

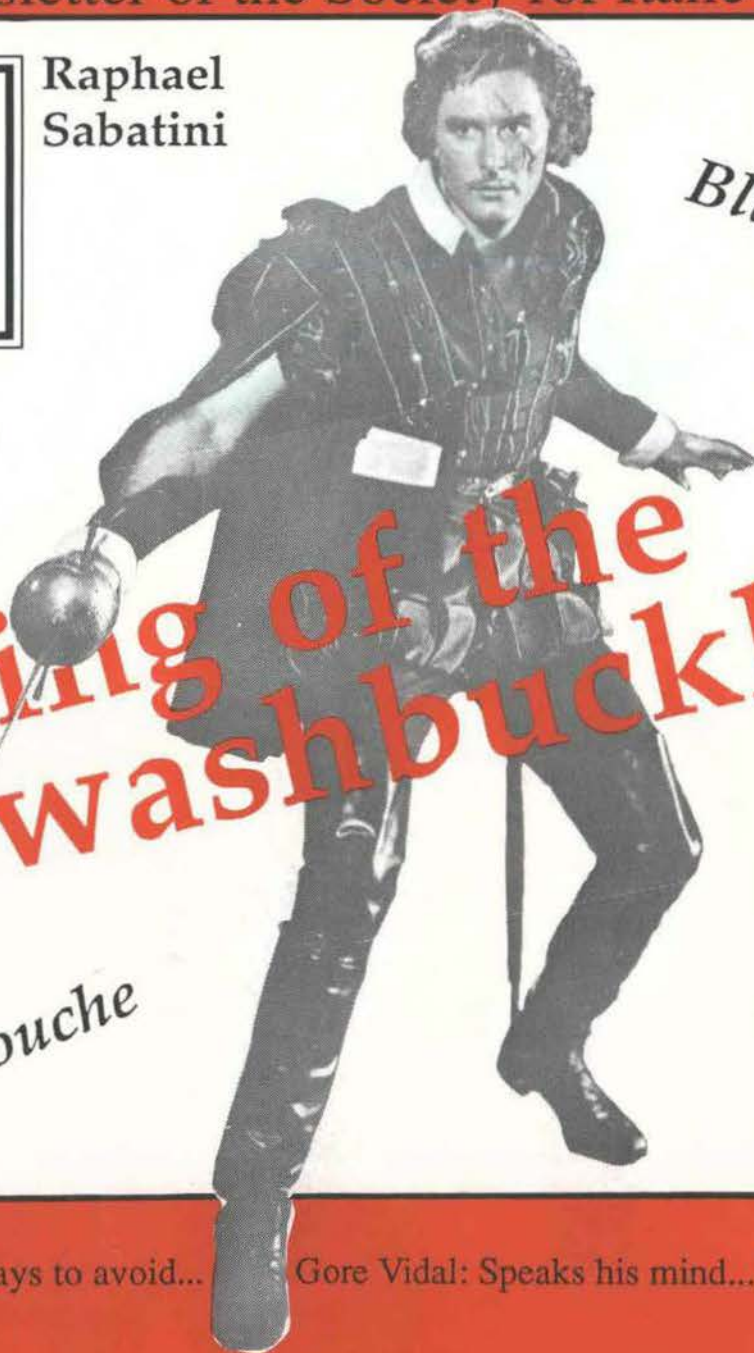
THE **ITALIC** WAY



The Newsletter of the Society for Italic Studies, Inc.



Raphael
Sabatini



*The
Black Swan*

*Captain
Blood*

**King of the
Swashbucklers**

Scaramouche

*The
Seahawk*

IN THIS ISSUE:

24 Days to avoid...

Gore Vidal: Speaks his mind... Beccaria: A Founding Father?



A message from The Society for Italic Studies, Inc.

Let's be candid...

Isn't your heritage worth a \$10 membership?

If you are offended by moronic stereotypes
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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Letters

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

WHY ITALIC?

While I find your magazine quite interesting, I think I will have to agree with one of the letters written to you that the name does not give the Italian people their due. Italic may convey what you want but it is not interpreted that way by other Italian people, including myself. There are so many romantic names that personify Italian culture, that I do not know why you picked Italic. Italic is a type face and I almost overlooked the magazine when it was sent, thinking it had something to do with the graphic arts. In any event, I bring this out constructively, as I do feel warmly towards what you are doing.

Thomas B. Constantino,
Amsterdam, NY

(Ed. We realized from the start that the name Italic would be difficult for some "Italians" to accept. It is meant to convey a spirit rather than a nationality. It is also meant to add a thousand years to the perception of Italy and the Italic people. Italy and the Italians were not born after the fall of Rome, as many history books suggest. It is an all-encompassing term that transcends natural borders and defines our historical and cultural continuity.

We suppose when someone first coined a term such as "Gaelic charm" it must have sounded strange. Fear not, you'll get used to our Italic charm.)

NO COMPLAINTS

I enjoy very much receiving *The Italic Way*. I found it very interesting, and reading it relaxes me. I'm an American of Italian parents — and proud of it.

I would enjoy reading an article about Julius Caesar's time.

Keep the magazine coming.

Louis R. Pisaniello,
Troy, NY

(Ed.- See the Books and also the Perspectives sections.)

I know that *The Italic Way* is going to be a great success.

Alex. P. Lombardi,
Montclair, NJ

Hudsha

Joseph Riccardi

Account Executive

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Post Scripts

ALF et. Al.

*Our last issue focused on the creations of the Italic imagination (Alf, the Flintstones, the Jetsons, and others) Since then, Kidsday, a feature in New-
sday, polled 291 youngsters to find out*

their favorite Saturday cartoons. Alf Tales was top-rated with 18% of the vote. Overall, Alf, the Flintstone Kids, and Jetsons received 29%. Nearly one-third of the young audience is an impressive

share. Let's face it, the competition is keen with the likes of the Chipmunks, Smurfs, and G.I. Joe.

Russian Car/ Italian Roots

(Ed.- Two issues ago we reported in our cover story that FIAT designed the Russian Lada, the standard automobile of the USSR. The FIAT-built plant at Togliattigrad (named for an Italian

communist) is now over 20 years old and still turning out its full capacity of 721,000 Lada per year. As a follow up we asked for and received photos of the Lada Samara from a Soviet export com-

pany. With lower fuel consumption than the Opel and Renault, the Lada goes from 0 to 100 Kph in 15.4 seconds, respectable for its class.)



The Lada Samara



The two door model

FUTURE ISSUES OF THE ITALIC WAY

- NORTH vs SOUTH - Italy's enduring myth
- PESCOSOLIDO - The man who is Romanizing Harvard
- AFRICA - A part of Italic history
- MUSSOLINI - The blame must be shared



All'Italiana

THE SHAPE OF WINGS TO COME

American airmen will soon undergo the U.S. Air Force's Primary Aircraft System program on an incredible Italian flying machine — the Augusta S-211 jet. Produced by the Agusta's Siai Marchetti firm, this plane measures under 30 feet long and has a 28 ft. wingspan. The S-211 is considered a technical gem because of its reduced dimensions, weight and costs. In addition, the jet's fuel consumption is from 30% to 40% lower than any other aircraft in its class.

Initially, the Air Force put in an order for 538 planes, but it appears that the U.S. Navy requires another 260. Other allied countries are waiting in line to make their purchases. Agusta foresees a sale of more than 1,000 planes at approximately \$4,440 million.

DURUM EST DECORUM

In a move designed to separate the wheat from the durum, the Italian cabinet approved a law requiring quality-control marks for traditional Italian pasta. This will help consumers distinguish between home-grown authentic pasta and inferior foreign brands made of mixed wheat. Pasta purists contend that only durum wheat makes the dish *al dente*. And they're taking a firm stand to prove it.

HIGH-TECH FIREFIGHTERS

Italian ingenuity is blazing new trails by helping to beat blazes in Spain. Recently, the innovative Cella factory near Brescia in Northern Italy exported a 237 ft. skyhook to the Iberian peninsula. Known as the "Fire Defender," this device gives firefighters the capability of arching over obstacles such as a skyscraper in congested city centers.

Another Made in Italy marvel saves time, money and lives.

THE REGULUS INITIATIVE

On March 30, 1989, a new European enterprise took one giant leap for mankind. Named the Regulus consortium, this project was launched by Italian capital (60% - Snia-Bpd - Fiat) and to a lesser extent French support (34% Snp). Its mission is to build gigantic auxiliary motors — O boosters — for the Ariane rocket at huge chemical plants in Guyana and Kourou. These selfsame boosters will help propel European — including Italian — astronauts to the stars. World



The S-211 jet touches down.

renowned engineer Giuseppe Grande was chosen as the group's president and director general.

FROM DA VINCI TO THE DARK KNIGHT

"Criminals are a superstitious cowardly lot. So my disguise must be able to strike terror into their hearts."

The garb chose by millionaire Bruce Wayne in his war against the underworld for the avenging Batman was that of the eerie bat. On the fiftieth anniversary of the comic book character, creator Bob

Kane, recalled how Leonardo Da Vinci had inspired him. In Da Vinci's Book of Inventions Kane discovered a man with bat wings. The Italian scientist's quote further fueled Kane's imagination: "Your bird shall have no other wings but that of a bat".

ECONOMICS AND A SENSE OF ITALY

According to Sergio Pininfarina, the President of Confindustria (Italy's association of leading industrialists) and one of Europe's top automotive designers, Italian private businessmen are bullish on 1992. Here's why:

- In 1988, Italy remained the world's fifth-ranking industrial power, generating 300,000 new jobs. The forecast for 1989 is 200,000 new jobs.
- Inflation is predicted to slow to 4.75% in 1989 and 4.0% in 1990.
- For every 100 lire earned, the Italian sets aside 23 for savings — outstripping even the much-vaunted Japanese.
- In the last 12 months, the amount of savings invested in real estate has grown by 10%.

• Fiat ousted Volkswagen and returned to the top of the heap in European automotive sales — 15% of the market with sales of more than 1.9 million Fiats, Lancias and Alfa Romeos.

COURAGE, ITALIAN STYLE

In a February 22, 1989 editorial, the *New York Times*, commenting on the Salman Rushdie affair, saw fit to print this revealing editorial:

What's far more shameful is the wobble in other countries. Canada at first considered using trade laws to bar the Rushdie novel, but then relented. In Ja-

All'Italiana



pan, France and West Germany, publishers have chosen not to publish—in ignominious contrast with Italy, where the book is being sold and the Iranian Embassy picketed.

PIAZZA ROMANA

Friends, tourists and Italophiles are flocking to the Piazza della Signoria in Florence for a glimpse of another age. But they are not there to view the home of the medieval Medici or Michelangelo's duplicate David. Rather, they are witnesses to one of archaeology's most intriguing new discoveries. For buried beneath the rubble of the centuries lies a veritable cross section of history: an ancient Roman city dating from the 1st Century nestled below a medieval city of gargantuan towers. Thus far, the director of the dig, Giuliano De Marinis is jubilant. His highly sophisticated team has uncovered a mother lode of Latin treasures. This includes a Roman thermal bath with its frigidarium, or cold room, intact, a fabric-dyeing plant and a 5th century Christian church. Francesco Nicosia, the archaeological superintendent for Tuscany, is hopeful of staging a mid-year extravaganza to explain this startling historical development. Indeed, many of the so-called experts are now having to reevaluate the length and breadth of Italo-Roman civilization. For those of us who have come to praise Rome, the truth will never stay buried.

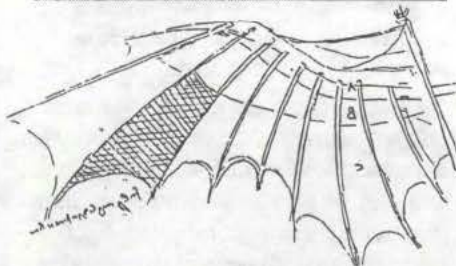
ALL HAIL TO ARMS

Obligatory military service, long a staple of Italian life, is losing ground to the notion of professional armed forces. A survey of young people between the ages of 18 and 25 revealed that 66.3 percent favor the concept, while 23.8 percent oppose an elite army. Even the normally adamant Communist party has given its assent to abolishing conscription. Italians who oppose the draft point

to the irrelevance of the training and frustrating career interruptions. Those in the other camp are concerned about an erosion of democratic principles and totalitarian temptations. And some worry that the standards of discipline will decay.

DISASTER COVERUP?

When a domestic Italian airliner mysteriously crashed in the Mediterranean nine years ago killing 81 passengers, the theories for the disaster ranged from poor maintenance to a bomb. New



Da Vinci's wings gave flight to Batman

evidence now suggests the possibility that the jet was downed by an air-to-air missile. The Italian Air Force has denied any role in the matter and the government is focusing in on the theory that a non-Italian aircraft may have been the culprit. NATO, as well as the French and Americans have claimed innocence.

Nevertheless, traces of a chemical used exclusively in high-powered missiles was reported found on pieces of the recovered fuselage and several bodies, making the theory of skullduggery and coverup very valid.

STILL NUMBER ONE

University of Rochester political science professor John Mueller reckons that the world powers have passed a milestone. It's been nearly 45 years since the end of World War II and there hasn't been a major conflagration between superpowers. This, says Mueller, surpasses the duration of peace that took place after Waterloo (1815). However, the all-time record of world peace was the Pax Romana (Roman Peace) which lasted some 200 years. It was during Italy's watch that Western Civilization was fully established and Christianity born.

ITALIC NOTES

- A recent Sinatra/Minelli/Davis Jr. concert in Japan sold out fast at \$500 per ticket.
- Italian Renzo Piano was awarded Britain's Royal Gold Medal for Architecture. Piano is known for his work at the Pompidou Center in Paris.
- Italic skier Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg has won the World Cup finals in four events, Downhill, Slalom, Giant Slalom, and Super Giant Slalom. He is the first person to win all four in one season.
- Two top Italian designers have defected to Paris. Valentino and Romeo Gigli found Milan too confining. The traitorous duo did not cut a good figure among the more loyal Italians.
- Italian industrialists Gianni Agnelli (FIAT) and Carlo de Benedetti (Olivetti) have published a manifesto favoring a European currency.



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.]

SEX CHAMPS

We aren't certain of her credentials but why contradict Germaine Greer. The Australian author and advocate of sexual liberty just published her personal critique of male lovers. Her hands-down favorite are Italian men! Why? Because they become "utterly absorbed" during passionate mating. Next in line are Americans because "they try so hard."

Obviously not painting all Latins with the same brush, Ms. Greer dismisses Frenchmen as too vain to please anyone beside themselves.

Her fellow Aussies were lambasted as having inherited the "homosexuality of Englishmen" and relegated to the basement along with Arabs in all categories of the beddy arts.

FRIGHTENING FIGURES

The latest statistical studies of American society reveal serious flaws in our morality.

- A research report in *Demography*, a journal for population studies, has concluded that two-thirds of all first marriages will probably end in divorce or separation. Although the actual divorce rate may have declined somewhat since the 1970's and early 1980's, marriages disrupted by separation (without divorce) have risen. There are no indications that the AIDS scare has kept couples together. Age at the time of marriage is a crucial factor in whether partners stay together. Teenagers are twice as likely to part company as are adults. Likewise, the better educated tend to remain married longer. Second marriages are 25% more likely to tear apart than first marriages. The reason: divorced people who remarry already accept divorce as viable alternative to unhappiness.

- A sampling of 11,000 students aged 13 through 15 (25% boys, 42% girls)

found that thirty-four percent had thought seriously about committing suicide. Fifteen percent had inflicted potentially fatal injuries to themselves. The survey was reported by the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta.

GREEN ALIENS

They speak the language, have good educations, work hard but they still live sheltered lives. America's newest illegal aliens are distant cousins of some of America's oldest immigrants — the Irish.



Italsex: the legend continues

Lack of opportunity on the Emerald Isle has sent upwards of 100,000 Irish aliens to our shores. To their misfortune, and that of almost all European immigrants, the current quota system discriminates against ethnic groups who don't have a family here already. Nearly 90% of the annual 600,000 quota is filled by non-European immigrants, mostly Asians and Latinos whose relations first entered the country within the past few decades.

Still, there are many to lend a helping hand to Ireland's sons and daughters including the likes of the "Celtic" city of Boston which has offered free legal aid.

Some members of the U.S. Congress have heard the cries and are sponsoring bills to reinterpret family ties and to give bonus points for skilled immigrants. In the meanwhile, the heavy influx of Irish aliens has prompted some entrepreneurs to start up New York City's second Irish daily — *The Irish Voice* — to compete with the old *Irish Echo*.

NOTE: The American Committee on Italian Migration (ACIM) does not endorse existing and proposed immigration measures since, in its view, Italians are still discriminated against. ACIM proposes quotas by worldwide regions as the only fair allocation, lessening the emphasis on family relationships and individual qualifications.

CAVEWOMAN

After more than two months alone in a Carlsbad, New Mexico cave, interior decorator Stefania Follini has lost track of time and a good deal of her Italic gaiety. Wouldn't you, if were stuck 30 feet below ground and only halfway through a dreary experiment?

Follini, 27, a native of Ancona, Central Italy, volunteered for the ordeal and packed along 400 books to kill time. The experiment is a joint Italian-NASA project to study the effects of solitude during interplanetary voyages. One thing they have already uncovered is that females tend to be less cheerful than males during long periods of isolation. Still, the gutsy *ragazza* is sticking it out.

ITALO-CHINESE ADMIRATION SOCIETY

On November 15, 1988, the Chinese Association for Italian Studies was officially founded in Beijing. Sponsored by the Agnelli Foundation of Torino, the Association is studying how to emulate Italy's economic miracle in China. No doubt the business-wise Italians see the Chinese as hungry for pasta as well as

World Notes



knowledge. After all, didn't Marco Polo introduce *linguine* to the Orient? Or was it the other way round?

CAPONE'S COMPETITION

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the infamous Al Capone was probably the highest paid individual in history, receiving income of \$105 million in 1927. In real dollars that equates to \$600 million today!

The United States Government claims that junk-bond king Michael Milken (Drexel Burnham Lambert, Inc.) earned \$550 million in 1987 to put him in second place. There was one difference between these two entrepreneurs: Milken was an employee, Capone was self-employed.

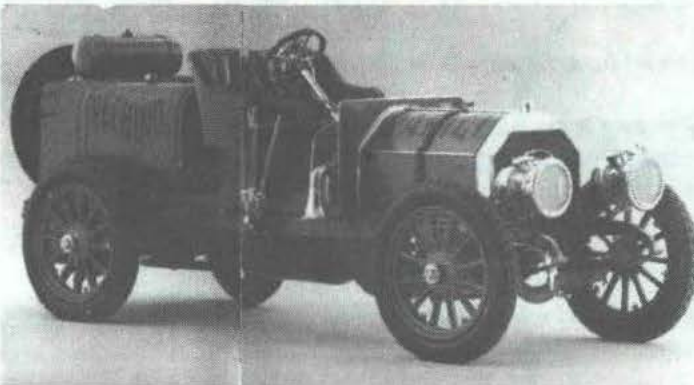
Rather than compare these staggering stipends to his own salary, an analytical reporter for the Wall Street Journal drew up some interesting comparisons: the Louisiana Purchase cost the U.S. \$122 million in 1989 dollars, or, the Gross National Product of the country of Guyana, South America, is \$460 million or the Plaza Hotel's sales price to Donald Trump was \$390 million.

Currently defending himself against a racketeering charge, Milken will surely claim that he is just an honest businessman — the same defense Big Al used.

TURN OF THE CENTURY: TRIUMPH REVISITED

On the 90th anniversary of Fiat, an international automotive tour spanning 13,600 miles and 100 days will be in grand style. The original Peking-Paris

rally held in 1907 had caught the attention of daring young drivers from all across the European continent. Italy's team consisted of Prince Scipione Borghese, his mechanic Ettore Guizzardi and author Luigi Barzini, a budding correspondent for London's Daily Telegraph and Milan's *Corriere della Sera*. Of the promised 25 entries, however, only three teams were present at the starting line on June 10 in Peking: the Italian squad, three French teams and one entry from Holland. Of the three participants, only one



Talk about endurance!

entry was present at the finish line in Paris two months and 16,000 kilometers later—the Italian team, driving the classic "Itala". The French team arrived ignominiously twenty days later; the Dutch never made it, having run out of steam at an earlier juncture in the race.

This year's evocation of this automotive watershed will follow an even longer route—22,000 kilometers (13,600 miles)—and feature a completely restored Itala. The massive participation of Italy's RAI (Italian Radio and Television) and ANSA (the Italian news agency), and the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, should ensure a mammoth celebration. Avanti!

THE BIG TIME

The 1988 standings of non-American corporations are in and here is a quick look:

- The 15 largest (sales) corporations include eleven Japanese, two West German, one Italian (FIAT), and one British.

- Among the 100 largest foreign financial corporations there are only three Italian: Banca Commerciale Italiana, Banco di Roma, and Credito Italiano. The Japanese hold 23 positions.

ENRICO THE FIRST

Pepsico, (Italic Roger Enrico, president), has broken a barrier of sorts with their first prime-time Pepsi commercial in Spanish, without subtitles. The event took place during the February Grammy awards program.

SONS OF AFRICA

The Society for Italic Studies can sympathize with the problems of the ethnic handle. While we try to catch up to the other "ics": Gallics, Celts, Hispanics, and Slavics, Black Americans haven't quite decided what to call themselves either. Centuries ago, back in the old country, they were classified by tribe. In American captivity they were Blacks or Coloreds. In the 1950's they were Negroes, in the 60's Blacks, and now some want to be referred to as African-Americans. As recent Time Magazine polled revealed that the majority of Blacks, 61% prefer the term Black while only 26% like African-American. However the poll was enough to convince Time's editors that both terms would be standard in their magazine.

Hey! How about *Afric*?



Editorial

A LESSON TO BE LEARNED

In their headlong rush to the melting pot at the end of the rainbow, many first-generation Americans of Italian origin denied their classical heritage. Browbeaten by the Anglo-Saxon majority, they became ignorant of Livy and Juvenal. Machiavelli was meaningless. And who were Dante and Manzoni? Glorified spaghetti vendors?

The result of this cultural amnesia accounts for the stunted, almost surreal image of Italo-Americans in the media today. Despite one of the nation's highest income levels and superior academic credentials, the sons of Aeneas fare no better than the one-dimensional, papier-mache machismo of Vinnie Terranova and Sonny Steelgrave.

Clearly, the promulgation of Italic culture and the study of the mother tongue are imperatives for all Italo-American organizations. However, down deep there has been a reluctance, even an ignorance, among Italic organizations to address the true roots of cultural continuity — our children. Those who would keep the spirit of Augustus and Columbus alive attempt to fulfill their mission by way of the adults rather than with the youngsters. There will be no Italic future in America if they are left unattended.

A recent Sons of Italy victory in persuading the College Board to reinstate the Italian Achievement Test may be short-lived if no demand is created among students to study Italian. Surely the vast majority of youngsters do not choose to take a foreign language just because there is a test in store for them. Youth must be served and preferably in small doses. The earlier we introduce Italic Studies to children the greater will be the potential for creating a demand for Italian in the school system.

The Society takes immense pride in the development of the Aurora Program (see page 18) as a unique method of whetting the children's appetite for a heritage and language that is always relevant to their daily lives. If, for example, every filial Lodge of the Sons of Italy, and there are hundreds throughout the U.S., emulated the Cellini Lodge of New Hyde Park, NY, in sponsoring an Aurora class, there would be some 9,000 students per year demanding Italian language in the schools.

And maybe, just maybe, it would rid us of all those wiseguys.

- Rosario A. Iaconis

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS

America prides itself on being a model of pluralism. And the study of foreign languages is openly encouraged in our schools. However, there is a cultural bias toward Spanish that pervades both our schools and our media. One can see the manifestation of this in such programs as *Sesame Street* where basic Spanish phrases are sprinkled among the other lessons. Such early introduction of a particular foreign language creates a disposition on the part of the child and parent to continue the process. That being the case, parents must overcome a double challenge if they wish to introduce their own cultural tongue to their children — the first to overcome the child's fear of language and the second to undo the confusion of Spanish. One challenge is enough.

- Rosario A. Iaconis

The Italic Way™

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Forum of the People



THE SELECTED QUOTES OF GORE VIDAL

He is probably the most outspoken of Italic authors, or any author for that matter. His wit and sarcasm are rooted in the Roman school of which Juvenal was the foremost pupil. The latter was famed for going one better the famous quote of Vergil, "Beware of Greeks bearing gifts," by further defaming his ancient Hellenic antagonists as, "once great but never honest."

Obviously, Mr. Vidal, playwright and author of the books *Burr*, *Lincoln*, *Empire*, et al., does his best to similarly provoke thought.

On His Ancestry:

...the Vidals were a Venetian family who came to the U.S. in the 1860's... Upon arrival (1848) in the Great Protestant Republic, the Roman Catholic Vidals had promptly turned Protestant. The Gores were Anglo-Irish from Donegal. They arrived in North America at the end of the seventeenth century.



Gore Vidal

tously, noted. After all, an educated electorate would not have elected him president.

On the Writing of History:

All we have is a mass of more or less agreed-upon facts about the illustrious dead, and each generation tends to rearrange those facts according to what the times require.

On Hispanics

...the Mexicans refer to our southern states as "the occupied lands," which Hispanics are now, quite sensibly, filling up.

American Education:

Teaching is a great and essential profession, marvelously ill-practiced in our country as was recently demonstrated when half of today's college freshmen could not locate on an unmarked map of the world, the United States.

Things started to go wrong with the schools after the First World War. The past was taught less and less, and Latin and Greek ceased to be compulsory. Languages were either not

"From V-J Day 1945 to this has been, my fellow countrymen, a perfect nightmare."

Observations on Italy and His Neighborhood in Rome:

By and large, the shops are exactly like the shops of two thousand years ago, as preserved at Pompeii and Ostia.

Italians buy more pills per capita than any other nationality. Luckily, they usually forget to take them.

At sundown, motorcycled adolescents park on the sidewalk and swig fruit drinks. Efforts to get them on drugs or alcohol have so far failed: This is an old city.

Two blocks to our north, back of the Pantheon, Thomas Mann lived and wrote *Buddenbrooks*. Nearby, George Eliot stayed at the Minerva Hotel. Ariosto lived in Pantheon Square; Stendahl was close to us. I myself have written at least a part of every one of my books from *Washington, D.C.*, to *Lincoln* in this flat. The last chapters of *Lincoln* were composed on the dining room table.

Ronald Reagan:

Obviously, there is a great deal wrong with our educational system, as President Reagan recently, and rather grati-

taught or taught so badly that they might just as well not have been taught at all while American history books grew more and more mendacious.

On Western Europe:

We should withdraw from NATO. Western Europe is richer and more populous than America. If it cannot defend itself from an enemy who seems to be falling apart even faster than we are, then there is nothing that we, proud invaders of Grenada, can effectively do.

The United States:

The last best hope of earth, two trillion dollars in debt, is spinning out of control, and all we can do is stare at a flickering cathode-ray tube as Ollie "answers" questions on TV while the press, resolutely irrelevant as ever, asks politicians if they have committed adultery. From V-J Day 1945 to this has been, my fellow countrymen, a perfect nightmare.

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Books



THE ROMAN EMPERORS

A Biographical Guide To The
Rulers of Imperial Rome
31 BC - 476 AD

By Michael Grant

*It is only the ignorant who despise
education.*

- Pubilius

The three R's have been the mainstay of America's educational system since McGuffey printed his first rough-hewn reader. But readin', writin' 'n' 'rithmetic make for an incomplete curriculum without a fourth and more clas-

disseminated today. Rome's Italianization of the West, a seminal event to turn-of-the-century students, was eclipsed by the overzealous Oriental view of Hollywood's decrepit film moguls. One of tinseltown's favorite themes has been the villification of the men who presided over this pragmatic, progressive, multi-racial empire of yore — the Roman emperors

Michael Grant's book, while tainted by this pejorative perspective, attempts to provide an unbiased account of both the venal and the virtuous.

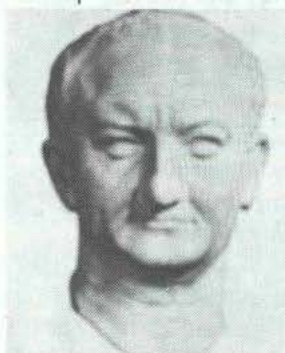
Augustus, the first true Roman emperor, is portrayed as one of history's greatest administrators. He embodies the very concept of princeps or emperor. His

peninsula. He enjoyed excellent relations with the Senate and presided, in the words of Gibbon, over one of the "most happy and prosperous" eras in human history. These quiet years may have contributed to the German problem that faced Antoninus' successor, Marcus Aurelius.

Though renowned as the author of the *Meditations*, Marcus Aurelius had been tempered by his reign at the frontline. This accounts for his statesman-like solution to the Empire's pressing German problem. Aurelius systematically assigned these barbaric northerners to settlements in a variety of territories — Dacia, Pannonia, Moesia, Germany and Italy itself. The settlers were thus tied



Augustus: 41 years in power



Vespasian: Builder
of the Colosseum



Antoninus Pius



Marcus Aurelius

sical R — Roman History.

Only the ill-informed can deny Rome's profound impact on the development of the United States. Indeed, our Founding Fathers were steeped in the saga of the city by the Tiber. Both Franklin and Jefferson, confirmed Italophiles, strongly admired the Roman state's internal equilibrium. Taking a cue from Polybius, they used it as a model for the fledgling colonies' system of checks and balances between the executive, legislative and judicial branches. The Roman Senate served as a blueprint for that of the nascent American republic. And Washington, D.C.'s architecture is derivative of Roma Aeterna.

Yet, though much of Rome's glory has been documented in the pages of history, little is remembered, taught or

Pax Romana brought forth an era of unimaginable peace and prosperity to "an unprecedented proportion of the population for more than two hundred years." A kind and gentle man, albeit intolerant at home, who wrote warm letters to his relatives, Augustus nonetheless wielded power with maximum efficiency. One may well detect aspects of Augustus in Machiavelli's prince.

Other emperors who receive Mr. Grant's special attention include Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius. Antoninus Pius is known as the principal architect of Rome's Golden Age. Antoninus sought to "confirm and reinstate Italy as the sovereign country of the Roman world." To that end he spent money wisely on bridges, baths, amphitheatres and charitable institutions in the Italian

legally to Roman soil, relieving pressures on the Empire's frontiers and bringing potentially explosive Teutons under imperial control.

Mr. Grant's biographical guide is not without its flaws. He dwells excessively on the foibles of Caligula, Nero and Claudius — no doubt in deference to popular expectations. It is a sad commentary that the palace intrigues of Ancient Rome are more well known to the modern audience than the depredations of Stalin, Pol Pot, and Mao.

To his credit, however, Michael Grant concludes his book by quoting Gibbon's paen to the Eternal Empire. Rome's demise, wrote Edward Gibbon, "will ever be remembered, and is still felt by the nations of the earth."

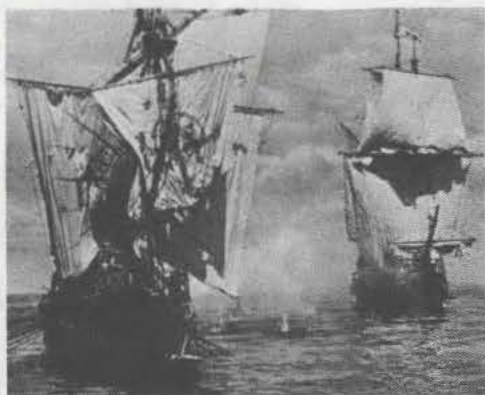
- Rosario A. Iaconis



Focus

RAFAEL SABATINI: KING OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS

A crescent of emeralds flashed from his snowy turban; above it rose the peak of a steel cap, and his body was cased in chain mail. He swung a great scimitar, before which Spaniards went down like wheat to the reaper's sickle. He fought like ten men, and to support him poured a never-ending stream of Muslimeen to the cry of "Din! Din!



**The Sea Hawk in action
(Errol Fynn)**

Allah, Y'Allah!" Back and yet back went the Spaniards before that irresistible onslaught.

Thus reads a passage from *The Sea Hawk*, a spirited tale of swordplay on the high seas. Set in the heyday of Spanish power, it blends action, romance and historical fact in spectacular Italianate fashion. Small wonder that readers in the English-speaking world regarded the author, Rafael Sabatini, with a mixture of awe and affection. Hardened by the technological horrors of the war to end all wars — World War I — they

yearned for a simpler day. His passionate prose transported them to a realm where a man lived by the mettle in his heart and the steel in his scabbard. And where, by dint of his courage, he could enrapture a lovely young maiden.

A tall, well-built man with flashing hazel eyes, Rafael Sabatini evinced a swashbuckling mien. He bore a striking

resemblance to one of his subjects, Cesare Borgia, and was thoroughly likeable. His recreational activities included the usual pursuits of the outdoorsman: salmon fishing and skiing — the Alps, of course. But Sabatini's greatest avocation was history, a passion nurtured in his native Italy.

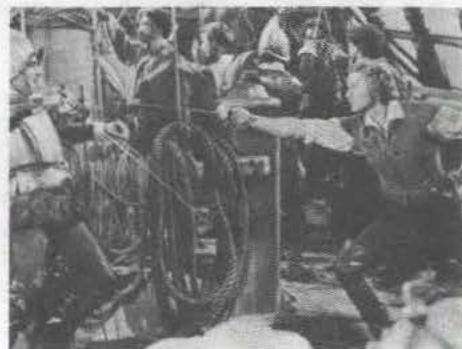
Born at Jesi in Le Marche, central Italy, Sabatini was the scion of Maestro-Cavaliere Vincenzo Sabatini and Anna (Trafford) Sabatini (an Englishwoman). Italy's rich cultural legacy, replete with magnificent palaces and ancient edifices, imbued young Sabatini with a reverence for the past. Combining this love of history with a bold Italic spirit, Sabatini decided on a career as a novelist. He had learned English from his mother, and after attending some of the finest schools in Europe, settled in Britain. A brief stint in the world of commerce finally convinced Sabatini to follow his dream — writing historical fiction.

Sabatini's first novel, *The Tavern Knight*, was published in 1904



**A conquering cavalier
(The Sea Hawk)**

and immediately established him as a writer in the classic Alexander Dumas tradition. A spellbinding narrative and vivid dialogue evoked the courtly heroism of yesteryear. If chivalry was dead, Sabatini had revived it in the pages of fiction. Curiously enough, one of the author's chief competitors was a man later to achieve distinction in other



Crossed swords (The Sea Hawk)

Focus



For the lady's honor
(Tyrone Power, *The Black Swan*)

circles — Winston Churchill.

In 1905, Sabatini married, settled in Herefordshire and continued producing novels at a prolific pace. He wrote at least one book per year up until the First World War. But even that great conflict — and a tour of duty in the British Intelligence Office — failed to deter him from the genre he loved. The success of *The Sea Hawk* in 1915 catapulted Sabatini to international prominence. Buoyed by this acclaim, he plunged into his work with relish. In 1922, *Scaramouche*, a tale of intrigue during the French Revolution, proved to be one of literature's most captivating historical romances. (*Scaramouche* was derived from the Scaramuccia, a stock character



The gentleman pirate
(*Captain Blood*)

of the Italian theatrical form known as the commedia dell'arte. Tiberio Fiorillo, the noted 17th century actor, had portrayed the quintessential Scaramuccia in Italy. No doubt, Sabatini drew upon this knowledge.) *Scaramouche* was soon followed in 1922 by *Captain Blood*, the rousing story of an Englishman driven to piracy by injustice.

Sabatini had gained celebrity in the United States with a novel about the American Revolution called *The Carolinian*. The book was dramatized in 1940 as a full-length motion picture. However, it was in other film incarnations that the author's vision caught the American public by storm. Errol Flynn's scintillating interpretation of the English adventurer in *The Sea Hawk* was a box-office bonanza. And his *Captain Blood* in the film of the same name earned Sabatini's creation celluloid stardom. At once swashbuckling and suave, Flynn was the epitome of the cavalier. Tyrone Power lent his Latinate good looks and dignity to Sabatini's *The Black Swan* in 1940. And Stewart Granger provided a polished performance in *Scaramouche* (1952).

Readers and dreamers alike owe an enormous debt to Rafael Sabatini. A master craftsman, he fashioned tales of the sword that touch the heart. His novels brought adventure and spontaneity to millions. And like *Scaramouche*, "he was born with a gift of laughter" — and a sense of man's innate nobility. Most of all, Rafael Sabatini's works exemplified an ancient Italic belief: invincible human will against insurmountable odds.

— Rosario A. Iaconis

THE SABATINI LIBRARY

The Tavern Night, 1904; *Bardielys the Magnificent*, 1906; *The Trampling of the Lilies*, 1906; *Love-at-Arms*, 1907; *the Shame of Moiley*, 1908; *St. Martin's Summer*, 1909; *Anthony Wilding*, 1910; *The Lion's Skin*, 1911; *The Life of Cesare Borgia* (history), 1912; *The Justice of the Duke*, 1912; *The Strolling Saint*, 1913; *Torquemada and the Spanish Inquisition* (history); *The Gates of Doom*, 1914; *The Sea Hawk*, 1915; *The Banner of the Bull*, 1915; *The Snare*, 1917; *The Historical*



The heroic duel
(Stewart Granger, *Scaramouche*)

Nights' Entertainments, 1918-1038; *Scaramouche*, 1921; *Captain Blood*, 1922; *Fortune's Fool*, 1923; *The Carolinian*, 1925; *Bel-larion*, 1926; *The Nuptials of Cor-bal*, 1927; *The Hounds of God*, 1928; *The Romantic Prince*, 1929; *The Minion*, 1930; *The Chronicles of Captain Blood*, 1931; *Scaramouche the Kingmaker*, 1931; *The Black Swan*, 1933; *The Stalking Horse*, 1933; *Heroic Lives*, 1934; *Venetian Masque*, 1934; *Chivalry*, 1935; *The Fortunes of Captain Blood*, 1936; *The Lost King*, 1937; *The Sword of Islam*, 1938; *Master-At-Arms*, 1940; *Columbus*, 1942.



Perspectives

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

Of Crimes and Punishment

by Dominic R. Massaro

The name of Cesare Bonesara, the Marquis de Beccaria, is hardly known in the United States today. Yet, as much as any other, it is he who inspired our attitudes on the subject of criminal justice.

It is not an exaggeration to regard his treatise on crimes and punishments as foreseeing all of the important reforms in the administration of criminal justice which the civilized world today considers commonplace. A re-reading of his ideas reveals them as fresh and as timely as when they were penned.

It should be remembered that Beccaria wrote his words during an era when English law was a brutal ordeal. Death by hanging was inflicted with incredible frequency, even for small thefts. By the time George III ascended the throne in 1760, eighty-six crimes were so punishable. Silence (as in the 5th Amendment) was not a choice. Recourse to the torment of iron weights to break one's body, often resulting in death, was often the court's alternative.

While the English tradition is clearly visible in our system of law, there is no doubt that the writings of Beccaria are responsible for an attitude that prevailed throughout America's period of constitution-making. The first laws of the Federal government show Beccaria's influence. The Constitution promulgated at Philadelphia provides for trial by jury; it prohibits ex post facto laws and bills of attainder. Other provisions were added in the amendments to the Constitution in 1791. In his autobiography, Jefferson writes "Beccaria...had satisfied the reasonable world of the unrightfulness and inefficacy of the punishment of crimes by death; and hard labor on roads, canals and other public works, had been suggested as a proper substitute. The

[Founding Fathers] had adopted these opinions..." The new American laws limited the death penalty to the crimes of treason and murder.

Beccaria was born at Milan, in 1738. The son of aristocratic parents, he received his schooling at the Jesuit College in Parma, and was graduated in law from the University of Pavia in 1758. Within six years, at 26, he would be famous. His publication, *Dei delitti e delle Pene* (Livorno, 1764), later published under the title, *An Essay on Crimes and Punishments* (London, 1767), was enthusiastically received and widely acclaimed. Sixty editions would follow in a score of languages.



Cesare Beccaria

Inspiration of the Founding Fathers

Chief amongst his admirers was Voltaire, the most popular writer of the century. In his *Commentary*, Voltaire endorsed almost all of Beccaria's ideas and stressed the urgency of penal reforms. Many of the principles contained in that celebrated French document, the Declaration of the Rights of Man, are taken almost word for word from Beccaria's treatise.

Beccaria's great popularity in America was already significant. John Adams, when he took up the defense of the British soldiers implicated in "The Boston Massacre," paraphrased

Beccaria's Introduction to an unfriendly 1770 court:

"I am for the prisoners at the bar, and shall apologize for it only in the words of the marquis Beccaria: 'If I can be the instrument of preserving one life; his blessings and tears of transport shall be a sufficient consolation to me for the contempt of all mankind.'"

None were found guilty of murder, and the trial was a great success for Adams. So highly prized was Beccaria's book that Adams willed it to his son.

The finest testimony to Beccaria's place in the development of criminal justice came from England, birthplace of the Magna Carta. Jeremy Bentham, a famous English jurist and a disciple of Beccaria, could not refrain from addressing his mentor: "Oh, my master, first evangelist of reason, you who have raised your Italy so far above England..."



Justice Dominic R. Massaro

This is a condensed version of Justice Dominic R. Massaro's recent article in the *New York State Bar Journal* on the influence of 18th Century Italian criminologist Cesare Beccaria. Justice Massaro is a member of the Society and the national president of the Sons of Italy's Commission for Social Justice.

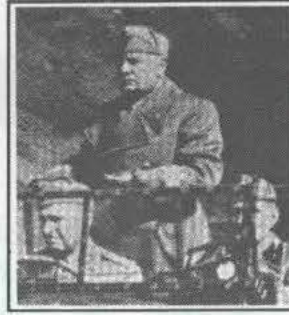
Perspectives



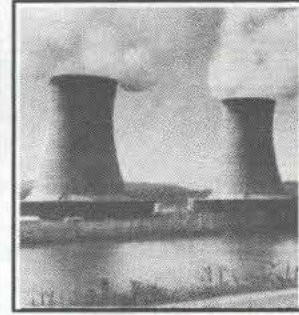
A future fuehrer



Disaster on Sunday



The Duce's blunder



Science falls
Three Mile Island

OH EVIL DAY!

by John Mancini

I never used to be superstitious. Well, maybe I still "knock wood" occasionally and refuse to count money on a bed (my mother's admonition) but things like Friday the 13th and black cats never much fazed me. Until — a couple of years ago while browsing through the Sunday paper I came across one of those etymology sections. You know the kind, where they tell you the evolution of words. So here was the word *dismal* which was derived from two Latin words *dies mali* or "evil days". The author then described how the Romans feared evil days and went so far as to mark them on their calendars.

How did they know which days were evil? Probably, they were related to some disaster or sinister event in the distant Roman past. In any case, the superstitious Romans took special note of them and no business could be legally transacted on those days. Laugh if you will but you can't quibble with success. Rome survived a thousand years with this obsession.

My skepticism gave way to grudging belief last winter when I scheduled a one-day business meeting in Detroit. The day was January 25th, a definite "evil day". I booked a one-day round trip from LaGuardia and planned to be home by supertime. That afternoon, however, LaGuardia got socked with a storm and I was stuck in a Detroit motel without a shave kit or change of underwear. I should have known!

Further research uncovered a surprising correlation between the Roman evil days and some historical calamities. Here is a sampling:

<u>Evil Day</u>	<u>Notable Event</u>
March 1	Italians defeated at Adowa, Ethiopia, 1896
March 28	Three Mile Island nuclear accident, 1979
April 20	The Hitler family has a "blessed" event, 1889
June 10	Mussolini declares war on the Allies, 1940 (He, of all people should have known!)
September 21	Vergil, Rome's greatest poet dies, 19 B.C.
October 3	St. Francis dies, 1226
November 28	Cesare Beccaria dies, 1794 (mentor of our Founding Fathers)
December 7	Pearl Harbor, 1941.

For your convenience, dear reader, I have listed all 24 "evil days" in a handy wallet-sized cutout. Merely consult the list in advance and do not travel or conduct any business on these days. And if possible confine yourself to bed — alone — we wouldn't want any accidents would we?

Roman Evil Days

January	1 and 25
February	4 and 26
March	1 and 28
April	10 and 20
May	3 and 25
June	10 and 16
July	13 and 22
August	1 and 30
September	3 and 21
October	3 and 22
November	3 and 28
December	7 and 22



Project Italia

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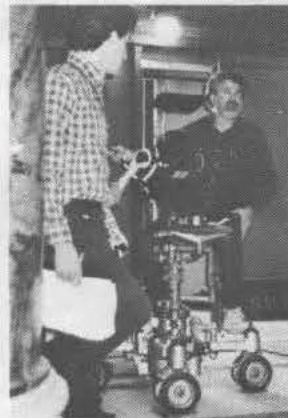
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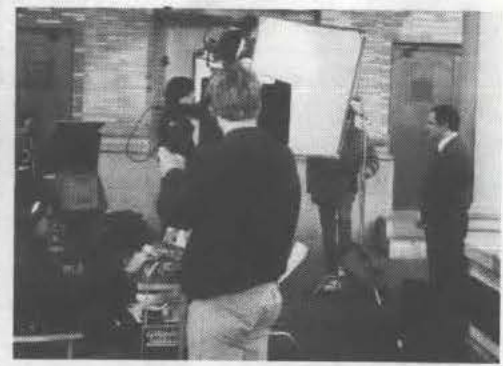
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Samuel J. Francis, Pres.



Tony LoBianco, Frank Vitale and Christine Valentine in a huddle.



Frank astride his camera dolly



Last minute preparation

“LIGHTS, CAMERA & ACTION” WITH FRANK VITALE

by John Mancini

I had the opportunity to be present at the filming of our Project Italia promo film in the Bronx in April. It was tedious, repetitive, and sometimes frustrating but immensely interesting.

Frank Vitale, production chief for Project Italia, is as meticulous as he is patient. And I am quite certain that you need the one virtue to achieve the other. Anyone who has witnessed the not-so-glamorous art of filmmaking will understand what I am talking about. The scene composition, the scores of lighting, sound, and camera adjustments are just some of the incidentals along with scripting, acting, and editing that go into producing a movie. What I saw during that one Saturday in April was a group of professionals executing an almost flawless operation.

It was Frank's baby from start to finish. He drafted the budget, hired the script team (Christine Valentine and Saville Ryan), organized the shoot and presided over it. The five minute script took the full light of a spring day to complete, from 8:00 AM to 7:30 PM. And when the meter is running for the hired help, even a five-minute film can be a budget-buster. But Frank and his team did it right.

During the early planning stage there were two major concerns: would actor Tony LoBianco's busy schedule allow for an April filming, and would the weather be right. Luckily, there was a window of opportunity in Tony's schedule. He was just completing a television pilot the night before and booked to fly to Rome a couple of days later. As for the weather, right up to the night before, the prediction was for heavy clouds and snow (in April!). What we got, despite the insistence of a hundred weather satellites and a maze of forecasting computers, was a gorgeous, sunny day.

At a break in the filming, Tony was “discovered” by a group of ladies touring our locale, the Bronx Community College's Hall of Fame. They were hesitant at first but they knew their man and soon swarmed around Tony for autographs. I must say that Tony is not one to shun crowds and he enjoyed the attention. (Tony, by the way, is also scheduled to perform his one-man show HIZZONER, a story of Fiorello LaGuardia, in Moscow, USSR. There is to be a special presentation to the English-speaking elite of the city. It will be a unique experience for both actor and audience.)

Before I close, credit must be given to some key people for this superb promo film. Of course there is Frank Vitale, producer, Saville Ryan, consultant, Christine Valentine, script writer, Tony LoBianco, narrator, and Tom Agnello, editor. And certainly many thanks to the Bronx Community College for use of the Hall of Fame.

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Aurora

Youth Program

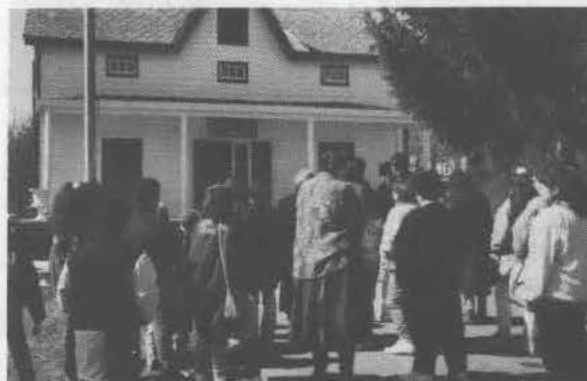
AURORA IN SESSION

For the benefit of new readers, the Aurora Youth Program is one of the four on-going programs of the Society (the others are: *The Italic Way*, *Project Italia*, and the *Altar of Peace*, in Rome). Currently still under development, the program was designed to introduce Italic Studies to pre-teens, aged 10 through 12. With a smattering of Italian language, Latin, history, and daily life in Italy the children are put through their paces using cartoons, crafts, games, contests, and songs. The difference between Aurora and any other Saturday Italian language course is that it's more fun. Our objective is to turn kids on to the Italic culture so that they have a desire to pursue Italian in junior high and high school. A classroom and a professional Italian teacher are provided by a sponsoring club or group.

This year's class is being underwritten by Cellini Lodge (Sons of Italy) and is offered to children for the nominal fee of \$10 per level (there are two levels of seven sessions each). The class has attracted 24 boys and girls from eight surrounding communities, and only two of the children are related to members of the Lodge. What's more, eleven of the youngsters do not have Italian surnames. We have found over the years that in mixed marriages it is the Italic mother who is anxious to expose her children to her cultural side. Then too, it is common for families who are about to take a trip to Italy to send a child to an Aurora class for the "smattering of Italian..." Whatever the reason, Aurora (translation: *dawn*) is definitely fulfilling a need in the community.



Hal the students in our current class do not have Italian surnames



This old house was home to Garibaldi and the father of the telephone

Each level of study is self-contained, with a fieldtrip on the last day as well as a short graduation ceremony. Because we are within easy reach of the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum in Staten Island, it is customary to bring the Level I class to the museum and have graduation there. This year was no exception and the children got the red carpet treatment from the Sons of Italy, including a tour of the 150-year-old home of Antonio Meucci, inventor of the original telephone, by curator Mae Sealy. Mrs. Sealy was responsible for bringing the Meucci home up to museum status. Her unrestrained love for the house and her intimate knowledge of its former occupants gives the visitor pause to wonder how such a small house could hold such interesting stories.

The fieldtrip continued with lunch at the museum and a return trip via the Staten Island ferry which never fails to excite the kids, no matter how cold the harbor winds are. In all, this brief encounter with the Italic world of language, culture and activities has a lasting effect on the children. Almost all will continue on to Level II, most will enroll in Italian if offered in the schools, and some even lobby their parents to take them to Italy to see what all the fuss is about.

ONE MAN PRODUCTION

To capture the kids in action, our Project Italia staffer Tom Agnello spent the better part of three days filming our classes. The resulting 3-minute film will be a featured presentation at the Society's second annual dinner dance.

Tom performed an amazing feat of field production — recording audio and visual — in a rather small and congested classroom. Moreover, he was responsible for the editing, narration, and music. And it came out great. Talk about low overhead!

DAYS OF THE WEEK

DO YOU KNOW THAT THE ENGLISH DAYS OF THE WEEK WERE NAMED THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO? THAT THEY WERE NAMED FOR PLANETS AND ANCIENT GODS OF NORTHERN EUROPE.

- MONDAY...  ... MOON
- TUESDAY...  ... **TYR** (GOD OF WAR)
- WEDNESDAY...  ... **WODEN** (MESSENGER GOD)
- THURSDAY...  ... **THOR** LIGHTNING GOD
- FRIDAY...  ... **FREY** (FERTILITY GOD)
- SATURDAY...  ... **SATURN**
- SUNDAY...  ... **THE SUN**

IN ITALIAN, SOME OF THE DAYS ARE ALSO NAMED AFTER PLANETS AND GODS.

LUNEDÌ (MONDAY)

LUNA (MOON)

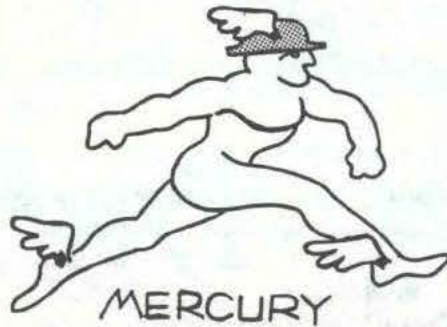


MARS (GOD OF WAR)



MARTEDÌ (TUESDAY)

MERCOLEDÌ (WEDNESDAY)



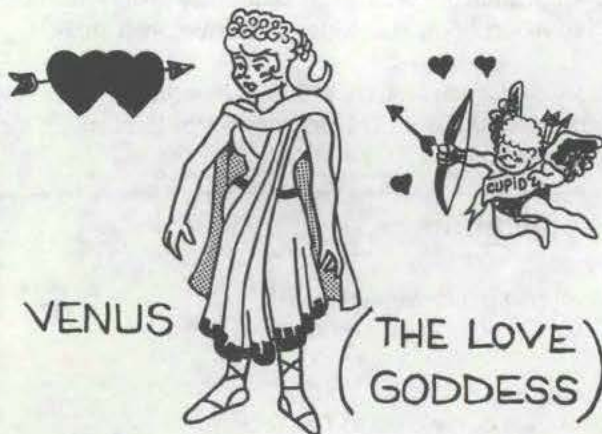
MERCURY (THE MESSENGER GOD)

GIOVEDÌ (THURSDAY)



JOVE (THE CHIEF GOD)

VENERDÌ (FRIDAY)



VENUS (THE LOVE GODDESS)

SABATO (SATURDAY)

DOMINUS (LORD'S DAY)



SABBATH FROM THE HEBREW



DOMENICA (SUNDAY)



News of the Society

ELECTION RESULTS

In accordance with the Society's pro tem constitution, elections were held in February. The positions of President and Treasurer are by appointment by the Board of Governors. Voting is done by members of the Plenary Council who nominate and elect the Vice President and Financial Secretary. The President and Treasurer are either confirmed or rejected by the Plenary Council. The results of the voting (registered ballots by all Council members*) was as follows. All officers will serve one year starting March 1st.

For President: John Mancini — 30 Confirm 0 Reject 6 Abstain
For Vice President: Dario Gristina — 30 Confirm 6 Abstain
For Treasurer: George Ricci — 30 Confirm 0 Reject 6 Abstain
For Financial Secretary: Robert DeSiena — 28 Confirm 8 Abstain

* A total of 36 ballots were sent out, 30 or 83% were returned by voters.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO MEET

The Board of Governors is scheduled to meet in the month of April to discuss the following agenda:

- Adoption of the pro tem constitution as a corporate resolution..
- Discussion of a corporate name change to the Institute of Italic Studies (ISI)
- Long range goals of Project Italia, Aurora, The Italic Way, and Ara Pacis.
- Affiliation with other groups.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Members of the Society bought 90 seats for the preview of the HIZZONER, a one man Broadway show about Fiorello LaGuardia starring actor Tony LoBianco. The Saturday night outing included dinner at Giordano's Restaurant, buses to and from the theater, and coffee with dessert. The evening was capped off with a special visit by Mr. LoBianco. Among the attendees was the Consul General of Italy, Francesco Corrias, and Mrs. Corrias.

Tony LoBianco's performance was excellent and the entire night turned out to be well planned and executed. Special thanks went to Plenary Council members Candice Smith, Edward Bonardi, Dennis Mancini, and John LoBianco for perfect coordination.

PROJECT ITALIA

Meetings by the Board of Governors and the Plenary Council will focus on a major fundraising effort to produce the one-hour documentary on the Italic people. Since raising the \$1 million necessary to make the film is a serious challenge, professionals will be brought in to lead the effort. Plans call for the formation of a prestigious committee to draw attention to the effort. The first order of business will be to identify potential members of the committee and secure their support.

The commemorative coin (Knowledge & Commerce) scheduled for production in April, 1989 will be struck in silver as well as bronze. At the same time, last year's Unity & Peace coin will be restruck in silver. This decision by the Executive Council is part of the Society's desire to develop a high-scale educational product line.

New Member Application

Name _____
Address _____

General Membership (non-voting) \$10
Plenary Council (voting & officeholding) \$50

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Announcements

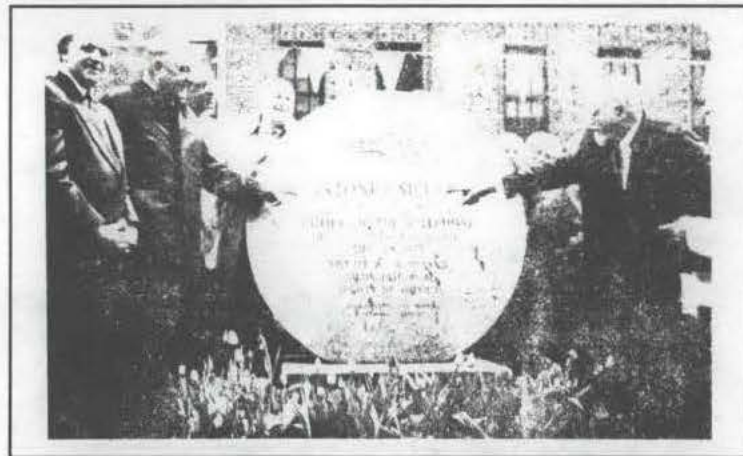
[We welcome news from all Italic organizations. Tell us what projects you have underway and any activities you are planning or have completed.]

ANTONIO MEUCCI HONORED

When last we met John Napoleon LaCorte (we interviewed him in our very first issue) he was still fired up, even after 79 years, to do battle for his favorite underdog, Antonio Meucci, father of the telephone.

Well, just about one year later, LaCorte was able to translate his fervor into action. Obtaining a chiseled stone marker valued at \$10,000 from the Ottavino family of Queens, NY, and bringing together special guests from Italy as well as local political circles, LaCorte unveiled his monument to the Staten Island inventor — right across from one of Ma Bell's headquarters buildings. It was not so much an act of defiance, on LaCorte's part, as an attempt to remind the giant that a poor Italian immigrant had much to do with their success. As he puts it,

"We're not looking for any remuneration or compensation, just that history books, encyclopedias and almanacs indicate Antonio Meucci as the inventor of the telephone, and Alexander Graham Bell as the promoter and commercializer of the telephone."



The new monument is just across the street from a building owned by Alexander Bell's telephone company. (John LaCorte is at the far right)

Among those present at the ceremony were a color guard from the U.S. Coast Guard, veterans of the Italian Army's elite Bersaglieri, and assorted representatives of the governor's office and the boroughs of Brooklyn and Staten Island. Authors Carmen Gallo and Dr. Francesco Nicotra, whose biography on Meucci will be released this year in the U.S. and Italy, were also on hand.

Existing research indicates that Meucci, a stage engineer by trade, worked extensively with electricity and came upon his "teletrofono" quite by accident while applying electric therapy (a common practice in the 1800's) to an ailing and vocal patient. Having brought his instrument to a practical state by 1871, Meucci took out a caveat on his device but could not afford a patent. In an effort to find a backer and facility for further experiments, he entrusted his drawings and papers to the Western Union Company which promptly "lost" them. In 1876 Bell and another claimant filed for a telephone patent, and on the same day! Unfortunately, Meucci suffered a boating mishap that left him in poverty and even poorer physical condition. His wife even had to sell his "teletrofono" to a junk dealer to pay his bills. With little or no evidence to support his claim, Meucci and his supporters were unable to win a judgement against Bell. That is where the story almost ends. John LaCorte, et. al. want to continue the battle.

And lest we underestimate the white-bearded Napoleon, remember he fought against supermen Robert Moses and Nelson Rockefeller to give Giovanni da Verrazano his due.

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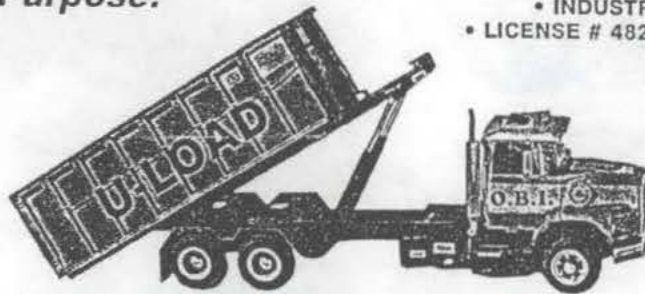
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