

THE

Vol. 4, No. 1

Winter, 1991

ITALIC WAY

The Newsletter of the Italic Studies Institute, Inc.



Italo-British actor
Christopher Carandini Lee
Horror of Dracula (1958)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Bloody Geniuses: Britons of Italian Heritage

General Carl Vuono, Army Chief of StaffThe Day they Lynched Italians...Book Review: The Proud Italians

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Vol. 4 No. 1

The Italic Way

Winter, 1991

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Letters

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

Good Words from a Vet

It has been a pleasure being part of the Italic Studies Institute for the past year. There is not one of your magazines that I have received that was not worth saving. *The Italic Way* is an exceptional magazine, and to my knowledge there is no other publication that keeps us so informed about our Italian heritage.

Thank you for a job well done.

Alex. P. Lombardi
U.S. Navy Armed Guards/
Veterans of WW II
Upper Montclair, NJ

Keep It Simple

Keep up the good work.

Savery S. Manfredonia, P.E.
Purchase, NY

Numbers, Numbers

As an Italian who is fully conscious, aware, and proud of the preponderant cultural and civilizing contribution that Italy has made to the world, both ancient and modern, let me congratulate you on your newsletter, *The Italic Way*. It is about time that the world, and especially America, gets to know Italians as they really are, and not as they are often subjectively perceived

to be. And to get to know the Italian as he really is, one must understand his heart, soul, and mind. In your newsletter, you have done just that.

Incidentally, our history precedes 2,500 years, as is so often stated in your publication. The Etruscans (among the first, if not the first great Italic civilization on our peninsula) were already extant in Italy by the 8th Century B.C. That would make our civilization at least 2,800 years old!

Carlo Sforza Okedas
Philadelphia, PA

(Ed: We actually date our historical perspective from the first unification of Italy 222 B.C. [2,213 years ago]. Using round numbers like 2,500 takes in a little bit of our Etruscan ancestry as well.)

Get a Life!

I wish the Institute well, but I have doubts about its success. In the issue of *Italic Way* before me [Fall, 1990] I see a lot of cheer-leading. I suspect that *IW*, like *IAM* and *Attenzione!* before it, is going to wind up preaching to the converted.



Scholars don't consider the Etruscans Italic. Still, they are part of the Italian bloodline. Unlike the Greeks, their women were socially equal.

As for your television film — please drop the project. It isn't going to work: no "20-30 minute film" can do what you want it to do, especially when — doubtless with the best of intentions — you want to bully the facts to suit your own agenda. Italy — its ideas and triumphs and contributions — is not harmed if scholars deny your claim that the Italian nation has a national past going back 2,500 years. Italy is not harmed by recognizing the diversity of its regions and people, or their uncomfortable fit with national unity, or the contributions of the Greeks. Truth is not served by minimizing the divisions



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Island and Montauk"*

- L.I. Newsday



Private rooms for small groups



Letters

among Italians or by pretending that Italians are lineal descendants of Romans or by pretending that the Greeks' contributions were not of great importance. (In fact you are blundering into a fallacy of racial purity here, where Mussolini and Hitler have gone before — beware!)

I wish you luck. You're trying the impossible, I think, and you're making the job tougher by being defensive and negative.

W. A. Marsano
New York, NY

(Ed: "Brother" Marsano sent us a \$10 membership. No hard feelings.)

Avanti!

I thoroughly enjoy *The Italic Way*; I find it very informative.

I'm looking forward to the publication of the book on Italy's contributions, and I'm anxiously awaiting the release of *The Italians: The Classical Heritage*. Please publicize these projects very clearly.

Keep up the good, much needed, work in promoting our positive attributes (and they are numerous),

Olga Bonardi Pappas
Maspeth, NY

A Need to Fill

I would like to commend you for the overall excellence and scholarly tone of *The Italic Way*. There certainly is a need for a publication and institute whose purpose is to spread knowledge of the Italian people's contribution to civilization.

Alfred Cardone
Yonkers, NY

Rendered Unto Caesar

Regarding America's supposed impatience to do battle [in the Gulf War], and

get things over with in a hurry, perhaps there is a lesson to be learned from the Romans.

Peter Connelly, in his book *The Roman Army* says, "The prestige and confidence of the Romans in siege works was enormous. A Roman commander was once informed by an envoy of a town he was about to besiege that they had enough food for ten years." The Roman commander "replied casually that he would take" the town "in the eleventh year." The result of this remark was that the town capitulated immediately.

Frank Zigon
Bethel Park, PA



A version of this photo made the cover of our Winter, 1990 Issue. What we did not know was that Fascist censors had covered up Il Duce's stableboy. Obviously, the heroic Benito was less so in the original. Thank you Walter Karling (Institute photographer)

FUTURE ISSUES OF THE ITALIC WAY

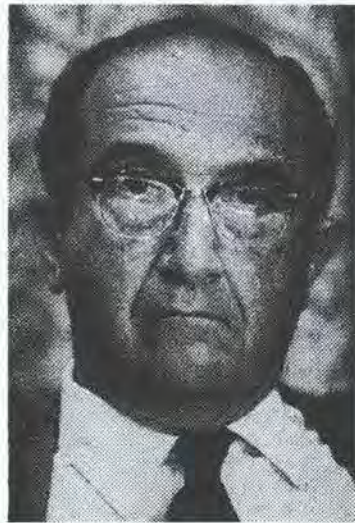
- SICILY - Italic from the start
- THE ITALIAN CIVIL WAR - It made Italy great
 - MAFIA - Strangers among us
- EARLY ROCK - Before the Beatles Italians ruled
- ITALIAN DEBT - What Italy Owes Italian-Americans



All'Italiana

ITALO-AVIONICS TAKE FLIGHT

It takes a lot more than a wing and a prayer to keep today's high-tech airplanes aloft. Just ask the Rockwell International Corporation, a military contractor making the switchover to industrial conglomerate. Seeking help in upgrading their aircrafts' avionics — a plane's navigation, communications flight controls and displays — Rockwell has turned to Fabbrica Italiana Apparecchiature Radioelettriche of Milan. This Italian military electronics giant has long enjoyed a sterling reputation in space systems, information technology, industrial automation, military systems, environmental systems and security systems. Looks like Rockwell might experience an aerial Italian Renaissance.



The late Salvador Luria



The late Silvio Conte

dam Hussein be confounding the Coalition into bombing fake aircraft, missiles and tanks manufactured by Moselli? Signor Moselli denies it, adding that he has not sold any such decoys in the last two years. And he asserts that he would refuse to sell anything to the Iraqis at this critical hour in history. Unlike other stiff-upper lipped practitioners of military chicanery in the past, Signor Moselli's word is his bond.

incentives for early resignations. And Carlo de Benedetti believes that his firm has "shown a vitality with few comparisons in the world-wide information-technology industry and a profitability that is exceptional for the European sector."

RESCUE IN SOMALIA

With the world's attention riveted to events in the Persian Gulf, many failed to notice a daring Italian rescue of foreigners from Somalia. Since December 30, 1990, rival Somali factions have been engaged in a civil war for control of this former Italian colony. Over the objections of the rebel United Somali Congress, Italy sent troops, frigates and aircraft

to evacuate more than 1,000 foreign nationals from a rapidly decaying country. The Italians even dispatched a rescue plane with tons of medical supplies for foreigner and native alike. Most of those saved were placed on board military cargo planes and whisked to an Italian frigate off the coast of Somalia. And all this occurred amidst fierce hostilities in the streets of Mogadishu.

THE REAL DECOYS

Mario Moselli of Torino builds American F-4s, F-15s and F-16s. His company, MVM, also constructs the American M60 tank and the British Chieftan tank. In fact, Signor Moselli can churn out nearly any piece of military hardware extant. What's more, his clients include Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq. But Moselli is a fake — and he readily admits it. You see, this urbane Italian gentleman is no arms merchant. Rather, he is the manufacturer of decoy military machinery. With Operation Desert Storm in full bloom, however, the verisimilitude of Moselli's creations has Allied commanders worried. Could the wily Sad-

OLIVETTI'S BYTE STILL STRONG

The European computer industry is in the midst of a disturbing economic malaise. American and Japanese competitors, as well as slumping profits, have sent shock waves across the continent. Massive job cuts have been announced by Philips N. V. of the Netherlands and Groupe Bull S.A. of France. Even mighty Olivetti of Italy has had to eliminate 7,000 jobs worldwide. But the Italian computer colossus is perhaps better prepared for the downturn than its rivals. Even Italy's unions are cooperating. The unions recognize that most of the cuts will come from early retirements and

BRAVE LIFE

Confined for the last 29 years in an iron lung as a result of a respiratory paralysis, Rosanna Benzi devoted her immobile life to the struggle for the handi-

All'Italiana



capped of Italy. Dead now at age 43, Signorina Benzi had edited a magazine for the handicapped called *Gli Altri* (*The Others*) and was in the process of drafting a parliamentary bill of rights for the disabled.

VATICAN CITED

The sovereign state of Vatican City has never recognized the State of Israel by reason of the Palestinian question. Over the years, the Popes have been lobbied to separate recognition from the Palestinian issue, each time they have refused.

With the Persian Gulf War has come new pressures, this time from members of the Italian parliament, the press and the Italian-Jewish community. Citing the Scud missile attacks and Israel's non-belligerent status in the war, the united groups are demanding that the Pope reverse official policy.

However, notwithstanding the Pope's altruistic stance on behalf of Palestinians, it has also been suggested that His Holiness is very much concerned with the fate of Arab Christians who may suffer if the Vatican embraces Israel.

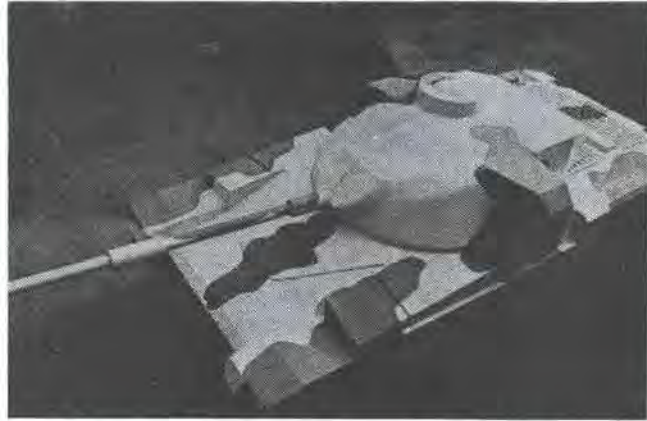
REQUIESCAT IN PACE

• Nobel prize winner **Salvador Luria** died at age 78. A biologist and physician who shared the 1969 Nobel Prize for Medicine for his work in the genetics of viruses, Dr. Luria was born in Turin. Of Jewish origin, he fled Italy before World War II to avoid persecution under Mussolini. Although a dedicated man of science, Dr. Luria's experiences under Fascism later made him a political activist. Among the issues he spoke out against were the

building of nuclear power plants, the Vietnam War and Israel's invasion of Lebanon. His greatest praise was reserved for freedom.

• United States Congressman **Silvio Conte** passed away at age 69. A champion of the people in the true Italic tradition that started with the Gracchi brothers of ancient Rome, Rep. Conte used his three decades of experience in Congress to serve the American public. He co-authored the bill to provide heating subsidies to the poor, wrote the 1970 law to preserve passenger service to rural America by creating Amtrak, and in 1983 he co-sponsored the first allocation of \$5 million toward AIDS research (a fund that has now grown to \$5 billion). One of his last votes was against the Persian Gulf resolution explaining that his yes vote on the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin Resolution which involved the U.S. in Vietnam still weighed heavily upon him.

• **Robert Di Giorgio**, 79, former head of America's largest produce grower Di Giorgio Corporation. Founded in 1920 in



Is it real or is it a Mosell? Hopefully, the Air Force knows for sure.

the San Joaquin Valley of California, the company was the first to support the union movement among farm workers. Mr. Di Giorgio, a Yale graduate, broke with fellow growers to promote the interests of poor workers. His firm was the first to sign a contract with the Cesar Chavez-led union.

NEW ADVENTURES OF JULES VERNE

It came from the Bay of Naples. Thanks to a specially designed submarine electric cable produced in the legendary Southern Italian city by the sea, Long Islanders will be able to reap the benefits of lower utility rates. Recently, the Italian ship known as the *Giulio Verne* (Jules Verne) traversed the Atlantic with its high-tech cargo in tow. Upon arrival in New York, the crew began installing the underwater cable in Long Island Sound near New Rochelle. Once the project is completed, power from Westchester can be safely transmitted to the residents of Long Island at reasonable energy rates. According to many industry experts, this latest Italian innovation is leagues ahead of any comparable cable.



American firms look to Italian flight technology



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.]

COLUMBUS' PRIVY?

Amid the controversy over the real legacy of Christopher Columbus — genocide or progress — comes the news that archeologists may have uncovered the Great Navigator's chamber pot on the island of Hispaniola.

The discovery at the site of La Isabela in the Dominican Republic has scholars enraptured. Named by Columbus in honor of the Queen who sponsored his voyage, the settlement at La Isabela was the forerunner of Spain's vast colonial empire. Archeologists have found the remains of European skeletons and evidence of light manufacturing. This may be the chamber pot heard 'round the world.

CHERCEZ LE DRUGS

The French already hold the European record for alcohol consumption. They may now be the most tranquilized people on earth according to government officials. One of every four adults is permanently on medication of the Valium and Librium sort. French doctors have become unwilling accomplices in this drug affliction, complaining that patients demand them.

Explained one Frenchwoman, "...French people are very private, they do not like to consult psychologists or psychiatrists. A Frenchman is like the opposite of Woody Allen, you see."

WHY NOT ITALIANS?

It partly took a radio plea by Joe DiMaggio's mother in 1942 to spare Italian-Americans the internment visited upon Japanese-Americans during the frantic war years. And, of course, the U.S. Government was sobered by the extent of Italic integration in Ameri-



Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney greets a former Italian-Canadian victim of WWII injustice. Although Japanese victims received monetary compensation the Italians received only a sincere apology

can society. Nevertheless, Canada took the desperate measure and carted some 700 Italian-Canadians off to camps. Finally, after awarding nearly \$300 million to Japanese victims of internment, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney publicly apologized to his Italic citizens, describing their ordeal as a "brutal injustice"

However, the contrite Canadian Government stopped short of compensating the Italic victims.

SADDAM SUBSIDIZED

Who created Saddam Hussein? Or, rather, who bankrolled this barbarian? In the wake of the war in the Persian Gulf, Western governments are asking these difficult and embarrassing questions. And they are launching investigations to

determine which corporations and financial institutions underwrote Saddam's reign of terror. The Germans were instrumental in providing the Iraqi



Italy, like most Western nations, was guilty of feeding Saddam's military establishment.

World Notes



dictator with chemical weapons, the French sold him their Exocet missiles and the Italians provided nuclear technology and cash. Now, Italy's Senate has begun a probe into the dealings of Banca Nazionale del Lavoro's Atlanta branch. According to Italian officials, BNL furnished Iraq with \$3 billion in illegal export credits in the three years prior to 1989. BNL blames the Atlanta branch, while Atlanta points an accusatory finger at bank management in Rome. Frankly, we wonder, who gave it to Saddam?

FLIM-FLAM MEN

• Neil (Silverado) Bush, a reputed kingpin in the Savings & Loan heists, lost an attempt to have the government's case against him dismissed. The trial of Bush and auto dealer/bank director Florian Barth is set to begin in October.

• In what may be the first joint venture between Russian mobsters and homegrown Italian-American wiseguys, the Feds have indicted five men in a Brooklyn grand jury for tax evasion. The scam involved shortchanging Uncle Sam for gasoline sales in the Metro New York area.

ETHNIC PROGRESS

• Using unpublished 1990 census data, the Arab American Institute revealed that Arab-Americans have higher median household incomes than Americans in general (\$18,133 vs. \$16,841). Further, they more than equal Asian-Americans in the percentage of high school graduates among their group; and nearly half of Arab-Americans have some college education compared to some 30% of Americans in general. Notable sons among the Arabic group

are chief of staff John Sununu, the late comedian Danny Thomas, consumer advocate Ralph Nader, and athlete Doug Flutie.

• Where is the last place you would think Soviet Jews want to immigrate, beside Baghdad? Germany, of course. The truth is that thousands of them are



French actor Gerard Depardieu beside bottles of France's pride and joy. Perhaps too much joy.

settling in the land of Goethe and Goering. Five thousand have already arrived and another ten thousand are awaiting approval of their applications. Although it is doubtful that the German Jewish community will reach its pre-war size (500,000), Deutschland offers Soviet Jews jobs, freedom, and plenty of *lebensraum*. So what's not to like?

TWO GERMANY'S

Germany has always been of two minds: efficient and often ruthless, hospitable and caring. The people who developed the "Final Solution" also gave the world Social Security. During these eventful days of the Persian Gulf War Germans, once again, have shown two

faces. It was German corporations that designed and built Saddam Hussein's command bunker and bio-chemical plants. It was they who largely supplied the technical know-how for Iraq's doomsday weaponry. Yet, German youth was among the first to hit the streets to challenge the German corporate ethic. Even the German government has felt obliged to airlift gas masks and emergency vehicles to an Israel threatened with poison gas made in Germany.

IRAQI NAVY IN ITALY

Among the contraband of war Italy has impounded eight brand new naval vessels built for the Iraqis in Italian shipyards.

Now laying at anchor in the port of La Spezia in Northern Italy, the ships represent the most modern, although now useless, part of Iraq's meager navy.

The Italian government managed to stall delivery of the vessels by parleying the international stereotype of Italian bureaucracy. Whatever works. ****



Dr. Anthony Fauci
Fighting AIDS



Editorial

TAKEN FOR GRANTED, AGAIN

Despite having shown itself, time and again, to be a staunch ally of the United States, Italy still suffers the humiliation of the American press. Witness a recent jibe by *Time Magazine* correspondent James Walsh:

"On their first combat operation since World War II, the Italians scrubbed all sorties but one because of mid-air refueling troubles caused by bad weather. The lone aircraft that proceeded with its mission went (sic) missing. Later Captain Maurizio Cocciolone, the pilot, turned up on Iraqi TV as a prisoner of war."

The balance of the paragraph quoted a retired Italian general who blamed Italian "unpreparedness" on the ever-changing Italian governments.

The reader, we suppose, must accept the inductive leap that bad weather and Iraqi anti-aircraft flak are indicative of Italian unpreparedness. This insinuation amid Mr Walsh's bombastic praise of British, French and even Arab fighter pilots has the smell of some old propaganda.

War is certainly not a laughing matter. Yet Italy's military has been the fodder for scores of Borscht Belt comedians and even the Italian-American ambassador to Italy. It is tantamount to making light of Israeli parents whose children suffocated in their gas masks because of improper use. Or, to wise-crack at the losses of American fighting men caused by "friendly fire".

Although Italy's commitment in the Persian Gulf is small, Italian airmen and naval personnel are sharing the dangers of war. The least our American press can do is treat them with respect.

- RAI/JLM

UNPATRIOTIC FLAG-WAVING

When Italian basketball star Marco Lokar refused to wear an American flag on his Seton Hall uniform the fans literally forced him off the court and he and his family out of the country. It seems Marco's refusal to make any political statement while playing sports did not sit well with "patriotic" fans. (Marco even refused to compromise by wearing the flag of our ally, his native Italy.)

Patriotism is not waving flags or tying yellow ribbons. Patriotism is enlisting in the armed forces, backing veterans' rights, driving 55 MPH to conserve gas or anything that constructively furthers the nation's goals.

- JLM

ACADEMY AWARDS

March 25th is the date of the Academy Awards wherein America, through its movie critics, chooses the best of the best in the cinema. What makes this awards night special is that two genres will compete for America's affection: the Mafia movie vs. the Western.

It has been said by some that the Mafia has replaced cowboys and indians as the quintessential American movie subject. Let's hope not. Kevin Kostner's *Dances with Wolves* is a labor of love rich in human values. Scorsese's *GoodFellas* and Coppola's *Godfather III* are dark obsessions based on greed. Hopefully, the American public will find its true identity in Kostner. - JLM

*The Italic Way*TM

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Forum of the People



(Operation Desert Storm has given the American public insight, after many years, into the make-up of our armed forces. We now know, for example, the disproportionate numbers of Blacks and Hispanics serving in the war zone and of the varied composition of the leaders of our military establishment. Powell, Schwarzkopf, and Kelly represent the Black, German, and Irish pieces of our American mosaic. Lesser known is General Carl Vuono, four star general and Army Chief of Staff, in effect, Gen. Schwarzkopf's intermediate superior. - Ed.)



Army Chief of Staff
Gen. Carl E. Vuono



The United States Joint Chiefs of Staff
(Gen. Vuono is behind Gen. Powell)

Gen. Carl E. Vuono Army Chief of Staff

As the U.S. Army stands poised on the brink of the greatest land campaign in half a century, it is widely seen as the most capable force this nation has ever fielded — a force that is trained and ready to fulfill its strategic mandate anywhere in the world. Much of the credit for the army of today goes to General Carl E. Vuono, the Chief of Staff.

General Vuono actually wears two hats. First, he is a statutory member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the military body that is responsible for providing advice to the President. Along with his colleagues from the Air Force, the Navy, and the Marine Corps, General Vuono is charged with the integration of America's military might and for the development of military options for crises, contingencies, and conflicts throughout the world.

Wearing his second hat, General Vuono is the senior officer in the United States Army and has the responsibility to recruit, train, organize, and prepare the nearly 1.5 million men and women in the Army for combat. He then provides trained and ready forces to U.S. commanders throughout the world for employment.

Building on nearly 34 years of service to the nation, General Vuono is uniquely qualified to lead the Army of today. Born and raised in the Pennsylvania steel town of Monongahela, he earned his commission from West Point, graduating in 1957. A dedicated field artilleryman, General Vuono commanded troop units at all levels, and he led American soldiers in two years of combat in Vietnam. In the early 1980s, he commanded the crack 8th Infantry Division in Germany, considered by many to be the cutting edge of America's combat power in NATO, and he subsequently redefined the thrust and direction of the Army as the commander of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. In 1987, Vuono became the 32nd Chief of Staff of the Army.

Among his many accomplishments, General Vuono is perhaps most renowned as the Army's premier trainer. Throughout his career, he has been guided by what he has described as the "sacred responsibility of leadership." "No soldier must ever

(Continued on p. 11)



REVIEW

The Proud Italians: Our Great Civilizers

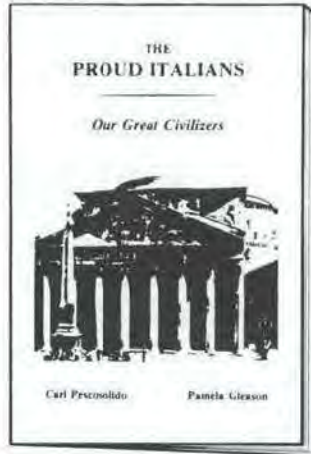
by Carl Pescosolido and
Pamela Gleason

Latium Publishers, 140 pp., \$19.95

All too many Americans see their cultural heritage and that of Italy's as mutually exclusive. What eludes these myopic citizens is that the United States, a nation whose truths they ostensibly espouse, is based on an Italian model. From "all men are created equal" to "checks and balances" to "lines in the sand," the values we cherish most in America derive from that much maligned old country. In fact, the very heart and soul of Western Civilization can be traced to that fabled peninsula. Even the sceptered Isle of Great Britain owes its existence to Italy. This greatness is the central theme of Carl Pescosolido's and Pamela Gleason's landmark book. The transformation of the West along Italian lines spans the centuries from Rome to the modern age. Carl Pescosolido provides the all important link tying the Pax Romana, the Rinascimento and the Age of Exploration. He then details how all these led to advances in science and the arts.

The Proud Italians is not boastful but factual. Unlike most historical tributes

to Italy, however, it does not damn the Italians with faint praise. Nor do the authors resort to the time-honored Anglo-Saxon tradition of mourning a once mighty nation by citing how far it has



fallen. They also dispense with the hoary habit of praising one Italian region at the expense of another. Gone are the corrupt city-states in collision. Instead, we are treated to a hitherto unseen historical tableau, rich in detail and laden with majesty. The Italy of Caesar Augustus and Giuseppe Garibaldi is clearly established as the homeland of the two Rico's, "Iron Hand" Enrico Tonti and the atomic

scientist Enrico Fermi. The continuity of Italic civilization — all too often deleted from standard history texts — is preserved throughout this book. Yet while the authors provide the reader with some rather weighty information, they never preach from the pulpit of ethnic chauvinism. The subsequent invasions that racked the Italian empire after 476 A.D., for example, are acknowledged here. But so too is the debt owed Italy by nations from the North Atlantic to the Nile.

Carl Pescosolido was a late convert to the gospel according to Rome. As a young man growing up in Newton, Massachusetts, he was cognizant of his cultural moorings but ambivalent about their worth. Contrary to the bashing of Italians he had encountered stateside, Pescosolido found solace in numerous visits to the land of his forebear's birth. And it was there that the course of his life was forever altered.

"Just by chance I learned that the Queen (of England) was in Italy on an official visit and was planning to give a speech at the Italian parliament. Although I had no idea what to expect from her address, I was curious enough to wrangle myself an invitation. I will never forget the first lines of her speech. Looking out over the Italian crowd, she said 'Your ancestors brought civilization to my people.'" (Cont'd next page)



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Gen. Vuono (continued from p.9)

die in the defense of this nation," he has solemnly sworn, "because that soldier was not properly trained. Should that ever occur, that would be an indelible blot on the leadership of every sergeant and every officer responsible for the sons and daughters of America."

With the strength of that philosophy, General Vuono has set in place a landmark training doctrine and strategy that has produced soldiers, units, and leaders of unprecedented ability and readiness — the soldiers of DESERT STORM and the soldiers who man the ramparts of freedom throughout the world.

As Chief of Staff, however, General Vuono's responsibilities extend far beyond the immediate demands of DESERT STORM. For he is also the Army's architect for the future. A man of great vision, General Vuono has established a far-reaching framework for the Army of the next century — a framework that will maintain the Army as the world's finest land force far into the future.

General Vuono's vision rests on the solid foundation of what the Army describes as its six enduring imperatives. These are principles that have forged the Army of today and will be the design of the Army tomorrow. They include: a solid warfighting doctrine, a mix of armored, light, and special operations forces, tough and realistic training, ongoing modernization of the force, and the development of a new generation of Army leaders. The final imperative, and General Vuono's overreaching priority, is the quality of the force. The Army of 1991 has the highest quality of any force in the history of this nation; it consists of young Americans of achievement, courage, and ambition who are at the heart of the nation's defense.

The Army of today — the Army of DESERT STORM — is a reflection of its leadership. Those of Italian descent and all Americans throughout this land, should take enormous pride in the Army of today and in its Chief of Staff, General Carl E. Vuono — a patriot, a visionary, and a leader. *****

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Proud Italians

Pescosolido's "personal epifany" led him to make many exciting discoveries about his ancestors. Thuderstruck by the Queen's statement, he soon realized that the culture so many of his compatriots in Newton had disparaged was, in fact, one of the world's most endearing success stories. London, Budapest, Cologne and Vienna had all been founded by the ancient Italians. Indeed the very foundations of the Western World as we know it began in that boot-shaped peninsula in the Mediterranean. In addition to its inspirational tone, this book sets the record straight on many



Carl Pescosolido Pamela Gleason

heretofore historical sacred cows — or minotaurs. Thanks to the team of Pescosolido and Gleason, we are reminded that the much-vaunted Greeks were to the Romans what thought is to action.

Ancient Italy united diverse peoples — European, Africans, Asian and Middle Eastern. They taught the ways of peace to warring ethnic factions (a service we need in our own time).

Renaissance Italy taught man to respect himself. And modern Italy has taught us how to savor life.

Carl Pescosolido and Pamela Gleason have, with one bold stroke, achieved what an army of pretentious scholars could never do. They have given Italians and all thinking citizens of the Western world a word portrait of their undeniable birthright. They have restored our beloved Italy to its rightful dignity. — Rosario A. Iaconis

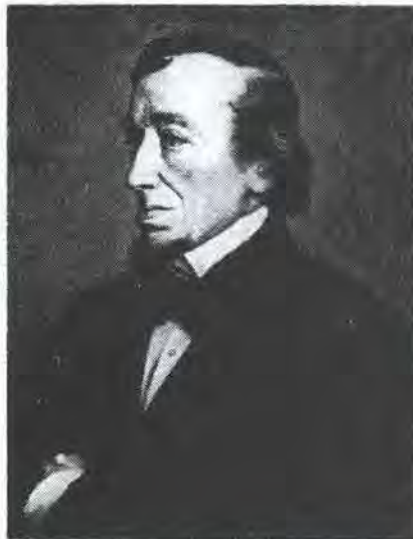


Focus

BLOODY GENIUSES: Britons of Italian Descent

By John Mancini

Benjamin Disraeli, the Italian Jew who designed Britain's Commonwealth system and purchased the Suez Canal to maintain the Empire. (1804 - 1881)



Despite seemingly disparate natures — one reserved and stiff of upper lip, the other effusive and passionate; one rigidly traditional, the other intensely creative — Italians and Britons have a lot in common. Italians, in fact, laid the foundations of modern Britain: teaching its people law and commerce, inspiring its literature, and even founding London. In turn, the British introduced Italians to the Industrial Revolution and parliamentary democracy. And in the course of this two-thousand-year relationship, the world has been the beneficiary.



Julius reconnoitered but Claudius conquered

Think of wireless telegraphy, or radio, as we call it, and you have got to think of Guglielmo Marconi, son of an English mother and an Italian father. In fact, Marconi's early work with shortwave signals was carried out both in England and Italy. Or, how about Christopher Carandini Lee — Dracula to those of us who grew up in the 1960's, also the scion of a mixed marriage. (Lee's mom was an Italian countess.) Mustn't forget Raphael Sabatini, another half-and-

half who gave English literature the swashbucklers *Captain Blood*, *Black Swan*, *Sea Hawk*, and a host of other storylines for the Errol Flynn spectacles of the 1930's and 40's.

Momentous Events

In recounting the history of the British Isles, Italy deserves a place of honor. Besides the civilizing effect of the Roman legions, it was the decision of an embattled Italian pope that set King Henry VIII on his merry way to founding the Church of England. Henry had requested an annulment of his first marriage (to a Spanish wife) and Pope Clement VII would have granted it had he not had a Spanish army besieging Rome at the time. Having been denied the papal blessing, Henry opted to nationalize the English Church and approve his own annulment. On such minor matters does history turn.

And let us not forget that Venetian navigator, Giovanni Caboto, who sailing but three years after Columbus, laid claim to North America on behalf of England. He's the reason we speak English on this side of the Atlantic.

Italian encounters of the financial type were invaluable to the England of the Middle Ages. Florentine banks were ruined when King Edward III of England defaulted on a \$34 million loan in 1345. Edward, no doubt, used the money to make his kingdom a kinder and gentler place — at Italian expense. Other Italians established the first financial center in the British Isle, now called Lombard Street in honor of the English monk at the time for Northern Italians. Still others gave the



Guglielmo Marconi's wireless led to the rescue of hundreds of survivors of the Titanic. It also made radio, television and radar possible.

Focus



now-famous English woollens industry its big start by buying up the raw product for manufacture in Italian city-states.

In English literature, Geoffrey Chaucer modelled his *Canterbury Tales* after Boccaccio's *Decameron*, while Edmund Spenser's *Faery Queen* derived much from Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*. And of course, Willy Shakespeare borrowed aplenty from Italian authors and events.

These early contacts between the two peoples were not one-sided. History records the adventures of Sir John Hawkwood, an Essex tailor by trade who took to arms as a mercenary in the incessant feuds among Italy's Renaissance city-states. Known as *Acuto* (The Violent One) he battled for and against popes, cities and princes. He died a natural death in 1394 while in retirement as a gentlemen farmer. He is buried in the church of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence. Sir John is immortalized in Paolo Uccello's fresco in the church of Santa Maria Novella.

Love Machines

One would expect a spicy side to this intercourse between peoples and, sure enough, Italian Englishmen made headlines in their days. John Dennis Profumo comes to mind. Fifth Baron of United Italy, educated at Harrow and Oxford, holder of the Order of the British Empire earned as a Brigadier in World War II, Profumo served his country with distinction both in the military and in civilian government. However, while Secretary of State for War in June 1963 he failed to inform Parliament that he was having an affair with one Christine Keeler who, as luck would have it, was also involved with a Soviet diplomat. The resulting scandal forced Profumo out of office. He is noteworthy as one of the few British politicians to be caught romancing a female.

But John Profumo had a forerunner. Back in 1566 David Riccio (or Rizzio), an Italian courtier and musician, became a confidant to Mary, Queen of Scots. Moving up the royal ladder, Riccio became the Queen's private secretary and even arranged her marriage. Unfortunately, the bridegroom soon saw Riccio in a different light and with a gaggle of conspirators dragged the hapless Italian off to his death right in front of the queen. We do not know if hubby ended up in the doghouse for that fit of temper.

Movers & Shakers

As in America, the descendants of Italy have risen to influential positions in Great Britain. Most of the immigrants who found a home in Britannia were educated Northern Italians whose families fled the Continent in the early 1800's. Many were, in fact, political refugees who escaped the oppressive Austrian reaction to the revolutions of 1848 and the upheavals of Italy's struggle for reunification during the 1850's and 60's. Even Garibaldi found a hero's welcome in London during those times. One family that arrived even earlier was the D'Israeli clan, Italian Jews from Ferrara. Offspring Benjamin Disraeli rose to become the Prime Minister of Great Britain in the latter half of the 19th Century. It was Disraeli who formulated the concept of the British Commonwealth, that worldwide empire of free nations headed by Mother England. It was he who forced Britain to buy the Suez Canal as a step in maintaining that Empire. Disraeli certainly earned the reverence of future British generations.

In the more technical field, Britons owe a debt of gratitude to Sebastian Ziani de Ferranti, the man who developed their electrical power network. Not as multi-faceted a genius as our Thomas Edison, Ferranti never-



Miss Christine Keeler, the War Minister's weakness.

(Continued on p.25)



John Dennis Profumo, 1960. Three years before the fall.

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REVIEW



Pulling rank in farm country

A Day in the Life of Italy

Collins Publishers, 220 pp, \$45.95

Before *glasnost* and *perestroika* captured the fancy of the West, Peter Ustinov penned a book praising the land of Lenin, Stalin and the Gulag. It was called *My Russia*, an apt title for a clearly subjective work. In this paen to the Bolsheviks, the burly British actor of Russian descent made no bones about his bias. Therefore, no mention was made of the political repression, economic stagnation, and organized crime that afflicts the Soviet Union. There were no lurid photographs of inebriated peasants, buffoonish military police or gap-toothed hags in black shawls. Some public broadcast stations balked at televising it. Yet, some gave Ustinov his air-time.

A Day in the Life of Italy purports to be a pictorial celebration of the Italian way of life. On April 27, 1990, photographers from 100 nations descended on the Italian peninsula to give the world a birds-eye view of the country



Riding herd on a Tuscan ranch



Troops of elite Alpini patrol Italy's mountainous frontiers

and its populace. We cannot imagine the results for the editors chose their own perspective.

Although the editors of this volume are consummate professionals with impeccable credentials, they could not fully detach themselves from the "Mamma Mia" school of photojournalism. Some threw stereotypes to the wind to present the technological and sophisticated Italy that exists at all levels of society. (That they succeeded is surely more a tribute to the photographers' tenacity.) Others folded like the proverbial cheap camera and lapsed into predictability: octogenarians engaged in the age-old Italian rite of chicken watching and swarthy, ineffectual carabinieri with vacant stares.



Believe it. These are really guys!

Despite the veneer of spontaneity that permeates this pretty picture book, some of the stills are little more than staged photo opportunities. Witness the Italian policeman holding his son who, in turn, menacing waves the cops service revolver. Or how about baker Antonio Lauieri laboring at his family business. (Nicholas Cage, where are you?) Or the training school for waiters? Haven't these slices of subservi-

(Continued on p. 18)



Perspectives

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

THE DAY THEY LYNCHED ITALIANS

For those who have been led to believe that discrimination against Italians in the United States never reached murderous proportions, we herein mark the 100th anniversary of a most brutal atrocity. The following account has been reprinted from the book *Children of Columbus* by Eric Amphitheatrof. Why the Italian-American community has never exploited this injustice speaks well of the basically positive nature of that community.

Between 1874 and 1915 thirty-nine (39) Italians were lynched or shot by vigilantes in the United States.

The worst of these attacks occurred in New Orleans, in 1891 [March 14].

This was a city where Italians had done very well. It was where the Marquis Sant'Angelo had published the *Correo Atlantico*, where several Italians had become shipping or fruit-importing magnates, and also where a great many Sicilians had settled, working chiefly as fishermen, or as truck farmers on the outskirts of the city. They had brought the Mafia with them, but not in the form of organized crime. Their Mafia consisted chiefly of mayhem among themselves—feuds, vendettas, knifings, blackmail and extortion. When the New Orleans police chief was killed during an investigation into these Mafia activities, and evidence pointed to the Sicilians, a hysterical backlash against Italians occurred in the city. There were wholesale arrests. The mayor swore,



New Orleans, March 14, 1891. A mob rejects a court acquittal and murders 11 Italian immigrants.

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"We must teach these people a lesson they will not forget for all time." Ten Sicilians were arrested and brought to trial for having murdered the police chief and when a jury acquitted them, a mob that contained many of the city's most respectable men shot the Italian defendants to death in their cells. The elev-

the mob for its "lawless and uncivilized" conduct, also concluded that "these sneaking and cowardly Sicilians, the descendants of bandits and assassins, who have transported to this country the lawless passions, the cut-throat practices, the oath-bound societies of their native country, are to us a pest without mitiga-

now interacted directly, John Higham wrote in *Strangers in the Land*, producing an explosion of feeling against Italy and enormously magnifying the fear of Italian-Americans. A belief that the Italian fleet might suddenly descend on the United States gained fairly wide credence, and patriots flexed their muscles

Between 1874 and 1915 thirty-nine (39) Italians were lynched or shot by vigilantes in the United States.

enth Italian, whom the mob shot and then hanged while he was still alive, was in jail for some petty crime.

Many Americans approved. The New Orleans lynching marked the introduction of the Mafia as a symbol of fear and a threat to American values. The *New York Times*, while rebuking

tion." When the Italian government protested the lynchings, and requested an indemnity for the wives and children of the victims, Secretary of State James G. Blaine responded contemptuously. The Italian government then recalled its minister from Washington.

Internal hatred and external conflict

in preparation. Italians within the country now appeared as a potential fifth column; obviously these people could not be depended upon in times of national danger. There were reports of Italian immigrants riddling an American flag with bullets; a rumor circulated

(Continued on the following page)



Perspectives

Lynching (continued from p. 17)

that several uniformed corps of Italians were drilling in New York. (This last would have been news to residents of the Little Italy.)

• • •

Later in the decade, three Italians were lynched in Hahnsville, Louisiana, in 1896 and five in Tallulah, Mississippi, in 1899. Perhaps America can date its Mafia obsession from these times. Can Asians suffer a similar fate now that gang violence pervades their communities? We think not. America's criminal bogeyman still remains Italian.

When the Government of Italy withdrew its ambassador from Washington and demanded compensation for the victims' families the American response was total derision. One periodical of the time lampooned the Italian king calling him a monkey on a high horse.



Italy (continued from p. 15)

ent Italian life been done to death?

All the photographs, however, are not negatives. There are some majestic panoramas of the Colosseum, Italy's rugged Alpine troops in Aquila and the Pantheon (built by Emperor Hadrian). Even some sites in the Mezzogiorno are accorded a modicum of dignity. Lamezia Terme in Calabria hosted Italy's National Fencing Championship

and Robb Kendrick (USA) was the shutterbug on the spot. Mention was also made of the nation's mania for newspapers — over 100 are published daily — and a winsome snapshot was effectively used to underscore this Italian appetite for the printed word.

If you enjoy browsing through a book chockful of slick, oversized color pix of the Italian peninsula — and want a minimum of verbiage — this hefty entry

may satisfy your craving. *A Day in the Life of Italy* is the latest in the *Day in the Life* series of nations. It remains to be seen if they are shot with a rose-colored Ustinov lens, or are subjected to the harsh light of reality.

- Rosario A. Iaconis

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KEEP UP WITH THE INSTITUTE



Spring, 1988*

John LaCorte

Italians & the Holocaust

1930: Reprint of Atlantica Magazine

Italian language in Australia

Available only in photocopies



Summer, 1988

Images: Symbols or Stereotypes?

Italian Frogmen of WW II

Vittorio Veneto, WW I

Atlantica remembered



Fall, 1988

Italy at Work:

Modern Italy Forges Ahead

Dr. Henry Viscardi: Helping

the Handicapped



Winter, 1989

Cartoon Characters by Italians

The First Safe Airplane

Health & Italian Culture



Spring, 1989

King of the Swashbucklers

Gore Vidal

Beccaria: A Founding Father?

Roman Emperors

Roman Evil Days



Summer, 1989

Italy's North vs. South

The Spanish Armada

Italy on Videodisc

Italian Aviation

Composer Charles Gabriele



Fall, 1989

Italian vs. Black

Ferrero's Negro Army

African-Italian Restaurant

A. Barlett Giamatti

Bensonhurst Tragedy



Winter, 1990

Mussolini, Part I

Antonio Meucci & the Telephone

Mario Lanza



Spring, 1990

Jews of Italy

Mussolini, Part II

Italian Aerospace

DaPonte: Mozart's Librettist



Summer, 1990

Italians & the Bible

Shakespeare's Italian Connection

Napoleon's Italian Victory



Fall, 1990

Italian-Americans in Advertising

Pestolozzi: Father of Teaching

An Italian and the Holocaust

Augustus

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Spring 1988

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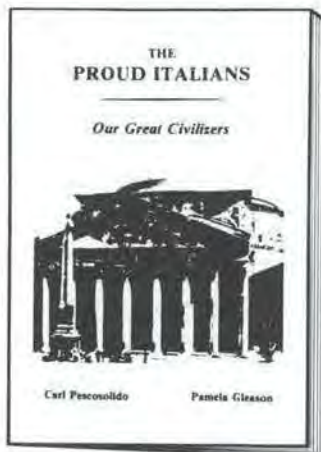
Ferraro's Back. And We've Got Her!

That headline was filched from an old Hollywood movie ad. But it happens to be appropos because we are talking about former Vice Presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro narrating the Project Italia documentary, *The Italians: The Classical Heritage*.

Being taped as you read, *The Classical Heritage* will be shot partly in the Eternal City (Rome) as well as the Infernal City (NYC) by Project Director Frank Vitale. The thirty-minute script was written by Christine Valentine, who also wrote our 6-minute promo film that starred Tony LoBianco. Mrs. Valentine co-authored the next program in the series, *The Migrations*, with filmmaker Jules Krainin. The latter film will require additional funding before production.

The content of *The Classical Heritage* goes far beyond the superficiality of other documentaries about Italians. Plans call for television and cable broadcast as well as international distribution. If as successful as envisioned, this documentary will set a new tone in the media with regard to the Italian heritage.

The Institute has also chosen the book, *The Proud Italians* by C. Pescosolido and P. Gleason as the companion to the series.



Book Order

Please send me _____ copy (ies) of *The Proud Italians, Our Great Civilizers*, at the cost of \$19.95. (\$15 for Institute members) plus \$3 per book for postage & handling. Total: _____

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Gifts: If you wish to send copies of *The Proud Italians* to friends or relatives as a gift just attach their names and addresses and we'll enclose a gift note from you.



Media Madness

[In which we present media material with commentary]



Once Around

Item: "It is too obvious to say that Francis Ford Coppola and Martin Scorsese capture the texture of Italian-American families more sharply than Lasse Hallstrom (the director of *Once Around*). What matters is that *The Godfather* and *GoodFellas* create believable ethnic characters instead of shallow ethnic types."

Caryn James, Arts & Leisure Section
New York Times, January 27, 1991

Comment: In a prior review of the Spike Lee film *Mo' Better Blues*, the benighted Ms. James was far less tolerant of Mo and Josh Flatbush, two of the movie's more avaricious characters. In fact, she was horrified by these "disturbing Jewish stereotypes." Sounds like a double standard.

Item: "I come from a fierce Italian tradition where, not so long ago in the motherland, a rapist would end up knifed, castrated, and hung out to dry."

Camille Paglia
Newsday 1/27/91



Blood & Guts Paglia

Comment: In the context of Ms. Paglia's article, which was an advisory to women, the sentence quoted was meant to be complimentary. Ms. Paglia is fiercely proud of her roots. However, it is doubtful that, say, a proud daughter of the Ole South would use such an image to describe the vigilante justice of her forebears. Ms. Paglia's motherland just a few centuries before gave the world more important precedents e.g.: the Rule of Law and the Presumption of Innocence.



Imagine Iacocca using Greenburg's techniques.

Item: CEO Alan "Ace" Greenburg Bear Stearns raised \$727,000 fast for United Jewish Appeal's Operation Exodus by corraling employees into the auditorium and helped pep-talk some 150 workers of all faiths into pledges from \$5 to \$30,000. "It's called peer pressure," the unflappable fund raiser says cheerily. Any complaints? "I'm not concerned with backlash, I'm interested in things that work," he adds.

The Wall Street Journal, Feb. 7, 1991

Comment: Wouldn't it be nice if Lee Iacocca could use his powers of persuasion to pressure all his employees to open their pocketbooks for the alleviation of poverty in Italy? We think not.



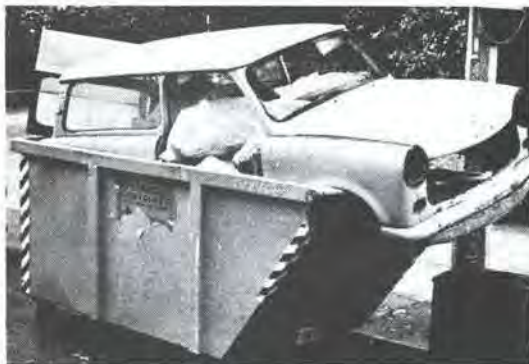
Media Madness

Items: HIT-RUN DRAGS GIRL HALF-MILE (Page 8 headline *LI Newsday*)
 BANK ROBBER DEMANDS \$70 FOR MEDICINE (Page 16 headline *NY Times*)

Comment: Shame of a Newspaper! When a six year old girl was stranded on a Florence roadside for 30-minutes before a motorist stopped to pick her up the *New York Times*' "ace" correspondent in Italy got front page coverage with the headline "Shame of a Nation". It would appear from the back page treatment of victims in America that the *Times*' correspondent has been away too long. Also obvious, Italy's descent into hell has been greatly exaggerated. In fact, with a national health plan Italians do not have to rob banks to buy life-saving medicine. But in the *NY Times* anything demeaning of Italy is "fit to print."



This 75 year old robbed a bank to pay for his medicine. Which nation should be more ashamed?



The Trabant: The dark side of German engineering

Item: In response to the statement by a letter writer that "Italians make nice looking cars that don't run, and Germans make ugly but reliable cars," automotive columnists Tom and Ray Magliozzi, automobile columnists for a local Long Island newspaper said:

"There's a lot of truth to this statement. Italians have always placed a premium on beauty. They're great at things like statues, cathedrals and stuff like that.

"The Germans, on the other hand, have always placed a premium on functionality and precision. Their trains run on time. They make wonderful machine tools and consumer appliances.

"Anyway, if you love the way your Fiat Spider looks, you'll forgive the fact that it doesn't start every other day, that the roof leaks or that a different body part loosens up every time you go over a bump."

Comment: And let's not forget those marvels of German automotive engineering: The Audi, the only car that took you back in time — when you wanted to go forward, and the East German Trabant, the homeless man's Yugo that is already rotting in the junkyard of history.

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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:

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News of the Institute

Election Results

It was a clean sweep for the incumbents in the Institute's annual elections. The Board of Governors reappointed John Mancini and George Ricci as President and Treasurer. The Plenary Council confirmed the appointments and went on to reelect the Council's own slate of officers. Maybe the fact that there were no challengers guaranteed the ticket but we would like to think that Plenary Council members are satisfied with the current leadership.



J. Mancini



A. Crecca



R. DeSiena

John Mancini (President)
Albert Crecca (Vice President)
Robert DeSiena (Financial Secretary)
George Ricci (Treasurer)
Carl Borsari (Secretary)



G. Ricci



C. Borsari

Preparing Dinner

Our 4th Annual Dinner Dance is off to a quick start under the aggressive leadership of Dinner Chairman John Santora of Cushman & Wakefield Realty. Having been coaxed into the task by the equally aggressive Mike Carbone, our Social Chairman, John has promised to push attendance to the limit (the Starlight Room at the Waldorf=Astoria can seat 450 guests).

Tickets will sell for \$250 each (same as last year). With a new band, thousands of dollars worth of door prizes and no honorees to make speeches, this event promises to be just a great night out. Contributions and a good part of the ticket price are tax deductible.



The first meeting of the Dinner Committee



John Santora
Dinner Chmn.



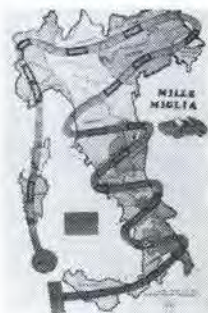
Michael Carbone
Social Chmn.



Monica Polizzi
Events Coordinator

The Race is On

The youngsters in Cellini Lodge's (Sons of Italy) Youth Program are learning about the Italian culture in a most painless way. Using the Institute's Aurora materials and methods the kids spend a lot of time reviewing what they've learned by playing *Mille Miglia* (The Thousand Mile Race). Designed exclusively for the Institute's Aurora Program, the game pits teams of students against each other in an auto race up the Italian peninsula. Seven fields of questions ranging from History to Vocabulary reinforce previous classroom work. The winning team is amply rewarded with Italian delicacies.



Mille Miglia
A fun review game

The kids get easily involved



The pizza party is a Saturday ritual



Bloody Geniuses: (Cont'd from p. 14)



An Italian pope refused his divorce and the Church of England was born.

Panizzi who reorganized, catalogued, and expanded the li-

theless invented dynamos, headed the largest electric power company of its time, and sold Britain on alternating current (AC is what we use in the USA) and the concept of building major generating stations outside of cities. It can be said that an Italian lit the lights of London.

Not only Great Britain, but much of the communist world, owes a debt to Sir Anthony Panizzi. It was

Most people think "vertically." Dr. Edward De Bono has taught Britons to think "laterally." It may be Britain's new secret weapon.



don in the African campaigns of the 1800's. Having fought successfully against the fanatical Mahdi's Muslim troops elsewhere in the Sudan, Gessi's relief column was too late to save Gordon at Khartoum. (Remember the Charlton Heston



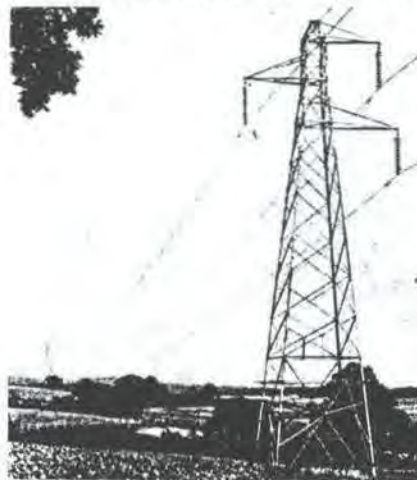
The English swashbuckler was the creation of Raphael Sabatini

brary of the British Museum in London in the year 1857. This cavernous library was where theorist Karl Marx spent most of his days doing research for his little tome *Das Kapital*, the book that would change the world. A grateful Britain knighted Panizzi in 1869, and the British Museum is still a world-class repository of man's knowledge.



The husband of Mary, Queen of Scots, didn't appreciate her Italian confidant

As usual, Italian genius covers many fields in British civilization. The Rossetti family (Gabriele, Christine, and Dante) alone straddled both art and poetry, dominating the two fields for a century. In the military, Romolo Gessi fought with British General Gor-



Britain can thank Mr. Ferranti for its power system

movie?) Even today, the man who most influences the British mental process is of Italian extraction. Dr. Edward De Bono of Cambridge University has made a science of thinking. His popular books and television shows touting the advantages of "Lateral Thinking" have made him an international celebrity.

Britain without De Bono is, well, unthinkable.

All things considered then, maybe it's not too much to ask the Brits to raise a pint or two in praise of Italy:

So let's give the I-ties a bloomin' good cheer, and thank God their ancestors stopped over 'ere!



The first Communist used Panizzi's library for his research



PROFILES



Giosue` Carducci: Poet, Patriot, Nobel Prize Winner

by Elio Zappulla

Giosue` Carducci was the first Italian to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. A fiery poet, patriot and nationalist, he became synonymous with the mid-nineteenth century Italian struggle for liberation from Austria. Called the "Prophet of Italy" in his lifetime, Giosue` Carducci received the Nobel Prize just two months before his death on February 16, 1907. On that day, all of Italy mourned.

Carducci was born in Tuscany, into an old Florentine family. His father, a physician, was a man of strong liberal views who had spent time in prison for his nationalistic and anti-Austrian views. This political liberalism was clearly passed on to his son who was in time to become one of the leading voices of the *Risorgimento* (Resurrected Italy).

Having had to spend some years in the Tuscan countryside, largely because of his father's unpopularity with the political authorities, the family settled in Florence where Carducci was at last able to go to school. He proved to be a brilliant pupil, studying literature and mastering Greek, Latin, and German. He was admitted to the University of Pisa, where his scholarly abilities and his marvelous poetry attracted much attention, as did the stream of political satire that began to flow from his pen.

Carducci was soon viewed, correctly, as an unrepentant nationalist who worked fervently for Italian independence and unity. He was also bitterly anti-Church, for he viewed it as an anti-intellectual institution that suffocated independent thought and remained an obstacle to the ideals of the *Risorgimento*. Much of his poetry reflects this posture. One notable example was his "Hymn to Satan", whose purposely provocative title alone sent shivers down the spine of many clerics. Furthermore, he was an enemy of the monarchy and believed that Italy would only suffer if the Austrian regime were to be replaced by an Italian ruling family. (It was, of course, but Carducci gradually came to accept it and even became its supporter, to the chagrin of the ultra-liberals.) Patriots all over Italy admired Carducci's outspoken views, his detestation of Napoleon III (whom Carducci believed was inimical to Italian interests), his strong dislike of Pius IX, his passionate love for Italy's past and his fervent belief in its glorious future.

Carducci eventually became a professor at the University of Bologna, a post he retained for forty-six years until his death. Always the patriot and champion of Italian liberty, he continued to be involved in the complex politics of his time, working, with his pen, for Italy's liberation. Later, when independence had been won, he strove to improve his country in every sphere. His reputation spread beyond the peninsula. Throughout Europe he was known as a great man of letters and as an Italian patriot of the same stripe as Mazzini or Garibaldi. Rarely has Italy produced a more fervent advocate than this impassioned genius.

Although much of Carducci's poetry reflects his political beliefs, most of it is "pure" poetry, unrelated to contemporary events. He was a marvelously gifted poet whose verse is among the finest ever created. The Nobel Prize was awarded to him, after all, because of the excellence of his literary achievement. Still, Italians will remember him not only as the equal of Leopardi or Manzoni, but as a man whose contributions to the rebirth of this nation earned him their eternal gratitude.

PROFILES



Ben Bova: Man of Tomorrow



Benjamin William Bova has agonized with the President in the Oval Office, journeyed light years to worlds beyond mortal ken and made contact with intelligent extraterrestrials. And, like Galileo, he is a fervent visionary: Science is his bible, the pen is his staff.

A colleague of Carl Sagan and Isaac Asimov, Bova has written both science fiction and science fact. He served for several years as the editor of *Analog*, *Science Fact* and *Omni* magazines. And, though not a scientist by profession, he remains one of America's most articulate advocates of space exploration.

According to Bova, mankind's destiny lies among the stars. In his preface to Bova's landmark book *The High Road*, United States Senator and former Apollo 17 astronaut, Harrison H. Schmitt sums up the author's thesis:

"The 'high road' of space is where Ben Bova wants to travel. It is where I have traveled and would have my country travel again. It is where millions of Americans (Continued on next page)

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Ben Bova (continued from p.27)

see their future and the future of their children . . . it offers no stifling of the human spirit, only an infinitely variable expansion of that spirit to and beyond the bounds of the solar system."

As Vice President of the National Space Institute, Bova spearheads an organization dedicated to preserving and furthering man's presence in the cosmos. Since the Challenger Space Shuttle disaster, this task has become increasingly more difficult. Manned space missions have lost their appeal and much needed funds. But Ben Bova perseveres. Unlike other pro-space spokesmen, he is a futurist with the facts:

"The money we spend on space will yield as the Solar System; energy raw materials, a new frontier, jobs and profits here on Earth, a stronger nation, a healthier economy that will do more for the poor than any welfare program."

In these days of finite energy sources, with war raging in the Persian Gulf, Bova's high road may be the best road to follow. This vision of sophisticated technology as mankind's solution is a recurring theme in Bova's science fiction novels,

as well. In *Colony*, the author proposes space colonization as the solution to global overpopulation. *Voyagers* features man's long-awaited encounter with an intelligent life other than our own. It is a stirring first contact tale that is both chilling and awe inspiring.

One intriguing aspect of Bova's works that is all too often ignored is his use of Italo-American characters. Unlike many novelists, he portrays Italians as scientists, scholars and even presidential press secretaries. Perhaps this owes much to his family's roots in Calabria, land of Cassiodorus, Campanella and Telesio.

Ben Bova is a pioneer of many talents, laden with ideas and spirit. You might say he's a high-tech Renaissance man who envisions worlds yet to conquer and brethren yet to befriend.

- RAI

Some of Bova's works:

The Multiple Man (1976)

Colony (1978)

Voyages (1981)

Voyages II: The Alien Within (1986)

The High Road (1981) non-fiction

Assured Survival (1984) non-fiction

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