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Fall, 1988

THE ITALIC WAY

The Newsletter of THE SOCIETY FOR ITALIC STUDIES, Inc.

Fashion

Pininfarina
Train
Interior



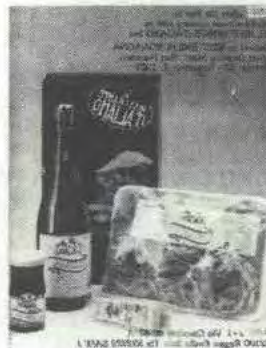
Hydro
Plant
in Turkey

Cagiva
Motorcycle



"Il Pendolino"

The
Azzurra



Food
Products



Maserati

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- Italy forges ahead: A world view
- Organizing The Society
- Dr. Henry Viscardi: A remarkable man

ITALY AT WORK



IF YOU WANT MORE ...

you must 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 nor 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

Name _____

Address _____

The Italic Way *Project Italia* *Aurora Program* *Ara Pacis*

Circle any special interest

Send this portion with \$10 (check or m.o. made out to *The Society for Italic Studies, Inc.*) PO Box 818, Floral Park, NY 11001



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Letters

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

Thank you so much for my free issue — I really enjoyed it and will save it to pass on to my grandchildren.

Thank you — *Buona Fortuna* to The Society for Italic Studies.

Edwina M. Campbell, Encinitas, CA

I have organized the first OSIA Lodge in St. Mary's County, Maryland, of which I am the First Venerable.

Would you kindly send me some applications so that I can try to get more members for you.

Cosimo M. Geppi, Sr., Lexington Park, MD
(Ed. - We will gladly send the applications.)

As Editor of "Justice", the newspaper of The Commission for Social Justice/Order Sons of Italy, I welcome *The Italic Way* to the small group of publications that write for Italians and Italian Americans.

I enclose my application for membership and donation as my way of saying "Good Luck." We need as

many good Italo-American publications as we can get.

Sempre Avanti!

Vincent Romano, Bellmore, NY

I wish to continue receiving your magazine. It answers the need to combat ethnic stereotyping better than any other current publication on Italian Americans.

Congratulations and best wishes for continued success in your work.

Robert J. Di Pietro, Newark, DE

I was very impressed with your [newsletter], *The Italic Way*. I am enclosing a \$10 check for membership.

America Savastano, Lawrence, MA

Although the goal of your newsletter, that of righting the wronged image of Italians is admirable, I feel that I must bring to light several elements which I find very disturbing.

You bemoan Mario Cuomo's failure to seek national candidacy while simultaneously depicting Dukakis' na-

tional aspirations as doomed to provide an "unceremonious...year of the Greek." On what basis do you make this ascertainment? Can you possibly say that Cuomo has done more for New York than Dukakis has for Massachusetts? The facts say otherwise. If the names (to turn the tables, as you're fond of doing) were Cuomakis and Dukaio, would you find that the latter, with an Italian surname was more qualified? Furthermore, if you want to concern yourselves with Italic news, then why include a petty story about Dukakis' alienation by the Greek-Orthodox community? Finally, to completely turn the tables, how would you feel if a Greek newsletter treated a hypothetical Cuomo candidacy in the same manner as you have treated that of Dukakis? It sounds to me like either petty jealousy or anti-Greek bias — or perhaps both?

In addition, although I agree that the record should be set straight regarding Vittorio Veneto, I am getting a message from you that you take pride in the military prowess of the Italians. To begin with, Mussolini himself said that to get Italians to fight you had to kick them in the backsides. Check his biographies if you'd like to verify that. In addition, I for one, am proud that the Italians are pacifistic by nature. War is unnecessary and it is barbaric. (cont'd)



Letters

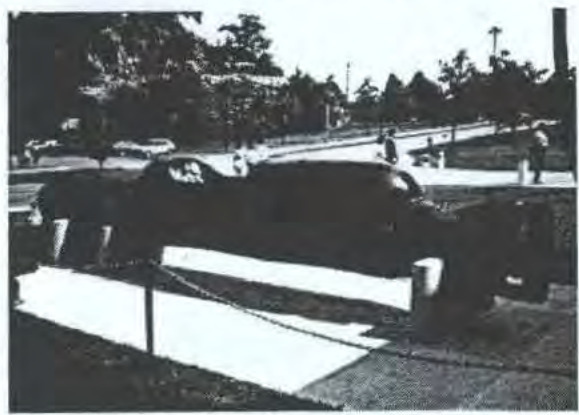
In essence, our survival need not depend on the infliction of suffering, poverty or extermination on another human being. Likewise, our pride in being Italian need not depend on our bashing of other nationalities or races. Please think about it. One of the frightening things about history is that it repeats itself constantly but in different, often indistinguishable forms.
Cristina Venturini, Elmont, NY

(Ed. - Of course we do not intentionally "bash" other ethnic groups. However, we report news that is not commonly highlighted in the media. It may seem strange to some readers, like our preponderance of positive Italic news, but true nevertheless.)

While we too would like to believe the stereotype that "Italians are pacifistic by nature", we cannot square such a generality with realities like: Italians exclusively manned the Roman legions at the time of Christ, or that nearly 800,000 military dead were the result of Italy's participation in two world wars, or that violence is a way of life in organizations such as the Mafia and Camorra.)

(Ed.- In our last issue (Summer, 1988) we did a book review about the 10th Light Flotilla (Frogmen) of the Italian Navy in World War II. Coincidentally, one of our staff members, on

holiday near New London, CT., discovered a "maiale" or "pig" used by the Flotilla, on display at the U.S. Submarine Base. A plaque confirmed that the



An actual two-man "human torpedo", Italian Navy WWII

Flotilla had used this type "maiale" to sink two British battleships in Alexandria Harbor in 1941.)

Can you help me locate any literature dealing with Antonio Meucci?
F. Guida, Norfolk, VA

(Ed. - We have mailed you the information regarding Antonio Meucci, inventor of an early telephone. We welcome requests from members for materials or sources concerning Italic persons or endeavors.)

Thank you for sending me the 1988 Summer issue of the Newsletter of The Society for Italic Studies, Inc.

Looking forward to hearing from you and to receiving subsequent issues of the newsletter.

Prof. Liberato John A. DiDio, Toledo, OH

Somehow I received a copy of your inaugural issue — and I am delighted with what you are doing with *The Italic Way!* Congratulations to you and your staff. This has long been needed.

You asked for suggestions. Please continue to do what you did in the Spring issue. My parents were immigrants and my wife came to this country when she was 13 years old. It is a joy to see the positive sides of our beautiful heritage.

John Arena, Novato, CA

Missed our summer issue?

Copies can be ordered
@ \$2.50 if you're a member
\$3.00 if you're not.
Send check or m.o. to
The Italic Way, PO Box 818,
Floral Park, NY 11001

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.
- ROSETO, PA. - Ethnic culture and your health.
- AFRICA - A part of Italic history



All'Italiana

TRAGIC ENCOUNTER

The toll of dead has risen to 65 in the Ramstein, Germany air show tragedy. Another 152 remain hospitalized after three Italian Air Force jets collided during a precision drill sending one of the downed craft into a crowd of German and American spectators. Also, among the dead were three Italian pilots.

Investigators blamed the high civilian toll on a lack of adequate safety precautions that permitted the daredevil maneuver to be performed close to, and in the direction of, the spectators. The Italian squadron, known as the *Frecce Tricolori* (Tricolor Arrows), had received prior approval for the stunt from American airbase officials. Until now, the normally high American safety standards were not generally applied at European air shows.

Some critics have pointed out that the Italian squadron has a reputation for excessive daring. Its stock-in-trade is a 10-plane aerial extravaganza that has enough high speed weaving and crisscrossing to fray the nerves of any observer. "The Italians fly with brio, with panache and with skill," said one French flyer. "But they push too far." Ivo Nutarelli, pilot of the jet that caused the initial collision was known as a real daredevil who was famous for a stunt called the *bell ringer* in which he would cut off his engine in midair, drop from the sky and restart his engine just in time to avoid catastrophe. Unfortunately, this time his skill and luck ran out.

CHURCH & STATE

Not since Italians voted to legalize divorce a few years ago has the schism between church and state in Italy been so apparent. Government officials recently turned down an official request by Roman Catholic bishops to ban Martin Scorsese's *Last Temptation of Christ* at the Venice Film Festival.

The film portraying Jesus Christ in a less-than-godly way was directed by Scorsese based on a book written by the

late Greek author Nikos Kazantzakis. The most offensive segment of the controversial movie occurs as Jesus, suffering on the cross, envisions himself leading a normal human life, including having sex with Mary Magdalene.

Putting aside any artistic opinions, some filmmakers like Franco Zeffirelli (*Romeo and Juliet*, *Jesus of Nazareth*) feel that Scorsese has crucified Christianity.



Seconds to disaster

OBITUARIES

Ferrari, Enzo, 90: Legendary race car manufacturer, Ferrari retired early from the sport because the mechanic in him refused to ruin an engine just to win a race. His machines have won 13 world titles. "I have in fact no interest in life outside racing cars."

Ricci, Robert, 83: Co-founder, with his mother, of the Nina Ricci fashion house in Paris. Founded in 1932, Nina Ricci did not get into the perfume business into after World War II with the now famous *L'Air du Temps*.

Pope, Generoso Jr., 61: Millionaire owner of the National Enquirer. Son of the wealthy and influential Pope family founders of *Il Progresso Italo-Americano*, Generoso Jr. purchased a New York weekly for \$75,000 when he was 25 years old and turned it into the sensation-

alist tabloid it is today. Circulation is 4.5 million.

Zamboni, Frank, 87: Hockey fans wouldn't recognize the game without the ubiquitous Zamboni ice-resurfacing machines showing their stuff between periods. In 1939, chilled by the sight of five men laboring for an hour to resurface an ice rink, Zamboni set to work to perfect a machine for the job. His invention utilized one man, a scraper, and some hot water to resurface a rink in 15 minutes. There are about 4,000 Zambonis in 33 countries.

ET TU, SAMURAI!

"Which is the stupidest country and why?" Such was the "humorous" question asked recently by a Japanese newspaper of its readers. The consensus was: Italy. The readers based their opinions on the following perceptions: "The Italians are too cheerful; too fat; they strike too much; they're womanizers; they think only of eating without working; they're

too style conscious and that's just the way they are." However, in the spirit of constructive criticism, these Japanese critics suggested how the Italians could better themselves: "Cultivate reason, shorten the siesta, become diligent, eat quicker, and read some books."

So much for the Axis!

BUSINESS BRIEFS

• K-Mart's chairman **Joseph Antonini** is looking to unseat Sears, Roebuck as the nation's largest retailer. Antonini's strategy is to upgrade certain lines like clothing and home furnishings while still emphasizing discount commodities. Some analysts can't see the mix.

• Italian-American vintners are reaping success from the deflated dollar. Utilizing scientific methods to match Europe's traditional advantages, winemakers such as the **Mondavi** family and the **Sebastiani** family have boosted pre-



All'Italiana

mium American wine sales to unheard of heights. California produces 70% of all the wine consumed in the U.S. with premium wines earning over \$3 billion dollars of the sales. Mondavi's Opus One goes for \$50 a bottle! Is there any future for Ripple or Thunderbird?

• The Beretta name has been associated with military arms since the 16th century when crossbows were still in service. More recently, Beretta is the name engraved on the standard sidearm of the United States Army. It is also emblazoned on a 1987 model of Chevrolet, contrary to the wishes of the Brescia, Italy firm. In fact, Beretta is suing General Motors for trademark infringement to the tune of \$250 million.

PROUD SONS

• Italian-Americans came that close to having a second vice presidential contender in the nation's top election race. Senator **Pete Domenici** of New Mexico was named by the GOP as a possible sidekick to George Bush. Domenici lost out to Dan Quayle possibly because as chairman of the Senate Budget Committee he is known for fiscal responsibility, something which was not a popular campaign issue.

• His name first came to light during the Falkland Islands War as Argentina's overworked foreign minister. With that thankless task behind him, **Dante Caputo** was more than happy to accept a new position as president of the United Nations General Assembly. The presidency is the second most prestigious office after that of secretary-general.

• It's a long way from the hallowed halls of academia, but former Yale president **A. Bartlett Giamatti** was recently elected commissioner of baseball by a unanimous vote of team owners. A scholar of Italian Renaissance literature, the versatile Giamatti has set high standards of conduct in his job as head of the National League, meting out severe punishments to disrespectful and unruly ballplayers. As baseball's top man, Giamatti

may just be the guy to restore the national pastime to its former dignity.

WHOSE OIL IS IT, ANYWAY?

Few consumers know it but Italian olive oil isn't really what it says it is. Oh, it's made of olives all right. But the truth is, what they call "Italian" is really mostly Spanish.

A hefty 60% of Spain's quality olive oil is exported to Italy where it is blended with Italian oil and repackaged for shipment to the American market. It may say *Product of Italy or Packed in Italy* but it



Are you paying Italian prices for Spanish oil?

is rare to see the label, *100% Italian Product*. Even costing 20c less per ounce, the pure Spanish oil has not dented the Italian-American market. Recently, savvy importers have begun promoting Italica brand olive oil. The name derives from the ancient Italian colony in Spain where the Roman emperors Trajan and Hadrian were born. Even though the the bottle says its Spanish oil, the name *Italica* was clearly meant to sway Italian-American buyers.

AN ITALIAN SUMMER

• Italy is truly a land of diversity. Witness the disparity in mores among the Italian cities. In Rimini, on the Adriatic, city fathers promote the Miss Golden Bottom award. But on Capri bathers must cover up their swimsuits while walking the streets. Then again, in Loano, on the Italian Riviera, ladies can

participate in the Miss Fantastic Breasts festival. But the most moral city of all, curiously enough, is Rome where a barechested Belgian man was beaten by commuters and hauled away to the *questura* (police station) when he refused to put on his shirt in the Rome subway. Maybe there's a double standard??

• Imagine Germans complaining that Italians are too strict! So it was this summer as numerous Germans made their way south by automobile only to find that Italy had imposed an experimental 68 mph speed limit on the autostrade. The speed limits and stiffer penalties for drunk driving are in response to the rising carnage on Italian and European roads during the summer holiday. However, no action has been taken to eliminate the sale of wine at autostrada rest stops where drivers can sip the grape over lunch before resuming their journey. Imagine selling beer on the New Jersey Turnpike!

BONES OF COMPASSION

One of the traits Italians pride themselves on is compassion and it looks as though the genes for it go far back.

American and Italian anthropologists completed the study of a 12,000 year-old human skeleton previously unearthed in Calabria in southern Italy. Not just any bones, these belonged to a 17 year old male dwarf disabled since birth. The scientists see strong evidence that some early Italic societies took care of their handicapped, something not common in the rough-and-tumble Stone Age nor even in later Mediterranean societies. The circumstances of the dwarf's burial, including the special burial site and the presence of normal skeletons were interpreted by anthropologist David Frayer of the University of Kansas to mean that the dwarf was an honored member of the prehistoric society. "...this is the first time (anywhere) we've found someone who was disabled since birth," said Frayer. Bravi Italic!



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.]

THOSE WERE (NOT) THE DAYS!

Post-Revolutionary War America was definitely not a high moral point in our history according to American Heritage magazine. Historian Jack Larkin studied New England vital statistics from 1780 onward and found that approximately 30% of the marriages were consummated before the wedding night. This may have been the aftereffect of the colonial custom of bundling, when courting included cuddling under the covers as an accepted way of dealing with New England winters. Sexual morality didn't start sweeping New England until the 1840's and perhaps only with the advent of central heating.

ETHNIC UPDATES

- Hispanics compose 8% of the U.S. population but hold only 1% of elected offices in the land, including 11 seats in the House of Representatives (none in the Senate).

With the Hispanic population growing five times faster than the general population, HBO, Cinemax, and likely other cable stations will be offering more Spanish language programming in 1989.

- Since 1949, West Germany has compensated Jews around the world and the State of Israel with \$43 billion for the Holocaust. Now, for the first time, East Germany has agreed to contribute \$100 million.

- A recent study of 444 executives who graduated from three MBA programs has found that Jews are earning an average of \$28,500 more than their Christian counterparts. This is in marked contrast to the discriminatory pattern Jews suffered in the 1950's. The study credited better undergraduate schools and a preference for liberal arts as the key advantages.

- On the heels of a \$20,000 per capita settlement with Japanese-Americans who were unjustly deprived of liberty

and property during World War II, the United States Government is negotiating with native American Indians toward an adjustment of their land claims. As now structured, Washington State's Puyallup Indians will give up their claim to Tacoma, Washington, for 900 acres of land, a multi-million dollar trust fund, a \$61 million fishery, and \$20,000 cash to every tribal adult.

- Despite being insulted in sassy Traveler Magazine as a people who "never bathe", the French still advertise in the periodical.



The biggest mobster:
Brezhnev and his Italian & American
"counterparts"

MOB TALK

- Racketeers N. Bunker ("Bunk"*) Hunt and W. Herbert ("Herb"*) Hunt of the notorious Hunt Family have filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 11. The Hunts were convicted for trying to corner the silver market in 1979-80. The cost to the American consumer of the Hunts' criminal act is not known. Their scam pushed the price of silver at that time to \$52 per ounce (from \$5). * *Our monickers, Ed.*

- The Italian government has named tough Roman prosecutor Domenico Sica as high commissioner in the war on the Mafia. The nine-month-old war, which

has seen 338 mafiosi jailed in Palermo, has appeared to suffer from inertia. Signor Sica, veteran of the Aldo Moro case and the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II, is being hailed as a "superman" by Italian newspapers and will hopefully renew the offensive.

- Late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev is being depicted as a "mafia" Godfather in the U.S.S.R. A poster containing a silhouette of the burley ex-leader with Italian and American "mafiosi" beneath him hit Moscow streets this past summer. Brezhnev is being accused of aiding and abetting a host of nefarious deeds including bribery, nepotism, and protectionism. Brezhnev's son-in-law and a former Interior Minister stand accused of accepting \$1 million in bribes during the late 1970's and 80's. At the scale and level of current organized crime in Russia, maybe the Soviets ought to invent their own Russian word for *Mafia*.

CHRIST'S SHROUD?

It's official. The Roman Catholic Church has announced that the famous Shroud of Turin is a fake. Thought to be the burial cloth of the founder of Christianity, the 14' shroud that bears the imprint of a bearded, crucified figure has been the subject of much scientific inquiry. The Church, keeper of the Shroud, has never made any claims about the cloth except that it came to light in 14th Century when it was owned by a French knight. As part of the Vatican's quest for truth, three laboratories were retained to carbon-date postage stamp-size pieces of the cloth. Independently, the labs determined that the Shroud is only 800 years old, plus or minus 200 years. It is possible that the amazing Shroud may have been one of countless forgeries hawked during the Middle Ages as authentic items belonging to or associated with Jesus Christ.

World Notes



The Church, however, still believes that the Shroud has been responsible for some unexplained miracles in the past.

ANCIENT CRAP GAME

Archeologists have just uncovered a Roman dice game buried under 20 centuries of London soil. This excavation, which turned up a million artifacts including the dice, is shedding new light on Roman Britain. Among the more impressive finds is an amphitheater in the heart of London's financial district and a perfectly preserved Roman warehouse under a present-day brewery.

London was founded by the Romans, who named it Londinium. The new finds now indicate that the ancient city was much larger than previously thought, covering both the north and south banks of the Thames. More interesting is the fact that modern London is built directly on top of Roman London. The post-Roman invaders, the Anglo-Saxons, built their settlement away from Londinium because of their aversion to urban life, hence no evidence of an Anglo-Saxon London in the strata.

THE MARATHON MAN

Italy's Gelindo Bordin conquered the grueling 26-mile Marathon run at this year's summer Olympics to win a gold medal. Italy placed 9th (tying with France) in number of gold medals (six), and placed 13th in overall medals (fourteen), tying with Japan and Australia.

Italian-American Matt Biondi collected five gold medals in swimming competitions.

DISINFORMATION

One in four 13-year olds thinks the earth is flat. So says a study conducted by the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Worse yet, over 66% of Americans between the ages of 18-24 cannot find France on a map, and 75% cannot find the Persian Gulf.

These facts were uncovered by a

Gallup poll conducted among 10,000 adults from nine countries. The lowest scorers were young Americans the highest were young Swedes. Italians placed second in this age category. However, older Italians did not fare as well.

"THAR SHE BLOWS!"

It may be the seat of fashion and haute cuisine but Paris is starting to look like the Texas countryside dotted with oil rigs. The news is: they struck oil in Paris (actually a suburb). The wildcat well is tapping into a oil basin with an estimated reserve of 6.3 million barrels. Oil is



The Shroud:
Now, just a medieval icon.

already being pumped from 48 other rigs outside the capital.

TOLERANT ORTHODOXY

Unlike former vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro who was lectured by her Roman Catholic clergy for her abortion stance, Mike Dukakis got little or no protest with the same stance from his Greek Orthodox hierarchy. Not that he was free from any criticism. Orthodox conservatives have laced into him for abortion and marrying outside his faith.

One explanation given by a Greek-

American sociologist for the tolerant treatment by Dukakis' co-religionists is that Greek Orthodoxy is more tolerant of pro-abortion views than the legalistic Roman Catholicism.

TO HONOR HEROES

In an effort to right some past wrongs, Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, at the urging of Rep. Joseph DioGuardi (R-NY) and Rep. Mickey Leland (D-TX) has gotten the Army to reexamine the files of a number of Black servicemen who fought in two world wars but may have been denied Medals of Honor because of discrimination.

SEE AMERICA SECOND

With the dollar at an all-time low, tourists from the other industrialized nations are invading American shores. Japanese are almost 3 million of the camera-clickers, the British - 1.6 million, West Germans - 1 million, French - 600,000, and Italians - 350,000.

Britons favor the wild side: our national parks and white-water rafting. The Japanese like to see Hawaii, which they are in the process of "owning". The Germans love museums, memorials and Harlem. And the Italians cannot go home until they've visited Disneyland and had a Big Mac.

GARLIC KILLS

Researchers at Brigham Young University in Utah report that garlic juice killed 99.99% of more than a dozen viruses tested, including some for flu, colds, cold sores, herpes, polio, and smallpox.

But before anyone goes on the garlic cure there is a hitch. Although digested garlic enters the blood stream, it does not enter individual cells. Therein lies the garlic rub. Someone must now figure out a way to get the active ingredient in garlic (allicin) into a diseased cell to do its work.

The Italic Way



Editorial

ITALY AT THE CROSSROADS: Renaissance or Mediocrity?

From Venice on the Adriatic to Calabria in the *Mezzogiorno*, the winds of change are sweeping across the Italian peninsula. Having outpaced Great Britain as the world's fifth most powerful industrial nation, Italy is poised on the brink of a new across-the-board renaissance. But will material wealth cause complacency, the ruination of genius?

Long considered the land of Eurocommunism, ennui and extravagance by the international community, Italy has rebounded from the sclerosis of the seventies and emerged as a potent economic power. Names such as De Benedetti, Berlusconi and Agnelli dominate the international economic game-board. And no less an economist than John Kenneth Galbraith predicts that the three major nations of the twenty-first century will be the U.S., Japan, and Italy — in that order.

Nevertheless, this Europhoria may be short lived if Italians — and this includes the expatriates and sons and daughters of immigrants — do not address two festering sores on the body Italic. One is the vexing issue of **image**: how we are perceived by our world brethren. The other — and potentially debilitating — is the matter of **cooperation**. Do we have a unity of purpose?

Our largely pejorative public image has been ameliorated in recent years by the high-profile achievements of Italic people the world over. However, only a concerted mass media campaign can eradicate decades of abuse, vilification, and distortion. Younger generations must be properly schooled in our rich, *and unified*, cultural heritage of 2,500 years.

This should, in turn, foster a cooperative spirit among Italian organizations everywhere. Cooperation must go beyond conferences, awards, and ceremonies. Surely, the Italic wealth of at least two nations — the U.S. and Italy — can be harnessed to fund educational youth programs, university think tanks, and a common media message.

Such an undertaking requires trust. For trust must be the heart and soul of this new Italic rebirth. Only then can the genius of so many disparate individuals coalesce, as in ages past, into the genius of a people.

Rosario A. Iaconis

MINDS OVER MEDIA: A FUND FOR THE FUTURE

Why not TV commercials to sell ourselves? It is surely the American way and at the moment the only viable response to Ital-baiting in the media.

Perhaps in the form of membership drives for FIERI, UNICO, The Sons of Italy, or umbrella organizations such as NIAF or The Coalition of Italian American Organizations, television commercials can accomplish the dual purposes of increasing membership for the organizations involved, and, if presented correctly, enhance our media image.

The catch, of course, is the expense — to produce and to place spots on the right channels at the right times. As expensive as it may sound, it is frankly only a matter of priorities. Whether money should be raised through a massive fund drive or resources diverted from other, less important activities, is a decision that must be made by all participating organizations.

For our part, The Society for Italic Studies would join in any concerted effort to reach the masses. Perhaps the Italian-American Media Institute can be the channel for our efforts.

The Italic Way

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The Italic Way is:

- Perfect for high school & college students.
- Perfect for any friend or relative who loves things Italian.
- A Perfect way to stay in touch with your heritage.

To join The Society and receive *The Italic Way* see the application form on page one.

Forum of the People



National Broadcasting Co., Inc.

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September 26, 1988

THE SOCIETY FOR ITALIC STUDIES
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Floral Park, NY 11001

Gentlemen:

I am replying on behalf of Brandon Tartikoff to your recent expressions of concern over alleged stereotyping of the Italian community through such NBC programs as THE TORTELLIS, "Blood Vows: The Story of a Mafia Wife", and THE GOLDEN GIRLS.

While "Tortelli" happens to be an Italian surname, the humor of this now-cancelled situation comedy was not directed at Italians. Nick and Loretta Tortelli, and their oddball relatives and friends, were "off the wall" originals who fit no category. The show was neither written nor performed in such a way as to evoke cliché, and we do not believe it provoked that kind of response in the general audience.

"Blood Vows" was a story about the family of a Mafia "Don" who is of Italian descent. The producers, however, were careful to play down the ethnic aspect and avoid fostering stereotypes. At one point in the story the FBI agent notes that he

"Blood Vows was a story about the family of a Mafia 'Don' who is of Italian descent. The producers, however, were careful to play down the ethnic aspect..."

himself is of Italian background, and he makes the point that the criminal characters are in no way typical of the majority of Italian-Americans, who are honest and law-abiding.

THE GOLDEN GIRLS presents two delightful and witting Italian-American women, Dorothy and her mother Sophia, in a setting of affluence and sophistication. Estelle Getty's character, Sophia, may indeed have an acrid tongue, but her gibes are never directed solely at one particular ethnic group or character. In fact, she flings her verbal darts in all directions, with anyone or anything liable to be a target.

In every large group of people there are good and evil, intelligent and stupid, serious and comic, and an accurate portrayal of any ethnic category would include all of its human variety. Along with careful standards and safeguards against stereotypes, NBC tries to ensure that particular ethnic groups are represented on the NBC-TV schedule with diversity and balance. Italians and Italian-Americans have been presented in NBC shows in many shades of character and many walks of life. Italian-American characters on NBC have worked in a wide range of honest professions, from banker to bartender, from naval officer to scientists, from rock star to judge. In the past year there were at least as many appearances of Italian-American characters in positive law-enforcement roles as in criminal roles. Captain Frank Furillo of HILL STREET BLUES and Mike Torello of CRIME STORY were both the heroes in their respective prime-time series.

We appreciate that you do want to share your concerns with us. NBC, as you know, makes it its business to keep in contact with groups that have special concerns about television. Our Special Interest Group Task Force has had mutually productive meetings in the past not only with such organizations as the Italian American Media Institute, Commission for Social Justice, National Sons of Italy, and Coalition for Italo-American Associations.

We have taken your suggestions and concerns very seriously, and hope this letter will give you a better idea of our active concern to represent Italian-Americans fairly.

Sincerely,

Betty Hudson
Vice President
Corporate & Media Relations



Books

IMAGES: A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF ITALIAN AMERICANS

Center for Migration Studies, 1986, 255 pages, illus.

The streets were paved with gold. Or so early immigrant lore had turn-of-the-century *paesani* believing — until they reached Ellis Island and xenophobia reared its empty head. Names were changed to preserve the ignorant and labels affixed to brand the innocent. And Italian immigrants, whose ancestors had discovered, named and pioneered this land, became unwelcome aliens when they tried to people it.



Questionable justice

Happily, that is only part of the immigrants' story found in *Images: A Pictorial History of Italian Americans*. For every Sacco and Vanzetti, there's a LaGuardia, Fermi and Giannini. For every New Orleans Massacre, a Garibaldi Brigade. For every tragedy, a triumph of the spirit and a realization of the American dream. *Images* is a beautifully illustrated, expertly produced retrospective. But it transcends the



Medal of Honor winner, Sergeant John Basilone, 1943

pretty picture book genre by focusing on the unifying theme of Italic migration.

Beginning with the discovery of the New World, Italians have journeyed to the Americas in search of opportunity and adventure. Witness Enrico Tonti, explorer and Indian fighter, Giacomo Beltrami and his voyages to find the source of the Mississippi, and Francis Vigo, revolutionary war hero. And let's not forget the original lonesome cowboy, Charles A. Siringo. This rider of the great western cattle range could well have been portrayed by John Wayne. Indeed, had they been ballyhooed in school texts, all these historical heroes might have appeared in a John Ford film saga.

Images succeeds because it reaches beyond the banality of standard ethnic editions. Alongside the gritty tints of unwashed peasants are colorful poster reproductions of major Italic events. One can even be forgiven a fascination with Italo Balbo's spectacular Rome-Chicago-New York-Rome



Two Italian shoeshine boys, 1896. Work instead of school.

aerial crossing in mass formation in 1933.

A major reason for this tome's even-handed approach must be attributed to the publishers: the magazine *Italy, Italy* and the Center for Italian Migrations. Employing a bilingual text they allow the story of one of history's greatest treks to unfold, savoring every anecdote and highlighting the heretofore unknown. Leading Italian-American intellectuals, historians and professionals provide the

words and historical music.

Clearly, *Images* is a lyrical celebration of the singularly dynamic and resilient Italic people. The emphasis, of course, is on the latter 19th and early 20th Century migrations. However, by maintaining the thread of historical continuity throughout, *Images* is able to identify and examine the significance of the entire mass movement. Was it colonization by other means or cultural enrichment? Whatever the answer, *Images* conveys a refreshing message — Americana all'Italiana.

—Rosario A. Iaconis



THE ITALIAN AMERICANS

— J. Philip di Franco

Unlike the Irish and the Scots who came to America with a brogue, a burr and a bundle of confidence, Italy's emigrants brought nothing to our shores but busted dreams, broken English and a zest for organized banditry. These huddled, swarthy masses hailed from the most lurid regions of a lowly country in Europe's uncivilized tier. And being Southern Italian marked them as a distinctly inferior breed -- not at all like the hardy Nordic pioneers of America's wide frontier.

The foregoing assessment of Italian immigrants was the norm rather than the exception in elementary and high school texts of the 1950s and 1960s, and even in the 1987 edition of *The Story of English*. J. Philip di Franco's *The Italian Americans* contin-



Books

ues that time-honored tradition and incorporates some new twists. While lessening our proclivity for criminal pursuits, we've helped to "enliven the national diet." Our legendary culinary prowess is thus elevated to a cultural trait.

As with most of these gritty, rough and tumble tomes, historical accuracy takes a back seat to the hard

history:

- The Roman Empire was only a brief, inconsequential interlude in Italy's millenia of *miseria*.

- That Southern Italy was devoid of educational opportunities [despite compulsory education after the reunification and higher schools of learning that produced Europe's first doctors (Salerno) and the Father of chemistry (Palermo, S.

The author strives to present a balanced portrait of his heritage. Interspersed with the portraits of *paesani* are quick and easy biographies of Italo-American greats: Fermi, Cuomo, La Guardia, Marconi, Caruso, Capra, etc. However, di Franco is by no means an Italic scholar. His historical knowledge and interest in research is tenuous. For example, his brief reference to the Ital-

...he (di Franco) has done a disservice to our heritage with this simplistic version of history. Our children deserve better.

scrabble homilies of second- and third-generation Italian-Americans. For them, the oral tradition of their parents and grandparents substitutes for the truths of history. Mr. di Franco proves to be a full-fledged adherent of the "peasant" school of thought. In his book we learn the "traditional" view of Italian

Cannizzaro.))

- That Italy is actually composed of two distinct people, "Germanic" Northerners and darker Southerners (of Spanish, Arab and Greek blood.)

- That East Coast Italians are more clannish than their more entrepreneurial West Coast kin.

ian war effort in WWI is the standard revisionism worsened by inaccurate dates.

Di Franco obviously loves and takes pride in his heritage. However, he has done a disservice to our heritage with this simplistic version of history. Our children deserve better.

- Rosario A. Iaconis



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Focus:

Italy at Work



Rio Hondo Dam, Argentina

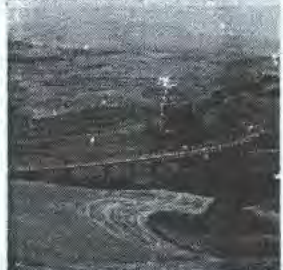


The Alfa Romeo Milano



Motorway in Kuwait

The Beni Erahim railway viaduct/Algeria



Railway viaduct, Algeria



Reversed engine Avanti. Stability & fuel efficiency

"In the end imagination is bound to win against rationality."

For a nation with no appreciable natural resources, a political system which at times stymies the free spirit, and a diverse population only now working in sync after 1,500 years, the words of Roberto Bonini, dean of the University of Bologna, have a telling ring to them.

Is Italy on a roll? Having outpaced Great Britain in economic output, is Italy the she-wolf at the doors of France and West Germany? Will Latin inventiveness overcome Northern European efficiency? Since the fall of ancient Italy, Italians have had to live by their wits and daring. Paris was once the fashion capital but Milan has stolen its thunder. German engineering may produce mechanically sound cars but Italian machines fire the imagination. The U.S. may be tops in heavy construction but it is the Italians who honor the Roman past by spanning, damming, surfacing, and redefining nature on six continents.

Fashion, automotives, construction, food products, computers, and the capital investments that fuel the world's economy are the muscle of the new Italy.

Foundations of Success

It may surprise many that the basis for Italy's growth can be directly traced to Benito Mussolini's *Corporate*

State, a genuinely original but only half-completed political/economic system.

The Italian *Corporate State* was not fascism with a friendly face. Rather, it served as the mechanism by which a nation bereft of natural

resources could coordinate a national policy to allocate labor and materials.

By carefully structured state holding companies such as IRI (Intstitute for Industrial Reconstruction) and IMI (Italian Institute of Real Estate Development) working in tandem with such private sector firms as FIAT and Alfa Romeo, they built the foundation upon which Italy's current resurgence rests.

The infrastructure of Southern Italy was a prime beneficiary. In Calabria, for example, marshes were drained, lakes created and electricity introduced to remote mountainous villages.

By 1939, civil aviation had taken a quantum leap. Three Italian airlines served 71 national and international skyways. Olivetti, Pirelli and Agip became household names. And Italy emerged as a leader in the field of nuclear physics with Enrico Fermi and Ettore Majorano; and in radio communications with Guglielmo Marconi.

These "discomforting" revelations about the Facist era were brought home to the Italians in 1984 when the Communist-led city government of Rome held an unprecedented display of Fascist Italy in the Colosseum entitled "The Italian Economy Between the Wars."

But not all success is based on the past. Additional credit must be given to the native creativity of Italians both in design and business. Also to the Italian Republic which was successful in combatting national chaos in the form of the Red Brigades and neo-Fascists whose terrorism nearly stifled capital investment during the 1970s, and finally, to the individual Italian himself whose thrift fueled the economic miracle. *Italians have the highest household savings rate in the industrialized world.*

Focus



One needs only to see the multi-faceted nature of the Italian resurgence to appreciate its accomplishments.

Engineering

In 1965, the Egyptian government asked the world to save a precious piece of its antiquity threatened by the newly-completed Aswan Dam. At risk were the giant seated statues of Ramses II at Abu Simbal along the Nile River. Italian engineers of the Condotte Company were called in to handle the double challenge: to figure a way to delicately relocate a 3,000 year old treasure and to do it before the Aswan Dam inundated it.

Working day and night, the Italian-led workforce cut the huge monument into more than a thousand 25-ton blocks and reassembled it on safer ground 230 feet above. What the tourist sees today in the relocated Abu Simbal is engineering only slightly less amazing than Ramses' original handiwork. In all, Condotte saved 95 temples and shrines from the dam's waters.

But building dams and water-related projects are also among the many tasks Italian engineers are famous for. Whether it's the huge Rio Hondo Dam in Argentina or others in Turkey or central Utah, or an underground aqueduct in California, Italian companies are bidding and winning contracts around the world. In 1986, Italians garnered 10% of all the internationally bid engineering contracts.

New subway lines in Toronto, super-highways in Spain and Pakistan, the Melbourne subway, the subway cars of the Washington, D.C., Metro, Cleveland's rail cars, a road road in the Cameroon, oil refineries throughout North Africa, and the Middle East, shoe factories in Russia are all the work of Italian engineering. In this latter project 6,500 truckloads of building and maintenance material made the trek from Italy to inner Russia. Nothing was left to the whim of the notoriously inadequate

Russian supply system, even light bulbs were shipped in.

Recent press was given to Occidental Petroleum Chairman Armand Hammer when he closed a major gas and oil exploration contract with the U.S.S.R. Hammer's "silent" partners in this \$6 billion deal are two Italian companies — ENI and Montedison. In Red China, an Italian firm beat out Japan's Mitsubishi and a French competitor to win a contract to build a major power generating station.

Fashion

Some 40% of Italy's exports around the world are fashion related. Italian shoes, silk, fabric, outerwear, lingerie, and accessories are known and sought the world over. Names like Gianni Versace, Benetton, Emilio Pucci, Valentino, Giorgio Armani, and Fendi have thrust Italian fashion so far out in front that the primacy of Paris is of another day.

One-third of the world's silk is produced in Italy, a reminder that whatever the Italians learned from the Orient centuries ago has not been lost nor wasted. The descendants of Marco Polo are returning to the not-so-mysterious East with an array of fashion goods aimed at a vast new market. The Japanese especially have an eye for the Latin style. Armani has increased his business in Japan by 33% in one year. Designer Enrico Coveri has recently signed an agreement with the Itoh Group that may translate into 100 million dollars' worth of sales, more than doubling Coveri's 1987 worldwide business. Gilmar, an outerwear firm based near Forlì, has concluded an accord with Toyota for distribution of its trousers, jackets, and knitwear.

No market is being overlooked by the merchants of fashion. Over

(continued on page 23)



NASA's Tethered Satellite concept



Relocating history: Egypt's Abu Simbel



AMX, Italian combat aircraft



United 222 B.C.
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Project Italia

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

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PROMOTIONAL FILM TO BE SHOT

With initial funding in place, including a New York State grant, the Project Italia committee is preparing the necessary contracts to produce a promotional film for *Beyond Italy: The Migrations*.

The promotional film will be a key element in the fundraising strategy for the future one-hour documentary *Beyond Italy*. With an estimated cost of \$1 million dollars, *Beyond Italy* will be the most ambitious film undertaking by any Italian-American organization. The film will be unique for its world-view of the Italian migrations and its historical perspective. The content of the film is of such a different nature that the Project Italia committee opted to create a "coming attractions" film to enable future contributors to appreciate the scope of *Beyond Italy*.

TONY LO BIANCO JOINS PROJECT ITALIA

Actor Tony Lo Bianco and Project Italia production chairman Frank Vitale have met to discuss *Beyond Italy* and the promotional film that will precede it. Mr. Lo Bianco expressed a strong desire to become involved in the films for the sake of his heritage and the education of the general public. His role as the narrator of the promotional film was tentatively arranged. The full extent of Mr. Lo Bianco's participation will depend on his schedule and future commitments.

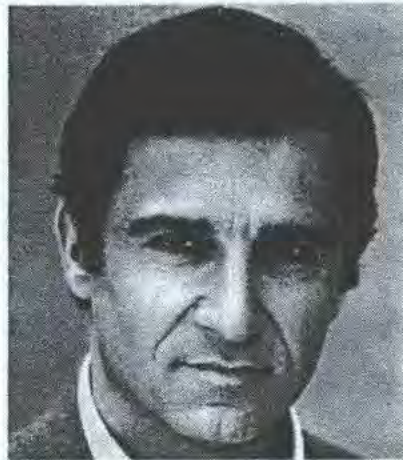
Welcome aboard, Tony!

PROFILE

Tony Lo Bianco was last seen on CBS in the highly rated movie of the week, *Body of Evidence*, as well as this year's highest rated television film, *The Ann Jillian Story*. His other Movies of the Week include *Welcome Home, Bobby; Madigan; A Last Cry for Help; Mr. Inside, Mr. Outside; Marciano; Another Woman's Child; The Last Tenant; Jacob and Joseph; Goldenrod; Shadow in the Streets; and Eugene O'Neill's A Glory of Ghosts*.

Mr. Lo Bianco has just returned from Rome, where he completed the feature *La Romana* with Gina Lollobrigida. His other film credits include the Academy Award winning *French Connection; Blood Ties; City Heat; Seven Ups; McGee and the Lady; Blood Brothers; F.I.S.T.; Separate Ways; God Told Me To*; and the widely acclaimed cult film, *The Honeymoon Killers*.

He has starred in several mini-series: *Marco Polo; Jesus of Nazareth; Legend of the Black Hand*; and the three hour *Police Story, Part II*.



Tony LoBianco

On Broadway, Mr. Lo Bianco played Eddie Carbone in Aruther Miller's *A View From the Bridge*, for which he won the Outer Critic's Circle Award and a Tony nomination for Best Actor. His other Broadway credits include *The Rose Tattoo; The Royal Hunt of the Sun; The Office; The Ninery Day Mistress; and The Goodbye People*. He directed and acted in a new play, *Big Time*, by Steven Braunstein. He received the Obie Award for his creation of Duke Bronkowsky in the American Place Theatre's production of *Yanks 3, Detroit 0, Top of the Seventh*. Most recently, Mr. Lo

Bianco appeared on stage at the Empire State Theatre in Albany as Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia in the one man show, *Hizzoner*. He won an Emmy for this performance, which was filmed and broadcast on WNET.

Mr. Lo Bianco has directed for television, including episodes of *Police Story; Kaz; Cliffhangers; and The Duke*. He also directed a feature film, *Too Scared to Scream*, which was shot entirely in New York City. For six years he was artistic director of the Triangle Theatre in New York, where he directed eight productions and produced twenty five.

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Perspectives

A *Newsday* article reprinted and distributed by *The Italic Way*.

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By
Susan Miller

Henry Viscardi Jr. often says he has led two lives.

The first one started 76 years ago, when Viscardi's mother gave birth to a boy with short, twisted legs wrapped around his abdomen.

The boy, whose parents were poor Italian immigrants, spent his first six years in a hospital. The doctors operated repeatedly; pain was constant. At last the stumps were straightened and made strong enough to be fitted with padded boots that resembled boxing gloves.

His playmates towered over him, and because his arms nearly touched the ground they called him "Ape Man." Even when he was full grown, he stood only 3 feet, 8 inches tall.

"I used to ask my mother, 'Why me?' said Viscardi, delighted to repeat an often-told tale. "And in her simple peasant voice she told me that when it was time for another crippled boy to be born in the world, the Lord and His counselor held a meeting to decide where he should be sent. The Lord then said He thought the Viscardis would be a good family for a little crippled boy."

For more than 20 years — as a New York street urchin, college student and young tax expert — he propelled his sturdy torso through city crowds and ignored ridicule and stares of pity.

He was 27 when his second life began.

Dr. Robert Yanover, an orthopedic surgeon in Elmhurst [New York], told the disabled young man that his

stumps, worn down by constant use, would only last another six months. "With all the running around I'd been doing on these stumps, he thought I would be confined to a wheelchair if nothing was done," Viscardi said.

Yanover, now a neighbor of Viscardi's in Kings Point, thought the young man could be fitted with a pair of artificial limbs. The doctor made sketches and specifications, and together



Dr. Viscardi joins in a lesson

they started the rounds of the artificial limb-makers. One after another, these artisans examined Viscardi's stumps and gave the same verdict: impossible.

But they didn't give up. Finally, an old German immigrant named George Dorsch said he could do it.

Within a few weeks, the artificial legs were ready for Viscardi to try on. His stumps were slipped into the cushioned sockets and strapped fast.

Dorsch helped him to stand and Viscardi took his first steps toward a full-length mirror at the end of the room. He started to cry when he saw his reflection. Here was a new man, he thought to him-

self, who stood two feet taller. "For the first time, my mother looked up, *up* to see her son," Viscardi said. "I looked *down* at the top of her head."

Viscardi could wind the clock on the mantel; he could grasp the strap on the subway train; he could even work the dial in a phone booth. "These things had always been beyond my reach," he said. "An exciting new world opened up and with it, a new life began."

He learned to dance; he built a boat and sailed on Long Island Sound, and was promoted to head the New York tax division of the Home Owners Loan Corp., a program set up during the Depression to cope with home foreclosures.

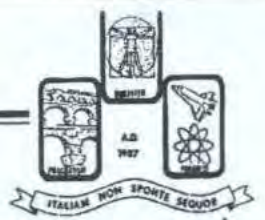
When Viscardi asked Yanover how he could settle the bill, "He told me my bill would be repaid if I made the difference for another individual."

Viscardi, who [was honored in August 1988] by the Westhampton [New York] Family Counseling Service, has not taken Yanover's words lightly.

World War II started, and Viscardi was rejected by the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. Finally the Red Cross accepted him as a field-service officer, but warned that his chances of working with amputees were slim.

Like all Red Cross personnel slated for overseas duty, Viscardi had to take GI basic training. He took the long hikes at Fort Dix without grumbling. His story got around. Instead of being posted overseas, he was sent to work with armless and legless veterans at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C.

The sight of those young men would return to haunt Viscardi many times. "More than anything else in my life, I was so affected by those beautiful



Perspectives

young men maimed so early in life," he said.

It was while he was at the hospital that he met First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who heard of his work and invited him to the White House for tea. She would become a great friend, often visiting Viscardi, his wife, Lucile, and four daughters.

He stayed at the hospital until the end of the war, then entered private business — he had to escape from the pain and suffering.

"But [the memory of] those young men kept coming back," Viscardi said. The average amputee got a hero's homecoming but then was forgotten as an "unemployable" cripple, he said.

In 1952 he gave up his job as personnel director of the Burlington Mills textile firm, borrowed \$8,000 and, in a vacant West Hempstead garage, he started Abilities Inc., to prove that, if given the chance, the physically handicapped can work efficiently in industry.

His original workforce of five has grown to 150 handicapped workers, who now do everything from electronics to data processing in a beautiful, modern plant in Albertson [New York].

Adjacent to the plant stands the Human Resources Center, which he founded to study the physical and psychological changes occurring among the employees as a result of their work. There is also a vocational-rehabilitation program, a research and training institute, and an industry-labor council.

In September, 1962, Viscardi launched a makeshift school with 21 children in one room of the center. Today about 250 severely disabled youngsters — from pre-kindergarten through high school — are bused from as far as 50 miles away to attend tuition-free classes in the handsome brick building. Eighty percent of these students graduate and go on to college.

A new \$6 million junior and senior high school — to be called the

Henry Viscardi High School — is under construction next to the center and is to be finished [in the Fall of 1988.] The school, the first of its kind in the country, will house about 100 of the 250 students and allow more room for offices in the older building.

Viscardi has been an adviser to every president — beginning with Franklin Roosevelt — on the affairs of the nation's disabled population. Although he never graduated from college — he attended Fordham University for three years and St. John's law school for two — he has been presented with 19 honorary degrees. Fordham joined that list 22 years after Viscardi was forced to leave the university because he was behind in tuition payments. "I'm earning my education by degrees," Viscardi says jokingly.

"... he propelled his sturdy torso through city crowds and ignored ridicule and stares of pity."

On the walls of his office at the Human Resources Center are photos of Viscardi introducing former President Jimmy Carter, shaking hands with Gerald Ford and Lyndon Johnson, smiling with Rosalyn Carter, and standing next to Eleanor Roosevelt. There is also a picture of several disabled children laughing as they circle Viscardi, and a portrait of Viscardi drawn by a blind and deaf artist.

Viscardi is semi-retired now, although he still spends several hours a week at the Human Resources Center



An affectionate interruption

(he cherishes his daily half-mile swim with the kids) and is ever-active in his quest to raise funds for the school. He often travels to other countries, sharing his personal experiences and knowledge about rehabilitation and education.

[In August 1988], Viscardi's contributions to the disabled on Long Island [New York] was recognized by The Family Counseling Service in Westhampton Beach, which bestowed upon him its sixth Family of Man award. For Viscardi, who has received countless awards and citations — including a literary award for one of his eight books and the Horatio Alger Award for Distinguished Americans — this honor has special meaning because he was a good friend of the late Edwin J. Beinecke, for whom the counseling service's headquarters is named.

For all that he has done, Viscardi still is not ready to quit. "I have not repaid the doctor," he said. "So long as there is one individual whose life I can change; so long as there are prejudices which divide us into abled and disabled people, my work is far from finished."

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The Italic Way



Aurora

Youth Program

ITALIAN LESSON #1

Sounds:	Rules	
'a' sounds like 'ah'	'ch' sounds like 'k'	
'e' sounds like the 'eh' in 'men'	'c' before a, o, u is like a 'k'	
'i' sounds like 'ee' in 'meet'	'c' before e and i is like 'ch' in 'chest'	
'o' sounds like 'oh'	'zz' sounds like 'tz' in 'pizza' (peetz-ah)	
'u' sounds like the 'oo' in 'too'	'gl' sounds like 'lli' in 'million'	
	gn' sounds like 'ya' as in 'lasagna' (lah-sahn-ya)	
	<i>ah, eh, ee, oh, oo</i> (say them fast a few times and you have just learned all the Italian vowels).	

Pronunciation: Unless there is an accent mark ('), always accent the next to last syllable. If a word has only two syllables, accent the first.

Masculine/Feminine: All nouns are either *male* or *female*. *Male* nouns usually end in 'o', *female* nouns usually end in 'a'. Example: ragazzo (boy) ragazza (girl) [rah-gahtz-ah]

Plurals: Most words can be made plural by changing the last letter to 'e' or 'i'. Example: ragazzo (boy) = ragazz*i* (boys), ragazza (girl) = raggazze (girls).

Agreement: Nouns and adjectives always agree. Examples:
 pazzo ragazza = silly ('crazy') girl pazze ragazze = silly girls
 pazzo ragazzo = silly boy pazzi ragazzi = silly boys

Exercises

Can you guess the English meaning of these words?

Note: 30% of English vocabulary comes from Latin, an ancient Italian language. Use the English clues to determine your answers.

Italian	English	Clue
1. CAVALLO (ca-val-lo)	_____	(Cavalry)
2. ACQUA (ac-qua)	_____	(Aquarium)
3. LIBRO (li-bro)	_____	(Library)
4. TERRA (ter-ra)	_____	(Territory)
5. MARE (ma-re)	_____	(Submarine)
6. STELLA (stel-la)	_____	(Constellation)
7. UNO (u-no)	_____	(Unify)
8. ISOLA (i'-so-la)	_____	(Peninsula)
9. POLLO (pol-lo)	_____	(Poultry)
10. SCALA (scal-a)	_____	(Escalator)

How would you call these "silly boys & girls" in Italian? (remember: male/female, singular/plural)

11. _____ 

12. _____ 

13. _____ 

14. _____ 

Answers:

1. horse, 2. water, 3. book, 4. land, 5. sea, 6. star, 7. one, 8. island, 9. chicken, 10. stair, 11. pazzo ragazzo, 12. pazze ragazze, 13. pazzo ragazza, 14. pazzi ragazzi.

Christopher Columbus DISCOVERS AMERICA



COLUMBUS WAS BORN IN GENOA, ITALY. HIS FATHER'S FAMILY NAME WAS COLUMBO AND HIS MOTHER'S FAMILY NAME WAS FONTANAROSSA.



AT AN EARLY AGE, COLUMBUS WENT TO SEA. GENOA WAS A GREAT SEA POWER AND HER SHIPS SAILED TO EVERY PART OF THE KNOWN WORLD TO BUY + SELL MERCHANDISE. THE CITIES OF ITALY LIKE GENOA + VENICE BECAME RICH BECAUSE OF THIS TRADE.



COLUMBUS BECAME AN EXCELLENT SAILOR AND COMMANDED SHIPS THAT SAILED AS FAR AS ICELAND IN THE ATLANTIC. ABOUT THIS TIME HE READ A BOOK WRITTEN BY THE GEOGRAPHER TOSCANELLI. TOSCANELLI BELIEVED THAT THE WORLD WAS ROUND AND THAT A SHIP COULD REACH CHINA BY SAILING THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.



COLUMBUS WAS SO EXCITED BY TOSCANELLI'S IDEA THAT HE TRIED TO CONVINCE PORTUGAL, FRANCE AND SPAIN TO GIVE HIM SHIPS TO SAIL TO CHINA BY WAY OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. BUT NO ONE HAD FAITH IN HIM.



DURING THOSE YEARS THERE LIVED IN SPAIN MANY ITALIAN BUSINESSMEN. COLUMBUS RAISED MUCH OF THE MONEY HE NEEDED FROM THEM.

THE REST CAME FROM THE SPANISH QUEEN ISABEL.



COLUMBUS SET SAIL WITH THREE SMALL SHIPS. AFTER MANY DAYS AT SEA, WITHOUT SEEING LAND, THE CREW BECAME AFRAID AND WANTED TO RETURN TO SPAIN BUT COLUMBUS REFUSED TO TURN BACK. ON OCT. 12, 1492, THE TINY FLEET LANDED ON SAN SALVADOR - AN ISLAND IN THE NEW WORLD.





News of the Society

ACTION AGENDA

Committees to be staffed and chaired: (you must be a member of the Plenary Council)

- Membership Committee** - To recruit for both general membership and Plenary Council.
- Social Committee** - To initiate group activities and tours.
- Fundraising Committee** - To develop raffles, gift items, and solicitations.
- Business & Career Committee** - To foster interaction among the membership and assist in job placement
- Development Committee** - To research new areas of development for the Society.
- Intergroup Committee** - To foster joint efforts between the Society and other organizations.
- Assistance Committee** - To relate to the needs of the community-at-large.

Aside from the above committees, our major programs need additional manpower: **The Italic Way, Project Italia, Aurora, and Ara Pacis.** (These programs do not require membership in the Plenary Council).

New Member Application

Name _____ General Membership (non-voting) \$10
 Address _____ Plenary Council (voting & officeholding) \$50
 Interested in: program _____ committee _____

Send this portion with your remittance (check or m.o. made out to *The Society for Italic Studies, Inc.*) PO Box 818, Floral Park, NY 11001

THEATER TRIP

There will be a special preview of a new Broadway show entitled, **Hizzoner**, starring Tony LoBianco, in February. It is a one-man show about former New York City mayor Fiorello LaGuardia. The Society will be purchasing a block of orchestra seats for a Saturday night preview. Tickets will probably cost \$35 each, less 10% Society membership discount. If anyone is interested please write:

Society for Italic Studies, Inc.
 PO Box 818
 Floral Park, NY 11001

(Once we have your name we will inform you of the exact details. No obligation at this time.) (See page 14 for details of Mr. LoBianco's acting credits)



Tony LoBianco & Persona



Photo by Martha Swope

News of the Society



ORGANIZATIONAL BLUES

As the Society for Italic Studies grows there will be times when *form* must precede *substance*. So it is with the organizational structure of the Society and its various components. The organizational chart below is our latest effort to achieve the right format to carry on our urgent work. In a way it is like playing around with the shape of the conference table but it is unquestionably necessary. Power must flow in the proper direction, democracy must be maintained, division of labor has to be fair, and, of course, expandability needs to be built in.

Essentially, the old Commerce & Realty Group (CRG) has been dissolved in favor of a more direct tie-in to the Society structure. What is now called the Plenary Council succeeds the CRG. The Plenary Council will elect the Executive Council and appoint chairmen to the various Society projects and committees. The Board of Governors will include the founders and a Plenary Council member. Pragmatism will ultimately decide the fate of this arrangement - if it works, we'll keep it!

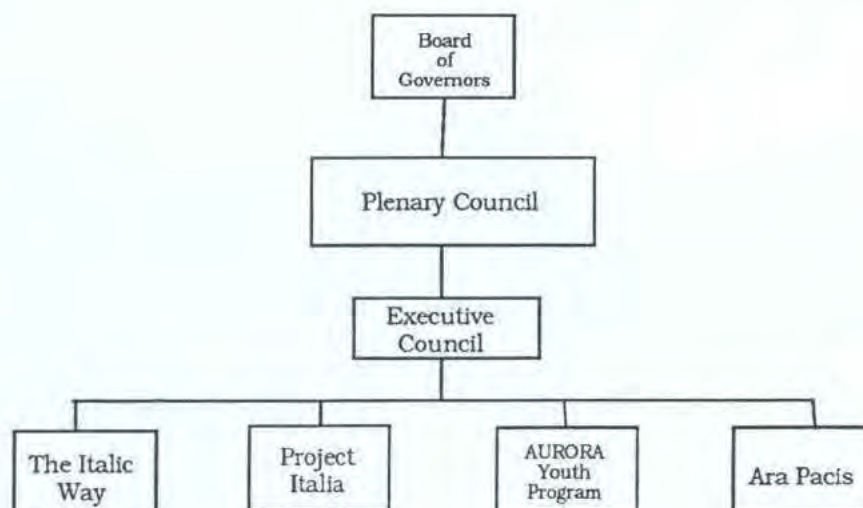
DECISIONS (Plenary Council meeting of 9/28/88)

Dinner Dance: It was decided to hold the 1989 dinner dance in May at the Waldorf-Astoria. Dress is to be black tie and more entertainment will be scheduled. No theme was decided on.

Dues: Membership (non-voting) in the Society will continue at \$10 per annum. Membership in the Plenary Council (voting & officeholding rights) will be \$50 per annum.

Programs: Our goals will be spearheaded by: The Italic Way, Project Italia, Aurora Youth Program, and Ara Pacis. Members of the Plenary Council will be asked to direct or be members of at least one program and committee. Depending on the nature of the work, paid staffers may be hired to do the administrative work.

Budget: The proposed budget for 1988-89 was approved. Included in the allocations were the Project Italia promotional film, the Fall and Winter issues of The Italic Way, a commemorative coin for 1989-90, a textbook to be designed for the Aurora Youth program, and brochures for the Altar of Peace (Ara Pacis).





Announcements

THE NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION, INC. (NIAF)

Chairman: Jeno F. Paulucci

President: Frank D. Stella

NIAF recently honored Liza Minelli at their annual Gala on October 22nd at the Hilton in Washington, D.C. Also honored were Olympic Gold Medalist Brian Boitano, Congressman Peter Rodino (on his retirement after 40 years of service), and Bettino Craxi, former Prime Minister of Italy.

A multi-ethnic conference entitled, *Rediscovering America*, was held at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C. Co-sponsored by the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission, the conference explored the roots of America. Among the speakers were representatives of the Italian-American, Hispanic, Afro, Jewish, and Native American communities. The Ambassadors of Spain and Italy were in attendance.

An International Board of Advisors, to be chaired by Italian career diplomat Umberto LaRocca, will be established to explore private sector programs between the U.S. and Italy. Advisors will also be recruited from Canada and South America to expand the programs.

NIAF's *Directory of Italian American Organizations* is now in its second printing. For information call John Salamone (202 638-0220)

ORDER, SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA (OSIA) President S. Joseph Avara

The Order is losing the services of Michael Caira who resigned as National Executive Director on September 2nd. Mr. Caira served the Sons of Italy ably for over 3 years. He is currently heading up the election campaign of Joe Malone, candidate for the U.S. Senate in Massachusetts. Salvatore Ambrosino, National Associate Director, has been appointed acting Director at this time.

Judge Dominic R. Massaro, President of the Order's Commission for Social Justice and the Order's National Historian, offered access to the Order's newly established Archives to the Catholic University of America's Italian-American Heritage Center. The new Center is a private institution associated with the University. It is dedicated to the preservation, transmission, and advancement of knowledge relating to the Italian-American experience. The Order's Archives are housed at the University of Minnesota at St. Paul. It is the largest collection of its kind on North America.

National President Avara, lamenting the lack of proper publicity of the Order's good works in the press, has requested all state presidents to submit reports of their public relations activities. The Order has been supportive of both Italic and non-Italic charities including but not limited to Cooley's Anemia, Birth Defects, disaster relief, and scholarships.

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

Ever mindful of the great numbers of Italic people living throughout the world (one estimate is that there are 60 million overseas Italians and descendants of immigrants) the Italian Government is attempting to establish better ties with them.

A recent conference held in the Abruzzo region entitled, *L'Italia fuori D'Italia* (Italy outside of Italy) was attended by some 400 Italians residing in 22 countries around the world for the purpose of discussing problems of emigration and Italian language media.

The Italian Parliament has been exploring the implementation of a computer network to trace worldwide migrations in the past. *Roots and Heritage* forms to gather personal historical data would be distributed to descendants of immigrants around the world.

To promote the teaching of Italian Studies in the United States, the Italian Government is establishing ITALNET, a computer network to update details of Italian language and culture education opportunities. The system will be located at the Italian Cultural Institutes of New York, San Francisco, and Chicago. The program will track events, classes, libraries, periodicals, films and all other aspects of Italian Studies. No completion date has been announced.

Italy: One Hundred Years of Photography is an exhibit, under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institute, detailing photos of Italy both landbound and from satellites traveling across the U.S.

ITALIAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE

Headed by Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa, the Institute is part of the City University of New York located at 33 West 42nd Street, NY, NY 10036. Tel # (212) 382-0627.

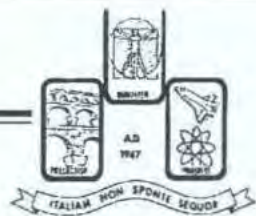
The Institute recently interviewed Mrs. Matilda Cuomo who discussed New York's *Decade of the Child* and *Due Case, Una Tradizione*, programs on their TV magazine show, ITALICS.

The 21st annual conference of the American Italian Historical Association was held in October. Entitled, *Italian Americans in Transition* the conference explored ethnicity and Italic studies

COLUMBUS: COUNTDOWN 1992

Inspired and led by tireless, Italian-born educator Dr. Anne Paolucci, the Countdown was started in 1985 and has succeeded in garnering support on both sides of the Atlantic. Its tasks are to disseminate information on the Great Discoverer and to prepare a fitting and lasting tribute to his genius. Among the ways Dr. Paolucci has found to accomplish these goals are: a one-act play that she wrote called, *Cipango*, a library of books and scholarly works, and various artwork that has been produced for the occasion.

The Countdown's 4th Annual Awards Dinner was held on September 30th to honor Dr. Fredi Chiapelli, a leading Columbus scholar. For more information about the program call 718 767-8380 or write Columbus: Countdown 1992, 166-25 Powells Cove Blvd., Beechhurst, NY 11357.



Italy at Work

(continued from page 13)

50 million pairs of Italian shoes were sold in the United States last year, despite cheap competition from the Far East. To satisfy the idle rich, Venetian Fernando Caovilla crafts limited edition, signed and numbered shoes costing \$740 a pair. Torino's GFT group has even made inroads into China where one of their menwear factories is producing 200,000 suits annually for the better dressed Chinese. Mantero, a silk producer, has even obtained approval for a silk factory in Yangtsou, China. *What goes around comes around.*

per year.

FIAT, which also owns Lancia, Alfa Romeo, and is a major shareholder of Iveco (trucks), reported \$28.5 billion in sales for 1987 and bright prospects for 1988. (In fact, first quarter sales put FIAT in the number one position of Europe followed by Peugeot and Volkswagen). Among FIAT's big movers are the Uno and Tipo, with technical innovations that promise to increase FIAT's market share of medium-size cars.

The Italian auto industry is even making a dent in the tough Japanese

records, one of the more famous being Italo Balbo's mass formation flight of seaplanes across the Atlantic. Even in World War II Italy produced military aircraft like the transport *Canguru*, which was a mainstay of even the German Luftwaffe, and the Macchi 202 fighter that was among the best in the war.

Today, most of Italy's military aircraft are joint ventures with its European allies like the Tornado and AMX fighters. Last October, Gruman Aircraft announced a new joint venture with Gruppo Agusta to develop a new

Italians have the highest household savings rate in the industrialized world.

Automobiles

Italy was the first Western nation to pierce the Iron Curtain commercially. No doubt the Italian Communist Party's connections gave Italians an edge over the less pragmatic states of the Western Alliance. Twenty years ago, in fact, FIAT built the first modern auto plant in Togliattigrad, 600 miles south of Moscow. The Russians even changed the name of the old town rechristening it after an Italian communist leader. The factory, the third largest in the international motor industry, is still buzzing away producing its full capacity of 721,000 cars per year. The car, the Lada, was based on a FIAT design but modified for Russian taste and Russian winters. Not only are the Russians happy about the Ladas but they are taking a cue from Yugoslavia which exports the Yugo (also based on an old FIAT design) to North America and are making plans to flood our shores with their national car. The Russians have to work out the distribution problems but plans are for a minimum of 50,000 sales

market. Italian cars account for nearly 4% of the total automobile imports in Japan. (West Germany has the lion's share with 76%.)

But it is Italian style that gives Italy its worldwide influence. From the Volkswagen series to the interior of the Hyundai, Italy sets the standard. Body by Fisher hasn't got a chance against Pininfarina or Bertone. Cadillac's Allante, although not very successful with its overpriced Italian body, has the classic look that auto lovers take a fancy to. Chrysler's Lee Iaccoca knows the feeling and has even bought into Maserati and Lamborghini. But it is Ferrari, the lone wolf, that epitomizes the Italian automobile tradition of style blended with power.

Aerospace

The Italians were always pioneers in air travel. The Bellanca of the 1920's was the plane of choice of Charles Linbergh, although one was not available for his history-making flight. In the 1930's Italian aviators and machines broke many air

jet trainer for the U.S. Air Force. If this team wins the competition it will mean a \$2.7 billion contract. In another cooperative effort, Italians produce essential parts for the civilian DC-10, the Boeing 747 and Boeing B-767. On its own, Italy is at the leading edge of helicopter technology (Agusta) and light aircraft such as the ten-passenger Viator and the reversed-engine Avanti. These innovative planes are even causing waves in the American market.

Space, too, calls the Italians. Although it does not produce its own space rocket, Italy is among the select few to have a launch pad (off the coast of Kenya) and a space satellite program. Moreover, Italians are working with the United States on the Tethered Satellite project, a part of the Space Shuttle program, and with the West Germans to develop a shuttle and space lab called the Columbus.

High-Tech

The Italians have very quietly invaded our way of life. Anyone with

(next page)

The Italic Way



Italy at Work

(continued from page 23)

good eyesight may notice the *Made in Italy* label on Amtrak arrival and departure boards. (Ironically, making "trains run on time" is not supposed to be an Italian forte). Even the Long Island Railroad uses these clever computerized flip boards made by Solari. Similarly, under the name of A.T.&T., Olivetti has been slipping us personal and business computers since the early '80's. Olivetti is Europe's leading producer of data processing and office automation equipment. Olivetti is spearheading Italy's drive to dominate major sectors of Europe's economy by way of international corporate alliances.

Italy was third among European countries in 1987 (after West Germany and France) in installation of new telecommunications equipment. By 1990, it is expected to surpass France and earn nearly \$7 billion from this high-tech field.

General Motors scoured the world looking for the most advanced assembly line robots to modernize its plants. What they chose to buy was the Comau by FIAT. Another innovation with cars is the amazing computer-operated Upcar system out of Frosinone, Italy. This rectangular concrete box can "park" (stack) up to 80 vehicles on shelves. The vehicles are hoisted and retrieved by means of a computerized forklift. It may be a development that is sorely needed in highly congested urban centers.

Food

Anybody with functioning tastebuds will readily admit that Italy has made eating a great pleasure. Cuisine aside, Italians have excelled in agriculture. Zucchini, broccoli, and many popular varieties of fruits and vegetables (Italian beans, Italian plums, etc.) bear proof of

their Italic origin. Even the much maligned Romans, often denigrated for their lack of scientific pursuits, were leaders in soil conservation, crop rotation, and animal breeding. It was ancient Italy that introduced to Northern Europe the peach, the cherry, the grape, the plum, and the filbert and walnut. Even grafting of trees and greenhouses were highly developed skills of old Italy.

So it is not surprising that Italy is a major exporter of food technology in the world, its market share "sandwiched" between West Germany and the United States. The U.S. buys nearly 14% of Italy's food-processing equipment, from industrial machinery to the home pasta machines.

Giants like Gruppo Ferruzzi have been accumulating great tracts of agricultural land in the United States and South America to produce soybeans, rice and other commodities, including livestock. Like so many other areas, agriculture is an international business for Italians. Bertolini of Turin produces yeast that sells in such far off places as Australia, Japan, and China. Fugone & Preve, a breakfast cereal producer, recently bought out a Kellogg factory in Germany and is now servicing the West German market. And of course, Italian food products like pasta, olive oil (see World Notes for some surprises), tomatoes, and jarred specialties have appreciably helped Italy's balance of payments as well as our appetites.

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