

THE

Vol. 3, No. 3

Summer, 1990

# ITALIC

WAY

The Newsletter of the Italic Studies Institute, Inc.



IN THIS ISSUE:

The Italians and the Bible

Shakespeare's Italian Connections...Review: That Fine Italian Hand.....Russia: Napoleon's Italian Victory.....



Letters.....page 1,3	Focus (cover story)....page 12
All'Italiana.....page 4	Perspectives.....page 16
World Notes.....page 6	Project Italia.....page 21
Editorial.....page 8	Media Madness.....page 22
Forum.....page 9	Institute News.....page 24
Reviews.....page 10, 18	Profiles .....page 26

## Letters

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

### TO ISRAEL!

As a member of *The Italic Way*, I want to congratulate all those who contributed to our 1990 Spring issue.

It was most interesting reading, particularly about "The Jews of Italy: Ancient Compatriots". It impressed me so much that I respectfully request three (3) additional copies, which will be sent to my friends in Israel.

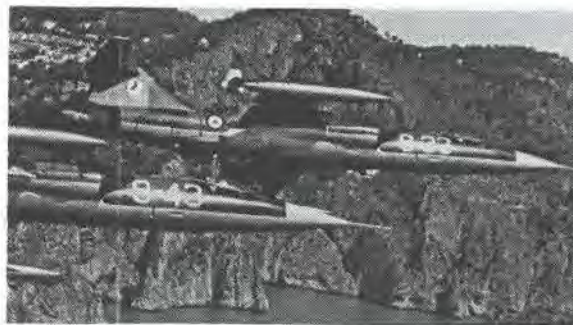
**Carmine A. Gerace,**  
Staten Island, NY

### DOWN THE CRITICS!

This issue (Spring, 1990) of the magazine was excellent. I hope you and your colleagues, who are doing such outstanding work in helping Italo-Americans feel justifiably proud of their heritage and their accomplishments, will not be disturbed one iota by the Bob Guccionnes and Louis Pisciottas of the world who have a very narrow view of things. Your editorial comments at the end of Pisciotta's and Dane Hall's letters were worded most appropriately. I know that you will keep your goals firmly in mind and will not allow your-

self to be swayed by criticism that stems from special interest groups or selfish individuals. Your work is too vital to be sidetracked by people who, to put it as charitably as I can, simply do not have the best interests of the Italian-American community in mind. *Coraggio!*

**Elio Zappulla, Stony Brook, NY**



**The American F-104, flown by the Italian Air Force.**

*tured a Tornado jet calling it Italy's F104. As luck would have it, the pilot was about to train on the F104 sent us a photo of it. Sorry for the mix up.*

### WHERE ARE THE ITALIANS?

There must be a greater involvement on the part of the Italian government through each local and national embassy office and chamber of commerce. It must join in the fight against discrimination of Italians and Italian-Americans. The Italian government is losing a great deal both economically and politically for being passive in the matter of bad media image. For too long has the Italian government ignored their overseas responsibilities. Italy and the Italian-American community are paying a heavy price for it.

**Orofrío J. Barbaro**  
Concord, MA

\*\*\*\*

### THE WRONG PLANE

*Ed. A copy of our last issue made it to Italy and fell into the hands of an Italian Air Force jet pilot, Lt Ettore DiBlasio who noticed an error in our Intrepid Air Museum review. We had pic-*

# Asbestos abatement is like defusing a bomb. 99% right is 100% wrong.



Asbestos is dangerous stuff. When construction or repairs break into it, deadly asbestos dust can explode into the air, a little like a bomb.

That's not a bad way to think of it. Because if you treat your asbestos problem as carefully as you'd treat a live bomb, you'll choose the right abatement company.

You'll avoid those companies with little or no experience. This is not a business for beginners. And you don't want to become their experiment.

**Let the abatement buyer beware.**

Before you choose an abatement company, there are some key questions you should ask.

Is it an established company with a proven track record? Will they be around five years from now? Does their previous experience qualify them for such specialized work? Do they have the resources to handle any job without long delays? The right answers will not only save

you grief. They'll likely lead you to us. Ogden Allied does every abatement project the way it should be done—with professionals who work strictly by the book.

**Every technician licensed.  
Every method EPA/OSHA approved.**

Every Ogden Allied worker is thoroughly trained, licensed and certified. Every worker uses the latest technology and newest most capable equipment.

Every workcrew knows and follows the proper work methods. All federal, state and local regulations are complied with in full.

**Site inspection  
and  
consultation.**

Ogden Allied begins every project with a complete site inspection. Our asbestos abatement specialists consult with you in detail to minimize interruptions, so that everyone understands in advance exactly what will need to be done.

**Free quotation.**

We never start an abatement project without a quotation. Neither should you. We'll give you one that's reliable and not just an educated guess.

We remove asbestos as carefully as we would a bomb. We do it right the first time.

Call Ogden Allied Abatement and Decontamination Services at 1-800-858-0123. Or write us at 2 Penn Plaza, New York, NY 10121.



## OGDEN ALLIED

ABATEMENT AND DECONTAMINATION SERVICES, INC.

SUBSIDIARY OF OGDEN ALLIED SERVICES CORP



(Ed. We have reprinted a personal letter sent by The Italic Way Director Rosario Iaconis to Long Island Newsday.)

# Letters

## 'The Media's Dirty Little Secret'

In his column "The National Delights of the World Cup" [Newsday, July 5, 1990], Murray Kempton asserts that the West Germans play soccer with military exactitude while the British resemble bulldogs "made gloomier still by the embarrassment of troops and

the Turinese were roused to a demi-riot by the anointment of the Sicilian striker Salvatore Schillaci." He saves his most despicable salvo, however, for Italy's southern soccer star: "Schillaci is unmistakably mezzo-giorno, short, chunky and shaven of head. He looked like a small boar traveling in the company of gazelles."

Political commentator Ken Auletta once wrote that savaging Italians is the media's dirty little secret. Perhaps Kempton is following in this yellow journalistic tradition. After all, Sam Donaldson, Robert MacNeil and Ted Turner have all taken turns bashing, bludgeoning and belittling Italians. Indeed, it has become something of a national sport, far outstripping the World

on the wrist. Andy Rooney and Jimmy Breslin, however, were suspended from their jobs for offending other ethnic groups. Robert Reno was admonished recently by Nassau County Comptroller Peter King for trifling with Irish sensibilities.

Most stereotypes are based on misconceptions, half-truths or outright ignorance. Once a stereotype becomes entrenched in the popular culture, though, it is exceedingly difficult to erase. Even reality cannot overcome the prevailing mythology. The success story of modern Italy and its status as a cradle of western civilization have been largely overshadowed by pejorative images in the media.

Although Italy's accomplishments may startle some, students of history are not surprised. For the nation

MURRAY KEMPTON



## Who's to Tell A Cab Driver Not to Carry a Pistol?

**W**HEN THE month began the New York police could count 21 cab drivers robbed and shot to death so far this year. There could have been 22 if Raphael Lora's luck hadn't been altogether better than it has since been. Near midnight on the last Sunday in April, Lora stopped his cab to pick [sic] up the job. The pathetic makes his statement sometimes as tragedy and sometimes as farce. The heavy drivers are paid as tragedy while poor Piero Manfredi suggests the pastime of farce. For there here was a stage and here were faces that evoked all the reality of some hope violence that has become a total fact in

Newsday's Murray Kempton. Bordering on racism.

supporters so thuggish as to appall the Sardinians and the Neapolitans, who too much respect lawless pursuits to tolerate them as amateur sport." (ed. our emphasis)

Not satisfied with impugning the integrity of an entire Italian island and city, Kempton proceeds Lina-Wertmuller-like to besmirch the rest of the peninsula: "And Italy is so divided between North and South that some of

**"Schillaci is unmistakably mezzo-giorno [southern Italian], short, chunky and shaven of head. He looked like a small boar traveling in the company of gazelles."**

Cup in popularity. "Guido," "wop" and even "guinea" are working their way into our daily vocabulary. Such slurs turn up regularly in newspaper editorials, television programs and presidential comand performances. Billy Crystal can defame Italians on a worldwide Oscar telecast and receive nothing more than a limp slap

that hosted the 1990 World Cup also gave us the Pax Romana, the Renaissance and the modern scientific method. These achievements will outlive the slurs and acrimony of outrageous media pundits. And, in the words of soccer fan Henry Kissinger, they have the added virtue of being true.

- Rosario A. Iaconis

## FUTURE ISSUES OF THE ITALIC WAY

- ITALIAN-ENGLISHMAN - Bloody geniuses
- MAFIA - Strangers among us
- ADVERTISING - Who's behind those ads?
- SICILY - Italic from the start
- ITALIAN DEBT - What Italy Owes Italian-Americans



# All'Italiana

## MOVIE MALADIES

As if *Ford Fairlane* starring Andrew Dice Clay Silverstein, and *The Freshman*, with Marlon "Moby Dick" Brando, weren't enough, now comes word that funnyman Steve Martin has joined the Italo-bashing school of cinema. In Martin's new movie, *My Blue Heaven*, he plays a "suave New York mobster" called Vinnie Antonelli. According to *USA Today*, Mr. Martin's "look — dark, slicked-up hair and loud clothes — has preview audiences in stitches." Another flick, *Betsy's Wedding*, keeps the bashing going as Alan Alda decides to publically trash his heritage (father's side) for some laughs and gelt. Warning: these movies may force you to drop your vowel.

## ECOLOGY'S EDGE

Italy is forging ahead with the technology to reduce environmental pollution around the world. Selenia, the electronics genius, is working on a project to tailor its expertise in military sensors for use in detecting ecological changes in oceans. Another firm, Iveco of Italy, Europe's major truck manufacturer, has allocated \$184 million to design less polluting diesel engines.

## BITTER BROCCOLI

Well, the secret is out. Over the decades Italians have released their culinary secrets a bit at a time. First came pizza, which back when Lee Iaccoca was growing up was a odd-ball snack his mother served to his uninitiated friends after school. Then, pasta in all its splendid varieties became an American obsession. Now broccoli rabe (*rob*) (*aka* broccoli rape) is taking the U.S. palate by surprise. Sometimes called

"bitter broccoli" this distinctive type was savored only by real Italos. Served with sausage and a loaf of crusty Italian bread or mixed with spaghetti, broccoli rabe is

wait 300 years for the right piece of wood to come along."



Steve Martin,  
Italic mobster

down-home food.

A seasonal veggie, the rape costs \$27 per 20-lb box vs. \$8 for broccoli. Let's see, what else can we sell them next?

## PLASTIC MUSIC

The Italian Antonio Stradivari was one of the first to master the construction of the perfect wood violin back in the 1600's. And those of our loyal readers might also remember that we reported on an American of Hungarian descent who uncovered the secrets of Stradivari to produce very similar instruments in the 1980's. Well, we are happy to report that Italians have retaken the lead in violin design using plastic instead of wood.

Mario Maccaferri, 89, an Italian-American of great persistence, took 36 years to develop his polystyrene violin. Beside sounding authentic, the "Maccaferrius" is sturdier and not subject to the problems of humidity. And as the inventor puts it, "these days nobody can

## SLEEK ITALIAN TRUCK

It's got a body by famed Italian design studio Pininfarina and a price tag of \$45,000. What you get is a plush 4-wheel drive vehicle with an Italian personality but American innards (Ford & Chrysler parts). *La Forza* (The Force) is what they named it and last year 350 customers took the plunge.

## GUTSY GOVERNOR

New Jersey's Governor James Florio still retains the instincts of his pugilistic past. No sooner had he taken the oath of office as Jersey's first Italian-American chief executive, than famous Florio came out swinging. To balance the state's budget he pushed through almost \$3 billion dollars in new taxes and knocked 1,500 jobs off the payroll. Next, he confronted the imbalance in education by reallocating school subsidies to benefit poorer districts.

Although he is certainly making political enemies, Florio claims he is the champion of the poor and middle classes. Whether he convinces that constituency remains to be seen. Nevertheless, he is proceeding like conqueror Julius Caesar, *magna cum celeritate* (with the greatest speed). The next tar-



Broccoli Rabe: the manly veggie, fit for a prez.



# All'Italiana



Florio, a fightin' governor



Madonna, is sex everything?

get: outrageous automobile insurance rates.

Would the nation be ready for a Cuomo-Florio ticket??

## INFANT SHOCK

Where have all the Italian babies gone? Italy is shocking the world in many ways: number five in world economic power (possibly number four by 1991), second most preferred country to live in, fourth in foreign aid to the Third World, and now (you won't be-

lieve this) the lowest birthrate in Europe. It is official. Italy ranks last in the number of live births among the nations of Western Europe, 1.29 per mother. The highest nation: Ireland with 2.11. Oh, stereotype, wherefore art thou?

## BUSTED IMAGE

Singer Madonna likes to bounce a large crucifix in and around her Italic curves during heated performances. Unfortunately, her ancestral homeland gave her crossed bosom the cold shoulder

as box office receipts revealed. Scalpers were barely able to meet expenses outside an unfilled stadium where she was top-billed. Even her cutesy attempts to speak Italian didn't fan much enthusiasm for the show. Gifted though she is in talent and beauty, she made the mistake of abusing her audience's religion. Are Italians too sensitive or was this too big of a cross to bear?

## NASTY ITALIANS

The world is perplexed by a phenomenon of frightening proportions. Even the Italian press is abuzz with concern. *The New York Times* devoted front page space to the troubling trend. The source of flutter: the Italian people are becoming callous and indifferent. Translated it means that the old image of the caring, human, *mangia* Italian has been knocked on its heels by an event that has captured the news media's attention.

Outside of Florence one night a six year old girl whose father had collapsed at the wheel of his car stood alone trying to flag down help for 30 minutes before a passerby stopped to investigate. Normally, this would be played up the world over as the usual *ferragosto* (Mid-August) phenomenon in which Italians abandon invalid mothers, pets, and military service to go on vacation. However, this dark event, had it occurred in the United States would not even make it in a local gazette in any of the 50 states, had Italians reflecting on their national character. Because it was a negative reflection, the world news media picked it up immediately.

Italians themselves, it should be noted, declared this a "national" problem even though it occurred in the north of Italy. Problems occurring south of Rome are curiously unique to the *Mezzogiorno*.

\*\*\*\*



LaForza, the Italian muscle truck



# 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.]

## MOSES GETS HIS GUN

Gun-slinging, toupee-toting actor Charlton Heston recently attacked New Jersey's Governor Jim Florio for backing the Garden State's assault weapon bill. Speaking to a throng of 2,000 gun enthusiasts, the man from the *Planet of the Apes* blasted Governor Florio repeatedly, and in bellicose *Ben Hur* fashion warned him to "Leave the honest people of New Jersey alone and start worrying about keeping violent criminals where they belong — behind bars." Perhaps the high altitude of Mt. Sinai long ago affected Mr. Heston's powers of reasoning.

## FIAT'S ON A ROLL

It was Napoleon Buonaparte who first warned the West not to rouse the sleeping Chinese giant, but chances are he never imagined that the land of his parents' birth would one day become an industrial colossus. Nor could he envision how a family-run Italian automotive firm would lead the world in the modernization of Eastern Europe's economy, but that's just what Fiat is doing. Soon its \$1.3 billion ultra-modern assembly plant in southern Poland will be completed and ready to begin producing 160,000 subcompacts per year. Fiat's plans for the whole of Eastern Europe are even more grandiose. By forging ahead of Volkswagen, Renault, and General Motors, Fiat is gearing up to sell its sleek models to an astounding 420 million people. Before the other auto makers could get out of the garage, Fiat made agreements with local partners in Poland, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union to turn out more than 1.2 million cars per year. This is more than the entire output of the U.S.S.R. The Italian firm's total investment amounts to a staggering \$8 billion. Beware of Italic giants!

## GALLO IN THE DOCK

Researcher Dr. Robert Gallo shares the honor as co-discoverer of the AIDS virus with Frenchman Dr. Luc Montagnier. However, many members of the scientific community have questions about Dr. Gallo's half of the honor. The questions revolve around whether Gallo isolated the virus on his own or did he accidentally use a sample of virus-laden blood sent to his lab by Dr. Montagnier. To resolve the dispute Dr. Gallo has submitted his laboratory records to an impartial panel of scientists. It is they who will decide if the closely-related viruses were indeed derived from the same French blood sample. Dr. Gallo's reputation hangs in the balance.

## PASTAPHOBIA

Think of your worst fear: plane crash, heart attack, poverty, in-laws. Increase it one hundred-fold and you'll know the terror some people have just imagining that they might someday be allergic to pasta. It's not so strange. Pasta is made

from wheat, and wheat and other cereal grains can be an enemy to some bodies. Well, move over wheat and make way for lentil pasta.

Developed in India by a scientist on a dare, the pasta is called *Papadini*, a coined word with roots in Italian and Hindi. There are two drawbacks, however. Could this *maccheroni* make *pasta e lenticchie* redundant? Does it come *senza gas*?

## OOPS, GERMAN ENGINEERING

The world ended today. The earth tilted off its axis and the planets forgot to circle the sun. That's how it felt when the news came that NASA's Hubbell Space Telescope failed because the German optical giant Carl Zeiss made a mistake in grinding the telescope's mirror. The mistake is 1.8 millimeters (slightly thicker than a paper match) but it has negated the effectiveness of the telescope. Although the scope does have some compensating mechanisms they are just not enough to overcome the optical flaw according to Hubbell project scientist F. Duccio Maccetto. No doubt someone at Carl Zeiss will be packing his *lederhosen*.

## ICEBOX BOMBS

Yankee ingenuity took a beating at the General Electric refrigerator division. At last count about 200,000 American-made compressors are in the process of being replaced



A Fiat VP insuring Italian quality on a Polish assembly line

# World Notes



with ones made in Italy.

It all started out well enough. GE engineers had designed what they thought was a revolutionary compressor and rushed it through testing and production and into new refrigerators sold across the nation. Soon it became apparent that the testing phase had not been thorough enough. Consumers reported refrigerator failure well above the normally anticipated rate. By 1988, GE took a \$450 million tax loss and still continues to search out and repair appliances.

To GE's chagrin, Italian factory workers were turning out new dependable compressors in less than half the time at half the cost of their American counterparts.

## ITALIA '90

The Germans won it but some interesting things came to light at the World Soccer Championship. First, the Italian language is considered the *lingua franca* of international soccer. And two, the Italian coach's ban on sex by his team only made the Italians horny losers.

"When any two major players from anywhere in the world meet, it's only natural that they speak Italian." So says former French superstar Michael Platini. His heritage may shade his opinion, but Platini was reflecting on the fact that the Italians take soccer seriously, recruiting stars from around the world to play on Italy's enormously competitive teams. In effect, Italy becomes the alma mater of these super athletes.

And as for coach Vicini's moratorium on love, it only gained Italy third place behind the wild bulls of Argentina. In Roman lore, even Mars the god of war mated with Venus when the need arose. Vicini's team may have needed the old-time religion.

By the way, the Germans and English are the only non-Latin teams to ever win championships.

## CROSSING THE LINE

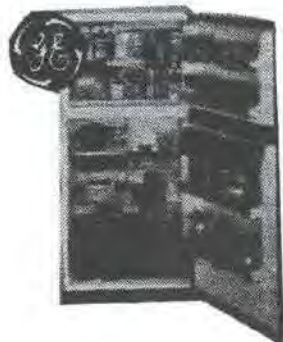
Some Jews and Asian-Americans are very much upset by the entertainment world. Filmmaker Spike Lee's *Mo' Better Blues* has got the B'nai B'rith in a



Heston: still playing the role

dither with Lee's portrayal of characters named Moe and Josh Flatbush. The Flatbush brothers are the owners of a nightclub where Black entertainment is featured. According to the Jewish group the characters are played as greedy and unscrupulous, and Spike Lee has been labelled as "insensitive and hurtful."

Asian-Americans have their own pet peeve in the British stage play *Miss Saigon*. It is an updated version of the opera *Madame Butterfly* (Puccini) in



Italian guts

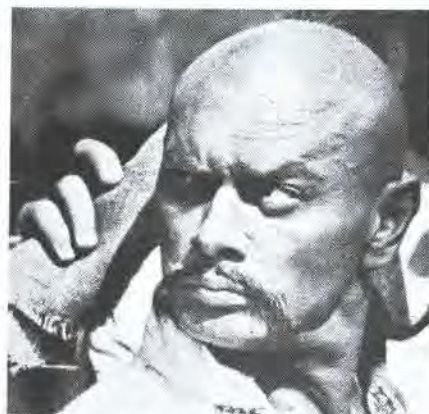
which a Caucasian plays the lead Eurasian role. Asian groups were able to convince the Actor's Equity to deny the British star permission to appear in the American version. The Brit apparently is not protected by the U.S. Constitution.

Does that mean an Asian can play a Eurasian but a Caucasian can't? Say that one fast.

## FAMILY TROUBLES

The most nagging problem facing America today may be the cause of all others — the breakdown of the family. The Census Bureau reports that 55% of all Black children live with only a mother or no parent at all. Of these, 13% live only with grandparents.

For Hispanics the single parent households amount to 33% of their child population. White children living with



A famous Eurasian.  
Would it be an insult for a  
Caucasian to play his role?

only one parent increased to 20% up from just 10% in 1970.

New lifestyles, economic hardship, and a lack of role-models have all contributed to the breakdown. Could it be that drugs, crime, and violence are merely the symptoms rather than the real disease of American society?

\*\*\*\*





## Editorial

### DOING THE RIGHT THING

Although the Institute is not officially an Italian-American organization it is in the business of educating the general public in things Italic. And you have to believe that it is one heck of a challenge.

There is no question that the Italic image has worsened over the past 20 years. This is quite evident in movies like *Betsy's Wedding* wherein Mr. Sensitive, actor Alan Alda trashes his father's heritage and uses Mafia goofballs to maximize his box office receipts. Of course, Mr. Alda made certain he did not offend women, gays, or whales. When "nice" guys like Alda consider Italic subjects as fair game what hope can there be for Italic Studies?

Unlike other ethnic groups, Italian-Americans (including Mr. Alda) are simply not in touch with their heritage. Disinformation is rampant. Take away the veneer of famous individuals like Michelangelo, Columbus, and DaVinci or city-states like Venice and Florence and the majority of Italian-Americans haven't the slightest notion of where Italy came from and how it stuck together. To some Italian-American scholars, Italy is really a boot-shaped Yugoslavia, just a fragmented melting pot.

To the Italian teacher who winces over the idea that Latin can be introduced in an Italian language class, to the filmmaker who glamorizes mobsters, to the club organizers who eulogize the Hellenic occupation of Italy, to the book authors who endlessly reminisce about tomato sauce simmering in mamma's kitchen, to the anti-history yahoos who think Rome is "ancient history" we say *basta!* Learn how to read books with hard covers (or *The Italic Way!*).

Italian-Americans need a thorough re-education from top to bottom.

The time has come to deal with ignorance. It isn't enough to write complaint letters when the darts are flying. It isn't enough to give out scholarships when a whole generation is being force-fed anti-Italic propaganda. And surely it isn't enough to wait for the low-level insult while we cultivate high-level political connections. Our resources must be mobilized and directed to positive media and youth education. Without these pro-active efforts, time and attrition will erode a great heritage.

- JLM

### WHAT IF?

What if the Italian government were to encourage its corporate giants to advertise on American television? Olivetti computers instead of Bolla wine. Fiat engineering instead of designer cologne. Aeritalia space technology instead of imported cheese.

What if Italian-American organizations were to allocate 25% of their income to funding public service broadcasting that promotes the real Italian image?

For our part, the Italic Studies Institute is taking a giant step in that direction by allocating over 40% of our budget to the making of the film *The Italians: The Classical Heritage*. Not only do we promise that it will be made but it will be broadcast. The film will be the first instalment in the Untold Story series that will change the way Italian-Americans and the general public see the Italic heritage.

- JLM

### *The Italic Way*<sup>TM</sup>

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

#### Board of Governors (I.S.I.)

John L. Mancini Stefano Gristina  
Edward F. Riguardi Carl A. Pescosolido  
Michael M. Downey Carl Borsari

#### Executive Council (I.S.I.)

John L. Mancini, President  
Albert Crecca, Vice President  
George P. Ricci, Treasurer

#### Director & Managing Editor

Rosario A. Iaconis

#### Production Manager

Rita L. Mancini

#### Technical Services Manager

Christopher Elarde

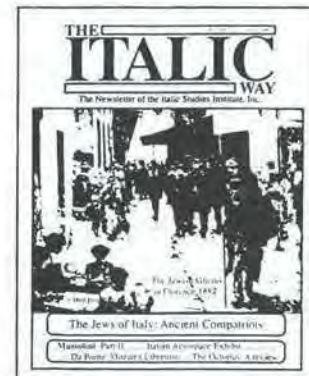
#### Features Contributors

Dominick Rinaldo (Cartoonist)  
Candice Smith  
John Memone

#### Masthead Design

John Caggiano

*The Italic Way*<sup>TM</sup> is published quarterly by the Italic Studies Institute, Inc., PO Box 818, Floral Park, NY 11001. Bulk mail postage paid at Floral Park, NY 11001, © 1990 by the Italic Studies Institute, Inc. All rights reserved. *The Italic Way* is a trademark of the Italic Studies Institute. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. Subscription is free to all members of Italic Studies Institute, Inc. Direct all inquiries to 516 488-7400.



Past Issues @ \$2.50 :  
The Italic Way  
PO Box 818  
Floral Park, NY 11001

# Forum of the People



*(The following article has been reprinted with the permission of Newsday)*

## WITH BETTER NICKNAMES, THEY'D BE IN JAIL

By Sydney H. Schanberg

I have made myself an expert on organized crime. I have done this by reading the newspapers, which are incomplete but do provide a reliable pattern of who is abusing and stealing from us.

First of all, the Mafia does exist. And it does bad things. There are other mobs, too. But then there are the true masters of larceny and swindle — the guys with the cherrywood desks who went to the better colleges and business schools. Even on those infrequent occasions when they are scrutinized, indicted and convicted, they end up going to the better jails.

We now have before us the savings and loan scandal, in which a lot of these swells bought big savings banks and then proceeded to milk them for private gain while making gargantuan



Charlie "Buddy-boy"  
Keating



"Silvado Neil" Bush

---

**“Compared to the savings and loan crowd,  
the Mafia bad guys are living in the low-rent district. ”**

---

bad investments and loans that eventually brought the banks down. The looters had taken care of themselves and drove away in their stretch limos. However, the government — which means us — now has to bail out the depositors, whose savings were federally insured. The bailout of these banks therefore is going to cost us more than \$200 billion. That works out to a hit on every taxpayer of better than \$1,300. When was the last time the Mafia swindled us out of that kind of money?

Just look at the newspapers. The G-men tell us that John Gotti, boss of all bosses, has an “empire” that takes in \$30 million a year through his organization. Some empire. That’s 15/1000th of a percent of the savings and loan heist.

I saw in *The New York Times* last Tuesday that the Gambino mob family has managed to gain control of the garment industry through its monopoly of the trucking companies. These companies grossed more than \$40 million last year and turned a profit of \$13 million. Another pittance.

Then, in yesterday’s papers, I see an indictment of mob-dominated Teamsters unions at Kennedy Airport; they were charged with illegal activities that netted them the grand total of \$10 million over 10 years.

I could go on about these pikers, but you get the idea. Compared to the savings and loan crowd, the Mafia bad guys are living in the low-rent district. All kinds of high-livers were in on the bank raids, including, it seems, the president’s son, Neil. Even some of the mob guys, trying to improve their standard, got their hands into the bank till. Never let it be said that the white-collar boys aren’t equal-opportunity employers.

You have to keep in mind at all times that the dirty-collar criminals in this country couldn’t begin to function without the assistance of the white-collar set. For instance, how could the drug merchants wash their money clean without the aid and abetment of the “legitimate” banks?

As an expert, I shall now explain why we spend so much more time and energy on the Mafia than we do on the bankers.

One reason is that the Mafia is good for sure-fire headlines. Prosecutors can justify their entire budgets with a couple of highly publicized Mafia trials a year. And there’s almost never any political counter-pressure or backlash. After all, which

(continued on p. 25)



## REVIEW

### That Fine Italian Hand

by Paul Hofmann  
(Henry Holt and Co, \$19.95)

At the height of the political upheavals in Eastern Europe, the people of Romania took time out from the tumult to remind the West — particularly the *New York Times* and *Time Magazine* — of their country's Roman origins.

Though Slavic, the Romanians, much like the British, are proud of their ancient Italic roots. William Safire be damned! They demanded that henceforth, all references to their nation be printed and pronounced in the Latinate version: R-O-M-A-N-I-A. Yet, in his vituperative tome, *That Fine Italian Hand*, the former *New York Times* Rome Bureau chief and ex-Wehrmacht soldier Paul Hofmann denies Southern Italians their noble birthright:

"Under Roman rule the Deep South became an expanse of enormous farming estates, the latifundia, where a slave population worked the soil, enabling the absentee landlord to regale themselves in Rome."

In addition to hyperbole, Herr Hofmann displays an appalling ignorance of history. Even a passing acquaintance with Gibbon will tell you that all the inhabitants of Italy, from the Alps to the extremity of Calabria, were born citizens, not slaves, of Rome. But what should one expect from the descendant of a tribe that, in the words of Tacitus, "would know no peace?" Indeed, with a barbaric Teutonic fist, Herr Hofmann brutalizes Italy and all things Italian in this slender, less than illuminating book. For every phrase of faint

praise, there is a chapter of venom. Some of the chapter titles are: "Red Tape and Anarchy," "The Art of Arrangement," "On Many Sides of the Law," and, of course, "Mafia, Inc."

Virtually every page of this minor league *Mein Kampf* reeks with the stench of bigotry. Naples is a sister city of Cairo, Brindisi and Catania harbor droves of hoodlums bent on havoc, sexual molesta-



These Italian children have little to be proud of if we are to believe Paul Hofmann.

tion of Nordic tourists is the norm, and pasta is the glue that binds the rickety Italian Republic. What private enterprise exists owes to maverick families of non-Italian origin or is the result of Byzantine machinations known as "arrangements."

By picking up where Luigi Barzini left off, Herr Hofmann out-Barzini that master Italian turncoat. Although he acknowledges that Italy is a major economic force -- surpassing Britain and rivalling France and someday even the Aryan Fatherland itself — Herr Hofmann quickly undercuts this argument by claiming that Italians have delusions of mini-grandeur out of proportion to their true power or worth. He states that the other major powers only reluc-

tantly and laughingly made Italy and sad sack Canada part of the Big Seven. Furthermore, Herr Hofmann mocks Italy's premiers for not being multi-lingual. Thank you, oh linguist of Valhalla. Obviously, the Italian leaders cannot compare to such distinguished polyglots as Helmut Kohl, Margaret Thatcher, Francois Mitterand, and Mikhail Gorbachev and of course our own George Bush.

Herr Hofmann is also quite fond of describing sexual mores. Perhaps this is a residue of having been born in the culture that spawned Goring, Goebbels and that sexual role model of German youth, Adolf Hitler. He chides the Italians' "glandular exhibitionism" and is reminded of how Galeazzo Ciano's use of it unnerved British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and irritated Uncle Adolf's foreign minister *cum* champagne salesman Joachim von Ribbentrop. (England, of course, has never been troubled by any sexual scandals.) Herr

Hofmann decries the prevalence of foul language in modern Italian society and delights in recounting how a female observer in *Panorama* magazine of Milan said of her countrymen: "We are today one of the most vulgar peoples in the world." Crude behavior, sexual deviance, and moral turpitude would never be problems in Hamburg, Liverpool, New York and San Francisco.

Another favorite Hofmann theme centers around height and physiognomy. Gabriele D'Annunzio was a chronic womanizer in addition to his fame as an adventurer, writer and patriot. According to Herr Hofmann, today's Italian Lotharios are "far less

(Continued on p. 25)

# JAD BAGS KEEP NEW YORK CLEAN

Start saving on your trash bag purchases.

Select the right bag for your property's needs and increase your building's efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

JAD Plastic Bags is one of the nation's leading manufacturer and distributor of plastic trash can liners and compactor bags.

## **JAD CORPORATION OF AMERICA**

20-48 119th Street  
College Point, NY 11356  
FAX # (718) 463-8190

Start saving today with a toll-free call:

# **1-800-JAD-BAGS**





## Focus

# ITALIANS AND

Did you know that four Italian cities — Rome, Reggio Calabria, Syracuse, and Pozzuoli — are mentioned in the Bible, or that the first non-Jew that the Apostles converted to Christianity was an Italian?

While it is easy enough to identify Rome as the center of the Catholic religion, it is another thing to appreciate the part Italy and Italians played in the founding of the original church. In fact, it is safe to say that Christianity itself might well have remained a minor Middle Eastern sect had it not been for the Italian domination of the Mediterranean two millenia ago.

*And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a degree from Caesar Augustus...* Augustus, founder of the Roman Empire, was one of four Roman emperors who figure in the Bible's account of the birth of Christianity. One could almost suspect a divine purpose in having Jesus come into the world at the very start of the Roman Peace (Pax Romana). Not only was the land of Judea at peace but a good part of the Western world as well. The Italian legions of Rome had disarmed the subject peoples, constructed a marvelous network of highways, planted colonies of veterans across the far-flung empire, and secured the safety of the sea lanes of the Mediterranean. What better conditions would there be for Apostles to travel and preach the Gospel?

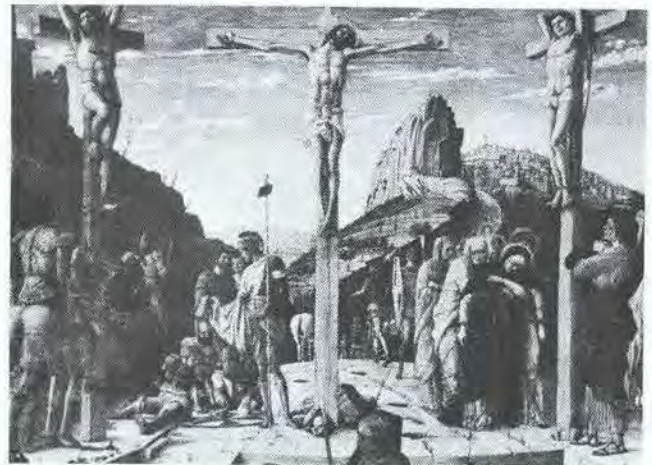
### ITALY IN PROPHECY

Some interpretation is necessary in tracing the Italian connection in the Bible, particularly in the Old Testament.

Among the many prophecies hidden in the Holy Scriptures, one clearly indicates the coming of Rome and the events that would give rise to Christianity and, in turn, the destruction of the Jewish state.



**The Roman eagle, symbol of a rising world power**



**Italian art left nothing to the imagination.  
Crucifixion, by Andrea Mantegna**

*"The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand."* (Deuteronomy 28:49)

Written shortly after the Exodus from Egypt, this prophecy may well apply to Italy, for that land was surely off the beaten track, if known at all, for Egyptians and Hebrews alike. Surely, the Italic tongue (Latin) of the Roman was unlike any semitic language familiar to the Hebrews and the eagle was coincidentally the symbol of ancient Rome. The prophecy continues by stating how this enemy would lay seige to all the cities of Judea and eventually disperse the Hebrews around the world. Such was precisely the case when the Jews later revolted against Rome. The ensuing war wreaked havoc on Judea and led to the Diaspora, or the scattering of the Jews.

We needn't seek out mysterious passages of Biblical prophecy to document an Italic presence elsewhere in the Scriptures, though. Italians and their influence are evident throughout the New Testament. Individuals such as Roman centurions, government officials from the emperors to provincial hacks, and the enlightened concepts of Italic civilization served as both background and catalyst to the birth of Christianity.

## Focus

# THE BIBLE

By John Mancini

### SOLDIERS OF FAITH

*"Speak but the word and my servant shall be healed."* The name of this Roman soldier is lost to us but he no doubt served, probably in an engineering capacity, with the 10th Legion, which was stationed in Judea. If this soldier was any indication, there was a degree of cooperation and respect between the Italian occupiers and the Jewish population at that time. St. Luke reports that this centurion (equivalent to a captain) not only had the deepest respect for Jews, but had even built them a synagogue in the city of Capernaum. Christ marveled at the centurion's total faith in Christ's power to heal the sick. He used such faith as an example to his would-be supporters. (Luke 7:1-9) Moreover, Christ was moved to utter the words that would spur the future conversion of non-Jews. *"And I say unto you, that many shall come from east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven."* (Matthew 8:11)

As though to launch Jesus' policy of "open enrollment" for the new religion, the Apostles later baptized their first gentile convert, ironically, another Roman centurion. He was Cornelius of the Italian Cohort (a battalion-sized unit of a legion) stationed in Caesarea. Much like the first centurion, Cornelius was

a man of great compassion known for his charity and devotion to the god of the Jews. The baptism of Cornelius and a coterie of his non-Jewish friends created a theological stir in Judea. Here for the first time circumcision was not required to be a Jewish Christian. (Acts 10:1-48, 11:1-3)



John Wayne as an Italian Centurion  
(The Greatest Story Ever Told)

Later still when St. Paul is sent to Rome to stand trial he is escorted by the centurion Julius, of the Augustan Cohort. The Bible informs us that Julius who accompanied Paul from Jerusalem by sea, spared Paul's life from summary execution when the ship foundered and it was feared that the prisoners might escape. (Acts 27).

### THE ROMAN AUTHORITIES

From the time of his birth Jesus' life was subject to Roman authority. His life began in Bethlehem because Mary and Joseph had to travel there to comply with the Imperial census. His life was ended by order of Pontius\* Pilate, Governor of Judea. In between

(continued on p.15)

\*Note: Some years ago a genealogist managed somewhat to trace the lineage of Sophia Loren's husband Carlo Ponti to the Pontius clan of ancient Italy. Governor Pilate therefore would be a distant relation.

*The Italic Way*

WITH  
**ROYAL-PRUDENTIAL**

111 EIGHTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011

**ONE PHONE CALL—DOES IT ALL**

**(212) 255-4000**

**A Full Line of Building Services:**

**Maintenance  
Cleaning  
Security  
Computer Room Cleaning**



Comparing early Christian (mostly Greek) art with the later Italian. Perspective and shading (*chiaroscuro*) were developed in Italy. *Madonna & Child* by Bellini

these events Christ lived his whole life, in apparent harmony, under Roman rule. Even the flight to Egypt during his childhood was but a change in Roman jurisdictions for Egypt was another province in the all-encompassing empire.

There is no record of Jesus' feelings toward the Italic occupiers of his homeland. Indeed, as observed above, Italians were among his more tolerant and believing admirers. When confronted by Judean nationals with the tricky question of paying taxes to the Romans, Christ responded with the ingenious reply, *Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's*, referring to the coinage of the realm.

Pilate was one of many Roman officials who had to deal with the early evangelists of Christianity. Although not outlaws yet, these early Christians made themselves very unpopular with traditional Jews and pagan Greeks of the eastern Empire. From Jerusalem to Greece and Asia Minor (Turkey), the early church fathers unintentionally stirred up riots, mob violence, and general disorder as they preached their radical gospel. Roman officials were hard-pressed to keep the religious factions at peace with each other. In most cases the Apostles had to be arrested for their own protection. What complicated matters was that St. Paul happened to be a Roman citizen entitled to very delicate treatment. The Bible names a number of sympathetic Roman officials who saved Apostles from certain death at the hands of angry mobs.



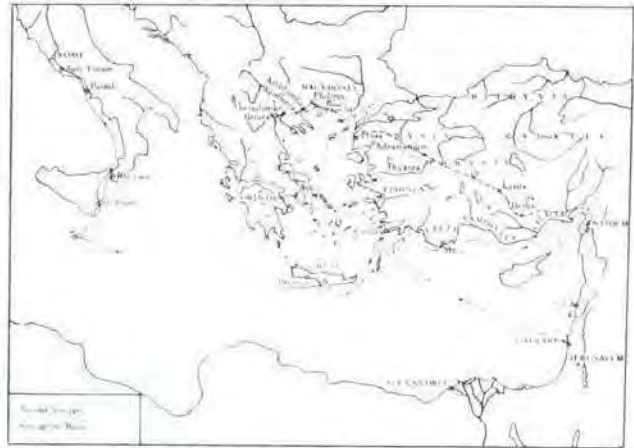
Because early Christian scholars had mistranslated the Bible Michelangelo sculpted horns on Moses' head.

Gallio, Felix (whose own wife was Jewish), Claudius Lysias, and Festus were the most notable. It was a continual challenge for these officials, including Pontius Pilate, to protect the innocent yet preserve the order of their jurisdictions.

## AN EMPIRE OF LAWS

*It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have license to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him. (Acts 26:16).*

So spake Portius Festus, successor to Pilate, concerning



The Roman Peace (*Pax Romana*) gave the Apostles freedom to travel and preach. Would Christianity have spread otherwise?

the plight of St. Paul who stood imprisoned and accused by Jewish leaders. Despised by his own people, Paul invoked his ultimate right to appeal to Caesar, in this case Emperor Claudius, to decide his fate. Regardless of where one lived in the vast Empire, (comparable in size to the continental United States) the appeal to Caesar granted the Roman citizen a free trip to Rome, and maybe one back if the verdict was favorable. In Paul's case he spent two years in Italy during which time he lived under a very comfortable house arrest utilizing his time corresponding (the Epistles) to Christian communities in the Empire. Ultimately, Claudius found him guilty, probably as a political gesture, and had him beheaded, the humane death penalty of a Roman. Years later, St. Peter, by

(Continued on p. 28)





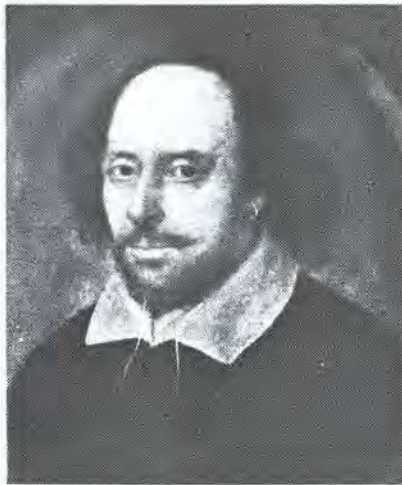
# Perspectives

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

## The Importance of Italy on Shakespeare

by Dr. Peter Sammartino, Chancellor  
Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Rutherford, NJ

Shakespeare without Italy is like a sonnet without rhyme. Both Elizabethan Britons and Colonial Americans looked to the Italian peninsula for cultural inspiration. And their longing was fueled, in great measure, by the Bard's Italian settings. From *The Tempest* (Milan) to *Much Ado About Nothing* (Messina), Shakespeare's protagonists travelled the length and breadth of the fabled Italian boot in search of political intrigue, adventure and romance. And it was from Italy that the English language's greatest writer derived his most memorable dramatic moments. Nearly every grade school student has heard or uttered Marc Antony's immortal eulogy to Caesar: "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears." But just who was this gifted playwright with the Italianate touch? The answer is both shocking and enlightening.



Shakespeare, the Italianate bard

Shakespeare, or the Stratford *Shakesper*, lionized in English literature, did not write *Julius Caesar*, *The Merchant of Venice* or any of the great plays attributed to him. In fact, there is no proof he even went to school, and no one in Stratford during his life and for generations afterwards ever referred to any of his works. His parents were illiterate, as were his daughters. All we have of him are six signatures that resemble the scrawls of an uneducated man. There is not a single note, nor a single letter written by him. He is reputed to have lived in London from 1590 to 1597. During that short period, Shakesper is alleged to have shed his unintelligible Warwickshire accent, learned Latin, Greek, French and Italian, mastered law, history, medicine and royal sports, and learned all about Italy. His output is supposed to have been prodigious: 37 plays plus 154 sonnets and other poems. History then tells us that he suddenly returned to Stratford, ceased writing completely and took up business activities.

The truth is otherwise. The real writer of the plays, in my opinion, was Edward de Vere, the seventeenth Earl of Oxford (1550-1604). We know that he wrote poetry at an early age. We know that he had the best education possible in England. Incidents in the plays refer to details in his life. The verse forms in the plays tally with the early poems we know he wrote. He was the highest ranking nobleman in the land, his ancestors going back to William the Conqueror in 1066.

In England, at this time, nobles could not write plays or poetry under their own name. So a pseudonym had to be devised. Oxford chose Shakespeare or Shake-speare because of his prowess in tournaments. A stand-in had to be created. Because of the similarity in name, William Shaksper of Stratford was chosen.

Oxford spoke Italian and read deeply in Italian. He wrote a long preface for *Il Cortegiano* of Catiglione when it was translated in England from Italian to Latin, and also for Cardano's *Comforte* when it was translated from Italian to English. Moreover, he adapted plots directly from

contemporary Italian authors such as Matteo Bandello (*Romeo & Juliette*) and Giovanni Giraldi (*Othello* and *Measure for Measure*).

In 1575-76, he spent about a year in Italy, traveling with a retinue of eight and visiting some of the great courts of Italy. We know he visited Venice, Verona, Florence, Genoa, Rome, and Palermo. Therefore, many of his plays are in Italian settings. When he returned to London, he was referred to as the Italianate Gentleman.

Shakespeare without Italy leaves very little, just the chronicle plays. Oxford was the greatest proponent of the Italian Renaissance in England. An appreciation of his experiences in Italy can lead to a better understanding of his works.

LET'S  
  
 FOR A  
 CLEANER  
 NEW YORK



**BMSC**

*Building Maintenance  
 Service Corp.*  
 Two Penn Plaza  
 New York, NY 10121  
 (212) 714-0004

It behooves writers and historians to correct the greatest myth in literary history.

*Dr. Sammartino is the author of the book "Who Was Shakespeare?" (Cornwall Books, Cranbury, NJ 08512) founder of Fairleigh-Dickinson University, and a member of the Advisory Council of the Institute.)*

The play's the thing wherein Shakespeare is in full Italianate swing. The following list features the best of the Bard's Italy-based plays:

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <i>The Tempest</i>             | Milan, Verona   |
| 2. <i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> | Milan, Mantua   |
| 3. <i>Twelfth Night</i>           | Ilyria, Italian characters: Antonio, Malvolio, Olivia, Viola, Maria       |
| 4. <i>Measure for Measure</i>     | Vienna, Italian characters: Claudio, Lucio, Isabelle, Marianna, Francisca |
| 5. <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>  | Messina   |
| 6. <i>Merchant of Venice</i>      | Partly Venice, partly at Belmont on the Continent                         |



Juliette's balcony still draws the tourists in Verona

- |                                       |                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 7. <i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>   | France and Tuscany |
| 8. <i>Taming of the Shrew</i>         | Padua              |
| 9. <i>The Winter's Tale</i>           | Sicily             |
| 10. <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>       | Roman Empire       |
| 11. <i>Cymbeline</i>                  | Britain, and Italy |
| 12. <i>Julius Caesar</i>              | Rome               |
| 13. <i>Titus Andronicus</i>           | Rome               |
| 14. <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>           | Verona and Mantua  |
| 15. <i>Othello the Moor of Venice</i> | Venice             |
| 16. <i>Coriolanus</i>                 | Partly in Rome     |

\*\*\*\*

*The Italic Way*



# REVIEW

## BETSY'S WEDDING or HOW TO MURDER YOUR HERITAGE

-A film by Alan Alda

It's still not safe to go back to movies if you are a hypersensitive Italian-American. In fact, thanks to funny guy Alan Alda it is downright embarrassing.

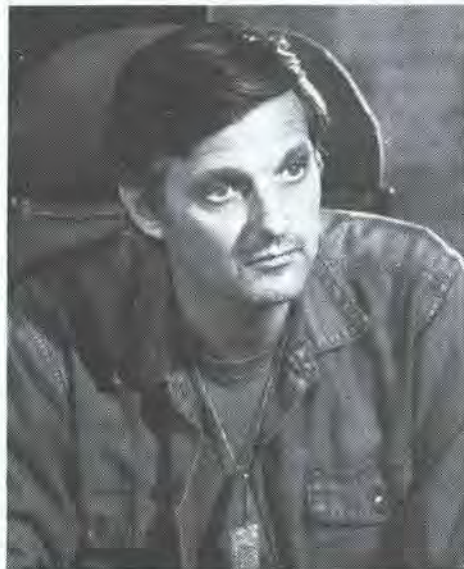
In his latest brainchild — he seems to get one every decade or so — is a parallel of his own life, of sorts. The only difference is that while the character he plays, Eddie Hopper, is a full-blooded Italo-American, Alda's deep dark secret is that he is really only part Italic. His "better half" is a waspy Browne. This revelation may explain why *Betsy's Wedding* makes Italian-Americans look like roller derby rejects.

But who's complaining? How can anyone fault Mr. Sensitivity, the caring, non-macho idol of women across America, for trashing his father's heritage? His dad, late singer/actor Robert Alda (*nee* D'Abruzzo), who dreamed of a television series glorifying the Italian heritage and even got the Sons of Italy to invest \$40,000 in the unfulfilled dream, surely must be proud of young Browne-Alda as he watches from beyond the pearly gates.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. Back to the movie.

Hopper's father, who coincidentally is deceased, is played deadpan as usual by Joey Bishop. As explained by this spirit, the Hoppers really had a funny Italian name which was changed because Hopper Sr. didn't want to be

mistaken for a criminal. (Is that Hopper's logic or Browne-Alda's?) In any event, Hopper Jr. married a Jewish lady (just like Browne-Alda) and had two daughters somewhat acquainted with the Italian heritage. I say somewhat because grandma (Hopper's mom) is a crude fat lady who utters such public statements as "Nice chandelier. Must be a bitch to



Alan Browne-Alda  
Mashing the Italic heritage

clean." And there is also Hopper's sister a chain-smoking beast that eats anything within reach. Sadly, these Italic females are as good as it gets.

The plot of the movie revolves around Hopper's need to match his daughter Betsy's future in-laws in lavish expenditures. The in-laws happen to be Anglos (Browne-Alda's better half?) and shame him into promising the couple a fitting wedding feast. Where to get the money? It just so happens that Hopper's wife's brother, a non-ethnic real estate sleaze (but honest), has contact with the Italic underworld. Now we are cooking!

The underworld don (Burt Young) and his awkwardly suave nephew lend Hopper the thirty grand he needs to throw the wedding reception. However, it doesn't take long for Hopper to find out who he is dealing with. After a traditional meal at La Spezia Ristorante Hopper finds himself nearly gunned down in Little Italy as he walks the street with the boys. But the wedding must go on.

Don't expect an Italian wedding. Betsy is an unconventional type who refuses to have a traditional wedding even though a Catholic. Instead, she opts for a Jewish judge and agrees to stomp a traditional glass (for untraditional symbolism) and dance the Hava Nagila. It's not a total cop-out though. The mafiosi crash the wedding and Betsy's sister falls for the don's nephew who even agrees to mend his Italic ways and apply for the police academy.

In all, the movie is a Browne-Alda triumph. Women control their destinies. Judaism is preserved. Waspsdom is still sacred. And the Italians are put in their place. That "feeling" guy has done it again!

-JLM



Mr. Robert Alda and son.

# THE PAST MAKES A GREAT PRESENT.



Unity & Peace coin

Knowledge & Commerce coin

An artistically minted coin that commemorates the great yesterdays makes a great present today.

It's the perfect gift for graduations, birthdays, scholarship awards or just about any occasion that calls for something a little special.

Choose either one or both of the coins shown:

CIRCLE YOUR CHOICES

Coin	Type	Display box	Cases		Qty	Total
			Velvet	Wood		
Unity & Peace Knowledge & Commerce	bronze* (*antique or polished)	\$16	\$22	\$32		
	silver†	65	75	85		
Combination Set	bronze* (*antique or polished)	30	40	50		
	silver†	115	125	135		
						Total

†silver coins are .999 pure silver, antique finish.

All coins come with historical background information.

Send Check or Money Order to:

**THE ITALIC STUDIES INSTITUTE**  
PO Box 818, Floral Park, NY 11001



## **CONSULTANTS FOR EFFICIENT BUILDINGS**

COMPREHENSIVE CONSULTING  
ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR  
THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY

- METERING
- INFRARED INSPECTIONS
- DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION
- CAD SERVICES
- ENERGY AUDIT
- BUILDING ELECTRICAL  
SYSTEM EVALUATION

11 PENN PLAZA, NEW YORK, NY 10001  
212/967-2243 • FAX: 212/594-9182

# **GRAHAM**

**RESTORATION CO., INC.**

**212-925-9630**

• ROOFING & REPAIRING • SINGLE PLY SYSTEMS

• BUILT UP ROOFING • WATERPROOFING

• FLASHING & METAL WORK • MASONRY & QUARRY TILE

• POINTING & CLEANING • CAULKING

**365 BROADWAY N.Y. 10013**



# Project Italia

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

## RE-EDUCATING A PEOPLE

A funny thing happened on the way to making our television documentary. We found out that a good number of Italian-American scholars did not see eye-to-eye with us. Imagine our shock when we proposed to these scholars that the birth of the Italian nation took place in Roman times (based on real history) and some of them got downright insulting. One denied that the Roman Empire of Augustus was even Italian. Another degraded Rome's legacy as rape and pillage. Still another refused to accept the round figure of a 2,500 year national past (for him it had to be 3,000 years or nothing!)

Added to our stew of identity problems are the "greeklings" (as Cato the Roman senator called them) - those who think Southern Italy is more Hellenic than Italic. And the "Longobards" who insist that Italy is really made up of two races, North and South, one vigorous the other lazy, a sort of Czecho-Slovakia of the Mediterrean.

You can't argue with these *testaduri* (hardheads). So the Institute is moving up its film schedule to produce *The Italians: The Classical Heritage*. This 20-30 minute film will be completed by early 1991 and broadcast on leased-time television stations for all to see. Its purpose is to set the historical record straight once and for all.

Maybe, just maybe, when all Italian-Americans get their historical past correct then attitudes and images will change for the better. Wish us luck.



### WOMEN'S EQUALITY

Today's social equality of women can be traced to the Etrusco-Roman era. Certainly no other culture, East or West, ever gave women the freedom they enjoyed in ancient Italy.



### CITIZENSHIP

The idea of granting political equality to people of different ethnic origins was originated by the ancient Italians.



### GOVERNMENT & LAW

The American media seems to have forgotten that our republican form of government and even our laws are derived from mainly Roman models, not Greek or merely English ones.



# Media Madness

[In which we present media material with commentary]



**Item:** John Gotti's newborn grandson was ceremoniously welcomed to the world of bad taste this past July when *Long Island Newsday's* People Section aimed a few barbs at the innocent infant. To wit, "Il bambino di tutti bambini" "Is he getting a percentage of every other baby's formula?"

**Comment:** Angelo Tripicchio, *Newsday* reader was miffed enough to write the newspaper. "I ask myself: Am I overreacting? Am I hypersensitive to imagined ethnic slurs? Then I ask myself would *Newsday* have handled a baby story involving any other ethnic group or social group in the same way? Heck, no. Ladies and gentlemen, please, a little more class."

**Item:** "The celebrated sacking of Rome was primarily a humiliation..."

"Germany Toward Unity"  
by Otto Friedrich  
*Time Magazine* 7/9/90

**Comment:** Here come the Teutonic revisionists. We'll quote Gibbon concerning the siege of Rome by Alaric the Goth in 410 A.D. "Many thousands of the inhabitants of Rome expired in their houses, or in the streets, for want of sustenance; and as the public sepulchers without the walls were in the power of the enemy, the stench which arose from so many putrid and unburied carcasses infected the air; and the miseries of famine were succeeded and aggravated by the contagion of a pestilential disease." How would Herr Friedrich characterize the 900-day seige of Leningrad by the modern Goths during World War II? An overzealous encirclement.



## Italian Genealogy Italian Family History

(Have you been trying to seek your Italian Family Roots?  
Having trouble? Don't know how to do it?)

Perhaps POINT (Pursuing Our Italian Names Together) can help! POINT is a data base of over 6000 Italian surnames and helps to put people who are interested in the same Italian surnames (or the same area of Italy) in contact with each other so that they can exchange information.

Our quarterly journal, POINTers, lists the surnames in the data base and the names and addresses of those who entered the surnames into the data base. The journal also includes tips and hints on how to pursue your Italian family roots and Italian family history.

For more information, send a business-sized envelope (self-addressed and stamped) to:

P O I N T  
(Pursuing Our Italian Names Together)  
P. O. Box 2977  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, California 90274

## THE ITALIC WAY Rate Card

Circulation 2,000

(number of issues)

B & W	x1	x2	x3	x4
Full Page	.....\$300	525	750	975
1/2 Page	.....\$180	300	415	540
1/4 Page	.....\$127	215	300	385
1/8 Page	.....\$ 65	110	155	200

### Contact

THE ITALIC WAY - Ads  
PO Box 818  
Floral Park, NY 11001  
516 488-7400

# Media Madness

**Comment:** Hey, is that a *fasces* (as in Fascist) we see behind Nelson Mandela as he addresses Congress in the House of Representatives? That ancient Roman symbol of authority is, indeed, positioned conspicuously in the legislative body of these United States. What's more, our tri-part government, the names Senate and President, as well as the veto power are all Italic derivatives. You'll never learn that on Public television. Ancient Hellas (Greece) has the media all sewn up.



**Item:** "...I received warnings from friends about the dangers of a woman traveling alone in Italy. My experience confirmed that, in general, women are valued only as mothers or else seen as sex objects."

-Laurel Avery (letter to the *NY Times Magazine*)

**Item:** "But it is unfair to condemn Indian men on the basis of a problem that hasn't been solved at home (USA)...gender relations are mired in medieval times, no matter where you are."

- Philip Bretsky (letter to the *NY Times Magazine*)

**Comment:** Both of these letters were written in response to an article written about a woman travelling alone in India where she found herself an object of only sexual value. How the Italians got mixed up into this is quite perplexing — they are always targets of opportunity yet no one takes the time to defend them.

By the way, 8,000 cases of rape are reported in India every year and nearly every Hindi movie contains a rape scene "because the people live in a repressive society, they are sex starved." (So says Ranjeet, a movie villain, who has enacted more than 350 rapes).

**Item:** Sly Stallone has had enough of brawn movies. He now wants to change his image and go for the brains.

**Comment:** Hey Rocco! Will your new brainy character have an Italian name?







# News of the Institute

## Minutes of the Plenary Council, June 7, 1990

**Annual Dinner:** A huge success. Carl Borsari, Dinner Chairman, was congratulated. Suggestions were made to dramatize the raffle a bit more during the evening, utilizing a band MC. (\$8,000 in prizes were awarded.) A new band was requested for next year. John LoBianco and his committee were praised for the Italian Awareness exhibit.

**1990-91 Budget:** The budget was reviewed by John Mancini, President. The general feeling was to allocate more money to administrative needs. The budget will be reviewed by the Board of Governors and the Executive Council before finalization and submission for a vote by the Plenary Council. (Note: the revised budget was approved by a vote of the Council, by mail-in ballot.)

**Project Italia:** Frank Vitale, Project Director, reviewed the problems we are having with the National Endowment application and the recruitment of scholarly support. The problem stems from a lack of consensus by most Italian-American scholars of the approach to the Italian heritage. Some scholars are hung up on the "poor immigrant" perspective, some on a fragmented, non-Roman approach. One political scientist held the project in contempt and had no constructive suggestions. However, we do have a number of academic backers who feel we are on target. Nevertheless, the shocking lack of understanding of the Latin/Italic roots of Italy by the so-called intelligentsia has led the Project staff to insist that a short film entitled *The Classical Heritage* be made to focus attention on the fact that Italy was created by Rome before Christ and that Italy is Latin/Italic in heritage. It was noted that modern Italy is still torn by the north vs. south myth (Lombard League vs Magna Graecia).

**The Italic Way:** The Council was unanimous in praise of the newsletter and urged that money be spent for marketing and growth. A subcommittee will be formed to foster restaurant displays and advertising.



Why are the Romans treated like skeletons in the Italian closet?



## Governor's Meeting

June 22, 1990

**New Governor:** Carl Borsari, New York City real estate executive, was elected unanimously to Governor of the Institute in recognition of his efforts on behalf of Italic Studies. Carl will serve a three-year term.

**1990-91 Budget:** It was agreed that this fiscal year should be devoted to building up the implements for future expansion, i.e., films, newsletter circulation, youth program, and products. Year 4 (1991-92) is to be the year of national growth with heavy emphasis on administrative overhead.



## Review (continued from p.10)

literate though better looking than was the short and bald poet of fin-di-siecle decadence." Fiat's chairman, Giovanni Agnelli, is "tall, appearing more interesting than handsome with his deeply lined, faintly Asian ("Etruscan") face . . . This is in contrast to Vittorio Valletta, the "short, brisk" chief executive officer who presided over Fiat's reconversion from "ineffectual" tanks and army trucks to Topolino autos. Herr Hofmann revels in physical caricatures in nearly every chapter. "There are tall, lanky, blond horse-faced Sicilians" and "short, chubby, black-haired and dark-eyed Florentines and Mantuans."

No nation is without fault, flaws or foibles. However, despite an illustrious history as the cradle of Western Civilization, Italy is never accorded a modicum of respect in print. Paul Hofmann's latest entry gives lip service to Italian greatness, but is aimed at Italy's jugular. A similar volume could have been written about another nation. This country has an archaic political system that is as

scandal-ridden as it is elephantine. Its major cities are dirty, polluted, inefficient and crime infested. The southern half of the country has pockets of stark poverty and illiteracy. Over 25 million of its citizens cannot read or write. Railroads, highways and mass transit are either antiquated, stagnated or in total disarray. And the trains don't even run on time. The same political party has been in power for the last ten years, and only once since the 19th century has the nation's leader come from the south. Regionalisms abound. Northerners view their southern kin as red-necked, thick-headed misanthropes with little or no culture or education. The nation is reeling with a trillion dollar debt, and its firms cannot compete with foreigners. Vulgarity is rampant in the mass media. Young comedians regularly disparage women in the crudest of terms. Also, venereal disease and drug abuse are epidemic. Thousands of homeless live out their hopeless lives in gutters. And only now is this nation coming to grips with the wave of violence and political assassinations it



experienced in the 60's and 70's. Indeed, one of its leaders once called this country "a sick society."

Sound familiar? That is how a slanted book on America written in the Hofmann-*verite'* style would read. That is how his diatribe against Italy reads. And that is the saddest commentary of all.

- Rosario A. Iaconis

(Ed: Paul Hofman has resided in Italy for 30 years, on and off. He plans to continue enjoying the good life there.)

## Forum (continued from p. 9)

public figure who wants to get re-elected is going to stand up and say that some mobster in a silk suit is being railroaded.

The second reason is related to the first. The members of the low-rent gangs have such colorful names and curriculum vitae that the press cannot resist writing reams of copy about them.

It takes extraordinary will power and self-control not to go into typewriter frenzy over men with monikers like "Cockeyed Phil" Lombardo or "Matty the Horse" Ianniello. Not to mention "Carmine the Snake" Persico. It would seem that exotic nicknames are a prerequisite for membership in these mobs. Just the other day, I was reading about a name that had eluded me until now — Anthony "Gas Pipe" Casso.

When the public reads about the doings of these gaudy gangsters, it has a calming effect — reassuring us that something is being done about crime. This is not the case with stories about bankers and real-estate men with ordinary names. No one's going to read past the first paragraph if it's about a bank chairman with a handle like Tyrone Braithwaite or Roger Huntington-Smythe or Booker Bascomb III. Now if you could dress up those appellations, maybe we could turn press coverage around.

Say we did some digging and found out that in their close-knit criminal circles, these guys were actually called "Icepick Tyrone" Braithwaite and Roger "No-Fingers" Huntington-Smythe. Bascomb, meanwhile, was revealed as "Booker the Hooker." And then there's "Silverado Neil" Bush.

With names like that, the prosecutors would be frothing to get these guys to trial, knowing that years and years of newsprint were guaranteed. An immediate bidding war would ensue in Los Angeles for the movie rights. I'd like to work on the script. The working title could be "The Icepick Connection" or, if you prefer something less flamboyant, "Bush: The Movie."

We'll all be rich. Let's get to work on changing those names.

(Reprinted from *Newsday*, March 23, 1990)



# PROFILES

(Ed. The following article was reprinted from *Atlantica Magazine*. It appeared originally in March, 1931.)

## The First Italian Military Victory

by Umberto Gozzano

In the salon of the great palace in Moscow, the Emperor, surrounded by all his marshals, was giving his final orders for the beginning of the retreat. Through the windows they could see the smouldering ruined walls of the houses in Moscow, half destroyed by the great fires started by the Russians in order to drive out Napoleon. And Napoleon, now, was in retreat, conquered to a greater extent by the terrible winter than by the troops of Kutuzof and the Czar. For the first time the armies of Napoleon had not known victory, and the Emperor, more nervous than usual, paced up and down the great hall, inhaling snuff and giving orders to Marshal Ney, who was seated at the table, writing.

"In the vanguard there will be the Italian troops; Davout's corps will follow, then the Imperial Guard with you, Ney, and with me, in the rear, I will have Marshal Mortier. The Italian troops will march on Kaluga."

"One word, Sire . . ."

"What is it, Ney?"

"How can we possibly send the Italians in the vanguard? They are all raw recruits, and besides, who ever saw Italians fight?"

"The Italian soldier has no equal, if well directed; the Italians are good fighters, and they are as brave as the French and more tenacious and temperate, I have noticed. It is the first time they have been united as a single body, and it is true that they are all recruits, but I am sure of them . . ." And, taking an energetic pinch of snuff once again, Napoleon resumed his pacing in the great hall, and the giving of orders.

The little army corps of 15,000 men, commanded by

Prince Eugene Beauharnais and General Pino, make good time over the dismal Russian plains, which a premature winter rendered still more desolate. It was October, and yet a first heavy snowfall had already occurred, lowering the temperature considerably. The troops, nevertheless, marched along in good spirits; the Uhlans galloped in loose formation in the vanguard, followed by the infantry in order, battalion on battalion, singing gaily. Many of the soldiers amused themselves watching the little vapor clouds formed by their breaths at every respiration. They had just reached a little valley entirely hemmed in by high mountains and not far from the town of Malo Jaroslavetz, when one of the Uhlans, galloping in with frantic haste, brought the news that the heights were held by the Russians. Prince Eugene was startled, and for a



Despite earlier victories, Napoleon's Grand Army is beaten by the Russian winter, 1812.

time he hoped the information was not true, but a later and supplementary message confirmed the first, adding that the heights were strongly held by three fourths of Kutuzof's army, in other words, 50,000 men. The defeat of the imperial corps' vanguard meant the complete rout of Napoleon, an irreparable disaster. They had to resist with 15,000 men enclosed in a little valley, against 50,000 men commanding the heights. This they had to do, to save Napoleon and the imperial Eagles. And the Italians, those recruits who had never fought before, those Venetians, Ligurians, Piedmontese and Milanese who formed the nucleus of the first army

ever to carry the name of Italy, prepared themselves for the trial. With their ranks closed, they assumed the defensive, but after General Pino had spoken, the soldiers, with a cry that had nothing of the human in it, hurled themselves against the town, captured and occupied it, barricading themselves in the houses, prepared for anything.

In phalanxes thick as clouds, the Russians came down on them from every side, from everywhere, battalion following battalion in constantly increasing waves. In vain did the artillery open up great gaps in their ranks, in vain did the grenades burst among them, sowing death, in vain did the Uhlans hurl themselves to the charge; the enemy's ranks were continually renewed. The city is now a brazier, a heap of ashes, and the Italians, grouped together behind a natural barrier which protects them somewhat, fight and repel the



(212) 921-0600

# ADVATEX

## ASBESTOS ABATEMENT

1501 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10036

enemy wherever they can.

"Don't fire, soldiers!" shouts Colonel Peraldi to his men, "the weapon of the Italians is the bayonet! Bayonets, my brave Italians, bayonets!" And the white weapon gleams, the onrush of the Russians in opposed by the equally sweeping rush of the Imperial Guardsmen. In spite of their superior numbers, the soldiers of the Czar waver, the Imperial Guard pursues, the Uhlans pursue; and now the Russians turn about, a strange panic seems to possess them, and they flee back to the heights followed by Napoleon's soldiers. New reserves hasten to the aid of the Russians, yet even against these do the Guardsmen charge.

For hours and hours does this epic battle last. Kutuzof begins to doubt that he has only a few troops against his men and he becomes cautious. The Italians seem to multiply themselves and be like demons; no one would believe that these men — blackened by powder, red with blood and with torn uniforms — are the recruits, the soldiers of a nation now giving battle for the first time, and who, moreover, are not even fighting for their own country.

At night the ruins of Malo Jaroslavetz are still in the hands of Napoleon's men when Marshal Ney's corps, together with the Old Imperial Guard, arrives on the scene. The Russian army retires in utter disorder and the battle is won: an 18-hour battle won by 15,000 men over 50,000, won by

recruits closed in by mountains in a little valley, over veteran soldiers, the flower of the Russian army.

October 24, 1812: Malo Jaroslavetz! The Italians should always remember this date and name. It is the date and the name of an Italian victory, of the first Italian victory before Italy, as Italy, ever was. Before that wars had been won by the Romans, then by the Genovese, the Venetians, the Milanese, the Florentines, by all the Italians, but in the name of their respective and individual cities. Now, and only now, through the work of another Italian, Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of the French, these Italians for the first time fought with the name of Italy on their tongues and won.

The Emperor praised the victory of the Imperial Italian Guard in few but highly significant words:

"This battle stands as the greatest eulogy possible for the Sixth Army Corps. The enemy used two-thirds of their army, but in vain, to dislodge us from our positions. The Imperial Italian Guard, once it conquered its position, held it."

Few words, these, but they have all the greatness of an epic poem.

\*\*\*\*



## Bible (continued from p. 15)

contrast, was executed by crucifixion. Unlike Paul, he was not a Roman citizen.

Political necessities aside, the Roman world was fertile ground for the spread of Christianity. Very few times in history have international borders vanished and a common language (in this case Latin and Greek) become so widespread as during the Roman Empire. The Apostles not only enjoyed the protection of a humanistic government but were able to travel freely, communicate through the mails, and practice a controversial faith amidst pagan and Jewish populations. Unquestionably there were periodic persecutions both interreligious and government-sponsored but when one jumps ahead to the centuries of Reformation and Counterreformation in Europe or the countless religious wars that have murdered mil-



Milan was where Emperor Constantine signed the Edict (313 A.D.) that granted religious freedom in the Empire. This is the basis of our right today.

lions, the Roman era was a remarkable window of opportunity that the Christian fathers made the most of. Ultimately, Italy gave the world its first official law granting religious freedom — the Edict of Milan in 313 A.D. from which time Christianity spread throughout the Empire, adopting its form of ritual and organization from the

Roman state religion. It is doubtful that the Apostles even imagined that the success of their faith would hinge on the Italic people who executed their founder and that pagan Italy was to be the center of that faith.

### VISIONS OF GOD

It is unimaginable to picture the Bible without Italians. Can you envision the Creation without now seeing Michelangelo's God transmitting life to Adam with a finger's touch? Try and picture the seating arrangement at the Last Supper *sans* Leonardo.



Antonello of Messina's Virgin Mary  
A "photograph" of Christ's mother.  
Antonello helped to develop oil painting.

The truth is, no other religion in the world has been so pictorialized as Christianity, and most of that has been the work of Italian masters.

Fortunately, the early Church fathers forsook the ancient Hebrew ban on graven images, surrendering instead to the visual needs of their pagan converts. And although early churchgoers enjoyed primitive representations of Christ and Biblical events, it was not until the 14th Century that Italian Renaissance artists, beginning with Giotto, breathed life into the holy words. The demand for more and better paintings and sculpture spurred the art world to greater heights. Though the theme of this art was religious, the humanism of ancient and Renaissance Italy shone through. This art is now an integral part of our Western heritage regardless of religious persuasion.

\*\*\*\*



We even know where they all sat thanks to Italian imagination. (DaVinci)

**Together.  
To serve you  
better.**



**AMERICAN PIPE & TANK LINING CO. INC.  
MANHATTAN COOLING TOWERS, INC.  
AMERICAN CONTRACTING CO. INC.**

When piping, plumbing, cooling, tank and steam systems problems get too complicated to manage... Keep it simple. *One* phone call is all you need to make!

538 West 35th Street, New York, N.Y. 10001  
(212) 736-6618 FAX # (212) 465-1734

**NEW YORK,  
MEET  
NEW YORK  
WOOD TANK.**

We're the latest addition to the American Pipe & Tank Lining companies. NY Wood Tank was formed to offer dependable, professional service and we're here to solve your problems. We have tanks and crews at the ready for immediate installation and repair.

Property managers,  
make the best choice  
for your building.



**AN AMERICAN PIPE & TANK LINING COMPANY**

NY WOOD TANK CO. *First Rate Service From A First Rate Team.*

540 West 35th Street, New York, New York 10001  
(212) 768-6565 FAX # (212) 465-1734



***Italic Studies Institute, Inc.***

PO Box 818, Floral Park, NY 11001

Nonprofit Org.  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Floral Park, NY  
Permit No. 14