



# THE ITALIC WAY

The Newsletter of THE SOCIETY FOR ITALIC STUDIES, Inc.



**The Flintstones**  
(Hanna-Barbera)



**ALF**  
(Paul Fusco)



**Pinocchio**  
(Carlo Collodi)



**E.T.**  
(Carlo Rambaldi, builder)



**Topo Gigio**  
(Maria Perego)



**The Jetsons**  
(Hanna-Barbera)

## IN THIS ISSUE

- The safe airplane they wouldn't let fly
- Your health and your culture
- Book Review: *Growing Up Italian*

## Theatre of the Fantastic

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A message from The Society for Italic Studies, Inc.

# Let's be candid...

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or by the rich and famous exploiting your heritage  
to make their fortune, then it is time to  
do something positive.

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---

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



Letters.....	page 2	Focus (cover story)...	page 12
All'Italiana.....	page 4	Perspectives.....	page 14
World Notes.....	page 6	Project Italia.....	page 16
Editorial.....	page 8	Youth (AURORA).....	page 18
Forum.....	page 9	Society News.....	page 20
Books.....	page 11	Announcements.....	page 22

## Letters

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

### What's in a Name?

I like your magazine. I am an Italian-American of Sicilian heritage. I've been compiling Italian and Italian American accomplishments for 35 years.

I'm disturbed, though, over your selection of the term "Italic" Studies. Ninety-eight percent of the Italian people don't know what "Italic" means, but I believe it's your way of "masking" the name of the magazine and distributing it without anyone knowing it's connected with Italians.

None of my Italian or Italian American know what Italic even means!

I think it's a poor selection of name — should have been *The "Italian" Way*.

**Thomas F. Cacciola, Englewood Cliffs, NJ**

*(Ed. - We admit that not many people are as familiar with the term "Italic" as they are with "Gaelic", "Hispanic", "Gallic", "Slavic", etc. Nevertheless it is a valid term originally used to denote "the ancient peoples of Italy". We have adopted it to mean "Italian" by birth, by descent, ancient, and modern. Our intention is to demonstrate a unity and continuity, not anonymity.)*

### Whose Credit?

It was most enjoyable reading your magazine. However, I do have two comments or corrections to offer, both with regard to Mr. Rinaldo's "Aurora" cartoon on page 19. In this day and age, I think we all know Christopher Columbus did not discover America, and we should not perpetuate the myth that he did. There were many here before him, beginning with the native peoples of Siberia crossing the ancient land-bridge to Alaska, and down into the North and South American continents. There is also some evidence that Irish monks fleeing westward away from the Vikings landed on the New England coast, and of course, it has been proven that Leif Erikson and his band of Norsemen landed at "Vineland", also on the New England coast, about 500 years before Columbus arrived.

As the title of NIAF's October 1988 Conference in Washington indicated, the best we can say is that Columbus re-discovered America, and by doing so, awakened Europe to further exploration of the New World. If we want people of other nationalities to support our studies and projects, we must be willing to freely recognize their contributions to world history and culture too.

My second suggestion is that current studies indicate Columbus did not first land on San Salvador (Watling Island), but at Samana Cay, some 60 nautical miles to the southeast. Both locations are part of the present day Bahama Islands group. The National Geographic, Vol. 170, No. 5 (November 1986) contains a scholarly article describing the evidence and how that conclusion was drawn. It is well worth reading.

Best wishes for the success of your new endeavor!

**Joseph Geraci, Fairfax, VA**

*(Ed. - Thank you for joining the Society. Your points are well taken but like it or not most history is "Eurocentric" and in that context Columbus was unmistakably the first true "discoverer". According to Daniel Borstin's *The Discoverers*, one can only be credited with discovery if one returns and documents what was accomplished. The Vikings and others may have arrived here but they did not let many people in on the secret. As to the San Salvador landfall, current evidence is on your side. For the moment, we stand corrected.)*

\*\*\*\*



# Letters

## Speriamo (We hope)

Enclosed is my personal check in the amount of \$10.00 for a year's subscription to "The Italic Way".

I have in the past subscribed to two Italian magazines which eventually have stopped publishing. I am glad to see that the Italian-Americans are finally realizing how great the Italian culture is. We have kept it a secret long enough and I hope that one of these days I see Italian being taught in all the

colleges of the USA. I also would like to see an Italian-American magazine being published and sold nationally.

**O.J. Barbaro,  
Concord, MA**

*(Ed. - The major difference between The Italic Way and those other magazines you previously subscribed to is that the IW has a nonprofit organization behind it, not a lone publisher. We will*

*endeavor not to fail you. Continue your faithfulness!*

\*\*\*\*

I thoroughly enjoyed your magazine. It is brilliantly compiled to emphasize our wonderful Italian heritage.

**Alex P. Lombardi,  
Upper Montclair, NJ**



**Madonna by Raffaello**



**Earth Mother 13 B.C. (Altar of Peace)  
An ancient Italic theme**



**Madonna by Michelangelo**

## \*\*\*\*\* MADONNA MIA! \*\*\*\*\*

*(Background: National Geographic Magazine recently ran an otherwise excellent article on the Etruscans in which a Dr. Larissa Bonfante made the statement that the Romans had no use for the Madonna & Child motif that appeared in Etruscan art. Although considered to be an expert in her field we have caught Dr. Bonfante "tinkering" with history on other occasions. One example was her claim that the Roman Empire was never Italic, another being the Madonna & Child statement. As proof of our contention that the Romans did indeed cherish the motif, we forwarded National Geographic a photo taken of the Altar of Peace (Ara Pacis),*

*our adopted monument in Rome. The Altar was consecrated on July 4th, 13 B.C. to commemorate the establishment of the Pax Romana. As such, it fully represented the Italic ideals of that era including, peace, piety, family, and citizenship.)*

The Society for Italic Studies, Inc.  
P.O. Box 818  
Floral Park, NY 11001

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your recent letter on Rick Gore's Etruscan article. It has been referred to me since I was one of the researchers assigned to the topic.

Professor Larissa Bonfante noted that the Romans did not have "much use" for the motif of the seated Mother and Child, the Madonna. She did not say, or mean, that this could never be found in Roman art. She believes that this was basically an Etruscan motif which came to dominate Italian religious art.

The photocopy you enclosed was indeed beautiful. We appreciate your comments.

**Carrie E. Pinkerton, Research Staff  
National Geographic Magazine**



# All'Italiana

## THE FIGHTING ITALICS

• The new House budget chairman Leon Panetta (D-CA) is not always a team player. In fact, he was once a Republican until President Nixon booted him from the Office of Civil Rights in 1970. Panetta has now set the federal budget deficit in his sights and aims to lock horns with President Bush and anyone else who cares to avoid politically unpopular cuts. In 1987 Panetta proposed a 3-month freeze of Social Security inflation adjustments to close the budget gap. If that was a foretaste of Panetta's cutting fervor, a lot of sacred cows may be just meat on the hoof.

• The United States Army will soon have two Italian-Americans in top slots. General Carl Vuono, presently the Army's chief of staff, will be joined shortly by Lt. General Robert Riscassi who is to be named vice chief of staff. Not since Giuseppe Garibaldi vied for the job of the Union Army's Commander-in-Chief have Italian-Americans achieved such high staff positions.

• Argentine-Italian Gabriela Sabatini, 18, has won her first major tennis tournament. Gabriela took the Virginia Slims championship over Pam Shriver, who in turn had trounced Steffi Graf of West Germany. Sabatini's reward: \$125,000.

## BASEMENT RESEARCH

By day he ran a bridal shop, by night he performed laboratory work on hamsters to find a clue for cancer. Today, Salvatore Catapano holds a U.S. patent for an AIDS vaccine. Catapano, 72, is the first and only individual to hold such a patent.

Trained as a Naval lab technician in World War II, Catapano spent some \$45,000 to equip his home laboratory to find a cure for cancer. For twenty years he experimented on about 2000 hamsters and eventually discovered a

method for using typhoid vaccine against AIDS. Catapano later teamed up with a medical doctor and began supplying his vaccine to AIDS patients (60 to date) with varying degrees of success. The wizard of Valley Stream, Long Island, insists that AIDS is related to syphilis and that existing AIDS therapies such as AZT break down the immune system while his enhances it.

Catapano has refused to publish his findings, a decision that has made the medical community skeptical.

Meanwhile, the news from the Infectious Disease Clinic in Naples, Italy, is that recent evidence suggests the real possibility of the AIDS virus spreading



Best-selling author Umberto Eco

through "passionate kissing". The Italian researchers conducted tests on 45 heterosexual couples before and after kissing and toothbrushing. The amount of blood in the saliva resulting from the brushing indicates the possibility that the blood-borne virus can be transferred by other than sexual means during heavy petting.

## SPACE CALLING ITALY

The bad news is that Great Britain is pulling out of the European Space Agency. The good news is that Italy is going to fill the gap to the tune of \$6 billion over 12 years.

This increased involvement by the

Italians, who already have their own satellite program\* and launch facility off the coast of Kenya, puts Italy in third place in Europe, after France and West Germany, in terms of economic contributions. Among other things, the Italians will be responsible for 25% of the cost of the orbital Columbus space station project, participation which is second only to the West Germans.

\* (see our Summer '88 edition)

## FOR A FEW DOLLARS MORE

Just when you thought it was safe to go back to the movies — "Godfather III." Floundering in his various cinematic comebacks and saddled with sagging revenues, director Francis Ford Coppola is reputedly mulling a second sequel to his fictionalized gangster chronicles.

Obviously tempted by the prospect of another box-office bonanza, Coppola is betting that Corleone & Co. can corrupt the latest generation of moviegoers at the expense of the Italian heritage. Is this the only refuse he can offer?

## AND THE BAD, THE WORSE AND THE UGLY

Hollywood's insatiable appetite for Mafia movies has spawned a cottage industry of crime films:

• "Married to the Mob". Watch Frank "The Cucumber" De Marco off fellow hitmen in a middle-class Long Island setting.

• "Things Change". Yet the mob remains the same. Laugh as Don Ameche - an immigrant Italian shoeshine man - outwits a bevy of badguys with Brooklyn accents.

• "The Untouchables". Wherein brutish Robert De Niro locks horns with squeaky clean Kevin Costner and pseudo-Hibernian Sean Connery.

Take a bow, Mario Puzo and Francis



# All'Italiana

Ford Coppola. This is the fruit of your labor. For us it's just the pits.

## IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE...

No, it's the "Super Mario Brothers Super Show" — a combined live action/animated television program featuring those lovable lugs, "Mario" and "Luigi" of video game fame. In an attempt to further tax the patience of Italian-Americans, Fox Broadcasting chose two cartoon stereotypes of that community. And we thought they were spoofing the Governor of New York.

## DETENTE AL DENTE

While visiting the Soviet Union on a breakthrough diplomatic mission, Italian premier Ciriaco De Mita flexed his country's economic muscle to help get the Reds out of the red. In October 1988, Italy inked an export credit deal with the Soviets for \$775 million.

What's more, the Avellino-born leader further proposes that the West offer the Eastern Bloc a "Marshall Plan" of aid.

Soon after De Mita's triumphant trek, Francois Mitterand and Helmut Kohl marched to Moscow, wallets at the ready.

## ITALY'S NOBEL EFFORT

Breaking mankind's genetic code would go a long way toward eradicating disease, birth defects and many other inbred human ills. To that end, the U.S., U.S.S.R. and Japan have been involved in efforts to map and sequence the human genome — man's complete set of haploid chromosomes.

Italy has tapped one of her leading scientists, Renato Dulbecco, to spearhead a national genome project aimed at mapping and sequencing the X chromosome. Dr. Dulbecco, a native of Catanzaro (Calabria), was awarded the Nobel prize in 1975 for advanced work on the

relationship between DNA viruses and cancer.

France has mounted a less ambitious effort, and West Germany's project is still on the drawing board.

## IS VENICE DROWING?

Unlike legendary Atlantis, Italy's city on the sea will not sink. After more than a few false starts, the national government has launched a \$5 billion project called MOSE — an Italian acronym for "experimental electromechanical module" — to halt the angry Adriatic's *acqua alta* (high water).

The futuristic experimental module is being built by a consortium of Italy's construction firms: Impresit, Guippo Iri Italstat, Gruppo Mazzi, Gerola and Lodigiani.



Venice will rule the waves

## FORGOTTEN FOUNDING FATHER

He was a surgeon-farmer-statesman whose political philosophy proved pivotal to the nascent American republic. A close friend of Thomas Jefferson, he had a guiding hand in shaping the U.S. Constitution. Particularly inspiring was his coining of the concept "all men are created equal." Who was this forgotten founding father? Filippo Mazzei, an Italian-born son of the Enlightenment whose humanism literally revolutionized the original thirteen colonies.

Now thanks to the works of Farleigh Dickinson's Sister Margherita Marchione and publicity by Italian-American organizations, a film of the life of Mazzei is in the works. Italian filmmaker Vincenzo LaBella will fashion the television drama.

## ECCO UMBERTO ECO

As world famous authors go, Umberto Eco is a most unassuming man. After soaring to the top of the best seller list with *The Name of the Rose*, the Bologna university professor of semantics still does not take himself too seriously. Evidently his fellow countrymen agree. When critics attack him vociferously, he views the length of their diatribe as a compliment, shrugging them with good humor. The good professor's latest tome, *Foucault in Pendulum*, has hit the number one spot in Italy once again. And Ecomania is sweeping the peninsula. Since its release in October, the book has sold 400,000 hard cover copies.

## CLASSICAL CAMPUS BASH

Bologna University, the oldest university in the Western world, and the (re)birth place of Roman law, is celebrating its 900th anniversary with a mixture of pride, reverence and hope. The alma mater of Dante Alighieri, Copernicus, Petrarch and Erasmus has recently achieved additional notoriety with the presence of its illustrious semiotics professor/best selling author—Umberto Eco. And the faculty is working hard to restore the school's legendary luster by dealing with the problems common to less hallowed halls: overcrowding, curriculum, and admission standards. For the nonce, however, let the festivities commence.

FELIX DCCC!



# 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.]

## MAYOR GIULIANI?

Anti-rackets czar Rudolph Giuliani, U.S. Attorney for the southern New York District, suffered a reversal in the Bess Myerson judge-tampering trial. The front page courtroom drama ended with a jury verdict in favor of the former Miss America. Myerson had been accused of bribing a New York judge in boyfriend Andy Capasso's alimony suit.

But perhaps the City's slime has piqued the crimefighter's interest. Rumor has it that Giuliani wants to straighten out the Big Apple from the other end, as its mayor. The last "reform" mayor of that city was another Italo, Fiorello LaGuardia.

## ENGLISH UNDER SEIGE

"What's the matter, don't you understand English?" That's a question we have all been asked at one time or another. Now some folks want to put real meaning into it.

In New York, California, and Florida, the natives are restless to restore the primacy of the Anglo-Saxon tongue. Italian-American legislator Joseph Rizzo of Suffolk County, Long Island, has introduced a bill to make English the official language of government in his county. In California, Japanese-American S.I. Hayakawa, a former U.S. Senator and doctor of linguistics, is leading the fight for an English language amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

For activist Emmy Shafer the pro-English awakening came in 1978 when she could not find an English-speaking clerk in the Dade County, Florida, municipal office. Since then she has led an English-only movement in Miami.

To date, seventeen states have reaffirmed English as their official language.

## OUR FRENCH COUSINS

- On November 26, 1988, Frenchman Jean-Loup Chretien joined Soviet cosmonauts on a Soyuz space mission. Eat your heart out, Jean Luc Picard! An Italian may also be on the Soviet list.

- French television held a mock re-trial last December for decapitated King Louis XVI. Viewers were asked to call in their verdict on the royal victim of the Revolution. Whether because of an excellent defense or just a more understanding jury, Louis was found "not guilty". Looks like 50 million Frenchmen *can* be wrong.



Giuliani: heir to the Little Flower?

- Singer-actor-political activist Yves Montand (born Ivo Livi) was quite surprised to learn that he had fathered his first child this year at age 67! The 9-pound baby boy was named Valentin Giovanni Jacques.

- French primary school teachers, after years of trying to explain the often illogical rules of spelling to their pupils, now want the nation to simplify the rules. The word *homme* (man), for example, carries two m's while the same Latin root is spelled with only one m in *bonhomie* (good nature). If they think that's illogical let them try "ryting English!"

## INTERNATIONAL TIDBITS

- An English TV company has been running a derogatory but sexy ad in local newspapers deriding Italian television. The ad is meant to show how program standards dropped when deregulation occurred in Italy. Of course the "highbrow" *Benny Hill Show* or *Monty Python* demonstrate that government regulation has made a difference in Merry England.

- Mikhail Gorbachev was greeted at the United Nations during his brief visit to the U.S. by tour guides wearing new Italian-designed uniforms by Benetton.

- The USSR has requested Italy to develop a million-acre agro-industrial complex in the Ukraine that will serve as a model for Soviet agricultural reform. Gruppo Ferruzzi will spearhead the project.

- Once again, the travelers' newsletter *International Living* named Italy among the top ten nations in quality of life after the U.S., Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Sweden, and France.

- Nigerian police are looking for super-sleaze Italian businessman Gianfranco Raffaelli, the man who conned a retired Nigerian dockworker into burying thousands of drums of PCB, a carcinogenic chemical, in his backyard for \$100 a month. Raffaelli stood to make over \$4 million by removing the toxic substance from Italy. The tragic con was uncovered after environmental contamination resulted in a number of deaths. Italy was forced to take back the PCB's.

## SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES

- University of Utah biologist Mario Capecchi has developed a powerful new technique to redesign genes in living organisms. Hailed as a major breakthrough by the scientific community, Capecchi's work is a significant step in the goal to replace "bad" genes that



# World Notes



cause disease. "(It) is probably the single most important thing going on now in mammalian molecular biology," according to Philip Sharp, a fellow biologist at M.I.T.

• The launch of the Hubble Space Telescope, under the direction of Dr. Riccardo Giacconi, has been moved up to December, 1989 (from Feb. '90) due to the resumption of the Space Shuttle program. The \$1.5 billion telescope will be released from the Shuttle and will enable scientists to view the cosmos as never before, without atmospheric distortion. (Dr. Giacconi was honored by The Society for Italic Studies in 1988.)

## COLUMBUS FEVER

As momentum builds toward the 500th anniversary of Columbus' landfall in the New World, many ethnic groups are vying for public study grants. Among the state and federal grants made are: "Spanish Explorers & Indian Chiefdoms in the 16th & 17th Centuries" (Georgia), "The Relationship between C. Columbus and the Movement of Sephardic Judaism to the New World (Virgin Islands), "Haiti: the First Black Republic" (Ohio), and "Jews in the Discovery of the New World" (National Endowment).

## ACADEMIA

• Talk about donations! Bill Cosby's \$20 million gift to Spelman College in Atlanta has academia buzzing. Imagine the reaction if a wealthy Italian-American were to donate that kind of money to, say, Dante University (Publisher Adolph Caso's dream in Massachusetts)? Lest we forget, however, schools such as M.I.T., St. Bonaventure, Fairleigh-Dickenson, and Georgetown were founded by Italo-Americans.

• Temple University has formally recognized the White Student Union with an annual stipend of \$1,000.

Temple University is Bill Cosby's alma mater. The White Student Union, which was formed to foster White pride on the heavily Black campus, met all of the university's legal requirements for the subsidy.

• Bestselling author Rita Mae Brown (*Rubyfruit Jungle, Starting from Scratch*) has come out foresquare in favor of Latin as a second language. "Learn Latin" is her advice to would-be writers. "If you don't know Latin, you don't know English," as she puts it.

• America the illiterate. Nearly one quarter of the U.S. workforce — 20 to 27 million people — is undereducated for today's job market. It has reached the

## ITALIAN HOUSEWIVES DO IT ON TV.



## Brits "condemn" Italian TV

point where many companies are allocating money to teach basic skills to their employees. As an example of the crisis, Domino's Pizza spends \$50,000 to instruct some of its bakers how to read their cooking manual. It's not all in the swirling!

## DRUGS & ALCOHOL

• Italy has the greatest number of drug addicts in Europe. There are between 300-400,000 heroin and cocaine users alone. Over 700 Italians died from drugs in 1988, mostly in the industrial North. Part of the problem stems from a 1975 law that allows individuals to pos-

sess "modest quantities" of narcotics. Only heavy dealers are subject to punishment. And, of course, the other cause is organized crime. Anti-crime chief Domenico Sica has advised Parliament that certain areas in the south are under the "total control" of criminal organizations.

• It's something Ernest & Julio Gallo are probably not bragging about but their "street" brands *Thunderbird* and *Midnight Special* are two of the biggest sellers among America's wines. Bottled in smaller sizes and "juiced" up to near 20% alcohol, these Gallo specials bring in some \$300 million of the vintner's sales. The third favored brand is *Richard's Wild Irish Rose*, not a Gallo product.

## PRO-ISRAEL LOBBY CHALLENGED

Former Undersecretary of State George Ball and a group of former diplomats and politicians have filed a 100-page complaint against 53 pro-Israeli political action committees. The plaintiffs charge that the lobbyists have violated election laws by targeting U.S. politicians for defeat based solely on their positions toward Israel.

## CAT-GUT CONTROVERSY

Italians are always flattered when people take an interest in their national treasures. So it was a few years ago when Texas A & M University scientist Joseph Nagyvary asked for and received specially-selected wood from the famous Italian spruce used in making Stradivarius violins. Nagyvary was experimenting to find just the right combination of wood and varnish to replicate the old Master's instruments. Now after three years, the Texas scientist feels he has solved all the problems and is ready to mass-produce designer violins. The hitch is: the Italians have got wind of Nagyvary's progress and are refusing to sell him anymore Italian trees. Nagyvary will have to pull some other strings to get the right stuff. \*\*\*\*



## Editorial

### MAINSTREAM, U.S.A.

Our cover story this month is quite removed from the rather weighty features we have done in the past (i.e., the problem of stereotypes, Italian economic resurgence.) Yet, in their own way these animated characters demonstrate the depth of the Italic influence on today's society. The work, the ideas, even the dreams of Italy's descendants are unquestionably an integral part of our American culture—

When President Reagan was rushed to the hospital for emergency medical treatment following an attempted assassination in 1981, the chief executive quipped that he hoped all the doctors were Republican. Well, Democrat or Republican, the head of the medical team that saved the commander-in-chief was one Dr. Joseph Giordano.

Long after the next White House occupant has departed, Antonin Scalia will be influencing the day-to-day lives of Americans from his seat on the Supreme Court. Justice Scalia, who is one of the country's foremost legal thinkers, carries within him precepts of Roman law and humanism.

Another prominent scholar, A. Bartlett Giamatti, went from Dante to the diamond and became National League president. While at this post, he introduced a certain measure of Roman *gravitas* (dignity) to baseball by demanding gentlemanly behavior. This disciplined approach was sorely needed to preserve America's favorite pastime. Meanwhile, the 1988 World Series pitted Tommy La Sorda's Los Angeles Dodgers against Tony La Russa's Oakland Athletics. Much like a past duel between Montana and Marino in the Superbowl.

Our daily lives are affected by Italian-American entrepreneurs at almost every turn. Vincent G. Marotta reinvigorated the coffee-brewing business by inventing what is now a household item — the automatic drip coffee maker. He was the original coffee overachiever. And who was the chief spokesman for Marotta's Mr. Coffee? None other than Joe DiMaggio, an American legend.

Everyone wants a Jacuzzi. It's a status symbol, adult toy and necessity rolled into one. The brainchild of Roy Jacuzzi, this whirling, swirling hot tub has become an integral part of high-style Americana. And let's not forget Roger Enrico, the corporate executive who challenged Coca-Cola and inspired the Pepsi Generation.

Historian Theodore White was the first to document this rising Italic tide. White predicted that by virtue of our demographics, educational achievements and tenacity, we would assume positions of leadership and enrich the fabric of American life. Thus far, the evidence has borne him out. From Lee Iacocca to ALF, Italic influence pervades every aspect of American culture. We are as American as pizza pie. We *are* the mainstream.

- Rosario A. Iaconis

### The Italic Way

The official newsletter of The Society for Italic Studies, Inc., a nonprofit corporation headquartered in Floral Park, NY

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### Miss our last issue?

Send \$3 (\$2.50 for members) to:

The Italic Way  
PO Box 818  
Floral Park, NY 11001

# Forum of the People



*(Background: One of our staffers visited the Lake George area last summer and found a number of anti-Italic souvenirs and advertisements among the shops on the main street. Some restaurants featured "Cosa Nostra Burgers", and a "Godfather Special". A custom tee-shirt shop displayed an "Italian Bitch" shirt with no equal time for other ethnics. A novelty store sold license plate holders stating, "I'm Italian, Meat my Balls", and the old standby, "Toucha My Car, I Breaka You Face." A letter was sent to the Chamber of Commerce to find out why the preoccupation with Italic insults. Here's the reply:)*

The Society for Italic Studies, Inc.  
P.O. Box 818  
Floral Park, New York 11001

Gentlemen:

I have been sent a copy of your letter of August 9 to the President of the Lake George Chamber of Commerce. The answers to the questions you pose in your letter are very simple.

---

**"I know of no way I could stop either the Italian sellers or the Italian purchasers of this junk."**

---

In recent years this village has had a large influx of people of Italian ancestry who have bought a great many of the businesses of all kinds and, as a result, have attracted a disproportionately large number of Italian (sic) tourists. They are the people who want to buy the sort of things that you find insulting. The stores would not carry them if there was not a demand for them, and the demand is from the Italian visitors.

If you would put a stop to the sort of thing you refer to, you should write to the owners of the Italian stores and post notices to the Italian visitors who are their customers.

I don't like it any more than you do, but I know of no way I could stop either the Italian sellers or the Italian purchasers of this junk.

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Sincerely,

William E. Dow, Jr.  
Attorney-at-Law  
Pine Point  
Lake George, NY 12845

# "ITALICA"

*(It's Spanish for superb olive oil.)*

For over 2,000 years, Spain has been the largest producer of olive oil. Now, for the first time, one of Spain's most renowned producers is able to ship its fine quality olive oil direct to you in the United States. Its name? Italice.

Italice's delicious taste surpasses that of the leading Italian brands. Yet, it costs far less. What's more, Italice contains no cholesterol and comes in lightweight, unbreakable bottles for easy use.

Turn an ordinary dish into something special with Italice. The superb olive oil from Spain.



10

35¢		Store Coupon Offer expires 3/31/89.	35¢
<p>Save 35¢ on any size Italice Pure Olive Oil</p>			
35¢	<p>To dealer: Italice Imports, Inc. will reimburse you for the face value of coupon plus 8¢ handling when you and the consumer have complied with the terms of the offer. Cash value 1/100th of 1¢. Limit one coupon per purchase. To redeem this coupon send to: Italice Imports, Inc., P.O. Box 239, Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583. IW-1</p>		35



# Books

## GROWING UP ITALIAN

by  
Linda Brandi Cateura  
Wm Marrow Publishers, 268 pages

I was introduced to Linda Brandi Cateura's brand of journalism while listening to a drive-time radio talk show.

Wary at first, I mellowed as Ms. Cateura explained the underlying theme of Italian pride and why it is a nascent and noteworthy phenomenon. Any visions of Jerry Della Femmina growing up in Brooklyn quickly dissipated. Anticipation gave way to excitement, which in turn evoked images of a real page-turner. Unfortunately, a careful reading of the author's work was not nearly as satisfying as her exposition on the airwaves. In fact, it was a stunning letdown.

With the exceptions of Rudolph

Others focused on gratuitous stereotyping. Helen Boehm, for example, lectured *ad nauseum* about the "plight" of the long-suffering Italian-American wife. And Geraldine Ferraro joined in with her shop-worn complaints against the Italic male.



Gaetano (Gay) Talese

Will Italian-American husbands ever get a fair hearing? The most disturbing, however, was Gay Talese. Playing fast and loose with history even to the point of casting doubt on his own father's boastful Italic pride, Talese manages to torpedo Italy's essential role in the First World War. Perhaps unintentionally he paints, in one sentence, the often stereotyped picture of an Italy that contributed little if anything to winning the war:

*"In World War I, Italy allied herself with a victorious group of nations — England, France, and the United States."*

The crushing of the Austro-Hungarian Empire by Italy was more than a modest contribution to the 'victori-

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**"(this book) ...sometimes demonstrates the shallowness of Italic pride among our 'intelligentsia.'"**

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Giuliani (whose grasp of history is accurate and incisive), and a handful of others who emphasize the high road of ethnic pride, all of Ms. Cateura's person-to-person profiles smacked of pop ethnology. Any hints of Italian pride were overshadowed by each subject's alter ethnic ego. Poet John Ciardi discussed the Teutonic origins of his surname, Julie Bovasso — John Travolta's mother in *Saturday Night Fever* — revelled in her Albanian roots, and architect Robert Venturi listed Norman and German invaders as an explanation for his light complexion and blue eyes, despite the fact that he no doubt received his innate talent from the likes of dark-haired Frontinus and Vitruvius, the Roman engineers.



Future Vice Presidential candidate  
Geraldine Ferraro

ous group'. But this fact and Italy's 600,000 war dead may have impressed Talese senior far more than junior.

Ms. Cateura cannot be faulted for the prejudices or provincial outlooks of her subjects. And she certainly cannot put words in their mouths. She can — and evidently did — steer most of them in a decidedly simplistic direction. The result is a "feel good" book that sometimes demonstrates the shallowness of Italic pride among our "intelligentsia."

Thank God for Giuliani, Cuomo and a very few others. As for the rest, where have we failed?

- Rosario A. Iaconis



## Focus:

# THEATRE OF THE FANTASTIC:

## AN ITALIAN TRADITION



Master Rambaldi in his studio

What does a nation of pragmatists do for fun? Not willing to dawdle away hours listening to hoary dialogue like their Anglo-Saxon theatre-going contemporaries, the Italians invented opera. To make light of human foibles they invented satire. But to really have fun they developed the *Commedia dell'Arte* with its caricatured contingent like Puncinello, who was later an-



Yabba Dabba Doo!

*The Italic Way*

glicized as *Punch* (as in *Punch and Judy*). And, of course, Italian marionettes are a staple attraction in Naples and Sicily and even west Greenwich Village, NY.

So maybe seeing so many Italian names behind a menagerie of animated creatures like ALF, Topo Gigio, E.T., the Flintstones, and Pinocchio is not as fantastic as you would think. Even pragmatists have a silly side.

### PINOCCHIO

Before Mickey Mouse, Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy, children the world over were enthralled by the legend of Pinocchio. The spawn of 19th Century journalist Carlo Collodi, this tender splinter (*pino* means pine tree in Italian) kindled the imagination of the young while reaffirming the homespun values of their elders. But more than that, Pinocchio led the way to feature length animation in America with the premiere of the Disney film *Pinocchio* in 1940.

### EXTRA TERRESTIAL

And just as Geppetto crafted the wooden dummy that came to life, the Italian imagination has been called upon to give form to the dreams of others. Take Stephen Spielberg's vision of a curious visitor from another planet. He needed to be something "that only a mother could love", as Spielberg put it. Enter Carlo Rambaldi, an Italian painter and sculptor who first came to the U.S. in 1975 to build a life-size King Kong for Dino diLaurentis. At a cost of \$1.5 million, and having 150 separate remote control motions, Rambaldi's E.T. helped the movie gross over \$200 million in its first release - the greatest earner ever!

### ALF

Paul Fusco, your typical middle-class New Haven, Connecticut, creative type and part-time magician, was always consumed by imaginary characters. Working at local television studios developing puppets for special holiday features, Fusco's mind gave birth to an alien life form in 1980. Known by the



Mr. Shumway and friends

preppy moniker, Gordon Shumway, to the folks back home on planet Melmac, Paul's creation is familiar to the American viewing public as good ole ALF.

To translate "Gordon" from the cosmic to the furry Fusco enlisted the aid of "another paisan" named Joe Fappiano. Because of an Italic code of silence our investigative reporter was unable to pierce the veil of secrecy surrounding ALF's animation. Fusco gives very little hint of the source of ALF's voice or egocentricity. "Hey, no problem!"

ALF's television show, which easily tops Bob Newhart and Monday Night Football in the ratings—and has gener-

# Focus



ated a plethora of ALF products — grosses more money than Fusco is even interested in counting. Instead, Fusco concentrates on creative matters and shares his moments with the Make-A-Wish Foundation for terminally ill children.

## TOPO GIGIO

Today's young Americans know their mice — especially Mickey and Mighty. However, most kids in Europe and South America know one more — Topo Gigio (Toe-po Gee-jo). *Topo* means mouse in Italian and Topo Gigio owes its creation to Maria Perego, who developed the live-action puppet for the

needed a gimmick to loosen up his legendary stiffness on TV. How much looser than talking in public with a foam rubber mouse! Probably the greatest compliment to be paid Topo Gigio was from Eddee himself, "When he's on my arm, I actually feel that he's a living thing, and that I'm talking to somebody. I've never had that feeling before with any puppet or ventriloquist's dummy."

Although the Ed Sullivan Show was Topo Gigio's only gig in the United States, he can still be seen on various foreign television broadcasts here. In fact, the cutesy mouse has his own show on Mexican television which is aired in New York every Saturday night at suppertime, *en espanol*, of course.

## HANNA-BARBERA

We purposely didn't include another mouse in the Topo Gigio story because Jerry the mouse was part of a team, the ever famous *Tom and Jerry*.

This classic cat and mouse act was the brainchild of animators Bill Hanna and Joe Barbera. For half a century the prolific duo has captivated millions around the world, winning seven Oscars and seven Emmys in the process. Known as the "General Motors of the cartoon industry," they have produced nearly 300 different series, specials, television movies and theatrical films. These programs have been viewed in more than 80 countries and heard in 22 languages. The sun never sets on the Hanna-Barbera empire. And "every hour of every day, somewhere in the world, people are watching a Hanna-Barbera production."

Joe Barbera met Bill Hanna, his non-Italic partner, when both were pursuing other less satisfying careers. Tired of being part-time creators, Barbera (a bank clerk) and Hanna (an engineer) decided



George Jetson & Family

to pool their talents. Their initial collaboration, a send-up of the traditional cat-and-mouse game, received a tepid response from MGM studios. Audiences in the theatres, however, howled in laughter at the antics of Tom and Jerry. A legend was aborning.

Hard times struck in 1957, though, when MGM, weakened by competition from television, closed its animation department. Finding themselves in much the same predicament as some of their cartoon counterparts — out of work and out of luck — Hanna and Barbera decided to produce animated

(continued on p. 24)



Yogi - better than your average bear

*The Italic Way*



"Kiss-a-me goo' night, Eddee"

Pavesini Biscuit Company. From biscuit testimonials to world-renown took about 30 years. In the course of that time Perego and her Topo team of four puppeteers have presented their critter in nearly all the European languages including English. (By the way, Topo is animated using sticks, not strings or hands. The puppeteers are behind him camouflaged in black)

It was Sunday night April 14, 1963 when Topo Gigio first flapped his ears for Ed Sullivan, newly hired by Sullivan talent scouts. It was a kind of symbiotic relationship. Topo needed the exposure and Eddee (as Topo called his host)



# Perspectives

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

## ROSETO: A MEDICAL MARVEL

by Candice Smith, Rosario A. Iaconis  
and John Mancini

For nearly three generations, Roseto—a close-knit Italian-American community in east-central Pennsylvania—was a very special place to live. Despite a diet which often included fatty meats, peppers fried in lard and much wine, the Rosetans boasted a remarkably low death rate from heart disease, fewer ulcer problems and less mental illness than the state and national averages.

These extraordinary findings prompted medical researchers Dr. John Bruhn and Dr. Stuart Wolf to conduct a fifteen-year study comparing medical histories, physical examinations and laboratory tests on a large sample of Rosetans and inhabitants of two neighboring communities, Bangor and Nazareth. The results were astonishing.

It showed that diet, exercise habits and genetics played no role in the Rosetans' immunity to heart disease. In addition, certain other facts remained a puzzlement. Men were outliving women and obesity was common.

Researchers credited the townfolk's good health to the traditional Italian value system that encouraged strong extended families and a mutually supporting community. Such conclusions are borne out in other studies. As an example, the highly structured Mormons of Utah also share excellent health statistics, but unlike Rosetans, Mormons abstain from tobacco and alcohol. Similarly, studies of Black Africans have shown that removal from tribal environments into White urban areas have led to increased

hypertension, coronary problems and ulcers. In short, life is tough without strong social support.

The researchers were fortunate in being able to study Roseto in its final stages of cultural cohesiveness. By the mid-sixties, the old Roseto, the town founded by immigrants from the Italian town of Roseto Valforte, province of



Typical extended family

Foggia, was Americanizing. The town came into being in the late 1800's spurred on by ethnic discrimination by English and Welsh neighbors in Bangor. Succeeding generations cast off the traditional but sometimes stifling values that had contributed to the town's success.

Today, the Rosetans are eating less meat and fatty foods. They exercise regularly and believe that "you are what you eat." However, heart attacks and strokes are up while cancer percentages remain the same. Follow-up studies indicate that the Rosetans have experienced a rapid social change. Intermarriage has jumped to 70% versus only 15% during the initial study. The family is no longer the center of their society. Competition and not cooperation is the watchword. As traditional values and relationships were abandoned by the rising generation, the death rate from heart attack climbed toward the American norm until, in

1971, deaths from myocardial infarction occurred for the first time among men under fifty.

"The lesson the Roseto experience offers Americans is that the thwarting of their biological need for social cohesion, community and emotional security is doing them tremendous harm, and they need to find distinctly American ways to share their lives with one another in warm, supporting communities," concluded the researchers.



Roseto and its environs.



Off to quarry slate





# Perspectives

## A Safe Design That Went Nowhere

by Edmund J. Cantilli

Each air disaster investigation seems to turn up yet another new reason for an accident — wind shear, human error, structural cracks, engine malfunctions — but precious little criticism of the real cause of death: an airplane design that leaves passengers no margin for survival.

The key to flight is “lift”. Traditionally designed airplanes are built with sleek and narrow fuselages that contribute to “drag” not “lift”. Consequently, engines must be more powerful, takeoff and landing speeds greater, and structural components lighter. Vincent Burnelli, a Texan who did some of his best work on Long Island, developed a “lifting-body” design in the 1920s and built a number of successful planes on this principle throughout the 1930s.

In 1941, however, after Burnelli had won three government competitions to build Air Corps planes, President Roosevelt reportedly changed his mind about authorizing a go-ahead for the Burnelli planes when he found out that the project was being backed by Joseph Newton Pew, the chairman of the Sun Oil Co., who had helped finance the political campaign of one of Roosevelt’s rivals, Wendell Willkie.

By 1943, however, General “Hap” Arnold, Army Air Corps chief, disturbed by the continued suppression of Burnelli’s designs, assigned Col. Harold Hartney to review the history of the design, so that it could be placed on the record in case Arnold were ever accused of not having adopted the obviously superior design. In fact, one of Burnelli’s airplanes was used by French

leader Charles de Gaulle in Africa during World War II.

The Hartney report, which had supporting testimony from the best American minds in aeronautical science,



Burnelli & craft (1924)

was highly complimentary of the Burnelli design even though the War Dept. had labelled it “inefficient”.

Hartney gave great importance to the outstanding safety and economic features of the Burnelli design and warned of increasing numbers of fatalities in the future of American aviation because of higher and higher takeoff and landing speeds required of conventional planes. The prospect of such disasters was “most distressing,” Hartney con-



What a safe airplane might look like  
(Chas. A. SanGiovanni)

cluded, “which few seem to appreciate.”

The Burnelli lifting-body design provides a safer passenger cabin than a conventional airplane because the air-

foil-shaped fuselage provides as much as 60 percent of the total lift generated by such an aircraft. This enables the airplane to be built with heavier, and therefore stronger, and therefore safer, structural parts.

A test pilot unintentionally proved this point when he crashed one of Burnelli’s airplanes in 1935. The three-man crew emerged unscathed from this 200-mph, cartwheeling accident, and the passenger cabin remained intact — all of which confirmed the exceptional crash-worthiness of his design.

Other attributes of the Burnelli design include:

- Provides a strong fuselage that shields passenger and crew;
- Carries fuel only in the outboard wing tanks, not under the passenger cabin; and
- Lands and takes off at speeds well under 100 mph, reducing the dangers involved in accidents that do happen;
- Uses heavier interior material that is both stronger and nontoxic when burning.

So why isn’t Burnelli’s design being manufactured? Probably because the retooling costs are prohibitive. No firm could expend the amount needed and remain competitive and profitable.

\*\*\*\*

Edmund J. Cantilli is a member of the Society and professor of transportation and safety engineering at the Polytechnic Institute of New York and executive director of the nonprofit Institute for Safety in Transportation Inc. of West Hempstead.



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# Project Italia

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## PROMO FILM IN PRODUCTION

Production chairman Frank Vitale has secured the services of television writer Ron Blumer to script the Project Italia promotional film. Ron Blumer's credits include a number of Public Television series for Bill Moyers as well as a documentary on the classic DC-3 airplane. The current schedule calls for the 4 to 8 minute film to be ready in late April in time for the Society's annual fundraising dinner. Actor Tony LoBianco will narrate the film.

## 1989-90 COIN UNVEILED

The second in the series of coins commemorating Italic contributions to civilization was unveiled at January's Plenary Council meeting. Depicting Italy's role in the preservation and transmission of the classical knowledge and the restoration of international commerce during the Dark Ages, the new coin features the abbey at Montecassino and an Italian cog (merchant ship) of the 13th Century. These limited production coins are part of a series that will document the unbroken progress of Italian history. They are available in polished or antique bronze finish with a choice of handsome presentation boxes. For information write: Project Italia, PO Box 818, Floral Park, NY 11001.



Actual size  
1-1/2"



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# Aurora

## Youth Program

### ITALIAN LESSON #2

#### Vocabulary Review

ACQUA (ac-qua) - water  
 CAVALLO (ca-val-lo) - horse  
 ISOLA (i'-so-la) - island  
 LIBRO (li-bro) - book  
 MARE (ma-re) - sea  
 POLLO (pol-lo) - chicken  
 SCALA (scal-a) - stair  
 STELLA (stel-la) - star  
 TERRA (ter-ra) - land  
 UNO (u-no) - one

#### Today's Verb

IO HO (ee-o oh) - I have  
 TU HAI (too eye) - you have  
 LEI HA (lay ah) - she has  
 LUI HA (loo-ee ah) - he has  
 HA (ah) - (it) has

Let's make sentences in Italian: Example: She has one book: LEI HA UN LIBRO  
 I have a (one) chicken. \_\_\_\_\_

#### 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. QUANTO? (qwan-tow), QUANTI?	_____	(Quantity)
2. ANNO (ah-no)	_____	(Anniversary)
3. FAME (fa-may)	_____	(Famine)
4. CENTO (chen-tow)	_____	(Century)
5. MILLE (mee-leh)	_____	(Millimeter)
6. AMICA (am-mee-ka)	_____	(Amicable)
7. DIECI (dee-eh-chee)	_____	(Decade)
8. FRATELLO (fra-tell-o)	_____	(Fraternity)
9. SORELLA (saw-rell-a)	_____	(Sorority)
10. NUOVA (newov-ah)	_____	(Renovation)

To say things like: I AM HUNGRY or I AM \_\_\_ YEARS OLD, Italian uses the verb TO HAVE. Let's try to write and speak Italian sentences.

11. The horse is hungry. Il (eel) \_\_\_\_\_ (the horse has hunger)
12. She is ten years old. \_\_\_\_\_ (she has ten years)
13. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_ (How many years have you?) (Remember 'agreement')
14. He has 100 chickens. \_\_\_\_\_ (look at the rules to make plurals.  
 Numbers do not have to have the same endings as their nouns)

Language Power: See if you can translate Italian after only two lessons.

15. Il mare ha una isola. \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Mia sorella ha fame. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Answers:

1. How much, how many, 2. year, 3. hungry, 4. one hundred, 5. one thousand, 6. friend (girl), 7. ten, 8. brother, 9. sister, 10. new, 11. Il cavallo ha fame. 12. Lei ha dieci anni. 13. Quanti anni hai tu? 14. Lui ha cento polli. 15. The sea has an island. 16. My sister is hungry.



# Aurora

## Youth Program

### ITALIAN LESSON #1

#### Rules

Sounds: 'a' sounds like 'ah'

'e' sounds like the 'eh' in 'men'

'i' sounds like 'ee' in 'meet'

'o' sounds like 'oh'

'u' sounds like the 'oo' in 'too'

*ah, eh, ee, oh, oo* (say them fast a few times and you have just learned all the Italian vowels.)

'ch' sounds like 'k'

'c' before *a, o, u* is like a 'k'

'c' before *e* and *i* is like 'ch' in 'chest'

'zz' sounds like 'tz' in 'pizza' (peetz-ah)

'gl' sounds like 'lli' in 'million'

gn' sounds like 'ya' as in 'lasagna' (lah-sahn-ya)

**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) = **raggazzi** (boys), **ragazza** (girl) = **raggazze** (girls).

**Agreement:** Nouns and adjectives always agree. Examples:

**pazza ragazza** = silly ('crazy') girl

**pazze ragazze** = silly girls

**pazzo ragazzo** = silly boy

**pazzi ragazzi** = silly boys

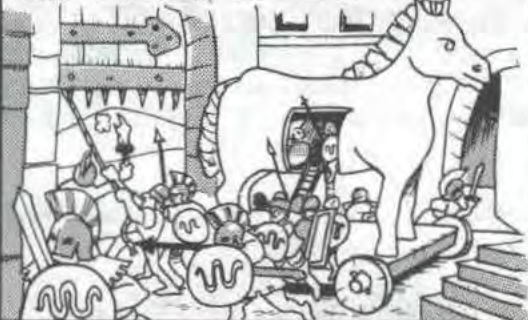
## ROMULUS & REMUS

ILLUSTRATED BY D. RINALDO

IN ANCIENT TIMES THERE WAS A WAR BETWEEN THE GREEKS AND TROJANS. THE WAR LASTED MANY YEARS BUT ENDED WHEN THE GREEKS TRICKED THE TROJANS. THEY BUILT A GIANT WOODEN HORSE THAT SOME GREEK SOLDIERS HID AWAY IN.



THE TROJANS THOUGHT THE HORSE WAS A GIFT AND BROUGHT IT INTO THEIR CITY. THAT NIGHT, THE GREEKS CLIMBED OUT OF THE HORSE, OPENED THE CITY GATES & LET IN THE GREEK ARMY TO DESTROY THE CITY OF TROY.



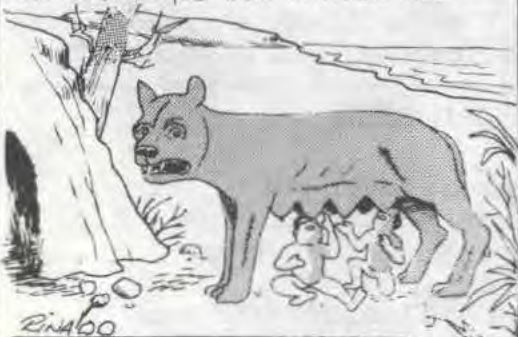
WHILE HIS CITY WAS BURNING, AENEAS, A TROJAN WARRIOR, ESCAPED WITH HIS FATHER AND YOUNG SON.



AENEAS AND HIS FAMILY, ALONG WITH OTHER TROJANS FLED TROY ON A SHIP. THEY WANDERED THE MEDITERRANEAN LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME. AFTER MANY YEARS, THE TROJANS LANDED IN ITALY.



AENEAS AND HIS TROJANS MADE ITALY THEIR NEW HOME. THE TWINS ROMULUS + REMUS WERE DESCENDANTS OF AENEAS. LEFT ALONE WHEN THEY WERE BORN, THEY WERE "ADOPTED" BY A SHE-WOLF WHO FED THEM WITH HER MILK.



WHEN ROMULUS GREW UP HE STARTED TO BUILD A NEW CITY. HIS BROTHER REMUS MADE SO MUCH FUN OF ROMULUS' WORK THAT THEY HAD A BIG FIGHT. REMUS WAS KILLED. ROMULUS COMPLETED HIS CITY. THE CITY OF ROME IS KNOWN AS THE "ETERNAL CITY."





# News of the Society

## Edward Riguardi Named Governor

The Society's Board of Governors elected Edward Riguardi to the Board in a unanimous vote. Ed's election to the Board was in recognition of his outstanding service to the Society and his unwavering affection for the Italic heritage.

## Council Nominations

The following nominations have been made to the Executive & Plenary Councils:

President - John Mancini

Vice President - Dario Gristina

Financial Secretary\* - Robert DeSiena

Treasurer - George Ricci

Secretary \*-

Secretary -

\* Plenary Council positions only

Nominations will close on January 31st, 1989. Ballots will be sent to all Plenary Council members in February.

## Committee Assignments

There are eight Plenary Council committees. Call Dario Gristina at 212 967-2243 if you wish to join one of the committees.

Membership - Robert Falaguerra

Development\* - Louis Brevetti

Social - Nick Catinella

Business & Career - Albert Crecca

Political Action - Elio Grandi

Intergroup - Steve Gristina

Fundraising - Dennis Mancini

Assistance\*\* - Candice Smith

\* Review of rules and compensation and recommendation of future objectives.

\*\* Charities and goodwill.

## 1989 Dinner Chairman

Our Second Annual Dinner Dance at the Waldorf will be chaired by Mr. Michael Downey, Senior Vice President of Mendik Realty. This event will be held on Saturday, May 13th.

## Theater Trip

The Society is committed to at least 50 seats at the February 18th performance of **Hizzoner** starring Tony LoBianco at the Longacre Theater in Manhattan. Call Candice Smith for details: 914 592-3200. Tickets are \$37.50 each (orchestra) and a group dinner will be arranged at additional cost.

## Giant Raffle

Beginning in February tickets will be on sale for our first giant raffle. There will be a limited number of \$100 tickets sold and a grand prize of one-half the "gate". Details to follow.

## Political Action

With the membership of Mr. Elio Grandi comes the use of his Washington, DC office and contacts both here and in Italy. Mr. Grandi will be an essential conduit for political support of the Society's goals.

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## 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



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# Announcements

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

## THE NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION, INC.

Chairman: Jenò F. Paulucci

President: Frank D. Stella

A total of \$100,000 in grants and scholarships was awarded by the Foundation to 54 Italian American students in 1988.

Chairman Paulucci, addressing last year's star-studded fundraising dinner that drew presidential candidates Bush and Dukakis, announced that NIAF's new International Advisory Board will "help young people around the world retain a respect for their Italian heritage."

## ORDER, SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA

President S. Joseph Avara

Judge Dominic R. Massaro, President of the Order's Commission for Social Justice (CSJ) reported that prior to the recent presidential election, the Order was assured by both candidates that the Justice Department's policy banning offensive terminology (that is, calling all organized crime "mafia" or "cosa nostra") would be continued.

The CSJ continues to expand its influence throughout the U.S. with joint ventures with various ethnic and religious groups. As a co-sponsor with the American Jewish Committee, the CSJ participated in the showing of the film *The Righteous Enemy*, the story of how Italians saved Jews during World War II. In another project, the CSJ is bringing together National Baseball League President A. Barlett Giamatti and Richard "Dick" Gidron, a major figure in New York City's Black community, for a fundraiser in late February to benefit the CSJ programs.

The New York State chapter of the CSJ won its battle against Lehman College when the college's president Leonard Lief granted full professorships to three Italian American faculty members. The three were denied promotion while six other non Italian Americans were promoted. Credit for the reversal of decision can be given to Vincent Romano, Assistant Chairman of NY's CSJ.

The Order claims that it leads all ethnic organizations in the U.S. in funding educational incentives. Including all national, state, and local awards, the Order donates an average of \$500,000 per year including its unique students-to-Italy program.

The Order's National Education Committee announced that it was able to obtain financial support from the Cultural Institute of the Italian Consulate in Los Angeles to pay for broadcasting a series of 25 televised Italian language lessons in the southern California area. The series is called *Buon Giorno Italia*. Additional money is needed to modify the series for broadcast.

Benvenuto Cellini Lodge, New Hyde Park, NY, held its second Brotherhood Breakfast with a local Jewish Temple with the theme of The Italians and the Holocaust. Special guest speaker was Mrs. Susan Zuccotti, author of the book of the same name. More than 300 people were present and a number of Jews in the audience bore witness to some of the heroic acts of Italians saving Jewish lives during that tragic period. The late father of Cellini's president Anthony D'Urso was among those mentioned.

The Order is seeking a new National Executive Director for its Washington office. The post became vacant recently when former Director Michael Caira and Assistant Director Salvatore Ambrosino resigned to pursue personal careers.

## THE COALITION OF ITALO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

President: William Fugazy

The Coalition has published the second in its series of educational pamphlets documenting Italian American contributions. Entitled, *Italian American Leaders in Government*, the pamphlet gives brief biographies of nine historical and present-day civic leaders. The first of the series detailed contributions in the field of law. To order the pamphlets write:  
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Joseph Barbera drawing Tom & Jerry

## THEATRE OF THE FANTASTIC

(continued from p. 13)

cartoons for the small tube. Unbeknownst to them at the time, this tactic would ensure their legacy.

Scoring a T.V. success with almost every creation they produced, Hanna and Barbera prospered. The roll call of cartoon hits included: Huckleberry Hound, Yogi — smarter than the average — Bear, Quick Draw McGraw, and those offbeat generation gap canines, Auggie Doggie and Doggie Daddy. Top-Cat was the leader of a group of con-artist cats a la Sgt. Bilko. And the Jetsons, a futuristic family featuring George, the hapless husband, Jane, his wife, daughter Judy, and his boy Elroy, has become an ingrained part of American pop culture.

However, Hanna-Barbera's greatest creation was the toughest sell. Originally envisioned as a family of Mayflower Pilgrims or ancient Romans, the Flintstones eventually evolved into the modern-Stone Age family. Because it was a breakthrough show in prime time, the Flintstones scared off many spon-

sors. Nevertheless, Joe Barbera's perseverance in making countless presentations paid off. *The Flintstones*, television's first animated sitcom, premiered in September 1960 to critical acclaim and superior ratings. And unlike their antediluvian era, Fred, Wilma, Barney and Betty did not become extinct. The celebrated series nearly cornered the market on prestigious awards and ran for six years in prime time. Yabba Dabba Doo!

The Hanna-Barbera gang, ALF, Pinocchio, Topo Gigio, and E.T., all seem to have something in common. Perhaps it is in their struggle to be *human* and not what they really are. ALF comes from space but only wants to be adopted by his eversuffering hosts. Even E.T. may have Spielberg's supernatural gifts, but Rambaldi has enabled him to enjoy a beer and to reach out and touch someone. Topo

lives on kisses and Pinocchio actually wishes (upon a star) to be human. Alas, even Fred and Barney have to earn a living like the rest of us. So maybe we enjoy them because they are really human after all.

-Rosario A. Iaconis, John Mancini  
\*\*\*\*



Huckleberry Hound



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