

The background of the cover is a photograph of a mountainous landscape with green hills and a blue sky with white clouds. In the foreground, several indigenous people, likely from the Amazon region, are standing. They are wearing traditional headbands and carrying large bundles of sticks or spears on their backs. A dog is visible in the lower center of the image.

THE Italic Way

XXIII 1995

The newsletter of the Italic Studies Institute

**Italians Map the
World's Genes**
Cracking the Bell Curve?

In this Issue:

Reflections on World War II

Movie Review: Bullets over Broadway

Book Review: Those Amazing Tonellis

(718) 858-5525

Lic. #481583

FAX (718) 522-3812

ALL-CITY

Waste Management • Recycling Services

*246 Plymouth Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201*

Owned and operated by the Vitarelli Family



The Italic Way

XXIII, 1995

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

****New Italian Language section follows page 14****

Letters

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

A POSITIVE HIT

[This is the response we received from actor Alan Alda upon our congratulations for his recent episode of Science in Italy on PBS.]

Thanks for your letter and all your kind words. I loved our show on Italy and I'm glad you did, too.

Alan Alda,
New York, NY

PRO-DUCE

Messrs. Scafetta's and Palumbo's revisionist view of Mussolini would deny the love and respect all Italian Americans openly held for Il Duce in the 1930's! His sweeping social reforms and economic concepts were undeniably responsible for Italy's miraculous post-war resurrection. As a youngster, he inspired me and Italians everywhere with a tremendous pride and respect we so desperately needed during the demeaning days of Chico Marx, Scarface, and openly-insulting wop and dago labeling.

I have never forgiven Mussolini for his terribly tragic and unholy alliance with Adolph Hitler, but it would also be the ultimate betrayal not to recognize Il Duce's eminence and genius, as did Sir Winston Churchill, who hailed him "as the greatest leader of his time." Had the Fascist march on Rome failed in 1922,



Among the features highlighted in the PBS special on Italian science was the training of octopi to open jars! The hour-long show was narrated by Alan Alda.



Italy would probably have fallen into Communist hands with bloody results. But despite the German alliance, most Fascists retained their humanity. They and the officers and men of the Italian Army protected and saved countless Croatian, Greek, and French Jews from German death camps!

Frank J. Guida,
Norfolk, VA

I must correct the false portrayal of Italian history as represented by letter-writers J. Scafetta, Jr. and B. Palumbo [issue XXII]. Instead of condemning *Italic Way* authors Cardone and Iaconis, these letter writers should commend them for having the courage and insight to accurately write about the Fascist regime instead of repeating the same tired wartime propaganda.

The fact remains that the Fascist economic and social policies and reforms achieved very impressive results which vastly improved the standard of living of the Italian people. Fascism brought Italy into the modern age, transforming it from a poor, unstable, agricultural country on the verge of anarchy and a Communist takeover into a stable, industrial nation freed at last from the evils of the Mafia, widespread illiteracy and poverty which had plagued it for so long.

Mr. Scafetta and Mr. Palumbo do not



"SECURITY BY LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS"

*Armed/Unarmed Security Officers
Uniformed / Plainclothes*

New York State Certified
Security Guard Training
Security School
Lic. New York - New Jersey
Connecticut - Pennsylvania
Florida - Virginia

- Personal Bodyguards
- Private Investigations
- Undercover Operatives
- Movie Production Security
- 24 Hour Radio Dispatched
Patrol Vehicles

Licensed • Bonded • Insured

Investigative Services For:

- Attorneys • Businesses • Executives • Industry
- Matrimonial • Domestic • Civil, Criminal
- Insurance Fraud • Polygraphs

We Specialize in V.I.P. Protection

Service 24 Hours - 7 Days

1860 E. Tremont Avenue
Bronx, New York

718-518-8055 • Fax (718) 518-8053



LETTERS

serve the interests of Italians by denying our history and so vehemently criticizing those who attempt to objectively report on it. I hope *The Italic Way* continues to pursue its fair treatment of such subjects as always.

Nicola Sorgini,
Norristown, PA

NEW ORLEANS MASSACRE

[Last April, a small group of Italian-Americans placed a wreath at Manhattan's Columbus Monument in memory of 11 Italians who were lynched by a New Orleans mob in 1891. Long Island Newsday feature writer Murray Kempton criticized the ceremony in an article that labelled the 1891 victims as mafiosi and exonerated the mob. Professor Richard Gambino wrote this rebuttal.]

Reporter Jack Newfield once wrote that "prejudice against Italian-Americans is the most tolerated intolerance" in the United States today. As is his wont, Murray Kempton proved Newfield correct, as did *Newsday*, by publishing his column ["Mafiosi Forget to Honor Their Martyrs," Viewpoints, March 15]. Kempton writes of "Italo-Americans": "We owe them the glorious realities of Genoa Salami, Amaretto di Saranno and Frank Sinatra." Well, that about sums up our culture and contributions to America. But it is Kempton's justification of the lynching of 11 Italian-Americans in New Orleans on March 14, 1891, that distinguishes his writing, with glorious scholarship that is as wrong as his bigotry is egregiously offensive.

Nineteen (not 20) Italian-Americans were charged with the murder of New Orleans Police Superintendent David C. Hennessy (not "Hennessey") after about 300 had been arrested, mostly at random — which brings us to Kempton's assertion that they "were probably gangsters whose awful fate was inspired by the highest public spirit. They were bad aliens killed by good citizens." One of the "aliens" lynched,



Joseph Macheca, was born in the United States.

A report of April 27, 1891, by U.S. Attorney William Grant said of the 11 lynching victims: "I have . . . not been able to connect them with any criminal practice prior to their indictment in the Hennessy case, except in the case of Manuel Politz [Emmanuele Polizzi], who is reported to have assaulted and cut a person in Austin, Texas, some years ago." Grant also wrote: "The evidence in the case against them . . . is voluminous, covering some 800 pages of typewriting. Both as a whole and in detail it is exceedingly unsatisfactory, and is not, to my mind, conclusive one way or the other."

As for Hennessy and other "good citizens," he had been tried for shooting to death his superior and rival, Chief of Detectives Thomas Devereaux, in 1881, and acquitted by reason of self-defense in a case involving such corruption that he had to resign from the Metropolitan Police, only to be reappointed later by a new mayor, Joseph A. Shakespeare, whose "reform" credentials included clandestinely owning a brothel. It was the mayor's right-hand man, William S. Parkerson, who later planned and led the lynching of the 11 Italian-Americans, including the six who had been acquitted the previous day.

We ask our readers' indulgence in printing this shocking photograph of an African-American lynching. Since there is no extant photo of the mass lynching of Italians in 1891 New Orleans, it is our purpose that this 20th Century atrocity will convey the stark reality of anti-Italian persecution in the previous century.

Kempton states that Hennessy "lived only long enough to breathe, 'The Dagos did it.'" As a matter of fact, Hennessy was shot shortly after 10 p.m. and lived until 9:06 the next morning. He was conscious, lucid and talkative almost all of this time. He repeatedly said he did not know his killers either by individual identity or by their ethnic background. Only one man, a detective from a rival police department (such was the state of affairs in New Orleans at the time that the city had two police forces, each having many cops with long criminal records), alleged outside of Hennessy's presence that Hennessy had uttered a single word to him and to him alone at the murder scene: "Dagos."

These are just a few of the facts of an extremely complicated textbook case of nativists lynching members of an uppity group and reaping political advantage and material benefits from doing so.

Richard Gambino,
Riverhead, NY

(The writer is visiting professor in Italian-American Studies at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and the author of "Vendetta," a history of the New Orleans lynchings. Reprinted from *Newsday*)

The Italic Way



All'Italiana

IL DUCE'S DAUGHTER DIES

Edda Ciano, daughter of Benito Mussolini, died in Rome in April at age 84.

Mrs. Ciano was married to Count Galeazzo Ciano, who became Italy's Minister of Foreign Affairs during the late 1930's until 1943. In her own right, she was an adviser to her father and served as a wartime nurse. It is said that she was the first Italian woman to drive a car in public and to wear pants.

Although a devoted daughter, Edda sided with her husband when he voted to demand Mussolini's resignation during a meeting of the Fascist Grand Council in 1943. Mussolini was arrested by King Victor Emmanuel later that night.

After Mussolini was rescued by German commandos, the Duce had Count Ciano arrested and tried for treason. Pleading for her husband's life, Edda was turned away by her father. Ciano was executed and Edda denounced her father and forsook his name.

Her mother, Rachele, blamed Ciano for Mussolini's downfall and never forgave him or her daughter.

TORRICELLI TATTLES

To some members of the U.S. Congress, New Jersey Representative Robert Torricelli is a rat. By violating the Congress' code of silence and revealing the name of a paid CIA agent in the Guatemalan Army, the New Jersey Democrat implicated the CIA in the murder of an American citizen working in Guatemala in 1990. House Speaker Newt Gingrich denounced Torricelli for violating the House *omerta* (code of silence) and threatened to have the congressman whacked from his subcommittee. Torricelli claims his decision to reveal the information was based on his duty under the Constitution rather than the House code of silence.



Edda Ciano. As strong-willed as her father.

CROSS-EYED

Ever wonder who perfected those 3-D puzzles with the hidden image that half the world sees and you don't? They were the product of 50-year-old Thomas Baccei (bah-CHAY) of Stow, Mass. Baccei and his team have created a \$200 million global industry that generates about \$5 million in personal income to the maestro himself. Now you see it, now you don't.



A Bic by any other name wouldn't be Italian

TOMBSTONES

Real estate tycoon Edward DeBartolo died last December at age 85. After serving in WW II and Korea as an Army engineer, DeBartolo took advantage of the post-war growth of suburbia. His philosophy of building shopping centers in the country helped change the way America shops. Known for his 13-hour, seven days per week work habit, DeBartolo donated \$33 million to Notre Dame and purchased the champion San Francisco 49'ers which is still in the family.

Baron Marcel Bich, Italian-born entrepreneur who saw the potential in a reliable and inexpensive ballpoint pen, died in 1994. His firm, Bic, had sales of \$1.1 billion last year.

Thomas Marchiaro, 66, the surgeon whose research laid the foundation for

the first successful liver and kidney transplants, died in February. Born in the state of Washington, Dr. Marchiaro helped to refine drug therapy to suppress the immune systems of transplant patients.

Master guitarmaker James D'Aquisto died in April at age 59. Brooklyn-born D'Aquisto was considered the Stradivarius of guitarmaking. His custom-crafted instruments sold new for \$20,000 - \$40,000 and appreciated with age. Among his customers were Harry Chapin and Paul Simon.

ITALY, INC. PROSPERS

Defying the naysayers and doom and gloom mongers, Italy endures—and prospers. Despite a weak currency, political tension and the fallout of the *manipulite* (clean hands) investigations, Italy is poised for growth and clearly worthy of its rank as the fifth most powerful industrial economy. The secret is en-

trepreneurship, high technology and an industrious and intelligent population. FIAT and Olivetti have rebounded. Pirelli Tires is thriving. Benetton is burgeoning. And the ubiquitous Parmalat is on its way to becoming the "Coca-



Dr. Thomas Marchiaro pioneered drug therapy in liver and kidney transplants.



All'Italiana

Cola of milk." Italy's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) grew 2% last year and looks to increase 3% this year. The country also went from a 1992 trade deficit of \$15 billion to a trade surplus of \$25 billion. Another Italian economic miracle is in the works.



Rhett Butler with that Italic look.

MILESTONES

James Cannavino can claim much in his life as a former chief strategist at I.B.M. and a high-ranking executive with 32 years at the computer giant. What is all the more amazing is that Cannavino did all this without a college degree. He started his career with I.B.M. as a customer engineer in Chicago and worked his way up through technical expertise and a unique ability to interface with the technical and development sides of the business. At age 50, Cannavino has retired from I.B.M. to pursue a new career. Whatever it is he's got the money and know-how to succeed again.

Speaking of money, Louis Staffilino of Dillonvale, Ohio, caused a stir when he cashed in \$80,000 worth of pennies he had saved over 65 years. Now 70, Staffilino can attest to the old adage of a penny saved. It took 40 garbage cans and four days to truck the lucre to the bank. That's a lot of wrappers!

British actor Timothy Dalton recently got the world's television attention in the part of Rhett Butler in the sequel to *Gone With the Wind*, entitled

Scarlett. Dalton claims to be "part Italian, part Irish, and the rest mongrel British." Finally, we get the better half.

ITALIC PLAYMATES

The May issue of *Playboy Magazine* no doubt boosted sales by featuring two Italian-American marvels — nubile Nancy Sinatra and iconoclast Camille Paglia.

With her father's blessing, 53-year old Nancy Sinatra showed the world that half a century of pasta-eating can work wonders on the anatomy. God bless Italic culture!

For her part, Camille Paglia remained clothed. But her rapier tongue exposed everything in American society right down to basics. Ms. Paglia has a quintessential Italic mind — humanist and pragmatic — denouncing misguided feminists, extolling lesbianism and sexual liberation, yet recognizing "Nature's" price (AIDS) for rampant sodomy. Paglia is probably more the scourge of liberals than of conservatives.



Feminist provocateur Camille Paglia exposing hypocrisy in *Playboy*.

MOO-SHOO MOB

Italian crimebusters uncovered an underground railway on the outskirts of Rome that served to ferry Chinese organized crime figures across the peninsula. China's ever-widening criminal gangs are making extensive headway in the



Nancy Sinatra as she appeared in *Playboy* before total exposure.

country. As Italian anti-crime efforts succeed in crippling homegrown criminal terrorism, the sons of Cathay are taking over a good deal of the drug trafficking, prostitution, smuggling and extortion. According to Aldelchi D'Ippolito, the magistrate spearheading Rome's anti-crime inquest, the Chinese mobsters, or Triads, are "strong and organized." What's more, they have strange and insular customs and beliefs. And wiretaps have not been particularly effective because the gangs speak in local dialects that mystify even fluent Chinese speakers. This combination of secrecy, criminal violence and clanishness make infiltration exceedingly difficult. Italian authorities may find the Moo-Shoo Mob one tough fortune cookie. ****



World Notes



Lt. Gen. Anthony Zinni

SOMALIA EVACUATED

To end the controversial (but arguably successful) Somali peacekeeping mission, the United States Marines were called in to cover the evacuation of U.N. troops. At their head was Lieut. General Anthony Zinni who knew all too well the tricky nature of Somali warlords. Zinni did his homework by choosing state-of-the-art police technologies instead of brute military force in dealing with potential mobs and ambushes. With General Zinni right on the beach to personally supervise the departure, everything went off without a hitch. The covering force included 2,700 U.S. and 500 Italian Marines.

FAMINE REVISITED

England was lucky that there were no camcorders during the acquisition of its empire. It wouldn't be a pretty picture seeing Clive "pacifying" India, or His Majesty's Navy protecting the English drug lords running opium to the Chinese, or the technological conquests of Africa. Now the Irish are recalling the long-buried reason for their flight out of the Emerald Isle. Yes, it was famine, but one that British robber barons made worse by stopping government intervention and by exporting Ireland's cash crops when the potatoes ran out. To

commemorate this tragic event, which killed hundreds of thousands and brought millions of Irish to our shores 150 years ago, the Irish have opened The Famine Museum in Dublin.

SAPS AT SEA

Two famous ships were in the news a few months ago, the Achille Lauro and Queen Elizabeth II. The Achille Lauro burned and sank off Kenya after a fire of unknown origin. The ship, which was made infamous when it was hijacked by Palestinian terrorists in 1985, was evacuated when the crew could no longer contain the flames. Although some 572 passengers and 255 crewmen abandoned the ship in good order — children were

glory of British nautical luxury. (You think they would have learned from the Titanic!) As luck and poor workmanship would have it, the floating hotel put to sea before the refurbishing was done. Although charged between \$2,100 and \$8,700 per cabin, some 500 passengers were abandoned at dockside because their cabins were not ready. Those that had the misfortune to remain on board discovered toilets that exploded when flushed and construction debris strewn all about.irate passengers formed grievance committees and the hapless captain had all he could do to contain the mutiny. Belay the rum ration!

Then there was the Viking Serenade, Caribbean cruise ship in the Nor-



A zany British cruise that spawned a passenger mutiny

rescued first and Captain Orsi was the last to leave — two passengers died, one from a heart attack, the other from a fall during lifeboat loading. A few passengers complained that some crewmen were unhelpful during the ordeal.

It may be a toss up whether the Lauro or the QE II evoked the most passenger complaints. Queen Elizabeth II did not burn and sink but its passengers were nevertheless ready to abandon her on her long-touted return to America after having run aground two years ago. It seems that after two years of repairs and refurbishing, the Cunard Line planned a huge public relations cruise to celebrate the

dic tradition - spic and span. Unfortunately, some bacteria escaped the disinfectant and over 650 passengers and crew got it in the intestines.

AMTRAK TILTS ITALIAN

Advanced Italian railroad technology may someday help Amtrak passengers arrive on time and in streamlined style. Auto manufacturer FIAT has placed a \$600 million bid to develop high-tech tilting trains for Amtrak in the United States. The Italians pioneered this railroad of the future in the 1960s,

World Notes



The Germans were so impressed with Italy's tilting technology that they ordered 20 such trains. If the Amtrak bid goes through, Italy's tilting marvels will be criss-crossing the Eastern Seaboard as early as 1997.

AFRICAN DIASPORA

On the continent known as much for its human strife as it is for its beautiful Serengeti, African Americans are exploring a heretofore taboo subject: black complicity in the slave trade. Although both Africans and their transplanted descendants in America blame slavery primarily on European colonization, many are coming to the uncomfortable conclusion that that odious institution could not have flourished without the aid of fellow "brothers." Imakus Nzinga Okofo, formerly of New York and now a resident of Ghana, said recently at a festival known as Panafest that until Africans admit that they were part and parcel of the slave trade, "the healing process will be difficult to realize."

PULA APART

With the breakup of Marshall Tito's hodgepodge Yugoslavia, many along the Istrian peninsula bordering Italy are feeling the tug of history. Nominally part of Croatia and Slovenia, Istria nevertheless has recently been declared an autonomous region by Italy, Slovenia and Croatia. A good measure of the area's sense of independence is an Istrian affinity with the West, specifically Italy. Indeed, before there ever was a Croatia, the city of Pula on the Istrian peninsula flourished as a Roman metropolis. Today, the Roman amphitheater is one of the city's most striking attractions—and a dramatic link to its Italic past. Pula's governor, Luciano Del Bianco, whose name reflects this heritage, wants to maintain Istria's and Pula's autonomy. Given the savagery of the other ethnic groups in the region, Del Bianco's desire to stay Italic is quite



Italy pioneered tilt-train technology that allows trains to travel up to 150 mph on conventional tracks. Amtrak is interested.

understandable.

INSURRECTION AMERICA

Fear is loose in America's "heartland." Paranoid and vengeful, armed Americans around the country have all but declared war against the United States Government. The pitiless and cowardly massacre of some 160 children, women, and men in a federal office building in Oklahoma City last April was a clear message from the anarchist Militia movement in this country: government is the enemy. With names like McVeigh, Liddy, Koernke, and Gritz, the violent and non-violent opponents of American federalism may be some of the very northern European folk who spread that government across the prairies and plains in the first place. But clearly, the vast majority of northern European-Americans are law-abiding and peaceful.

MUSSOLINI TAKES MOSCOW

Guess who was spotted jamming and kibitzing at the 10th annual Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in Moscow, Idaho? None other than Romano Mussolini, Italian jazz pianist/composer and son of the late Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini. Although he preferred discussing matters musical, the 69-year old Romano graciously fielded questions about his famous—or is it infamous—

father. When grilled about Il Duce's failures and foibles, Mussolini the Younger said: "Ninety percent of what my father did was good . . . mistakes were made but he drained swamplands, built roads, built buildings, made Italy a great nation, a modern nation."

FORT SUEZ

Egyptian archeologists recently unearthed a Roman fortress in the Sinai desert, just a stone's throw from the Suez Canal. Although ancient records referred to the fort, scientists were amazed at the size and grandeur of the ruin. Diggers found a bemused limestone lion with paws casually crossed, no doubt a reflection of the humdrum life of the bored Italic soldiery stuck at the desert outpost. However, also found was a artifact depicting a nude male bather that was part of an elaborate Roman bath. Sun and fun in the Sinai.



Roman peacekeepers in the Sinai built permanent camps.



Editorial

DOUBLE STANDARDS

While New York's Senator Alfonse D'Amato (or The Fonz as he is "affectionately" called in the tabloids) was tarred and feathered for his ethnic mimicry of Judge Lance Ito and eventually humbled and hospitalized by that hue and cry, Italia America still awaits an apology from television journalist Sam Donaldson who in the past has demanded on national TV that Italian-American politicians be investigated routinely for Mafia connections. We wait for an act of atonement from the United States Government for the persecution of tens of thousands of Italian-Americans during World War II. We waited in vain for President Richard Nixon to beg forgiveness for his taped observations that Italian-Americans are crooks and smell different. And certainly America will never be denied Chico Marx on the public airwaves while Mr. Moto recedes into the darkness of political incorrectness.

It is mainly due to our own apathy and tolerance that the Italian-American subculture has become a gutter heritage in the media. If anything, Sen. D'Amato's wrong-headed mimicry, and the megalithic reaction to it, proved that most other American ethnics have a lower threshold of pain than we.

- John Positano

DOUBLE-SPEAK

Among other apologies not received are from *Long Island Newsday* and feature writer Murray Kempton for their mean-spirited piece on the lynching of eleven Italians in New Orleans in 1891.

What sparked this ignorant hate tract was a wreath-laying ceremony at the Columbus Memorial in Manhattan. The media usually ignores such ethnic Italian goings-on, except if food, fashion or music is involved. However, this particular ceremony got under Murray's skin. His superficial research into the shameless massacre by a mob (small m) in the Deep South convinced him that the townfolk merely hung a bunch of *mafiosi* and was therefore justified.

Murray Kempton is certainly old enough to know better (in fact, he may be old enough to have witnessed the incident.) Mob justice can never be vindicated. Perhaps stoning adultresses and hanging cattle thieves are still a part of Kempton's ancestral memories but Italic Rome gave Anglo-Saxon law the concepts of due process and the presumption of innocence. Responsible journalists and newspapers must not condone such atrocities as mob violence, even in the past. In Kempton's defense, and to our shame, the Editor of *Newsday* bears an Italian surname. To date, despite being formally advised of the historic inaccuracies of the article, neither *Newsday* nor Kempton has offered an apology.

For an in-depth rebuttal of Murray's article please see *Letters*, page 3. - J. P.

THE FBI PUTS US IN OUR PLACE

It was a simple request on behalf of 15 million Italian-Americans (the fifth largest ethnic group in the USA). It was sent with due respect to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (an Italian-American), an agency organized by order of U.S. Attorney General Charles Bonaparte, also an Italian-American, in 1912. We asked that the term "family" be dropped from the identification of Italian-American gangs, eg., the Genovese Crime Family. Our motive was to destroy the inaccurate image of organized criminals as Italian families and to label these gangs or syndicates what they really are. On the next page (*Forum*) is the FBI response.

The fact that Director Freeh did not personally respond may be of concern to Italian-Americans, especially since many of our organizations honored and supported his appointment to this post. It may be more upsetting to realize just how little political correctness means when applied to us. - J.M.

The Italic Way™

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

Council of Governors (I.S.I.)

Albert Crecca Louis J. Mantia (Chair.)
Michael Downey Carl A. Pescosolido
Stefano Gristina Vincent Pizzulli
John L. Mancini

Executive Council (NY I.S.I.)

Mary Ann Minucci, President
Michael Romano, Vice President
George P. Ricci, Treasurer
John L. Mancini, Secretary of Programs

Executive Council (Midwest I.S.I.)

Mario Scozia, Vice President
John Locallo, Treasurer
Donald Fiore, Deputy Secretary of Programs

Financial Secretaries

Patrick Grecco (NY) Wm. Dal Cerro (MW)

Political Liaison

Comm. Dott. Elio Grandi

Director & Editor-in-Chief

The Italic Way

Rosario A. Iaconis

Managing Editor

John L. Mancini

Production Manager

Rita L. Mancini

Feature Writers

Alfred Cardone

Don Fiore

Robert Masullo

The Italic Way™ (ISSN 1079-2619) 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, ©1995 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. Fax: (516) 488-4889

Forum of the People



Frank & Jesse James (Gang)



Ma & Fred Barker (Gang)



Lucky Luciano & Carlo Gambino (Family)

CRIME "FAMILIES"

March 7, 1995

[Dear I.S.I.]

I am writing in response to your February 22, 1995 letter to Director Freeh, which also included copies of your publication, *The Italic Way*, and videotape presentation on Roman Law in America. In your letter, you suggested that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) refrain from the use of the term "family" in describing Italian-American crime syndicates and replace it with the term "gang."

The FBI, as you know, has the greatest respect for the overwhelming majority of Italian-American citizens of this country who are hard working, honest contributors to American society. Regrettably, Italian Criminal Enterprises such as the American La Cosa Nostra (LCN) and the Sicilian Mafia do exist in this country and are actively involved in murder, extortion, drug trafficking, money laundering, and other criminal acts to further their criminal goals.

The use of the term "La Cosa Nostra" to refer to this criminal enterprise as well as its derivative organization into units known as "Families," with attendant hierarchy designators as Boss, Underboss, Consigliere, Capodecina and Soldier, were not invented by the FBI or the United States Government. In fact, the LCN itself originated these identifiers which law enforcement has simply adopted. While the FBI has developed many former member of the LCN, who have confirmed its continued existence and vitality, our most telling evidence was obtained from the mouths of LCN members in court-ordered electronic interceptions of their conversations.

On October 29, 1989, through the use of these court-ordered electronic interceptions, the FBI recorded an induction ceremony for members of the Patriarca LCN Family in Medford, Massachusetts. In the Medford ceremony, prospective members swore an oath of allegiance and silence to their secret organization and were instructed by hierarchy members in strict rules concerning conduct and protocol. They proudly identified themselves on tape as officially inducted members of an LCN "Family". These tapes not only verified the continuing existence of the LCN, but have been successfully used as evidence in judicial proceedings relating to numerous LCN members since their interception.

«The LCN Family concept is a term of art...»

The FBI continues to enjoy an outstanding working relationship with our colleagues in law enforcement in Italy, including the Direzione Investigativa Antimafia, the Arma Dei Carabinieri, the Guardia Di Finanza and the Italian National Police. These very police agencies that have been investigating the Sicilian Mafia and other native Italian Criminal Enterprises for decades, officially refer to them as "Mafia Families" based on similar Italian electronic surveillance interceptions and the testimony of hundreds of former Mafia members, or *pentiti*.

The suggested replacement of the term "gang" when referring to the LCN is connotatively inappropriate. A gang is a loosely organized group of criminals working together. The LCN Family concept is a term of art relating to a highly structured and organized criminal cell exhibiting historical and occasional bloodline ties to a National (sic) criminal entity. The FBI and international law enforcement remain committed to disrupting and dismantling all international organized criminal enterprises, regardless of their national origins. To that end, we hope that we can gain your support.

Jim E. Moody, Chief,
Organized Crime/Drug Operations, Section #2
Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Italic Way



REVIEW

The Amazing Story of the Tonelli Family in America

author Bill Tonelli
(1994, Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., Reading, MA)

"Know thyself," advised Socrates, and centuries later, his words still have the profound resonance of one of life's immortal and necessary truths. Yet, even as we acknowledge it as such, the brief dictum seems to so obviously state the obvious that most of us rarely sense a need to seek out a fuller meaning. Having spent our entire lives as ourselves, after all, most of us are already fairly well acquainted with the various assets and deficiencies which add up to our own, individual personalities.

Bill Tonelli, a senior editor for *Esquire*, thought so, too, until something turned up in his mailbox that made him think again. For only \$27.95, hyped an ego-tugging ad, he could receive a painstakingly researched compendium of his family's history and learn "the amazing story of the Tonelli Family in America." But Bill's decision to take the plunge bought him a lot more than a cheap piece of junk mail genealogy. The purchase inadvertently provoked a deeper look at his background, and provided both the inspiration and a ready-made title for a book. Thus emerges *The Amazing Story of the Tonelli Family in America*, a 260-page narrative of one man's personal quest to assess the meaning and durability of ethnocultural kinship in today's world.

As the story gets underway, we find that the promo which started it all passes the truth in advertising test with flying colors, for Bill is truly amazed when his purchase arrives. Beneath a sham Tonelli "coat of arms" (two goats bucking heads over a bowl of linguini) he finds the names and addresses of every Tonelli listed in the nation's phone directories.

It isn't the formidable number,



Author Bill Tonelli



The mock family crest

but apparent variety of Tonellis that sends Bill into a state of astonishment. His world is the urban east. Born and raised in South Philadelphia's Little Italy and later employed in New York City, he can scarcely imagine other Italian Americans, let alone other Tonellis, having first names like "Abner" or "Derby" and living deep in the heart of Texas or somewhere up in the Alaskan wilderness. How did these people wind up so geographically and culturally distanced from the common starting point that all Tonellis most certainly shared, while he and his family had remained so uncompromisingly bound to their ethnic origins? What subtle or dramatic turns were taken on their various biographical paths to bring them there? And to what degree did their sense of cultural or genealogical kinship with other Tonellis survive the trek?

Curiosity grows to obsession, with Bill eventually embarking on a quixotic, 12,000 mile circumnavigation of the country while dropping in on Tonelli households coast to coast to find his answers. The folks he encounters along the way embody the most varied and contrasting cast of characters imaginable. Wealthy, impoverished, educated, ignorant, refined or crude, there's a Tonelli for every slot in the vast, sociological spectrum, from kindly Sister Theodore Tonelli, a nun in Joliet, Illinois,

to crusty Carmella Tonelli, serving time for drug-dealing in a Houston prison. Bill breaks bread with Tonelli rock musicians and Tonelli ranchers, Tonelli yuppies and blue-collared Tonelli tradesmen, gleaning sundry bits and pieces from each personality in his zealous endeavor to assemble a composite portrait of a single surname.

But he might have just as well tried to seek some cohesive element among everyone in America who happened to be named "Bill." The cold truth, of course, is that the reluctant inhabitants of his self-styled "Tonelli nation" have hardly anything in common spiritually or culturally. They are, for the most part, simply a random bunch of widely dispersed, everyday people who arrived at their mundane situations in mundane ways, and for whom, amidst the busy ups and downs of daily life, the matter of ancestry is virtually meaningless.

Substitute the term "Italian American" for "Tonelli," as is clearly the author's intention, and the book serves as testimony to frustrations and disappointments of those who cling to the illusory idea that today's Italian Americans are linked by anything more than the accident of their surnames.

The factor of ethnic identity is

(Continued p.28)



UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES LISTED
HALON RECHARGING STATION WITH PEMALL HALON SYSTEMS



FIREQUENCH INC.

FIRE ALARM • SMOKE DETECTION SYSTEMS
"EARLY DETECTION IS THE BEST PROTECTION"

45 WHITE STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013
(212) 966-9100

DESMOND J. BURKE



Focus

MAPPING THE WORLD'S GENES

by John Mancini

The question of nature or nurture has long puzzled most Americans. Each decade brings new theories and revelations about the importance of environment versus heredity. During the late 1950's and into the 1960's, environment received the lion's share of the credit or the blame for poverty, crime, and intelligence. The Great Society was, in part, energized by the belief that human behavior could be controlled by social legislation. Behavioral science provided inspiration with studies of mice and men, utilizing such behavior modification methods as positive and negative reinforcement, sleep deprivation, and other environmental variables. Of course, no one ever denied the power of genes to influence behavior. Animal breeding in such species as dogs demonstrated over thousands of years that different breeds had different temperaments and abilities. But somehow humans were considered less chained to their genes than dogs.

Attitudes began to change when studies of human twins hit the media. There were reports of twins separated at birth, who were raised in families with no blood ties and in totally diverse environments, sharing uncanny similarities of behavior and habits. Such common traits as using the same brand of toothpaste or marrying spouses who resembled each other, surprised many researchers and revealed an uncanny edge of genes over environment.

The Bell Curve

With the recent publication of Charles Murray's *Bell Curve*, we are confronted with what some would consider the logical conclusion of genetics: that the earth's races are not merely different in physical characteristics but in intelligence as well. This, we are told, explains why sub-Saharan Africa never achieved a comparable degree of civilization as Europe or Asia. Likewise, it attempts to rationalize why African-Americans have suffered economically in the United States.

At odds with the *Bell Curve*, is a growing movement among scientists to eliminate the traditional concept of race. It is suggested that outward physical appearances used in the classification of races is misleading. That genetically, differ-

ent races often share common traits. For example, not only blacks suffer from sickle cell anemia but also some Mediterraneans and southern Asians. From African sites, anthropologists continue to search for the mother of all races to prove that race is merely a state of mind, and that nature's variations on hair, skin, eyes, and other superficial things bear no relation to the basic equality of the human race. (Very recently, anthropologists came to the conclusion that the making of tools began in Africa some 20,000 years before similar handicraft appeared in Europe.)



Cousins? Australia's aborigines and Asia's Chinese

In order to prove various genetic theories, scientists set out to identify and catalogue the genes. In the 1950's the science of genetics was transformed by the discovery of DNA, the very code of reproduction. In the ensuing years scientists began to decipher the code and to identify many genes within human cells. Enough genes have been catalogued to inspire some scientists to attempt a colossal undertaking — mapping the world's

genes among 5 billion earthlings. Using some 110 genetic markers and a good deal of statistical extrapolations, three Italian scientists have dared to take on the world.

Mapping Humanity

Together with their staffs, Prof. Luca Cavalli-Sforza, a geneticist at Stanford University, Paolo Menozzi, a professor of ecology at the University of Parma, and Alberto Piazza, a professor of human genetics at the Medical School of Turin, drew blood samples from 1,800 populations on six continents in an effort to map the human family. They produced a one-thousand page book weighing seven pounds complete with more charts, maps and graphs than a sane person would ever want to gaze at. It is, indeed, a starting point in the study of who we are and where we ultimately came from.

Playing it safe, the three authors disclaim any accuracy in their conclusions. And well they should. For, as much as we would like to report another Italian masterpiece in this project, the truth is, it is riddled with rather questionable reasoning and strange conclusions, much of them in regard to the research-

Focus



ers' own people, the Italians.

Some of the more interesting observations are quite novel. For example, although they may look African in the color of their skin and width of their noses, or even Caucasian by their curly hair, Australia's aborigines are distant cousins of the Chinese. And how about those Basques from Spain's northern region? They are unrelated to any "tribe" in Europe. Our authors suggest that Basques may be the original inhabitants of Europe and descendants of the Cro-Magnon cave artists. And who are our most distant relatives? According to the study, "...the greatest difference within the human species is between Africans and non-Africans..." (p. 83) This, suggest the scientists, demonstrates how long ago was the first human migration out of mother Africa. Notwithstanding the tens of thousands of years since our ancestors went their separate ways, all branches of the family tree are still very much connected to one another, genetically.

Questionable Accuracy

But how reliable is such a generality? Remember, statistics are at work in this monumental study and you know what Mark Twain said about them — there are lies, damned lies, and statistics. In this case, how many samples should have been taken to analyse 5 billion of earth's inhabitants? Which of the 110 genetic markers (i.e., blood traits present in all humans that vary with ethnicity) were compared in each ethnic sample? Are all genetic markers foolproof? What weight did the scientists give to historical facts as they conflicted with the markers? What about other physical traits beside blood? What about culture, religion and language as markers?

One possible shortcoming in the project is that the special-

The results of their research and statistical analysis would warm the heart of a Lombard separatist.

ties of the three scientists are genetics and ecology, not history or archeology. Such a daunting task as mapping the world could have been decades in the making if all relevant disciplines were brought to bear. So, most other areas of expertise were mostly ignored and conclusions were based primarily on blood workups. To keep some semblance of control, blood samples were taken mainly from "aboriginal" peoples. For example, since the United States is mainly an immigrant nation, samples were only taken from Native Americans. In Europe, the researchers preferred country folk to city folk since the latter are more prone to genetic mix. As for other physical traits: skin color, hair, stature, etc, they are all subject to environmental change over the course of millenia. Like-



One genetic marker mistakenly traced Icelanders to an Irish origin. When historical records showed otherwise, the researchers created their own version of history which included Irish monks spreading their seed. That same genetic marker was later used in Italy.

wise, language, religion, and culture are transmitted non-sexually. So it seems that blood is the most reliable. Or is it?

In the case of Iceland, in which the population is homogeneous and presumably known historically to be Nordic in origin, early researchers utilized ABO (i.e., blood type) as a marker. What they found was a bit of a shock to them. The Icelandic natives, according to blood traits, were actually more Scottish and Irish than Viking (Norwegian). But instead of questioning the ABO marker used, those researchers attempted to rewrite history suggesting that Vikings had kidnapped Scotsmen to serve as slaves in Iceland and that Irish monks journeyed to the island spreading their uncelebrate seed as well as the word of God. It wasn't until ABO markers were discredited (they, too, are subject to natural selection! p. 277) that other markers and a little traditional history finally verified a kinship of Icelanders with Norwegians.

The Lost Tribes of Italy

It is curious, then, that Piazza and his team chose to use ABO as a major marker in the study of Italy. The results of their research and statistical analysis would warm the heart of a Lombard separatist. Essentially, their genetics divides Italy into three distinct ethnic groups, four if you count Sardinia. In the north dwell teutonic-types akin to northern Europeans, in the central regions live the descendants of the Etruscans, and in the south and Sicily are the scions of Greece. In support of these findings is simplistic history: ancient Greece did in fact colonize parts of southern Italy, the Etruscans occupied the central peninsula, and the barbarians invaded northern Italy at the fall of "that" empire — you know the one. Therein lies the problem with this genetic map. Italic Italy is nowhere to be found on it. The Romans and the millions of Italic people who inhabited central Italy and, by the thousands, colonized the rest

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

VIA^{LA} Italica

XXIII 1995

La rivista dell' Istituto di Studi Italici

L'arte dell'Arrendersi

di Alfred Cardone

I soldati italiani della seconda guerra mondiale sono generalmente poco rispettati negli Stati Uniti ed in Inghilterra. E' un fatto che le vecchie forze armate monarchiche italiane, l'esercito, la marina e l'aeronautica, sono state fatte bersaglio di molte spiritosaggini da parte di illustri personaggi come Ted Turner e l'Ambasciatore americano in Italia, Peter Secchia. Chi di noi non ha mai sentito qualche vecchia barzelletta sulla codardia degli italiani in battaglia? Chi di noi non ha mai visto vecchi filmati di migliaia e migliaia di soldati italiani che si arrendono alle truppe alleate? Constatando l'abbondante documentazione ed i vari filmati che trattano questo argomento, c'e' da pensare che "l'arte dell' arrendersi" sia un talento esclusivamente italiano. In contrasto, l'esame rigoroso dei documenti storici rileva dei fatti molto interessanti.

Se si da' per accertato che gli italiani generalmente "non sono fatti per la guerra", anzi, sono dei bonaccioni che preferiscono fare vino e figli allora e' veramente sorprendente constatare come l'Italia fascista abbia lottato a fianco dei tedeschi per cinque anni fino alla fine e per tutto questo periodo abbia combattuto su tutti i fronti europei. L'arrendersi, come vedremo, non era affatto una specialita' italiana, anzi era "un'arte" che fu adottata con maestria da altre nazioni che preferirebbero dimenticare il loro meschino passato.

E' osceno sottolineare la dura sconfitta subita dagli italiani nella seconda guerra mondiale. L'Italia perse 330.000 persone in quel conflitto, piu' delle 307.000 perse dall' Inghilterra e certamente piu' delle 122.000 perse dalla "vittoriosa" Francia. Ci si trova in difficolta' a cercare di capire il perche' gli ignoranti considerano le prestazioni italiane nella guerra uno "scherzo", amenoche' non lo si attribuisca ad un misto di propaganda residua e disprezzo etnico.

La reputazione delle forze armate italiane fu senza dubbio danneggiata da un numero di disastri. La sconfitta iniziale in Nord Africa vide cadere 130.000 prigionieri nelle mani degli inglesi durante una campagna di tre mesi dovuta all' impossibilita' di rifornimenti, un contingente di 50.000

soldati italiani piu' i loro portatori indigeni furono costretti ad arrendersi agli inglesi in Africa orientale. Migliaia di italiani si arresero assieme ai loro alleati tedeschi in seguito alle sconfitte dell' Asse a Stalingrado ed in Tunisia.

E gli altri combattenti? In realta', durante la seconda guerra mondiale, la reputazione militare di molte altre nazioni fu decisamente incrinata. Ci furono schiacciati sconfitte, ritirate disastrose e rese di massa durante tutta la guerra su una scala che rende microscopici i disastri subiti dalle forze armate italiane.

Il collasso completo della Francia in un periodo di quaranta giorni tra maggio e giugno del 1940 a forze tedesche che erano in numero considerevolmente inferiore e nonostante l'aiuto di piu' di 200.000 truppe inglesi, e' un classico esempio quasi inconcepibile. Durante questa



Singapore, 1942, la resa di 130.000 Inglesi ed alleati in un giorno.

brevissima campagna descritta da Rommel piu' tardi come un "folgorante tour de France", uno sbalorditivo 1.450.000 francesi si arresero. Inoltre, circa 40.000 inglesi furono fatti prigionieri. Se Hitler non avesse "autorizzato" l'evacuazione di truppe inglesi da Dunkirk, tutto l'esercito inglese avrebbe finito con l'essere forzato a marciare verso la prigionia. Questo fiasco e' ancora piu' disastroso se si considera che le forze francesi ed inglesi avevano il vantaggio di combattere sullo stesso fronte, con forze superiori, con eccellenti linee di rifornimento, e per di piu' con vent'anni di preparazione da parte dei francesi per una eventuale guerra con la Germania.

Anche gli inglesi ebbero le loro catastrofi militari che non finirono con la rotta in Francia e l'abbandono dei loro alleati a Dunkirk. Durante la lotta per la supremazia in Nord Africa le truppe tedesche ed italiane, inferiori di numero, disperatamente a corto di armi, rifornimenti, carburante e copertura aerea, sconfissero ripetutamente gli inglesi forzandoli fuori dalla Libia nel 1942 ed inseguendoli all'interno dell'Egitto. La resa di 35.000 soldati inglesi alla ben fortificata posizione di Tobruk nel giugno del 1942, fu cosi' devastante che fece commentare a Winston Churchill: "La sconfitta e' una cosa, ma l'umiliazione e' tutt'altro". Pertanto questa non fu l'unica umiliazione inglese della guerra. A Singapore la resa di 130.000

truppe alleate, compresi 80.000 inglesi, a forze giapponesi che si muovevano in bicicletta ed erano di numero circa la meta', rappresenta una delle peggiori sconfitte nella storia della seconda guerra mondiale e senza dubbio il singolo peggiore disastro militare nella storia inglese. Il comandante giapponese di quello scontro fu sbalordito dalla celerita' con la quale capitolarono gli inglesi, e descrisse i prigionieri come semplici operai alla fine di una giornata di lavoro. Durante la guerra piu' di 172.000 soldati inglesi furono fatti prigionieri in Europa ed in Asia. In cima alla lista dei disastri si deve includere quello della resa fra due e tre milioni di soldati russi ai tedeschi durante l'invasione di Hitler nell'estate

ed autunno del 1941. Questo numero era destinato a salire a piu' di sei milioni di uomini verso la fine della guerra, un numero veramente sconcertante. L'elenco dei prigionieri di guerra e' molto lungo e continua con 767.000 polacchi, 200.000 belgi, 139.700 americani ecc.

Chiaramente, "l'arte dell'arrendersi" non era un talento monopolizzato dagli italiani. E' certamente giunto il momento di scartare le vecchie dicerie e indagare piu' seriamente sugli avvenimenti della storia militare. La guerra e' vile, e gli uomini e le donne che sono forzati a combatterla hanno diritto ad essere trattati con rispetto in uguale misura.

[Traduzione da Dario Gristina
Edita da Elio Grandi]

Sommario delle Rese

(Non tutti i combattenti sono elencati)

Italiani (Nord Africa).....	130.000
Italiani (Africa Orientale).....	50.000
Italiani (Russia).....	ca. 50.000
Tedeschi (Russia).....	ca. 1.287.000
Tedeschi con alcuni Italiani (Tunisia).....	266.600
Inglesi (Francia).....	41.000
Inglesi (Nord Africa).....	45.000
Inglesi (Asia).....	80.000
Francesi (Francia).....	ca. 1.450.000
Russi e Unione Sovietica (Russia).....	ca. 6.000.000
Americani (Europa e Asia).....	139.700
Polacchi.....	767.000
Belgi.....	200.000

CHARLES RIZZO & ASSOCIATE
 BUILDING AND ZONING LAW CONSULTANTS
 ELEVEN PENNSYLVANIA PLAZA / NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001-2091
 (212) 695-5980 FAX (212) 695-6058

CHARLES RIZZO
 SALVATORE J. COCOLICCHIO

STUART KLEIN, ESQ.
 GENERAL COUNSEL

Ricordi della Seconda Guerra Mondiale: Chi ha perso l'Italia?

di John Mancini

E' possibile che il faticoso percorso verso la seconda guerra mondiale sia basato sullo sdegno di un inglese verso un italiano? Chiaramente, da un punto di vista storico, gli eventi sono molto piu' complessi. Pero' si puo' affermare con certezza che il Sig. Anthony Eden, membro importante del corpo diplomatico inglese prima dell'inizio della seconda guerra mondiale, e, susseguentemente, primo ministro, abbia appositamente sabotato ogni tentativo mirante ad usare l'Italia come un bastione contro Hitler.

Sono in pochi a capire o ad apprezzare la complessa situazione politica europea degli anni trenta che ha permesso l'ascesa al potere di Hitler e la sua marcia verso la guerra. C'e' la tendenza ad attribuire la responsabilita' di questi eventi a Neville Chamberlain, il Primo Ministro inglese dall'indole gentile, il quale, con il classico ombrello in mano, praticamente regalo' la Cecoslovacchia ai nazisti. Comunque, l'errata caratterizzazione di Adolph Hitler da parte di Chamberlain non era certamente unica fra gli inglesi. Infatti, il governo britannico, negli anni immediatamente precedenti alla carica di Chamberlain, aveva quietamente acconsentito alla maggior parte delle azioni del dittatore nazista. Fu solo durante l'invasione tedesca della Polonia nel 1939 che l'Inghilterra cambio' radicalmente la sua direzione degli affari esteri. Contrariamente agli autori Winston Churchill (*Mentre l'Inghilterra Dormiva*) e John F. Kennedy (*Perche' l'Inghilterra Dormiva*), l'Inghilterra non "dormiva", anzi operava segretamente e scorrettamente, con risultati disastrosi.

Eden considerava Stalin e Hitler piu' piacevoli e fidati di Mussolini

Mentre la Francia, con le cicatrici ancora fresche della prima guerra mondiale, tremava ad ogni mossa nazista cercando disperatamente una qualsiasi alleanza o accordo che l'avrebbe messa al sicuro da una resurrezione tedesca, l'Inghilterra, dall'inizio, si rassegnò alla rinascita tedesca ed al nazismo. Il concetto di "Pacificazione", usato molto leggermente, era in uso presso i diplomatici inglesi prima dell'ascesa di Chamberlain. L'occupazione tedesca del

Rhineland, il ripristino della leva militare, l'annessione dell'Austria, erano cose non solo accettate, bensì probabilmente desiderate dagli inglesi. Dopo tutto, l'Inghilterra considerava la Germania una nazione civile e una grande potenza. Data la storica posizione antagonista della Germania nei confronti della Francia e della Russia, solo i francesi, i russi e gli italiani passarono notti in bianco meditando sulla resurrezione tedesca.



Sir Anthony Eden

E qui entra in gioco Anthony Eden, probabilmente il peggiore giudice del carattere umano del ventesimo secolo. Uno dei piu' giovani ministri degli esteri della storia inglese, Eden considerava Stalin e Hitler piu' piacevoli e fidati di Mussolini (tra l'altro considerava le forze armate francesi imbattibili). Per ragioni ancora oggi sconosciute, considerava Mussolini un incubo. Un aneddoto attribuisce quest'odio a quando si dice che Mussolini, durante un dibattito diplomatico piuttosto agitato, versasse inavvertitamente

dell'inchiostro sul Signor Eden rovinando così uno dei suoi migliori capi d'abbigliamento. Sembra ridicolo ma sta di fatto che Eden spese la maggior parte della sua gioventu' a predicare al Parlamento ed ai suoi, a volte sbalorditi superiori, che l'Italia fascista e non i ragionevoli nazisti era la vera minaccia dell'impero britannico.

Contrariamente ai desideri dei Primi Ministri, Staley Baldwin, Neville Chamberlain ed anche Winston Churchill che a quel tempo era solo un membro del parlamento inglese, Anthony Eden riuscì a fare estraniare l'Italia dalle democrazie europee. Eden riuscì nel suo intento principalmente per due motivi: primo, perché sia il popolo che il governo inglesi non ritenevano l'Italia una grande potenza e secondo, perché il vero interesse degli inglesi era il Mediterraneo, un punto chiave di passaggio per il Medio Oriente ed i giacimenti di petrolio, e per il canale di Suez e quindi l'India e l'Africa Orientale.



Con il Trattato Navale Anglo-Tedesco del 1935, la Gran Bretagna svuotò di significato la sicurezza collettiva. Gli storici inglesi raramente dedicano più di una frase a questo sconcertante tradimento diplomatico.

Eden scrisse: "L'atteggiamento dell'Italia verso di noi è basato sul sogno di una rinascita dell'Impero Romano..." Basandosi su queste nozioni, Eden lotto' forsennatamente contro il riconoscimento della conquista italiana dell'Abissinia (Etiopia), mentre era disposto a restituire le vecchie colonie tedesche del Cameroon (Africa Occidentale) ai nazisti.

La paura ossessionante dell'Italia fascista, da parte di Anthony Eden, anche se causata da sentimenti patriottici, non fece altro che insidiare altri capi di governo inglesi e francesi, ovviamente più nazionalisti, che vedevano l'Italia come un contropeso alla Germania nazista, e un'alleata per la sicurezza collettiva. I documenti dimostrano chiaramente che sia l'Inghilterra quanto la Francia si fecero sfuggire molte opportunità per costruire una nuova Europa dopo la prima guerra mondiale. Sfortunatamente, i loro interessi, simili a quelli di Eden, consistevano nel mantenere lo status quo e preservare le loro potenze coloniali.

Gli sbagli e le mancate opportunità non sono generalmente conosciuti ma fanno parte dei documenti storici.

Verso la fine del 1932 e l'inizio del 1933 Mussolini formulò e propose la sua idea che prevedeva un patto fra le quattro potenze che avrebbe aiutato a risolvere a potenziali conflitti e avrebbe revisionato l'oneroso Trattato di Versailles. Le quattro potenze dovevano essere l'Inghilterra, la Francia, l'Italia e la Germania. Un'autentica NATO degli anni trenta, e senza dubbio un bastione contro l'Unione Sovietica. L'idea fu bocciata a Londra ed a Parigi, le quali non erano preparate a riconoscere la loro parità e tanto meno quella dell'Italia. Perfino la Lega delle Nazioni, nelle sue deliberazioni, riconosceva solo l'inglese ed il francese come lingue ufficiali. Inoltre, i francesi avevano già basato tutte le loro speranze su una malfatta alleanza con le nazioni

dell'Europa Orientale conosciuta come la "Petite Entente". Sono pochi i libri di storia alleati che menzionano il Patto a Quattro.

Nel 1934, appena un anno dopo la sua ascesa al potere, Hitler complottava per sovvertire l'Austria che a quei tempi era nella sfera d'influenza italiana. Quando Mussolini mandò le sue truppe ai confini con l'Austria, Hitler scelse la ritirata. Il significato di questo primo confronto tra i due dittatori di estrema destra, sfuggì ai francesi ed agli inglesi. Ne' gli uni ne' gli altri si impegnarono ad assistere l'Italia, e poco o niente di questo confronto è documentato nei loro libri di storia odierni.

Nel marzo del 1935 i capi di governo inglesi, francesi e italiani si incontrarono a Stresa per unirsi contro "violazioni dell'ordine internazionale" (il riarmo della Germania). Entro giugno di quell'anno gli inglesi firmarono un trattato bilaterale con Hitler, dando carta bianca alla Germania di riarmare la sua marina militare (il Trattato Navale

Gli storici inglesi raramente adoperano più di una frase per descrivere questo incredibile tradimento diplomatico.

AngloTedesco). Questo trattato fu una sorpresa per i francesi, gli italiani e addirittura per gli americani. L'Ambasciatore americano a Mosca, William Bullitt, riferì che i russi erano sgomentati dal fatto che "la catena attorno alla Germania è stata spezzata". Tutta sola, l'Inghilterra annullò una clausola chiave del Trattato di Versailles, annullò il significato delle varie conferenze per il disarmo tenute dalla fine della prima guerra mondiale in poi e si fece una beffa della sicurezza collettiva delle nazioni. Gli storici inglesi raramente adoperano più di una frase per descrivere questo incredibile tradimento diplomatico.

Persa l'Italia, la Germania fu sguinzagliata. Le conseguenze del 1939 furono sentite in tutto il mondo. Il precipitoso collasso della Francia e dell'Olanda e l'assedio dell'Inghilterra, aizzarono i giapponesi a lanciare un'altra terribile guerra nel Pacifico.

Ed è questo il momento in cui noi entrammo in scena.

*[Traduzione da Dario Gristina
Edita da Elio Grandi]*

of Italy as well as Europe and the Mediterranean during the course of 500 years have no place in this research. "...Romans had little or no influence on the genetic pattern..." (p. 260)

To these Italian researchers there exist but a few "pure" populations, among them Greeks (ancient and modern), Northern Europeans, and Jews (never mind Ashkenazim and Sephardim, never mind a 2,000 year diaspora living among scores of diverse ethnic *goyim*.) Every other group in Europe, in their scenario, was out-sexed. The researchers don't even talk of recessive and dominant genes, just ethnic predominance. Coming from Italians this study sounds oddly Teutonic.

So why didn't the researchers find any Italic people in Italy? Perhaps one reason is that they choose to take blood samples in only 13 of Italy's 20 regions. It appears that no blood samples were taken in Umbria, the Marches, Abruzzi, Molise, Basilicata. Very few locations were sampled in Lazio, northern Calabria, southern Campania. These areas just happened to be the heartlands of the Italic peoples.

Then there is the little problem of history. Granted, the Greeks colonized the shores of southern Italy 3,000 years ago, but their settlements were mainly along the coasts. And ancient historians wrote that these colonies were eventually overpopulated by Italic tribes from the countryside. It was no accident that the Italic people took control of Italy, Sicily and Sardinia by the year 222 B.C. They had the manpower to do it militarily. And, they had the abundance of population to culturally absorb all of Italy by planting colonies throughout.

"The native tribes that, centuries before, had been enslaved by the Greeks or pushed back into the hinterland, increased and multiplied while their masters cultivated comfort through infanticide and abortion. Soon the native stocks were contesting the control of southern Italy. The Greek cities turned to Rome for help; they were helped, and absorbed." (The Story of Civilization by Will Durant, vol III, p. 659)

"[so many of the Italic natives] intermarried with the conquerors that Greek blood, character, and morals in Sicily took on a perceptible native tint of passion and sensuality." (Strabo, the ancient Greek geographer, ibid, vol II, p.170)

Then the question arises: if the colonizing Greeks made such an impression on the researcher's analysis why didn't the massive Italic colonization of Europe and the Mediterranean elicit similar respect? The Romans planted colonies of Italians all over the Empire. In Spain and Portugal alone there were over 35, one even named Italica. In north Africa historians tell us some 400,000 Italians lived; even today there is a substantial colony in Tunisia (actress Claudia Cardinale was born there). The coast of "Yugoslavia" was heavily popu-



Dr Luca Cavalli-Sforza (r) and old "Italic" emperor Vespasian (70 A.D.) who is, no doubt, turning in his grave.



lated with Italians, and in Greece there were four or five Italian settlements. Is it fair to ask that between 500 years of Roman domination and 400 years of Turkish occupation, how do the researchers see a Greek ethnic uniqueness and not an Italian one?

On their home turf of northern Italy, our three Italian researchers may have been misled in choosing to sample the blood of country folk rather than city folk. Again, history tells us that when the Germanic Lombards entered Italy they shunned the cities and maintained more familiar country abodes. The Romans remained in the cities, which, after all was what Rome was all about. Is it, therefore, possible that the "aborigines" of the country may have carried more of the northern European genes?

Only 13 of Italy's 20 regions are represented in this genetic study.

And finally, although geneticists scoff at the idea of physical markers because they are prone to natural selection, did the Roman nose disappear? Or for that matter, did male pattern baldness, the scourge of Rome, grow hair when the Goths swept into town? It would seem questionable to recreate ethnic groups solely out of blood traits, especially since even they are susceptible to natural selection. And it is even more disturbing that three northern Italian scientists would be so consumed with the task of showing the similarity of all races yet so cold and sloppy in their reasoning that Italians are irreconcilably diverse.

Perhaps this sort of human type-casting is built on a foundation of sand. Maybe those who are obsessed with classifying do so for a multitude of social reasons rather than scientific ones. Or, perhaps they entered the brave new world of genetics with preconceived notions. While it may be comforting to see all of humanity as ultimately homogeneous, it belies the reality of cultural diversity. And ethnic culture is surely built on genes and a good many other intangible things. Classifying humanity sounds like a super-human endeavor. Who will be the clergy of this new religion? And perhaps it is appropriate to ask: Is genetics too important to be left to geneticists and statisticians?

The Italic Way



Perspectives

The Art of Surrender

by Alfred Cardone

The Italian military of the Second World War is generally held in especially low regard in the United States and England. In fact, the old Royal Italian Army, Navy and Air Force have been the butts of many a joke from such luminaries as Ted Turner and the former American Ambassador to Italy, Peter Secchia. Who of us has not heard the same old tired jokes about Italian cowardice in battle? Who has not seen the old newsreels of thousands upon thousands of Italian soldiers surrendering to the Allies? Surveying much of the literature and film work done on the subject, one would almost think that this "art of surrender" is a particularly Italian talent. An objective review of the historical record, however, reveals some interesting facts.

If one were to accept the argument that Italians, in general, were "not made for war," that they were a happy-go-lucky lot who preferred to make wine and children then it is all the more amazing to learn that Fascist Italy fought along side the Germans for five years, to the very end. In that time they waged war on every European front.



War-weary British officers being escorted to the surrender ceremony at Singapore in 1942.

A stunning 130,000 British and Empire troops surrendered in one day.

Surrender, as we shall see, was not an Italian specialty. In fact, it was an "art" that was cultivated to a higher degree by nations who would prefer to forget their own blighted past.

To make light of Italy's crushing defeat in the Second World War is obscene. Italy lost 330,000 people in that conflict, more than Great Britain's 307,000 (excluding Empire troops) and certainly more than "victorious" France's 122,000. It is difficult to understand why the ignorant consider Italy's performance in the war as a "joke" unless it is residual propaganda mixed with ethnic disdain.

The performance of Italy's armed forces was undeniably marred by a number of disasters. The initial defeat in

North Africa at the hands of the British resulted in a loss of 130,000 prisoners in a three-month campaign. In East Africa, the eventual surrender to the British of 50,000 regular Italian troops plus their native levies in that impossible to supply theater must also be mentioned. Thousands of Italians surrendered along with their German allies at the Axis defeats at Stalingrad and Tunisia.

But what about the other belligerents? In reality, the military reputations of many nations were badly tarnished in World War II. Crushing defeats in battle, headlong retreats and mass surrenders occurred throughout the war on a scale that very often dwarfed any disasters suffered by Italy's armed forces.

The complete collapse of France in

Archer Elevator Co., Inc.

Maintenance

522 West 37th Street
New York, New York 10018
(212) 695-2712

Repair

We've grown slowly over the last 25 years to become one of the largest independent elevator companies in the New York area.

BUT WE HAVEN'T LOST THE PERSONAL TOUCH!

Call me and let's talk. I'll probably be in.

Ed Bonardi, President



CHARLES RIZZO & ASSOCIATE
 BUILDING AND ZONING LAW CONSULTANTS
 ELEVEN PENNSYLVANIA PLAZA / NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001-2091
 (212) 695-5980 FAX (212) 695-6058

CHARLES RIZZO
 SALVATORE J. COCOLICCHIO

STUART KLEIN, ESQ.
 GENERAL COUNSEL

the space of forty days during May-June 1940 to German forces considerably inferior in number in spite of the help of over 200,000 British troops is a classic example which almost defies understanding. During this very short campaign, which was described by Rommel as a "lightning tour of France", a staggering 1,450,000 Frenchmen surrendered. Over 40,000 British troops were also taken prisoner. Had not Hitler "allowed" the Dunkirk evacuation, all of Britain's army would surely have been marched off to prison camps. This debacle is all the more remarkable considering the fact that the French and British forces had the advantages of fighting on only one front, with superior forces, excellent lines of supply and twenty years worth of French preparations for an eventual war against Germany.

The British also had their share of military catastrophes which did not end with the rout in France and the abrupt abandonment of their ally at Dunkirk. Throughout the seesaw struggle in the North African Desert, inferior German and Italian forces, desperately short of armament, supplies, fuel and air cover, repeatedly defeated the British, eventually sweeping them out of Libya in 1942 and pursuing them into Egypt itself. The British surrender of 35,000 men at the well fortified position of Tobruk in June 1942 was so devastating that it prompted Winston Churchill to com-

ment, "Defeat is one thing, humiliation is quite another." This was, however, not the only British humiliation of the war. The surrender at Singapore of 130,000 Allied troops, including 80,000 British, to a Japanese bicycle force less than half that strength ranks as one of the worst defeats in World War II, and the single greatest military disaster in British history. The Japanese commander of that engagement was amazed at the quick English capitulation and described his war-weary prisoners as looking like workmen who thought they had just finished a day's work. During the course of the war, there were to be over 172,000 British P.O.W.'s in Asia and Europe.

Very high on the list of debacles must be included the mass surrenders to the Germans of somewhere between 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 Soviet soldiers in the summer and fall of 1941 during Hitler's invasion of Russia. This was to rise to over 6,000,000 men by the end of the war, a truly staggering figure. The list of total P.O.W. statistics goes on and on with 767,00 Poles, 200,000 Belgians, 139,700 Americans, etc.

Clearly, the "art of surrender" was not a talent monopolized by Italians. Certainly, the time has come to discard the old war-time propaganda and to take a more serious look at military history. War is vile and the men and women who are forced to wage it must be given equal respect.

SUMMARY OF SURRENDERS
 (Not all combatants are represented)

Italians (North Africa).....	130,000
Italians (East Africa).....	50,000
Italians (Russia).....	ca. 50,000
Germans (Russia).....	ca. 1,287,000
Germans and Italians (Tunisia).....	266,600
English (France).....	41,000
English (North Africa).....	45,000
English (Asia).....	80,000
French (France).....	ca. 1,450,000
Russians & Empire (USSR).....	ca. 6,000,000
Americans (Europe & Asia).....	139,700
Poles.....	767,000
Belgians.....	200,000

* * * *

Rossini's
NOW THAT'S ITALIAN

*For those of you who want to
experience the ultimate in "Italian Cuisine,"
allow Rossini's to delight your palate.
The ideal spot for a business lunch
or a romantic interlude.
Strolling guitarist nightly.
Saturday evening experience the
"Aldo Bruschi Ensemble"*

NEW YORK
108 East 38 Street (bet. Park & Lex)
212 683-0135
Also located at:
BROOKLYN
8712 4th Avenue
718 748-4545



Ted
Bremer &
Associates, Inc.

ELEVATOR CONSULTING SERVICES

45 Years in the Elevator Industry

EXPERIENCE WITH EVERY TYPE OF ELEVATOR SYSTEM

from **STEAM DRIVE** *to*

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MICROPROCESSOR

Ted Bremer, Principal: ***Call me anytime:*** (914) 739-7490 - any day, any hour,
or: 1-800-676-7439 - regular hours



Perspectives

World War II Remembered: Who Lost Italy?

by John Mancini

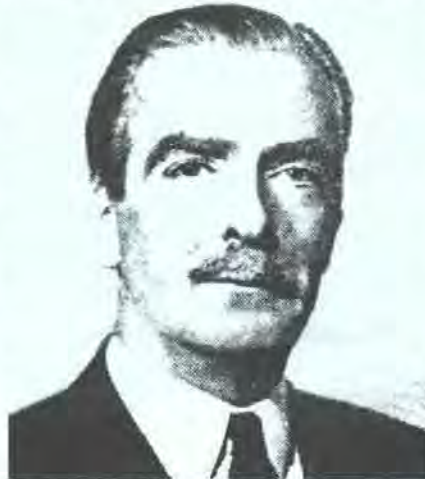
Is it possible that the road to World War II hinged on one Englishman's disdain for an Italian? Of course, history is more complicated than that. But a good case can be made that Anthony Eden, a key member of Britain's diplomatic corps before the Second World War and a Prime Minister afterward, purposely sabotaged all efforts to keep Italy as a bulwark against Hitler.

Few know or appreciate the complex political situation of Europe in the 1930's that gave rise to Hitler and put him on the road to war. There is a tendency to blame a man like Neville Chamberlain, the gentle British Prime Minister, who, umbrella in hand, gave away Czechoslovakia to the Nazis. Yet Chamberlain's misjudgement of Adolph Hitler was certainly not unique among Britons of the time. The fact is the British government in the years prior to Chamberlain acquiesced to nearly every action the Nazi dictator took. It was only the German invasion of Poland in 1939 that radically changed its foreign policy. Contrary to the authors Winston Churchill (*While England Slept*) and John F. Kennedy (*Why England Slept*), England did not "sleep," rather it connived incorrectly, and disastrously so.

Whereas France, bled white from the First World War, quaked at every Nazi move, casting about for any alliance or understanding that would secure it from a resurgent Germany, Britain, early on, resigned itself to German revival under the Nazis. The word "appeasement" was used by British diplomats well before Chamberlain and always in a positive way. Hitler's occupation of the Rhineland, the reinstatement of the military draft, rearmament,

the annexation of Austria, these were all deemed acceptable if not desirable by the British. Germany, after all, was still considered a civilized nation as well as a great power. Its historic position as a foil to France and Russia was freely acknowledged. Of the great powers, only the French, Russians and Italians lost any sleep over German resurgence.

Then there was Anthony Eden, probably the poorest judge of character of any diplomat in the 20th Century. One of the youngest foreign secretaries in British history, Eden considered Joe Stalin and Adolph Hitler to be more likeable and



Anthony Eden

trustworthy than Benito Mussolini. (He also considered the French Army unbeatable.) For some unknown reason, Mussolini was his worst nightmare. One anecdote ascribes the hatred to a time when Mussolini allegedly spilled some ink on Eden's best suit during an animated diplomatic discussion. Ludicrous as it sounds, Eden spent the better part of his youth preaching to Parliament and his oft-times amazed superiors that Fascist Italy was the real threat to the British Empire and not the reasonable Nazis.

Anthony Eden succeeded in estranging Italy from the democracies. This ran contrary to the desires of other British leaders such as Prime Ministers Stanley

Baldwin and Neville Chamberlain, and even Winston Churchill, who was then still only a member of Parliament. Eden was able to do so because, one, the British people and government did not traditionally see Italy as a Great Power, and two, Britain's real vital interests lay in the Mediterranean, the key passage to Middle Eastern oil and the Suez Canal - gateway to India and East Africa.

"Italy's attitude towards us was based on the dream of a revival of the Roman Empire..." writes Eden. Such was Eden's mindset that he fought tooth and nail against recognition of Italy's conquest of Abyssinia (Ethiopia) while quite prepared to return Germany's former colonies in the Cameroons (West Africa) to the Nazis!

Anthony Eden may have had the most patriotic of motives in fearing Fascist Italy but his obsession undermined more rational British and French leaders who saw Italy as a counterweight to Nazi Germany and ally in collective security. The record clearly demonstrates that Britain and France missed many opportunities to build a new Europe after the First World War. Unfortunately, their interests, much like Eden's, were merely to maintain the status quo and to preserve their colonial power.

The mistakes and lost opportunities are not generally known to most of us, but they are in the historical record:

In late 1932 and into 1933, Mussolini formulated and proposed his idea for a 4-Power Pact in Europe committed
(continued p.21)

Eden spent the better part of his youth preaching that Fascist Italy was the real threat and not the reasonable Nazis.

NIGHT TIME IS TIME For All Of Your Maintenance Needs!

- Air Conditioning & Heating Service
- Carpet Care Program
- Ceiling Vents & Ducts Cleaned
- Computer Floor Maintenance
- Curtain & Drapery Cleaning
- Engineering
- Floor Waxing
- Lavatory Supplies, Plastic Liners
- Lighting Maintenance
- Maid Service
- Maintenance and Consulting Services
- Marble Refinishing & Maintenance
- Matron Service
- Metal Maintenance



- Painting
- Partition Glass Cleaning
- Pest Control
- Porter & Power Washing
- Private Lavatory Cleaning
- Property Management
- Telephone Washing & Disinfecting
- Upholstery & Vinyl Furniture Cleaning
- Vacuuming and Steam Cleaning
- Venetian Blind Laundering, Dusting & Repairs
- Wall Spotting
- Watchmen & Guard Service
- Wood Furniture Preservation Treatment

YORK SERVICE INDUSTRIES INC.

*9 West Prospect Avenue, Suite 409
Mt. Vernon, NY 10550
(914) 668-5505
(800) 733-9225
Fax (914) 668-5429*

*483 First Avenue
New York, NY 10016
(212) 696-4266
(800) 865-1201
Fax (212) 679-7713*

Who Lost Italy? (from p. 18)



to negotiated resolution of conflict and a revision of the onerous Versailles Treaty. The four powers were to be Britain, France, Italy and Germany -- a veritable NATO of the 1930's and no doubt a bulwark against the Soviet Union. The idea fell on deaf ears in London and Paris where leaders were not prepared to recognize equality, especially Italy's. Even the League of Nations recognized only the French and the English languages in its deliberations. Moreover, the French had put all their hopes on a ragtag alliance of east European nations known as the Little Entente. Few Allied history books note the 4-Power Pact concept.

In 1934, after being in power a little over one year, Hitler plotted to subvert Austria. When Mussolini called his bluff by sending troops to the Austrian border, Hitler backed off. The significance of this first confrontation between the two right-wing dictators was somehow lost on the French and British. Neither one pledged any support to Italy that day and precious little of the incident is recorded in their history books today.



With the 1935 Anglo-German Naval Treaty, Britain made a mockery of collective security. British historians rarely spend more than a sentence on this amazing diplomatic betrayal.

In March of 1935, the leaders of Britain, France and Italy met at Stresa to unite against "breaches of the international order" (i.e., German rearmament.) By June of that same year, the Brits signed a bilateral treaty with Hitler allowing Germany to rearm its Navy (the Anglo-German Naval Treaty.) Talk about "the hand that held the dagger." This treaty took the French, Italians, and even the Americans, by surprise. The U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, William Bullitt, reported that the Soviets were aghast that the "chain around Germany had been broken." On its own, Britain had abrogated a key clause of the Versailles Treaty,

nullified every disarmament conference held since the First World War, and made a mockery of collective security. British historians rarely spend more than a sentence on this amazing diplomatic betrayal.

With Italy "lost," Germany was unleashed. The consequences of 1939 were felt around the globe. The precipitous collapse of France and Holland and the siege of Britain, each an Asiatic colonial power as well, spurred the Japanese to launch another terrible war in the Pacific.

And that is where we came in.

GRAHAM

RESTORATION CO., INC.

212-925-9630

- EXTERIOR RESTORATION
- SIDEWALKS
- MASONRY
- POINTING & CLEANING
- CAULKING
- WATERPROOFING
- ROOFING & REPAIRING
- LOCAL LAW #10
- ADA COMPLIANCE

365 BROADWAY N.Y., N.Y. 10013
FAX 212-431-7057



Media Madness

ITEM: Celebrating the Italian family has become a big money-maker among the sensitive theatrical arts community. *Daughters*, a play by John Morgan Evans, is becoming standard fare for the modest stage. It has been a vehicle for such greats as Oscar Winner Marisa Tomei.

COMMENT: The cast of characters includes Granny, a 93-year old matriarch who guzzles wine and eats with her fingers, Mama (sic) who believes a plateful of pasta cures emotional trauma, and a family that generally cooks up chaos. One reviewer found it odd that no one in the cast speaks Italian. Hey stupid, this play is supposed to be subtle Italian-bashing.



ITEM: Roman Emperor Caligula is alive and well in Budapest.

COMMENT: For those of you who want your Roman history with a little cleavage, the delights of ancient Rome can be now found at Club Caligula in downtown Budapest, Hungary. For the record, Budapest was founded by the Romans (original name, Aquincum). Most of Hungary was part of the Roman province of Pannonia.

ITEM: Writer-Director Michael Corrente was fit to be tied when he heard that his distributors wanted to colorize his black & white film *Federal Hill*. Corrente was shocked that anyone would desecrate his "masterpiece." Cries by the film community such as: "This is tearing my guts out" and "This is an insult to the filmmakers" make for a poignant artistic protest.

COMMENT: How touching! What devotion to art! *Federal Hill* is another one of those *Means Streets* films that Italian-American filmmakers produce on the cheap to gain stardom. Of course, as in all the other street movies it features the Type #1 Italian-American (the young man who will turn mobster), type #2 (the romantic drug peddler), type #3 (the free-lance burglar who bashes gays) and so on. It probably never occurred to Corrente and his Italian-American cast that colorizing is the least of this film's problems. How about the desecration of 15 million Americans of Italian heritage?



ITEM: *New York Times Magazine* writer Molly O'Neill writes in her December 18, 1994 article on Italian chef Fabio Picchi: "[Fabio has] ...a disposition that is, notwithstanding Michelangelo, precise and fastidious and different than other Italians."

COMMENT: Has that fine lass got those Eytalians dead to rights? If they are not precise and fastidious then they must be haphazard and uncritical. With the world's most popular cuisine and the 5th strongest economy, the Italians may be a bit more like Fabio than sloppy Molly may think.



Media Madness



ITEM: New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani had a great idea. Why not promote a Big Apple Mob Rubout tour. See where Crazy Joe Gallo got his, as well as all the other execution sites of the New York crime syndicates. After all, Chicago has cashed in on Capone-mania.

COMMENT: Mayor Giuliani had second thoughts when it was brought to his attention that such a tour would reflect badly on the people who put him into office -- Italian-Americans. But it was the thought that counts.

ITEM: *National Review*, the conservative magazine, featured Mario Cuomo in a recent edition in a most unflattering way. Among other things it was meant to convey Cuomo's fall from politics.

COMMENT: The former New York Governor was portrayed in a spoof of the old *Little Caesar* film of the 1930's. The question is why did the magazine editors picture Cuomo as a mobster? Just coincidence, we suppose.



ITEM: John Travolta comes this close to winning an Oscar for his role in *Pulp Fiction*.

COMMENT: Travolta is no doubt somewhat proud of his Italian half. And so he should be. He pretty much owes his career to playing dumb Italian guys named Vinny. He started as dumb student Vinny Barbarino on TV and capped his "diverse" character portrayals as a dumb Vinny in *Pulp Fiction*. Yo, Vinny! Of course, *Pulp Fiction* was written and directed by Quentin Tarentino, whose better half is American Indian. When can we look forward to *Pulp Cherokee*? (We thank Chicago's Bill Dal Cerro for this tidbit.)



ITEM: An article in *Long Island Newsday* by Jeanne Dugan Cooper refers to Las Vegas gangster Benny (Bugsy) Siegel as a "plucky businessman."

COMMENT: And Lucky Luciano must have been a "dynamic gambling enthusiast." A criminal by any other ethnicity is still a criminal.



ITEM: The Mafia has become indispensable to American screenwriters.

COMMENT: The following current films all contain the same plot or subplot, the main characters are running away from the Mob: *Jerky Boys*, *Dumb and Dumber*, *Breakaway*, *Sister Act*, *Home Alone*. The Mafia genre is well into its third decade since that flash-in-the-pan, *The Godfather*, in 1972.



ITEM: Whoopi Goldberg plays a character named Jane DeLuca in the film *Boys on the Side*.

COMMENT: We suppose this means that Italians are now fully assimilated. Welcome, *Paisan Sister*!





News of the Institute

AURORA GRADUATES

Eighteen 5th- and 6th- grade youngsters completed the 12-session Aurora program in March. On hand for the luncheon graduation were the proud parents and Jean DiPaolo, president of the Cellini Lodge, Sons of Italy, co-sponsor of the program.

While most students will be continuing Italian language in middle school, some informed us that Italian is not offered to advanced-tract students or when Spanish classes need to be filled.

These are serious impediments to our efforts.



Working on an assignment



In front of the *Mille Miglia* game board



Cellini President Jean DiPaolo

VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON SURVEY

During our luncheon tribute to the Roman St. Valentine, we asked our 80 guests to complete a "Love Survey." Here are some of the statistics: 60% were married, of those 72% were only married once. Only 33% were married to Italian-Americans. 56% thought that extended families make marriage interesting, and another 38% thought they enriched a marriage. 62% felt that their sex lives were great. 53% believed that pressure on the job increased their sex drive. 77% said that, if they could do it over again, they would marry or date an Italian. This gives you a little insight into the lives and thoughts of your fellow members.

ARCHIVES COMPUTERIZED

Under the auspices of *Aurora*, our education program, we have been compiling a research library and archives. To date, some 500 books have been catalogued as well as videos, audio records, periodicals, and artifacts. In addition, *The Italic Way* is being indexed for research purposes. This modest beginning will hopefully develop into a major research center for Italic Studies. Please contact our office if you wish to donate books, periodicals, artifacts or money to these archives.

DOMUS (Home) BOARD

Among the constitutional changes promulgated by the Council of Governors was a new entity called the Domus Board. *Domus* is the Latin word for home or household and the Domus Board is meant to oversee Institute facilities. The Board is composed of past governors Edward Riguardi, Carl Borsari, and John Santora. Their current task is to set up the mechanism for the purchase of a Manhattan building as the headquarters of the Institute.

MONTHLY NEWS BRIEF LAUNCHED

To fill in the long months between *The Italic Way*, the Executive Council has initiated a monthly update of events, membership news, and other tidbits of the organization. If you wish to place ads or advertise for job positions, contact Dom Colamartino at Titan Air Corp., 60 E. 42nd St, NY, NY 10165. Fax: (212) 370-1627 or (212) 953-2187.



ELECTION RESULTS

With only one office in contention, annual Plenary Council elections in both New York and the Midwest had no surprises. This year's slate will serve two-year terms in accordance with our revised constitution.

President: **Mary Ann Minucci**
Vice President (NY): **Michael Romano**
Financial Secretary: **Patrick Grecco**
Secretary of Program & Admin.: **John Mancini**
Treasurer: **George Ricci**

Vice President (Midwest): **Mario Scozia**
Financial Secretary: **William Dal Cerro**
Deputy Secretary of Programs: **Don Fiore**
Treasurer: **John Locallo**



Mary Ann Minucci



Michael Romano



Patrick Grecco



John Mancini



George Ricci



Mario Scozia



William Dal Cerro



Don Fiore



John Locallo



REVIEW



Bullets Over Broadway

A film by Woody Allen

Perhaps a day will come when Italo-American actors renounce the stereotypical roles they now embrace with such zeal and conviction. Perhaps these benighted thespians will come to realize that artistry in defense of defamation is no virtue. Perhaps Italian moviegoers the world over will emulate their fellow Roman Catholics, who vociferously boycotted the anti-Catholic film *Priest*, and strike a significant blow against cinematic bigotry.

Perhaps pigs will fly to the moon on gossamer wings.

Nowhere is the Italian-American addiction to self-denigration more evident than in Woody Allen's *Bullets Over Broadway*. From the *GoodFellas*-inspired opening scene of gangland violence to the exaggerated Brooklynese accents of its resident hoods, this film equates criminality with those misshapen, gun-toting scions of Italy. And it does so with gusto thanks to the garlic-laden performance of *A Bronx Tale*'s

Chazz Palminteri. Palminteri no doubt viewed the project as a twisted tribute to his heritage. Had he had his creative druthers, Chazz might not have objected to calling the film *Wops Along the Great White Way*.

As outlandish as such a proposition sounds, it is not outside the realm of possibility. Far too many Italian-American actors, writers and directors wallow in this warped wiseguy world. It gives them fame, acclaim and an almost inexhaustible source of wealth. Italian-American artists have surrendered their dignity to the almighty box office. And whenever their careers begin to wane or cannot take off, they quickly turn to their stereotypical roots. The reality of the Pax Romana, the Renaissance, Galileo and Mazzei is seen as the aberration while the fictions of Scorsese, Coppola and DeNiro become the norm.

Woody Allen made sure not to people his flick with any Bugsy Siegel or Arnold

Rothstein types. Street-wise Jewish mobsters would be inconsistent with moviegoers' expectations and might be construed as anti-Semitic. Anyway, according to some apologists the members of Murder Inc. were merely biding time before their Ph.D. dissertations were approved. In fact, the only Jewish character in *Bullets over Broadway* is a slightly flawed, oversexed intellectual played by Rob Reiner.

Allen revealed his own bias in several published interviews. In one he stated that many of the actors playing gangsters were the real thing by virtue of their vowel-enhanced ethnicity. In a subtle slap at Italo-Americans, auteur Allen includes a scene in *Bullets over Broadway* that features a movie marquee with a fictitious film called *God of our Fathers*. Perhaps a more appropriate film for Allen to feature might have been *Children of the Damned*. And Allen himself could have played the lecherous *paterfamilias*.

Chazz Palminteri won an Academy Award nomination for his role as the

Nowhere is the Italian-American addiction to self-denigration more evident than in Woody Allen's *Bullets Over Broadway*.

rough-hewn hood called Cheech. (A cardinal rule for creating goons is to take legitimate Italian names and mangle them so that they sound oafish. Cheech is the bastardization of Ciccio, which is the Italian nickname for Francesco.) Cheech is no Chong, however. Palminteri's character, is not the "neanderthal" (read Italian) that the grand dame of the theatah, Diane Wiest, believes him to be. Rather, Cheech is the hidden genius who rewrites the original playwright's



LET'S

 FOR A
 "BRITE"
 NEW YORK



MBSC
 Metal Brite
 Service Company
 Two Penn Plaza
 New York, N.Y. 10121
 Tel. (212) 714-0004
 Fax (212) 594-0538

LET'S

 FOR A
 CLEANER
 NEW YORK



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

losing script. Herein lies another major Italian-American flaw.

Just as in *A Bronx Tale*, a central Italo-American character exhibits nobility and intelligence. Yet he does so despite his backward, criminal milieu. The "hero" is usually atypical of his own insular Italian culture. Italian-Americans who are starved for silver screen heroes and defend such movies are reduced to scraping for morsels of dignity. Instead of taking arms against such outrageous celluloid portrayals, they rationalize them away. "Yeah, but DeNiro played an honest guy sur-

rounded by hoods." "Palmeri was the intelligent one who actually wrote the play."

Is this the best we can do—the clever-as-a-fox Italian peasant-criminal outwits or outshines the dull Anglo-Saxon/Teutonic overlord? I think not. *Bullets over Broadway* is just the latest in a long line of anti-Italic Hollywood films. Hollywood despises Italians. It's high time that the scions of Italy returned the fire.

-RAI



Actors Diane West and John Cusack
 Author Woody Allen



Italian-Americans who are starved for silver screen heroes and defend such movies are reduced to scraping for morsels of dignity.

The Italic Way



Tonelli (from p. 10)

indeed a primary consideration throughout the book. As a preliminary to his journey, Bill mails out questionnaires to Tonelli households everywhere. Recipients are asked about their ages, occupations, educational backgrounds and other fundamentals, then the survey zeroes in with a probe of their ethnic consciousness. Along with a few obligatory queries about culinary practices, an attempt at separating shallow from hard core Italian cultural retention is made by asking respondents to check off their artistic preferences. Is it Verdi or Madonna? Pavarotti or Sinatra? Dante or Puzo? Mastroianni or Stallone?

Not until well into the book does Bill reveal the responses, but by then we're hardly surprised to learn that

most of the Tonellis, like most Italian Americans, wouldn't know a *stornello* from a *stornuzzo*.

Exceptions to the general ambiguity and indifference toward their heritage occasionally emerge, but at best these are manifested through tomato sauce recipes

gies, instead, on the plight of Native Americans and are active supporters of the American Indian Movement.

In this sense, and despite the author's seemingly perpetual state of bemusement throughout the text, the book is more of a confirmation than a

Most Americans of Italian descent have willingly and irretrievably divorced themselves from their ancestral heritage.

or are of the superficial T-shirt and bumper sticker variety of reconstituted ethnic pride. At worst, there are feelings of hostility, like those expressed by a young Tonelli couple in Chicago who voiced only ridicule and scorn for the occupants of their Italian American neighborhood. Not without multicultural commitments, they focused their ener-

revelation. Thoroughly processed into the social mainstream, most Americans of Italian descent, whether of the Tonelli strain or otherwise, have willingly and irretrievably divorced themselves from their ancestral heritage. The sky is blue and the earth is round. So what else is new?

-Don Fiore

AZTEC

Door Specialists

Sales, Installation & Service
Sliding • Revolving • Swinging Doors

Security Access Systems

Locksmithing

Robert Magaraci
Sales Manager

211 East 43rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 818-0980
Fax # (212) 818-0986



Kevin J. Quick

211 East 43rd Street ■ New York, N.Y. 10017 ■ (212) 986-0460

AZTEC

Metal and Marble Maintenance

Timothy Chase

Aztec Metal
Maintenance Corporation
211 East 43rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 818-0980
Fax # (212) 818-0986

CONGRATULATIONS TO
Vincent J. Ponte

1995 DINNER CHAIRMAN, ITALIC STUDIES INSTITUTE



TRINITY REAL ESTATE
Parish of Trinity Church

Walter F. Spardel, Managing Director

SPK LEWIS CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

220 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, NY 10001

Tel: 212-679-1900

Fax: 212-679-1915

EDWARD S. LEWIS

(718) 428-0110

est. 1960



bayside travel bureau

corporate and leisure travel consultants

BARBARA NICHUALS

President

42-36 Bell Blvd.
Bayside, NY 11361



Italic Studies Institute, Inc.

PO Box 818, Floral Park, NY 11001

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