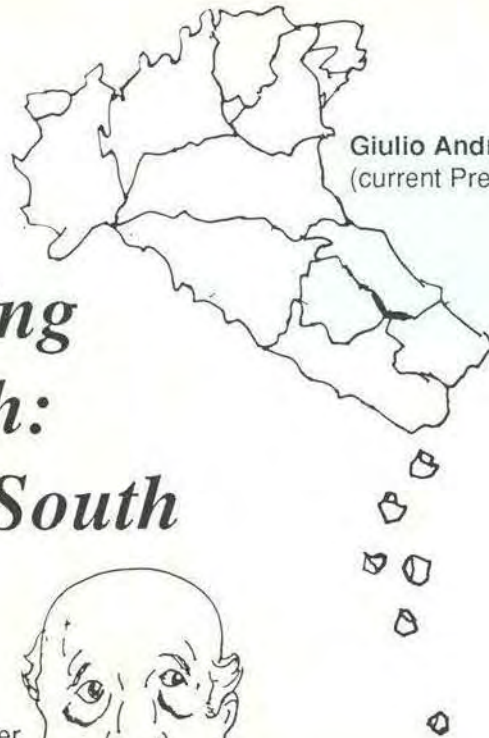


THE ITALIC WAY



The Newsletter of the Society for Italic Studies, Inc.

Italy's Enduring Myth: North vs. South



Giulio Andreotti, Northerner
(current Premier of Italy)



Ciriaco DeMita, Southerner
(former Premier of Italy)



Jaconis '89

IN THIS ISSUE:

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Letters

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

GOOD WORK

I found your first copy of the Newsletter very informative, interesting and intellectual. Good luck in your endeavors.

**Frances Viviani,
Garden City, NY**

AGAIN WITH THE ITALIC!

Permit me to add a thought to your excellent answer to Thomas Constantino's question about the title of your magazine. Webster's Second International dictionary says "*Italic* adj. 1. Of or pertaining to ancient Italy or its peoples. 2. Relating to modern Italy or to its people." Thus the title is very appropriate.

Yes, italic is also a type face, but now we understand a broader meaning.

The Italic Way is very promising. It may be just what I've been hoping for — expansion and reflection on my own knowledge of the land of my parents, my other country, and also a way to teach my American children more about their venerable origins. Saluti.

**Ben Calderone,
Levittown, NY**

ORGAN GRINDER

Thought you might be interested to see that folks can still buy "organ-grinder" cards at their local stationers. These greeting cards make fun of foreigners. The catch is that they are only available with Italian characters. I asked the storekeeper why only Italians and he told me they were his best sellers.

**Louis Carnaro,
Franklin Square, NY**



LOOKING FOR ANCESTORS

Thanks for the complimentary copy of *The Italic Way*. I enjoyed it and I hope the Society flourishes.

I wonder if any of your readers can give me some ideas on how to research one's ancestry in Sicily. No one in the

family thought to draw on their memory while they were living and we are left with very little knowledge about their parents. I made a little headway in the Calascibetta branch, but the trail petered out around the 1880's. I understand that before that period all birth and death records were the responsibility of parish churches, of which which there are many, even in small towns like Calascibetta. I have been advised to try the Mormon church in Salt Lake City, but can't believe they have penetrated the hills of Sicily in their genealogical research. If anyone can offer some advice I would be grateful.

**S.P. Sutera,
Clayton, MO**

[The fact of the matter is that the Mormons do go everywhere to microfilm actuarial records. Their goal is to convert both the living and the dead to Mormonism and they want all the names they can get. Even small villages in Sicily may have agreed to the microfilm request because it would be an opportunity to obtain backup copies of their precious records at no cost. - Ed.]

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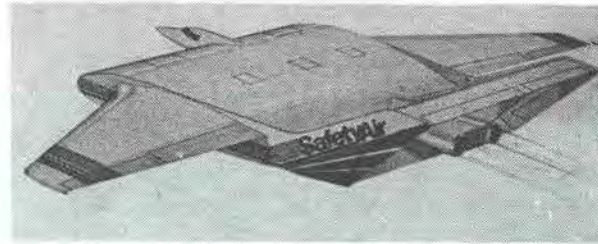
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POST SCRIPTS

The recent air tragedy involving a DC-10 in Sioux Falls, Iowa brought to mind our Winter '89 Perspectives article by Edmund Cantilli. That piece propounded the theory that airplanes can only be safer if fuselages are designed wider and add to the *lift* of the aircraft instead of the *drag*. As such, airplanes could be built with stronger bodies. One can only speculate if such a design might have saved the 110 victims of flight 232

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FUTURE ISSUES OF THE ITALIC WAY

- SICILY - Italic from the start
- PESCOSOLIDO - The man who is Romanizing Harvard.
- AFRICA - A part of Italic history
- MUSSOLINI - A two-parter with many surprises.



All'Italiana

ITALY TO THE RESCUE

Armenia is slowly emerging from the rubble that nearly destroyed many of its hilltop cities almost 10 months ago. But Soviet relief efforts have been criticized as lethargic, inefficient and disorganized. Fortunately, the Italians arrived in the nick of time with sorely needed medical supplies, sturdy shelters and a sophisticated relief effort. Families displaced by the earthquake in the city of Spitak have been moved to sleek, modern mobile homes built by the Italian Government. And an entire section of this city rebuilt by the Italians has been dubbed "the Italian village."

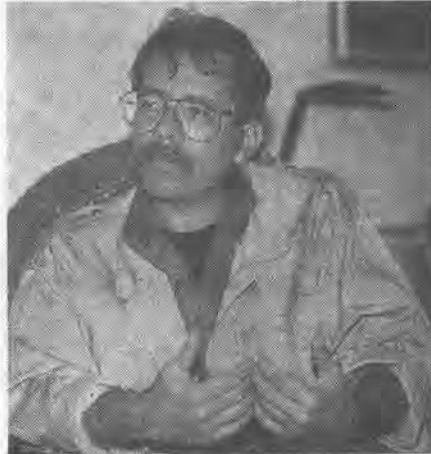
ITALIA GENEROSA

It may come as a shock to those who live on worn-out images of poor Italy but the Italians are the world's fifth largest foreign aid donor. Italy disburses \$4 billion annually (that's dollars not lire!) Recently, the Italians agreed to help the UN Development Program by footing the entire \$115 million bill for a three-year project to save Central American refugees and displaced persons. Although one-fifth of the money will be used in Nicaragua — a Marxist state — Italy's chief of multilateral aid, Manfredo Incisa de Camerana, sees no conflict of interest with the United States. "We think we should help the Nicaraguan government to solve economic problems." The Italians believe they are providing economic assistance to a nation in dire circumstances. Also contemplated is a \$600 million aid package over three years. Move over, Monroe Doctrine.

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

Andrew Cuomo, the son of New York Governor Mario Cuomo, marches to the beat of a different drummer. Instead of wringing his hands in despair over the plight of the homeless in America, the young attorney embarked on an unorthodox course of action. He left a pres-

tigious law firm to create a non-profit company that would build and operate transitional shelters for homeless fami-



...With a little help from his Italian friends

lies. Known as Project HELP, this enterprise is already running facilities throughout the Empire state. Integral to the success of the project is the concept of self-help. Cuomo recognized that the homeless population lacks the educational and social skills to survive in our world. His program teaches unwed, drug-dependent mothers both skills and a sense of values. Project HELP cultivates a sense of family in solving the problem of homelessness. Bravo Andrea!

CABLE LABEL

Whenever a prominent organization or individual attains a certain level of power, legitimacy becomes an issue. That's when the name calling begins. Unfortunately, this labeling usually degenerates into a form of indirect Ital-bashing even if there are no Italians involved. H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman constituted Richard Nixon's German "mafia." JFK's Boston advisors were considered his Irish "mafia." LBJ's larger-than-life coterie was known as the Texas "mafia." Now good old boy Senator Albert Gore from Tennessee is in-

veighing against Cable television's "godfathers." At a recent Senate subcommittee hearing he called the industry the "cable Cosa Nostra." Wouldn't the Klu Klux Kable Company have a better ring to it?

FUSION FEVER

Dr. Francesco Scaramuzzi, a mathematician and physicist at Italy's National Agency for Nuclear and Alternative Energy, led a team of government scientists in achieving nuclear fusion by way of a simple experiment. Although similar to the method employed by American researchers in the now-famous Utah attempt, the Italian foray into fusion made use of different materials and techniques. Unlike the Utah team, the Italians made no claim of measurable energy being generated.

THE ROMAN NOSE

What do you give a man who already owns the world? Well that was a good question back in ancient Italy. With noses as sensitive as they were big, the Romans demanded that even plebes smell, er, tolerable. Perfume, we are informed by a recent exhibit of Roman perfumery at the Emory University in Atlanta, was a major industry in the Roman Empire. In fact, the origin of the word was from *per fumum*, or "through smoke", in reference to the burning of sweet-smelling incense on the altars of ancient Italy. As the Romans spread their bathing habits across the Mediterranean, after-bath perfumes became *de rigueur* among upper and lower classes.

To recreate the essences of antiquity, chemist Giuseppe Donato, one of the curators of the Emory exhibit, worked with archeologists, botanists, and biologists. His resulting assortment of olive oil-based fragrances served to give museum-goers not only a feel for our ancient forebears but a good whiff of them.



All'Italiana

VALIANT KNIGHT

Lido Anthony Iacocca, a.k.a. Lee, returned to the land of his forefathers to receive a rare tribute. In a ceremony evocative of Rome's equestrian heralds, the Chrysler chairman was named a knight of the Italian republic. The only foreigner so honored among 26 business and industry leaders, Iacocca accepted the honor from Italy's President. As such, he was a Michigan Yankee in President Cossiga's Court.

MAFIA MADNESS

No doubt out to make another buck at the expense of the Italic image, character actor Robert De Niro is currently filming a new Mafia movie entitled *Good Fellas*. Maybe De Niro and his mafia-maniac compatriots in Hollywood never had the positive role models the rest of us had growing up. Perhaps if they had read history books instead of movie scripts, the public would be spared their obsession.

ECHOES OF ECO

Guess who's second novel should skyrocket to the top of the best-seller list? Judging from the six-figure amount his book garnered as a main selection of the Literary Guild, it must be Italy's semantical savant, Umberto Eco. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich accepted a \$925,000 floor on the hardcover rights for Eco's latest tome, *Focault's Pendulum*. Although the book won't be published until November 1989, it looks as if things are swinging Umberto's way.

MISCAST

Well, she's not exactly the darling of the Jewish community but she is persistent— sort of takes after her grandfather Benito. Anyway, twenty-four year old Alessandra Mussolini is determined to make it big in Cinecitta' (that's Italy's Hollywood). The green-eyed niece of Sophia Loren has stirred up controversy because of her surname. Five years ago

she lost out on a movie part when some Italian Jews objected to her playing a Jewish woman. Now, however, in a movie being filmed on location in Israel, the *signorina* will finally play a Jewish role, this time as an Israeli soldier. So far so good. Oh, she did manage to offend Israelis, not as a Mussolini but as a tourist. It seems that her mini-skirt was a bit too brief at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. Authorities gave her a shawl to cloak her immodesty.

HIGH TECH GROWS IN AQUILA

Texas Instruments' largest investment outside the United States and Japan— approximately \$250 million — will take place in Italy's Silicon Valley, Aquila. This central Italian region is already the site of Italtel factories, the Selenia Space Division and Mael, a computer manufacturer linked to Olivetti. The major focus of the 520-person Texas Instruments installation will be on producing advanced and highly miniaturized memory chips. However, the project is no lone star effort. Both the Italian Government and Texas Instruments are earmarking matching funds for research and devel-



The leggy Signorina Mussolini

opment. What's more, the Texans will reap the benefit of lucrative financial terms as a result of participation by Italy's Southern fund. And they will

have the advantage of an educated, well-trained work force. Full production is slated for mid-1991.

PRODUCTION DROPS

Mussolini, himself a father of four children, envisioned an Italy of "60 million bayonets" by the year 1960. But despite cash incentives and pro-child propaganda, Italian women never delivered. In fact, today, nearly thirty years beyond the deadline, Italy only numbers some 57.6 million inhabitants. And, as though to spite *il Duce*, the Italian birthrate has plummeted to one of the world's lowest, mainly due to birth control and abortions. Current projections see a drop in the population to under 56 million by the year 2020.

ITALIC ROYALTY

Italic yes, Italian no. Prince Rainier III, 66, of Monaco celebrated the 40th anniversary of his accession to the throne last June. His hereditary rule originates with the Grimaldi clan of Genoa, who took possession of the 388-acre nation in the year 1297. However, by the terms of a 1918 treaty with France, Monaco's future depends on the fertile Grimaldis. If the succession is broken, Monaco reverts to France. So far, of the Prince's three children only Princess Caroline is doing her best to keep the dynasty going by marrying Italian Stefano Casiraghi and producing two more heirs.

SPORTS VICTORIES

Argentine tennis pro Alberto Mancini, 19, won over \$600,000 at the Monte Carlo Open last April. The 31st-ranked pro managed to beat both the number 2 (Mats Wilander) and number 1 (Boris Becker) players, in succession.

In other arenas, Italo-Brazilian Emerson Fittibaldi won the Indianapolis 500, and Mark Calcavecchia of the U.S. clinched the British Open Golf Tournament.



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.]

ITALY vs. THE WORLD

With a 1988 deficit of \$9.5 billion, Italy, like the United States, is coming up short in the global marketplace. Not surprisingly, the major cause of the problem is the Italian appetite. Fully three-fourths of the deficit is caused by the importation of agricultural products. Italian pasta, however, is still a money-maker. Would you believe that Italy sells more pasta to Japan than to the U.S.A.? It's true!

This is how Italy fared against other nations in 1988 trade:

Surplus

United States, France, Britain, Greece, Portugal, Spain

Deficit

Japan, West Germany, Belgium, Netherlands

MISSIONARIES MURDERED

The latest victims of the unrest in the African nation of Mozambique were three Italian Capuchin friars. The friars, who were murdered by anti-government guerrillas this past Spring, were stationed in Mozambique to perform humanitarian work. Italians, both clergy and laity, have had a visible presence in many African nations. As teachers, technicians and medical personnel they have helped improve the standard of living in underdeveloped areas. Moreover, an increasing number of young Africans attend schools in Italy to complete their educations.

The slain missionaries were: Fr. Oreste Saltori, Fr. Francesco Bortolotti, and Fr. Camillo Campanella.

PRO-SEMITIC

Perhaps he rose too fast through the ranks, or maybe nobody bothered to ask. In any case, Jordan Gollub managed to get himself elected to Grand Dragon of the Virginia state Ku Klux Klan. He is probably the first Jew (by birth) to

achieve that dubious honor. Unfortunately, Mr. Gollub's past caught up with him when the KKK's national organization realized that the Klan's anti-semitism was being compromised by Virginia's Grand Dragon. Even after being summarily dismissed by reason of his origins, Mr. Gollub has vowed to fight the decision, even to the point of forming his own Klan.

ITALONOMICS

• A major deal was cut between AT & T and Italtel to upgrade Italy's telecommunications and at the same time build a profitable relationship. The deal calls for Italians to spend \$25 billion and get a 20% stake in the American giant. This Italo-American alliance will give both nations an excellent position to compete in the new Europe of 1992. That is the year all national commercial restrictions are removed.

• Fiat, Europe's largest automaker, broke new ground last Valentine's Day by becoming the first European auto manufacturer to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Affection for the stock is growing. As we go to press, it's open-



Funny, you don't look Japanese.

ing day price of \$34.50 has risen to around \$40.

• Look for more Italian beer at your

neighborhood beverage store. Labatt Brewing of Canada has brought 70% of Birra Moretti, one of Italy's largest brewers. Part of the deal calls for an exchange of markets. (Italians consume approximately half as much beer as North Americans.)

• Italian-American investor Alfred A. Checchi has won his bid to take over Northwest Airlines for the sum of \$3.6 billion. Among others, Checchi beat out Pan Am for this prize.

• Looking for a leader in U.S. banking automation? Try the combination of Olivetti, Bunker Ramo and ISC Systems. When all the ink dries, this three-in-one combo will be a major supplier of all banking computers.

CAVED OUT

In our spring issue we reported on the trials and tribulations of Stefania Follini as she endured life alone in a 200 square foot cave laboratory set up to study the effects of extended periods of life without sunlight. If you haven't heard, the 27 year old Italian lady went the distance and emerged after four months to the cheers of Italian and American researchers. None the worse for the deprivation, Signorina Follini lost 20 pounds and a significant amount of sleep. Without sunlight nor her mensual cycle (which stopped during the experiment) Follini had no way of measuring time. She thought that only two of the four months had passed.

NOT IN MY BLOOD!

Recent anthropological studies do not sit well with the clannish Japanese. Imagine their shock in learning that a bunch of "inferior" aborigines who inhabit a desolate part of their country may have been the genetic source of their much-revered ruling class. Such is the misery that has accompanied new scientific data that links the Ainu, a race akin to Polynesians, and Japan's samurai class.

World Notes



With more body hair, lighter skin, and Europeanlike noses, the samurai of old bore little resemblance to the average Japanese. In fact, after minute analyses of samurai skeletons and historical depictions, Western researchers feel that the proof is overwhelming — Ainu blood made the difference. While not denying it, the race-conscious Japanese are hoping it ain't so.

This is all reminiscent of Adolf Hitler's observation that the busts of the ancient Romans bore no resemblance to the modern Italian. In both cases, the nose knows.

JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS

Perhaps President Bush is on to something. The Commander-in-Chief's ubiquitous use of the word *thing* has gotten him into deep doo doo with the media. Commentators claim it betrays a lack of passion. They urge the President to focus on broad national objectives by adjusting the "vision *thing*." A glance in the pages of history suggests we leave Mr. Bush to his own rhetorical devices. The Romans, a rigorously pragmatic lot, had a thing for *things*. Disdaining the Greek "suffixism", they called public and state affairs "the public *thing*". This '*res publica*' became the more familiar 'republic'. Virgil's Aeneid stated quite clearly that there would be no limits of *things* for the Romans (*nec metas rerum*). Augustus titled his autobiography '*Res Gestae*' — "*Things Done*". If it was good enough for the Emperor, it's a good *thing* for the President.

VATICAN SOUTH

At a cost of \$200 million, the African nation of the Ivory Coast has completed the largest Catholic Church in the world, modeled on St. Peter's in Rome. Three years to build, compared to one hundred

for St. Peter's, the basilica is viewed as a center for Africa's 73 million Catholics.

The Ivory Coast is planning for Pope John Paul II to pick up the annual maintenance cost of \$1.5 million. The Vatican has been silent in the matter, saying only that it was not consulted before or during construction.

Courtesy Time Magazine



Africa Tops the Vatican

SOYBEAN WARS

He married the boss' daughter and turned the company into Italy's second largest private sector company (\$18 billion). Now Raul Gardini of Gruppo Ferruzzi S.p.A, an agricultural giant possessing vast tracts of land around the world including the U.S., has taken the Chicago Board of Trade to court over soybeans. It seems that Ferruzzi has an insatiable need to buy soybeans and has effectively cornered the U.S. market. The Board feels that the Italians just want to speculate *a la* the Hunt Brothers (that was silver) and really don't need all those beans, 30 million bushels of them. Ferruzzi cried foul and claimed it needs the beans and will accept delivery. (The trick in the commodities market is to buy and sell future crops without taking delivery). The Board doesn't want to wait for the crops to come in to see if Ferruzzi is bluffing. They've ordered all excessive contracts in soy futures to be resold.

But Gardini still wants his beans.

SMASHERS

Europe's hopes to win the physics race against the United States have cost them \$660 million. That's what it took to build a new electron-positron collider in Switzerland. And to oversee the world's largest collider, the Europeans put Italian physicist/Nobel Prize winner Carlo Rubbia in charge. The race is to determine if there are any more particles of matter not yet discovered. Huge and powerful colliders are required for such research, what Rubbia's co-scientist Ugo Amaldi calls "precision physics". However, the U.S. has certainly not lost the race. Among its colliders is the world's most powerful — the one at Fermilab, near Chicago. That lab was named for the Italian-American who first split the atom, physicist Enrico Fermi.

ENGLISH CRY ZIO

After years of denial, the British finally admitted that the Italians had surpassed them in economic output. The English capitulated after the highly reputable Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) confirmed that, for the past two years, the Italian economy was the world's fifth largest. The *Financial Times of London* concurred with this official report, adding that Italy had overtaken the United Kingdom in every statistical category. In 1987, Italy accounted for 6 percent of the industrialized world's Gross National Product while Britain could claim 5.4 percent. (France had 7 percent, West Germany 9 percent, Japan 19 percent and the U.S. 36 percent.) The sun has finally set on the sceptered isle. There'll be no more stiff upper Brits.



Editorial

Destroying the Family

Americans are up in arms at the Supreme Court's decision to allow the burning of the American flag but few if any eyebrows have been raised by the New York State Court of Appeals' decision that equates homosexual partnerships with the traditional family. Such an interpretation, while currently limited to the business of passing down rent controlled apartments, is infinitely more dangerous to the future of this nation than a thousand flag-burnings.

The family, as we understand it and as the law recognizes it, came to us from ancient Rome. The concept of a heterosexual partnership entered into through civil law for the purpose of procreation and with the right of divorce by either spouse along with the social equality of women are uniquely Italic concepts evolved over the millenia. That an Italic judge, Vito Titone, wrote the Court's opinion that gay relationships are the equal of this cornerstone of Western Civilization, is contrary to Judge Titone's heritage as well as American society, which already is suffering the effects of family disintegration.

- John Mancini

Above All, Dignity

If power corrupts, a boor with power corrupts viscerally. His brutishness becomes a badge of honor, his brusque demeanor, a show of defiance. Italian Americans have for too long been associated with such behavior. We have yet to shed this reputation. Indeed, we only reinforce it by allowing coarse individuals to represent us. Unlike other groups, we can ill afford heavyhanded politicians with salty tongues. Italian-Americans are held to a different standard. Like Caesar's wife, we must be above suspicion and beyond reproach. We must project a sense of mission, a Roman *gravitas* (dignity). Particularly on the world stage.

When President Bush chose longtime political fundraiser Peter F. Secchia as America's ambassador to Italy, he was met with a chorus of criticism on both sides of the Atlantic. The U.S. Senate was stunned and dismayed. The Italians were furious. Although his heritage is Italian, it appeared his heart was not. Secchia's grandparents hailed from Piedmont in Northern Italy; his views, however, seemed to originate in Hell's Kitchen. Report after report revealed a proclivity for ethnic jokes. [Why does the new Italian Navy have glass bottom boats? To look at the old Italian Navy.] Women were mocked and disparaged. Crude hand gestures were considered permissible. And Mr. Secchia's earthy language shocked Italian journalists who labeled him "ambassador of the dirty words."

The ambassador has adopted the diplomat's *lingua franca* of late.

We remain cautiously optimistic. Still, Mr. Secchia must avoid even the hint of impropriety during his tenure. He must acquaint himself with the imperatives of the Italian Republic. And he must cultivate the *gravitas* of his ancestors if he is to acquit himself with honor.

- Rosario A. Iaconis

The Italic Way™

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Forum of the People



[The following letter was received in response to an inquiry we made to Mr. Bastiano's organization, Ethnic America Intn'l., Corp. Among other activities, Ethnic America produces an Italian American calendar.]

My first and immediate reaction to the name, 'Italic' which you appear to use incessantly, was that it referred to a style of typeface. Then I looked it up in Second Edition of the American Heritage Dictionary and found it to be an adjective:

ITALIC [pronounced either with the long or short 'I'] 1. Of or pertaining to 'ancient' Italy or its people. 3. Of or being a style of printing type patterned upon a 'Renaissance' script with the letters slanting to the right.

Why not use the more up-to-date and more common usage [like Italian] which says a great deal more and relates to modern usage, which, by the way, is more understandable to a larger segment of American society.

Although I enjoyed reading your literature, most of which presented me with a semantic conundrum, and over 80% of which is devoted to Italy and Italian social and political concepts, I don't believe it serves your avowed goals. Italian Americans are, after all, Americans first. Their immediate heritage is American. Their every-day

"I do not think that the majority of Americans of Italian descent... need, want, or give a damn about the ancient or immediate [Italian] culture..."

activities are concerned with making it in America. And they interbreed actively with non-Italian Americans.

I do not think that the majority of Americans of Italian descent — especially first, second and third generation — need, want, or give a damn about the ancient or immediate culture of a country with which they, in fact, have absolutely no political or social connection. Although I, as a scholar and ethnic researchist, appreciate the ancient history of Italy, I have absolutely no interest in things Italian except as they relate to my American pride and sensitivity.

I spent the better part of my adult life, I am now 60, attempting to raise the level of social consciousness of my own people until one day I realized that my own people were the "American" people. And that all any American of whatever ethnic or cultural background really wanted was to be a vital part of America; to enjoy the things that all Americans are entitled to under the constitution.

Why not take up the cudgel for legitimate discrimination causes like a move to force the educational systems across the country to de-anglicize the names of those Italian Americans whose contributions to the greatness of America are hidden within the Anglo-Saxon educational tools. For example: Cristoforo Colombo's name appears as Christopher Columbus, Giovanni Caboto's as John Cabot, etc.

Good luck to you and your organization.

Ciao, mon ami,

'NTONI BASTIANO



REVIEW

The Wings of Italy

- A & E cable television program -
Reviewed by Rosario A. Iaconis

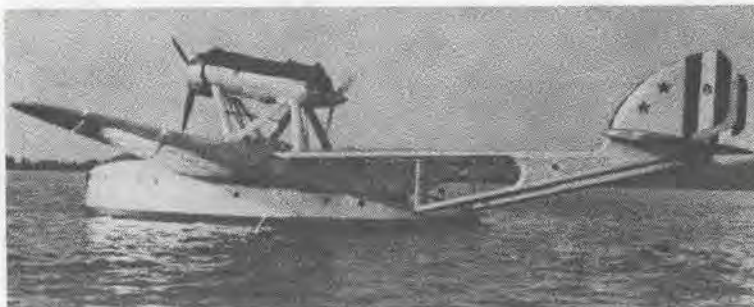
Finally, there's an alternative to the *Bell for Adano* documentaries, films of the oppressed Italian masses chafing under the jackboot of a strutting, power-mad dictator, or buffoonish Italian Army officers singing opera as they surrender. Cablevision's Arts & Entertainment Channel broadcasts a weekly series called *Wings Over the World*. A recent segment featuring *The Wings of Italy* proves that there is light at the end of the cathode tube. Neither fantasy nor propaganda, this program aired a factual, non-biased account of Italian aviation.

Few people realize that the Italians were in the vanguard of aviation. Italy had acquired her Libyan colony in the Italo-Turkish War (1911-1912) partly

as a result of her mastery of the air. Fore-shadowing the dogfights of World War I, the Italians pioneered two new concepts in armed warfare, aerial reconnaissance and aerial bombardment.

By the mid 1920s, Italy's Regia Aeronautica (Royal Air Corps) had developed into one of the world's most prestigious air corps. In competition, Italian planes

usually came out on top. Aerodynamically superior to their rivals, Italy's airships permitted unparalleled maneuverability while aloft. The pride of the peninsula, however, was Mario Castoldi's Macchi, which won the highly coveted Schneider competition against the British in 1926. In 1931, the Macchi 72 earned recognition as one of



One of the 24 Savola Marchetti Seaplanes that flew in formation across the Atlantic in 1933

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REVIEW



the most innovative flight machines ever. And from 1933 to 1934, the Macchi 72 set the world's speed record at 423 mph and 443 mph, respectfully.

In 1933, the Italians outdid themselves by mounting a modern aeronautics miracle. Flying in formation from Rome, a fleet of the Regia Aeronautica crossed the Atlantic to arrive in Chicago and later New York and Washington. The First Marshall of the Italian Air

Force, Italo Balbo, was hailed as the new Columbus and received a tumultuous welcome in each American city. President Roosevelt invited him to the White House for lunch and the Italian American community was enraptured. Having logged 48 hours of flying time and covered 6065 miles, Balbo returned to Italy. Arriving in the ancient Roman port of Ostia, he was met by a jubilant Premier Mussolini and feted with a triumphal march through the Eternal City. This peaceful aerial armada ranks alongside the Spirit of St. Louis and the flight of Apollo 11 as a bold chapter in man's conquest of new frontiers. Ac-

ording to the documentary, "few other air forces—at that time—could have accomplished such a feat." Five years later, on October 22, 1938, Italy attempted to go where no man had gone before. Outfitted in a pressurized suit of armor that resembled a rudimentary spacesuit, aviator Mario Pezzi carried his Gran Caproni skyward, reaching an altitude of 56,046 feet. This set a record and represents an initial attempt to extend beyond

the limits of the stratosphere, a precursor to the space race.

Eastern Front, the Macchi was "capable of outperforming the majority of Russian opposition in the skies." Indeed the Corpo di Spedizione Italiano claimed 88 Russian aircraft for 15 Macchi Saettas.

The Macchi 202 earned a reputation as one of the most efficient destroyers of Allied aircraft, including the renowned Spitfire, that the Axis powers could claim.

the limits of the stratosphere, a precursor to the space race.

the limits of the stratosphere, a precursor to the space race.

The Wings of Italy also details the Regia Aeronautica's success in war. The Ethiopian Campaign (1935-36) was the first time a field army was supplied by air transport, with bombers like the dependable Caproni conducting mass bombing raids. Notwithstanding the immorality of the Italian invasion, Abyssinia was subdued in only 9 months, a feat few if any imperialist nations even today can accomplish with jet aircraft. Many of the airmen who flew in the skies of Addis Ababa later saw combat in Spain. Mussolini dispatched a squadron of Savoia 81/

Eastern Front, the Macchi was "capable of outperforming the majority of Russian opposition in the skies." Indeed the Corpo di Spedizione Italiano claimed 88 Russian aircraft for 15 Macchi Saettas.

After the war, Italy faced the formidable task of rebuilding its economy and military machine. Nevertheless, its long tradition of air power and a gift for aeronautical ingenuity helped the nation regain its primacy. With the Italian designed Fiat G91 Jet, Italy "began to reassert itself in the skies." This aircraft became an integral part of NATO's air defense. Later the Macchi MB 339 put the Italians at the forefront of modern aviation once more.

The Wings of Italy, made in Great Britain, is one of those rare birds, an unbiased documentary. The narrator ends the documentary by paying homage to the countrymen of Leonardo daVinci, whose passion for the air is unequalled anywhere. For once, the Italians are shown to have the right stuff.



Above: Savoia-Marchetti Canguru (Kangaroo). One of the most capable of all Axis transports. Used by the German as well as the Italian air force.



The Fiat Cicogna (Stork) was used by the Japanese in China and WW II. A large force was also used to support the Luftwaffe in Russia



Macchi c.202 Folgore (Lightning)



Focus

NORTH vs. SOUTH:

By Rosario A. Iaconis
& John Mancini

Italy's Enduring Myth

**Christ stopped at Eboli. Naples is a sewer.
And Africa begins at Palermo.**

Welcome to the *Mezzogiorno* — Italy south of Rome — as perceived by the international intelligentsia and Northern Italian negativists. Unlike the South of France, America's Sunbelt or the Teutonic Tyrol, Southern Italy is depicted as a nether region of the Third World. According to the films of Italian director Lina Wertmuller, it is a fetid Byzantine fiefdom populated by a race of Mediterranean proletariat. However repugnant such a view may be, it is shared by many in the mass media. Stereotypes are given the imprimatur of truth by virtue of film and the printed word. For, when the subject is Southern Italy, otherwise responsible journals are swept away in a sea of venom. Here's a sampling:

The Wall Street Journal (11/21/88)

"Naples was organized by Italians. Skittering motor-bikes and screeching cars crowd the narrow streets. Sad-eyed old women sell bootleg Marlboro cigarettes from card tables. Neapolitans say Naples has three times as many garbage men as Paris and three times as much uncollected garbage in the streets."

The New York Times (2/28/89), "Books of the Times"

"Getting to the interior of darkest Naples is a challenge because of the off-limits alleys behind the overhanging clotheslines, the concealing dialect that can throw off a stranger with a shrug, and even its present-day politics.

"The anecdotal stories indicate that Naples is the home of the big small deal. Lawbreaking is done as a challenge; accuser and accused, policeman and felon, both recognize that life is a game."

But to truly understand the "racism" that the North-South rivalry has engendered read the words of Luigi Moretti, a surveyor from Lombardy, as revealed in Milan's prestigious daily, *Corriere Della Sera*, on June 25, 1989.

"We have absolutely nothing against Blacks (Africans who live in Italy). In fact, for us they are preferable

to the Southerners."

"...Lombardy belongs to the Lombards and must be guided and administered by Lombards.

"...The Sicilian code of honor does not sit well with us. We are more civilized. Theirs is a Mafia culture and not that of the Lombards."

How the north and south view each other



▲ A misconceived, but popular, view of the southern Italian by northerners is that they are dirty, dishonest and lazy peasants only too happy to depend on support from the north.



▲ Equally at fault is the southern impression of the northerners: It is often held that the northerner is hard and grasping, a greedy businessman lacking in philosophy.

A depiction of the North-South antagonism in an English children's book

Normally, Signor Moretti's hate-filled views as a man-on-the-street would not ruffle so many feathers; prejudice is often the province of the buffoon. The problem is that Moretti has just been elected a Deputy to the European Parliament.

This interregional rivalry among Italians is certainly not a recent phenomenon. Nor is the North vs. South antagonism unique to Italy. Think for a moment of a New Yorker's opinion of Mississippi, or an Alabamian's view of the Califor-

Focus



nia lifestyle. Still, Americans have come to recognize that "united they stand". Italians, it would seem, love to complain and seek to be different. Lombardy sees itself as *Grosser Deutschland* while Sicilians conjure up *Magna Graecia*. What Rome and Garibaldi joined together, lesser men would tear asunder.

For Americans of Italian descent much of the pride in being Italic stems from the North, where Columbus and the Renaissance were born. For Italian Americans there is but one Italy. They would, no doubt, be shocked to learn that many Northern Italians see them as transplanted Southerners, albeit generations removed, but still of the same ilk. That is carrying regional squabbling too far.

Italy is One

The North-South rivalry has a serious ethnic undercurrent that has plagued Italians since the fall of Rome. What goes unstated in all the regional blustering is that there is more to unite Italians than to cause the rift. Without question, the gene pool of Italy has been mixed, enriched, and diluted over three millenia. Sicilians point with pride to their Hellenic and even Norman occupations. The Milanese take pride in a Teutonic ancestry and the Genovese admit to having Celtic blood (did not Columbus have red hair and freckles?) Only the Venetians and Romans seem content with the old Italic blood. Historic revision has been a plague on both houses, North and South. Sicilians forget that the Greeks were invaders who lived off the Italic Siculs, or that the much admired Normans were summarily liquidated during the Sicilian Vespers (Normans were identified by their non-Sicilian pronunciation of the word *ciciri*, chickpeas). As for the Northern uppercrust, it has been estimated that only some 50,000 Teutonic Longobards entered the 5th Century genetic pool (there were

about 6 million Italians in Roman Italy). This being the case, it is curious how some Lombardi ascribe their organizational prowess to Germanic origins rather than Italic. In discipline and organization the ancient Romans had no equals.

So how do you account for the apparent differences in the two "races"? Northerners are praised as "dynamic and industrious". Southerners are condemned as "lackadaisical and disorganized". Genetics hardly explains the differences. Many Northerners as well as some late great racists such as Rudyard Kipling and Adolf Hitler explain the Southern mentality as a result of slave blood. According to the theory, slaves from the large Roman *latifundia* (estates) that filled south Italy and Sicily were freed after the fall of Rome and overpopulated the South. If this were true, that Southerners

are descendants of servile people, it is curious that most people observe individual Italians both North and South to be "domineering" or that many of the Southern "slave" descendants who emigrated to the Americas are among the richest of ethnic groups. Those familiar with the real Italian American experience know that this latter accomplishment was a result of personal sacrifice, hard work, and initiative. A significant number of these Southern "ne'er-do-wells" started their own businesses and are among the least likely to require public assistance.

If genetics isn't the cause of these perceived differences in the North and South than perhaps it is political or historical or geographical, or a combination.

Two thousand years of civilization and war have taken their toll on the South. Forests have been razed, soil has been

(continued on p.15)

A Who was Who of the South

- Antonello da Messina** - Sicilian-born artist and co-developer (with the Flemish) of oil painting, b. 1430
- Bellanca, Giuseppe** - Sicilian-born airplane designer. His monoplane was Lindbergh's first choice in his attempt to cross the Atlantic. The Bellanca made the trans-Atlantic trip a few weeks later.
- Cannizzaro, Stanislao** - Father of modern chemistry, born in Palermo, 1826.
- Caruso, Enrico** - Neapolitan singer. World acclaimed for his powerful operatic performances earlier this century. A major promoter of U.S. War Bonds in WW I.
- Diaz, Armando** - General. Born in Naples. Commander of Italian Forces in World War I. Achieved the victory at Vittorio Veneto which destroyed the Austro-Hungarian Empire and resigned Germany to make peace on the Western Front.
- Mazarin, Cardinal Jules** (nee Giulio Mazarini) - Enlightened statesmen of France, 17th Century. Born in the Abruzzi of a Sicilian father.
- Orlando, Vittorio** - Premier of Italy during World War I. Relieved the cruel and ineffective General Cadorna (a Piedmontese) after the defeat at Caporetto. Appointed Neapolitan general Armando Diaz who won the war. Born at Palermo, 1866.
- Paca, William** - Born to a Neapolitan family, 1740. Signer of the American Declaration of Independence.
- Pirandello, Luigi** - Internationally renowned playwright. Born in Sicily, 1867.
- Tonfi, Enrico** - Born in Gaeta, Italy (between Rome and Naples), 17th Century. Spent 25 years exploring and settling the Mississippi River for France.
- Vico, Gianbattista** - One of Italy's greatest philosopher/historians. Born in Naples in 1668.

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North vs. South (continued from p 13)



Premier Vittorio Orlando (2nd from left). The Sicilian-born statesman led Italy to victory in World War I. (President Wilson is on the right.)

eroded, volcanoes and earthquakes have wreaked havoc. Foreign occupations have battered the ancient Roman lifeforce. Malaria added misery to an already marginal existence. And the second unification (1870) unleashed North-

electrification came in the 1890's, the pattern was repeated. All the great hydroelectric plants were located in the North. Instead of showing the beleaguered Southerners the path to reunification, the Northerners showed them the exit: mass immigration. Millions left the harsh South to relieve Italy of its burden — namely them. And out they went with little or no support from the Mother country. On the contrary, these castoffs were now expected to continue supporting the Italian nation with their foreign exchange. Cash that would build Northern industry and a military machine.

It wasn't until the Mussolini era that the problems of the *Mezzogiorno* were addressed. It was the Fascist dictator who introduced land reclamation, electrification and educational reforms. Dialects (whether Northern or Southern) were not tolerated in the school system or even in the cinema. Only standard Italian was permitted. Terrorist organizations, particularly the Mafia, were completely obliterated (only to return later courtesy of the United States Army which employed Lucky Luciano in preparation for the invasion of

...the Mafia, [was] completely obliterated (only to return later courtesy of the United States Army...)

ern politicians on a prostrate people. Moreover, Southerners themselves have suffered such homegrown parasites as the Mafia and venal politicians. These then are the probable causes of ruination of a once flourishing South.

The North suffered less severe foreign occupation. It had some natural resources on which to build and the Po Valley from which to feed itself. It was spared the quaking earth and the marshes that bred disease.

Northern Policies

Nevertheless, instead of a brotherly hand to restore the ancient equality of the North and South, the Northerners adopted trade practices that were detrimental to the South. In 1878, a protective tariff on Northern textile and mechanical products gave an important boost to industrial production but greatly dissipated farmland resources. This accentuated the transfer of capital from the South to the North. A new customs tax in 1887 only exacerbated the situation by granting absentee landowners of Southern land tax advantages. This confirmed the *Mezzogiorno's* backward status. When

Sicily). Following World War II, the Marshal Plan and the old Istituto per la Ricostruzione Italiana (IRI) were instrumental in rebuilding Italy. The ensuing Italian economic miracle propelled the nation into the ranks of the industrialized world. And with this boost, all the regions of Italy prospered. The North made a quantum leap while the South improved its lot greatly though less spectacularly. And the educational advances of the prior decades created a new professional and managerial class in the *Mezzogiorno*.



William Paca, of Neapolitan ancestry, signed the Declaration of Independence

Southern Secrets

One of Italy's best-kept secrets is this cadre of intellectuals, political leaders, scientists, writers and scholars who emanate from the South. Many are captains of industry in the North, others hold positions of responsibility in academe, and a fair share have attained international prominence. Nobel-prize-winning physicist Dr. Renato Dulbecco, who heads Italy's sophisticated Genome Project (genetic engineering), hails from Calabria. Ciriaco DeMita, the one-time

(continued on p.28)



Perspectives

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

Italy Computerized

By Candice Smith

Imagine having the world at your fingertips or at least 2,500 years of Italian civilization on a video disc. Well imagine no longer.

The Giovanni Agnelli Foundation of Turin, Italy, has boiled Italy down to the size of an LP record album: art, history, politics, geography. You name it, it's in there. Titled *De Italia* (Latin for "all about Italy"), this wondrous disc, called a video encyclopedia, needs a MacIntosh computer and videodisc player to conjure up its magic. But it requires no sleight of hand. The index is divided either alphabetically as in, for example, Rome, DaVinci, or chronologically — there's a timeline that runs from 750



Education Director Bill McCabe with the Italy Videodisc

B.C. (Rome's founding) to the present — or by field, *Nature*, *Economics*, etc. If you are just "thumbing through", the videodisc can be viewed as a series of tours. Just set the number of seconds you want to view each screen and the computer will scan the *Italian Countryside*, *the Fascist Era*, or any one of 27 visual tours. It's really quite fascinating to have the power to access information so easily, and without the intimidation of working a computer.

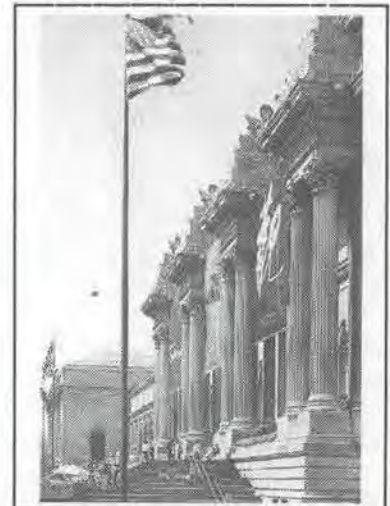
We found this dandy videodisc at New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art (in the Uris Library).

Only one of twelve donated to major libraries around the country by the Agnelli Foundation, *De Italia* represents a people's encyclopedia. For although it is extensive in scope, none of the subjects is explored in great depth. It is Italy by image not word, a quick and easy reference. And it's really fun!

Too bad every high school in the country doesn't have a copy. Classes in Italian language, Art, or History would be so much better with this visual Italy.



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The Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan. First director Luigi diCesnola gave it international status

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Perspectives

ARMADA

by John DiGioia

The late President John Fitzgerald Kennedy once proclaimed publicly that his mother's side of the family was descended from the Geraldini of Venice. And, of course, Irish names such as Costello bear witness to an Italic presence in the history of Ireland. The legendary "black Irish", of which actor Tyrone Power was perhaps the most dashing example, are suspected of being scions of shipwrecked seamen of the famous Spanish Armada. To dismiss these tidbits as idle chatter is to ignore one of the more interesting footnotes of history — the aftermath of that great disaster of 1588.

Historians and archeologists have pieced together the fascinating story of King Philip's Armada, a force of some 130 ships and 30,000 men, including 4,000 Portuguese, Italians, Germans, and Flemings, sent to reconvert Protestant England back to Catholicism. To assemble such a fleet, Philip pressed into service all the best ships of his realm, which at that time included Italian vessels. Ships that later were wrecked by



Alexander Farnese
Slated to be the military governor
of a subdued England

storms on the coast of Ireland included *La Girona*, from Naples, and the *Trinidad Valencera* out of Venice. My interest in the Armada dates from 1969 when the wreck of *La Girona* was featured in an issue of the *National Geographic*. As a veteran of naval service, I have always subscribed to the belief that "when a ship goes down its souls never rest". Who were these Italian seamen who died in agony on a hostile shore in the service of a foreign king? And how many lived to settle in Ireland and mingle their blood

in 1580 a force of Italian mercenaries was landed on the coast of Ireland, probably to establish a beachhead for future operations against England, only to be cut down by the native population. This event foreshadowed the brutal treatment in store for shipwrecked survivors in 1588. One particular atrocity that has been documented occurred when the son of the Italian pilot of the ship *Santa Maria*, Giovanni by name, was captured by English soldiers who questioned and then summarily hanged him.

Not all Italians served King Philip during these times. Farnese had all he could do to defend his Spanish Army against the machinations of one Federico Giambelli, the pyrotechnic mercenary in the employ of Dutch freedom fighters (Spain occupied Holland during these years). Giambelli had built a fireship that exploded among massed Spanish troops, killing upwards of one thousand of them. The now-legendary Giambelli was rumored to be in England building fireships to prevent the Armada from entering the Thames. Possibly, Farnese's lack of enthusiasm for the invasion was partly out of his fear of meeting up with his triggerhappy countryman. And oddly enough, the history of the Armada, written from the English perspective was actually penned by an Italian, Petruccio Ubaldino!

One last point to ponder: One of the members of Ireland's provisional government that won independence from Britain was named Sean MacDiarmada, possibly a descendant of a shipwrecked Latin survivor.

One last point to ponder: One of the members of Ireland's provisional government that won independence from Britain was named Sean MacDiarmada, possibly a descendant of a shipwrecked Latin survivor.

A Cross of Malta
believed
to be owned by
La Girona's
captain



An Italian ship of that era

with Celts? The facts are a precious few.

Nevertheless there are bits and pieces of the story that give us an idea of the Italian involvement in this ill-conceived invasion attempt. Part of Philip's grand design, which he planned in the solitude of his palace without even so much as visiting the sea coast, was to follow up the Armada's invasion with a second wave of troops led by the Italian general Alexander Farnese, Duke of Parma. Farnese, who thought the whole idea harebrained, did little to assist the Armada and no doubt was relieved when the forces of England and Nature scattered it.

Even before the Armada sailed, back



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Project Italia

It would surprise many to learn that the political boundaries of today's Italy were fixed two millenia ago, in fact, one year before those of China! Through the years, the perception of Italian history, or more accurately, the story of the Italic people, has evolved into a fragmented parade of famous names like Julius Caesar, Christopher Columbus, and Michelangelo. The real story, the continuous saga of the descendants of Italy, has never been fully captured in book or film.



Even during the Dark Ages Italian travelers and merchants reestablished trade from China to England, from Russia to Africa.

Project Italia, under the auspices of The Society for Italic Studies, Inc., is undertaking the untold story of the Italic people. A story that we hope will reach millions of people here and abroad via the media of television and video. It will be a one-hour documentary film entitled, *Beyond Italy: The Untold Story*.



Many major corporations such as TransAmerica, Bank of America, Planters Peanuts, and others were founded by Italian-Americans.

Beyond Italy will not be merely a recitation of historical facts. It will give the viewer a new appreciation of the effect of the Italic influence on our everyday life. The continual flow of ideas and people from the lands of Italy has reached every corner of the globe and every aspect of our lives, from atomic theory to government (not to mention food and fashion). If there is one challenge we face in producing *Beyond Italy* it will be how to limit our story to one hour of TV time!



Italic immigrants like Napoleon I of France and General Belgrano, Father of Argentina, have changed the course of history.

Indeed, it is now the time to document the untold story.



Until the 1st Century after the birth of Christ, Italians manned exclusively the Roman legions. Thousands of those veterans and others from Italy settled throughout Europe and the Mediterranean stabilizing the Empire for centuries.



Project Italia

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



Seated: Sr & Sra Sebastiani (from the Ital. Consulate)
Col. Giuseppe Pansarella (military attache Ital. Embassy)
Standing: Mr. & Mrs. Stefano Gristina (Governor, Society)



L to R: John Mancini (Pres.), Michael Downey (Dinner Chm), Col. Pansarella, Stefano Gristina

SECOND WALDORF FETE

The Society's second annual dinner dance at New York's Waldorf-Astoria broke all the rules. Our dinner chairman was an Irish-American and there were no honorees. Yet over 325 people attended and we exceeded our financial goal!

In lieu of endless speeches, guests were treated to a musical variety show that included the sounds of the Lester Lanin Band (complete with sailor caps) and vocalist Mary Mancini, whose repertoire covered songs in four languages and Broadway show tunes.

Although there was no honoree, the Society itself was honored with exhibits of our on-going programs. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of films featuring the Aurora Youth Program and our promotional film for Project Italia starring Tony LoBianco. Over \$4,000 in prizes were awarded including a Perillo vacation to Italy.

FUND DRIVE BEGINS

With a full war chest and a professional fundraiser, Project Italia — the film, will be launched this fall. The making of our long awaited classic, entitled *The Italians: The Untold Story*, is estimated at \$1 million. One of the primary goals of the Society, the production and television broadcast of this film documentary is meant to be a tribute to the two thousand years of migrations of the Italian people around the globe. The effect of those migrations, especially those to the New World, have affected history and our everyday lives in a substantial way.

No film of this type or magnitude has been produced to date, yet there is no question that it is long overdue. *The Italians: The Untold Story* will be a lasting testament to a truly remarkable people. Few Americans are even aware of the depth and breadth of the Italian migrations, least of all Italian Americans.

It is significant that the mass media (television, movies, etc.) has been the most offensive to the Italic image, yet it is the least utilized by Italian Americans to set the record straight. In today's world, celluloid, not statuary, is the lasting memorial.

If you are truly interested in contributing to this effort, add your name to our special donor list.

Yes, I want to set the record straight. Please include me on your list of future donors for *The Italians: The Untold Story*.

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Aurora

Youth Program

ITALIAN LESSON #3

Vocabulary Review

ACQUA (ac-quah) - water
 AMICA (o) (am-mee-kah) - friend
 ANNO (ah-no) - year
 CAVALLO (ca-val-lo) - horse
 CENTO (chen-tow) - one hundred
 DIECI (dee-eh-chee) - ten
 FAME (fa-meh) - hungry
 FRATELLO (fra-tell-o) - brother
 ISOLA (i'-so-lah) - island
 LIBRO (li-bro) - book

MARE (ma-reh) - sea
 MILLE (mee-leh) - one thousand
 NUOVA (newov-ah) - new
 POLLO (pol-lo) - chicken
 QUANTO? (qwan-tow) - how much?
 RAGAZZO (A) (rah-gahtz-o) - boy (girl)
 SCALA (scal-ah) - stair
 SORELLA (so-rell-ah) - sister
 STELLA (stel-lah) - star
 TERRA (ter-rah) - land
 UNO (u-no) - one

Verbs*

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

*To say: I AM HUNGRY or
 I AM ___ YEARS OLD, Italian uses the
 verb TO HAVE.

Note: 30% of English vocabulary comes from Latin, an ancient Italian language. Answer the questions and underline the root words. Look up the Italian word in the vocabulary above AFTER you answer the questions and write it in the space provided. WATCH YOUR SPELLING

Example:

The LIBRARY is where you'll find a _____. Ans. The LIBRARY is where you'll find a BOOK. It. =LIBRO

1. A member of a FRATERNITY is a _____. Italian = _____
2. Another name for "fried POULTRY" is "fried _____". Italian = _____
3. Being ISOLATED is like being stranded on a deserted _____. Italian = _____
4. A person who is FAMISHED is someone who is _____. Italian = _____
5. SUBMARINES go under the _____. Italian = _____
6. An ESCALATOR is a machine with a moving _____. Italian = _____
7. An AQUEDUCT carries _____. Italian = _____ (check spelling)
8. To be in the CAVALRY you need this animal: _____. Italian = _____
9. In a SORORITY, every member is your _____. Italian = _____
10. A lot of TERRITORY means a lot of _____. Italian = _____

Review: (Translate into Italian)

11. I am ten years old. _____ (Remember: nouns ending in o change to i in the plural)
12. La ragazza ha uno anno. _____

Ans: 11. Io ho dieci anni.
 12. The girl is one year old.



ITALIAN EXPLORERS

AFTER COLUMBUS RETURNED TO SPAIN FROM HIS VOYAGE, OTHER COUNTRIES BECAME JEALOUS OF SPAIN. THEY BELIEVED THAT COLUMBUS' DISCOVERY WOULD MAKE SPAIN RICH.



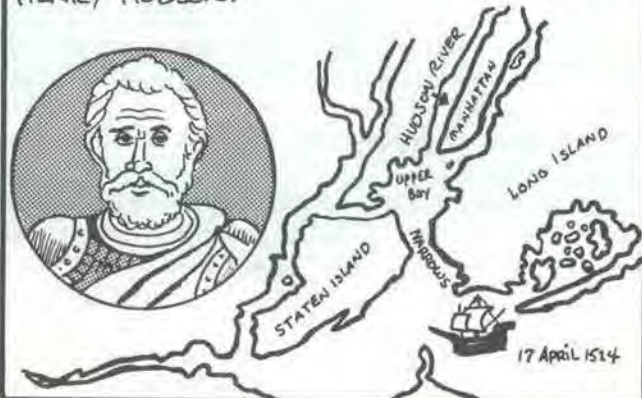
SPAIN AND THEN PORTUGAL HIRED AMERIGO VESPUCCI TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC. VESPUCCI FOUND THAT COLUMBUS HAD MADE A MISTAKE. WHAT COLUMBUS THOUGHT WAS A PART OF INDIA WAS REALLY A NEW WORLD. A GERMAN MAP-MAKER NAMED THE NEW WORLD "AMERICA" AFTER VESPUCCI.



ENGLAND HIRED THE ITALIAN, GIOVANNI CABOTO TO CLAIM A PART OF THE NEW WORLD. "JOHN CABOT," AS THE ENGLISH CALLED HIM, ARRIVED IN NORTH AMERICA THREE YEARS AFTER COLUMBUS. HE PLANTED TWO FLAGS - THOSE OF ENGLAND AND VENICE, HIS NATIVE CITY. WE SPEAK ENGLISH BECAUSE OF GIOVANNI CABOTO.



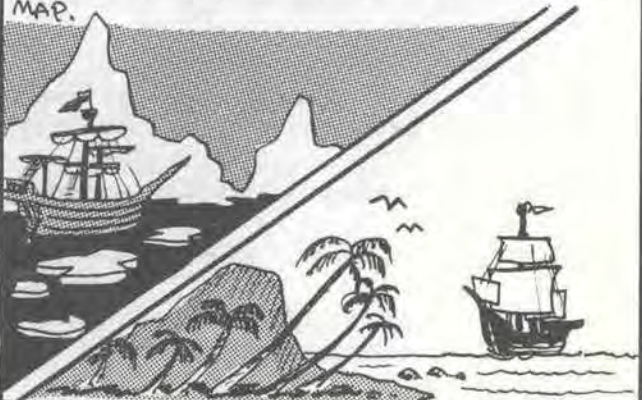
FRANCE NEEDED SOMEONE TO CLAIM COLONIES IN AMERICA. THEY HIRED GIOVANNI VERRAZANO. VERRAZANO EXPLORED THE COAST OF NORTH AMERICA AND ENTERED NEW YORK HARBOR 50 YEARS BEFORE HENRY HUDSON.



ANTONIO PIGAFETTA SAILED WITH THE PORTUGUESE CAPTAIN MAGELLAN ON HIS AROUND-THE-WORLD VOYAGE. PIGAFETTA WROTE DOWN THE STORY OF THE VOYAGE AND MADE MAGELLAN FAMOUS.



OTHER ITALIAN SAILORS HELPED TO MAP THE NEW WORLD. CAPTAIN MALASPINA, WORKING FOR SPAIN, EXPLORED THE PACIFIC COAST OF NORTH AMERICA. HE SAILED AS FAR NORTH AS ALASKA. GIOVANNI GAETANO WAS THE FIRST TO SIGHT HAWAII AND TO PUT THOSE ISLANDS ON THE MAP.





News of the Society

GOVERNORS VOTE TO OPEN SOCIETY

In an unprecedented and unanimous decision, the Board of Governors has voted on two far-reaching policy decisions.

- For all purposes of classification, the Society is not to be considered an Italian or Italian-American organization. On this basis, the Society cannot join any umbrella group which is so designated. However, its sole purpose remains Italic Studies.
- Membership in the Society shall not be restricted to Italians or Italian-Americans. Further, all components of the Society, i.e., its councils, its officials, and Board of Governors, shall not require an Italic background for membership.

MICHAEL DOWNEY APPOINTED GOVERNOR

On the heels of the Board of Governors' decision to open the Society to all ethnic groups, Michael Downey, Plenary Council member and 1989 Dinner Chairman was made a Governor. Mike's dedication to Italic Studies and his untiring efforts on behalf of the Society were factors that prompted his appointment.

There was one bit of irony in Mike's appointment. It should be noted that the first non-Italian senators of ancient Rome were Celts from Northern Italy, who were appointed by Julius Caesar, himself. Mike, a "full-blooded Celt", is our first non-Italic governor. We continue an ancient tradition. AVE MICHELE!



Michael N. Downey,
Governor

PLENARY COUNCIL NEWS

- 1989-90 Officers: **J. Mancini**, President; **D. Gristina**, Vice President; **R. DeSiena**, Financial Secretary; **G. Ricci**, Treasurer.
- The Council's second annual dinner dance, chaired by Michael Downey, was a success. Net profits exceeded all goals. (Details can be found on the *Project Italia* page.)
- The Council voted to adopt the 1989-90 budget, forty percent of which is allocated toward the Project Italia film.
- A line of educational products will be developed to supplement the commemorative coin series.
- A joint luncheon is being planned with the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce in New York City to introduce that group to the Society's accomplishments and goals. Among the Chamber's membership are many well-known Italian corporations.



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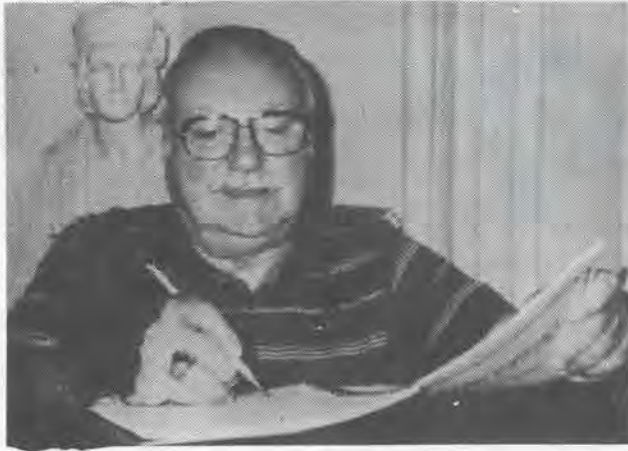
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PROFILES

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



Gabriele at work

COLUMBUS SET TO MUSIC

It shouldn't surprise us that Italic genius pops up in nearly every aspect of our lives, but even we are surprised by the extent of talent among the children of Columbus. As *The Italic Way* enters more homes across America, we are becoming privy to the talent among our thoughtful readers.

Professor Charles Gabriele should be entitled to rest after a lifetime devoted to musical composition. In fact, among his credits he was composer-in-residence and conductor emeritus at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. Nevertheless, the tug of his heritage has been steadily pulling him out of his Florida retirement and forcing him to remain a vibrant, creative master of music. He is most proud, and rightfully so, of a work that he started writing in 1976 for the American Bicentennial. Expanding it over the years, that opus has become the *Christopher Columbus Suite*, a three-part musical testament to one of the greatest developments

in history — the European discovery of America.

Ever mindful of the multi-ethnic nature of that great event, Professor Gabriele's Suite contains a march dedicated to the Great Navigator, a pasodoble in tribute to Queen Isabella, and a haunting testament to America's native inhabitants. Gabriele's talent shines in this masterful fusion of musical variety.

But lest you think Gabriele is unacknowledged for this achievement, we must tell you that he has been invited to perform his work in Madrid, the Vatican, Holland, and Rome. This last performance earned him the Presidential Order of Merit from the Italian government and the title *Cavaliere della Repubblica* (Knight of the Republic)

More than anything else, Gabriele would like to see the Columbus March, one of the three suites, in the permanent musical repertoire of high school bands across the nation. He especially wrote it for that purpose and has succeeded in getting a number of local schools to use it, even writing accompanying lyrics.

On October 8th, Gabriele will be premiering the entire suite in a number of locales both here and abroad. It will honor a momentous deed as well as a very dedicated and talented composer.

(For additional information, write Professor Charles Gabriele at PO Box 350746, Palm Coast, FL 32035-0746 or call him at (904) 445-5241.)



Professor Gabriele receives his knighthood in Italy



Composer/conductor Gabriele would like his Columbus Suite to be an American standard.



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North vs. South (continued from p. 15)

premier, is a native of Campania. Bettino Craxi, Italy's most successful postwar prime minister, was born in Milan of Sicilian parents. (This, of course, may come as a shock to the Lombard Archie Bunker, Luigi Moretti.) The quintessential Italian leading man, Marcello Mastroianni, and his quintessential leading lady, Sophia Loren, are both Neapolitans. Designer Gianni Versace, whose clothing has graced the most fashionable salons in Paris, New York and Milan, was born in Reggio Calabria. The late Aldo Moro, the architect of the Italian Republic's "Compromesso Storico" and one of the country's most beloved political figures, came from Bari in the region of Puglia.

Sunrise at Mezzogiorno

Despite the wide disparity in income and standard of living between the North and South, the *Mezzogiorno* is not backward. Most Southern families have a home or apartment (many are virtual museums in marble — chic, stylish and contemporary), one or two automobiles, color television, fully equipped kitchens and two bathrooms. Occasional water shortages plague citizens in the summer months but such are the vicissitudes of the peninsula. Southerners enjoy four weeks of vacation, as do all Italians. Most flock to the seashore or the mountains. Others take this *villeggiatura* at their private vacation homes. Nonetheless, jobs are scarce and many families depend on money from sons and husbands abroad or in the North.

Although not underdeveloped in the Third World sense, the Italian South is not fully developed. Whereas the North approaches the U.S. standard of living, the South more closely approximates Spain or

Ireland. An entrenched bureaucracy, provincial clannishness and political corruption are three major culprits for the region's static development. Paradoxically, another is the outgrowth of a solution and not a problem. As in the North, illiteracy has been eradicated in the South. Most of the sons

and daughters of the South are college graduates, and many hold doctorates in law, medicine and science. Unfortunately for the region, they usually depart for better job opportunities in the North. This, in turn, leads to emargination and depopulation and contributes to a slow and steady deterioration of the area's economy. Probably the most astute observation to explain the failure to elevate the *Mezzogiorno* is that: "highly

qualified intellectual and technical skills are available, but the political forces are chronically unable to utilize them effectively."

Despite the gloom, significant changes are imminent. IRI has slated 16 projects calling for 3,000 billion lire to be invested in the aerospace industry around Naples. Bari, in Apulia, Italy's heel, is gearing up to be a major hub in Mediterranean commerce with its newly christened *Baricentro*. And, if the bridge connecting Sicily and Calabria is built as promised, those regions will grow substantially.



Naples, once the gem of European cities, is renewing itself. The New Urban Center in the foreground will be a major business district. Vesuvius looms beyond.

Statistics are generally encouraging for the South — industrial manufacturing climbed to 25% of the national total, and GNP was 4.9%, close to the national rate of 5.3% — but a commitment by both halves of Italy needs to be made. The South must deal ruthlessly with corruption and tie development to the general good rather than the politically expedient. As for the North, it must consider the *Mezzogiorno* as *Italia Irredenta* (Unredeemed Italy) to be "won back" for the good of the whole nation.

From our vantage point it looks as if the South may yet rise again — to the benefit of the North and in fulfillment of a common historical heritage

British historian Edward Gibbon's observation on ancient Italy may be a portent of future Italian cultural unity:

"From the foot of the Alps to the extremity of Calabria, all the natives of Italy were born citizens of Rome. Their partial distinctions were obliterated, and they insensibly coalesced into one great nation, united by language, manners, and civil institutions, and equal to the weight of a powerful empire." ****



Jules Mazarin, a buldier of modern France, was Sicilian (Mazarini)

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