: Sammy Mandell, lightweight; Bat Battalino, featherweight; and Midget Wolgast, flyweight. Jackie Fields is the other champion."*

\*\*\*\*

*"While the National Boxing Commission is investigating the past bouts of Primo Carnera, the colossal gentleman and his manager are negotiating for his appearance in the movies with Lon Chaney."*

\*\*\*\*

*"The Italians of Montreal, Canada, are working to have erected in their city a monument to the memory of Giovanni Caboto, the first white man to set foot on New England soil." [Ed. Note: Most people both here in the USA and Great Britain don't realize that John Cabot was Italian. In fact, on June 24th 1497, Cabot claimed North America for England and planted the first English flag in the New World. Even more curious, he also planted the Venetian flag at the same time! [It is doubtful, with the knowledge historians have today, that Caboto was truly the first White man to land here.]*

\*\*\*\*



Altar of Augustan Peace, July 4, 13 B.C.



Honor ceremony July 4th 1987

## SOCIETY HONORS 2,000th ANNIVERSARY of the ALTAR OF PEACE City of Rome & U.S. Embassy Present

### WHAT IS THE ALTAR OF PEACE?

It saw the light of day in 1938 after spending a score of centuries beneath the soil of Rome. Its recovery from a murky grave was a triumph of Italian archeology. Rescued from an underground stream beneath a Renaissance palazzo, fragments of the Altar were saved by freezing the stream with refrigeration piping. By order of Mussolini, the Altar was enclosed in a steel and glass structure beside the tomb of Augustus along the Tiber.

The Altar had been originally commissioned by the Roman Senate to celebrate the return of Augustus from Gaul and Spain in 13 B.C. For the Senate and the people of the Western world Augustus' return to Rome meant that peace had finally come to the Roman Empire after years of civil strife and rebellion. It was the beginning of the Pax Romana, an amazing interval of two hundred years of relative peace in Europe and the Mediterranean — never before experienced, never again repeated.

The consecration ceremony was held on July 4th 13 B.C. and the artist sketched the eventful gathering of senators, officials and family, effectively locking in time a photograph of the momentous occasion. These sketches were later chiseled in stone creating the four walls that enclose the sacrificial altar itself. The construction was completed in 9 B.C. and a dedication ceremony was held on the birthday of Livia, wife of Augustus, January 30th.

The most unusual thing about the Altar is that the figure of Augustus is not easily apparent. Demonstrating his wish to be considered only as a "first citizen" (princeps) Augustus is mingled among the parade of dignitaries. Whether because Augustus feared the dangerous cult of personality or because he was genuinely humble we can only speculate. Indeed, this first Roman emperor in whose reign Jesus Christ was born was very much the embodiment of the moral and simple man that was not unknown to Italian history.

The Altar remains incomplete with many portions of its reliefs scattered throughout museums in Europe. And although it is shielded from the elements, its lack of air filtration equipment and proximity to automobile traffic leave it vulnerable to the effects of pollution.



# Aurora

## Youth Program

### AURORA PROGRAM UNDERWAY AT CELLINI LODGE

Developing a language and culture program to interest pre-teens on Saturday mornings is no easy undertaking. Tired from five grinding days at school, 11 and 12 year olds would rather do anything but learn a foreign language on their free time. Yet the AURORA Program is meeting with unqualified success at a local Sons of Italy lodge.

AURORA, which means "dawn" in Italian, is the Society's response to the lack of cultural fulfillment among Italo-American youth. The program intends to counteract media stereotypes before they take hold in these youngsters. Moreover, the program is meant to whet the appetite of these youngsters for the Italian language — something that will create greater demand for Italian in the public schools.

Designed as a two level, 14 session course complete with language instruction by a professional teacher, history, geography, and crafts, AURORA is winning praises from parents and Italo-American groups. AURORA is a totally new approach to language and culture training which even helps students improve their English by learning about Latin root words.

Unfortunately, funding for AURORA is limited and at this time only the Benvenuto Cellini Lodge of New Hyde Park is supporting the program. In the past year 53 youngsters have gone through the Cellini course. What is needed is funding by the Italian government and the national Italo-American organizations so that this standardized program and instructor training can be disseminated around the country.

If you are interested in learning more about AURORA, write us at PO Box 818, Floral Park, NY 11001.



Fall, 1987 Level I Class



Italic-related crafts are unique to the program. Here, the children build Roman Water Clocks

### FUTURE ISSUES OF THE ITALIC WAY

- **UNLUCKY DAYS** - The ancient Romans had 24 "evil days" in their calendar, December 7th was one of them. Tune in to find out the rest.
- **PESCOSOLIDO** - The man who is Romanizing Harvard.
- **VITTORIO VENETO** - WORLD WAR I's agonizing victory
- **ROSETO, PA.** - Ethnic culture and your health

# ITALIAN HERO HENRY TONTI

HE GAVE 25 YEARS OF HIS LIFE IN  
THE SERVICE OF FRANCE IN THE  
NEW WORLD

ILLUSTRATED BY D. RINALDO

FIGHTING AGAINST THE  
SPANISH IN SICILY  
TONTI LOST HIS  
RIGHT HAND TO AN  
ENEMY GRENADE



IN 1678 AT AGE 28  
HE JOINED LASALLE  
TO COLONIZE THE NORTH  
AMERICAN GREAT LAKES  
AND MISSISSIPPI VALLEY



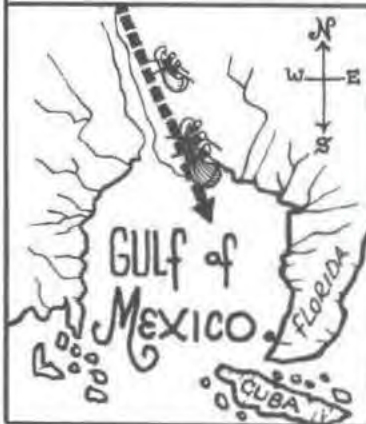
TONTI AND HIS MEN  
BUILT THE FIRST  
SHIP ON THE GREAT  
LAKES...THE GRIFFON



TONTI WAS FORCED TO  
FIGHT THE IROQUOIS  
INDIANS WHO WERE SUPPLIED  
BY THE ENGLISH WITH RUM  
AND GUNS.. THE INDIANS KNEW  
TONTI AS "IRONHAND"



TONTI AND LASALLE  
VOYAGED THE WHOLE  
LENGTH OF MISSISSIPPI,  
REACHING THE GULF OF  
MEXICO IN 1682



TONTI FOUNDED SETTLEMENTS  
ALL ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI AND  
LATER ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS BUILT  
TONTITOWN (ARKANSAS) IN HIS  
HONOR. DEATH CAME TO TONTI  
AT AGE 64 OF YELLOW FEVER  
HE DIED WHILE SERVING THE  
FRENCH GOVERNOR OF  
NEW ORLEANS.





# Announcements

[We welcome news from all Italic organizations. Tell us what projects you have underway and any activities you are planning or have completed.]

## **NATIONAL ITALIAN-AMERICAN FOUNDATION (N.I.A.F.)** Chm. Jeno Paulucci, Pres. Frank Stella.

The Foundation continues to foster higher education among Americans of Italian descent. Applicants need not be affiliated with any Italic organization to receive scholarships. Contact NIAF at (202) 638-0220.

New study programs in Italy have been announced for May, June and July. Contact Michael Strada, Dept of Pol. Sci. W. Virginia U., Morgantown, W. Virginia 26506.

Recent honorees at N.I.A.F. dinners around the country have been: Henry Mancini, Perry Como, Tommy LaSorda, Justice Antonin Scalia, and Dr. Robert Gallo.

FIERI is an affiliate of N.I.A.F. Geared to young professional and students of Italian descent, FIERI promotes networking and career opportunities for its members. For information write FIERI, 666 11th Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20001.

## **ORDER, SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA**, President S. Joseph Avara

This fraternal organization was founded in 1905 and has approximately 2,000 filial lodges across the country. Its work includes fundraising for charities such as Cooley's Anemia, March of Dimes, and Cerebral Palsy. It is the keeper of the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum in Staten Island, NY (a national landmark). The Order fights ethnic discrimination with its Commission for Social Justice, headed by Justice Dominick Massaro.

Scholarships are awarded to children of members and contributions for some religious works are encouraged (Madonna Queen National Shrine). Successful drives have also been conducted for the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, as well as earthquake relief in Italy and Mexico.

The Order recently announced a concerted effort to increase demand for the Italian language in secondary schools around the nation. This decision was prompted by an agreement with the College Boards that a new achievement test for Italian would be developed with the understanding that the Order would produce the necessary demand to warrant the \$100,000 expense to develop the exam.

Information about the Order can be obtained from Mr. Michael Cairra, National Director, 388 Main Street, Wilmington, MA 01887.

## **AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION (A.I.H.A.)**

This Upstate New York (Morrisville) organization is vigorously led by Prof. Philip DiNovo and has a modest national membership.

The A.I.H.A. owns and operates the Central New York Italian Cultural Center & Museum in Utica which is a focal point for Italic information, lectures, films, and exhibits.

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