

# THE Italic Way

XXIV 1995

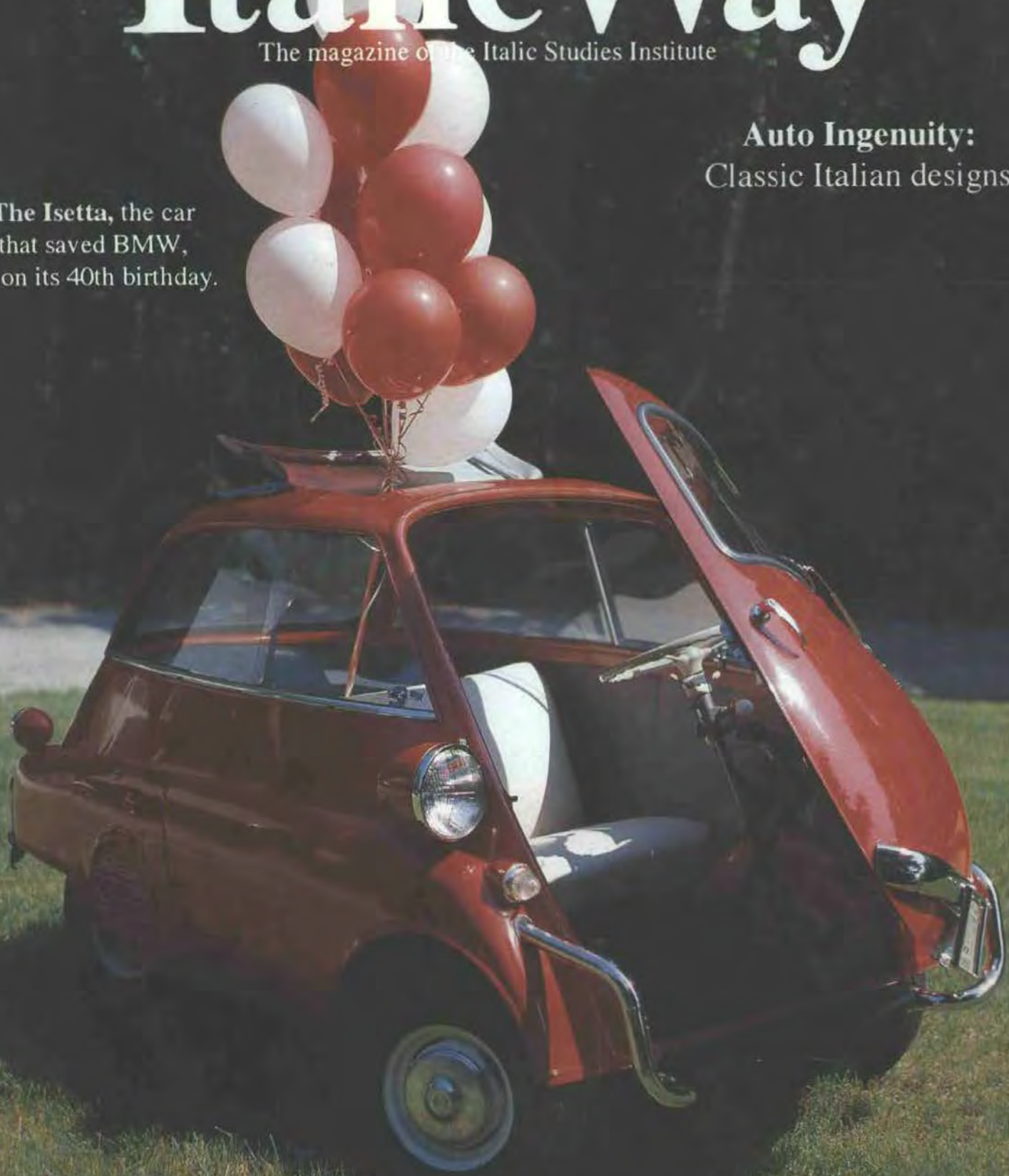
The magazine of the Italic Studies Institute

The Isetta, the car  
that saved BMW,  
on its 40th birthday.

**Auto Ingenuity:**  
Classic Italian designs

In this Issue:  
**Coach Joe Paterno:** Academics First  
**History:** The Spanish Occupation  
**Book Reviews:** Crossing Ocean Parkway;  
Power, Pasta, & Politics

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Language Section!





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# The Italic Way

XXIV, 1995

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## Letters

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

### PARTLY COMMITTED

I fully agree with the points outlined in your ISI brochure. I am joining but with reservations, hoping that you are genuinely for the good of Italy's descendants and not a money mailing organization.

**James A. Dalessandro**  
Warren, OH

### FULLY COMMITTED

The growth and success of the Italic Studies Institute is a tribute to the work and dedication of all members involved who contribute their time and effort on behalf of the Institute.

Enclosed please find a donation for our annual picnic.

**John L. Agnello**  
Boca Raton, FL

### CHEERS & JEERS

Could you inform us more about the positive aspects of Italians and Italian Americans rather than the horrible events like that perpetuated by the police and citizens of New Orleans in 1891? (Issue XXIII)

I am sure also the good and courageous acts by Italians and Italian Americans far outweigh the bad and the ugly events.

**Mrs. Josephine Shumaker**  
Villa Park, IL

(Ed.: For those readers who want things



**A stornello can be a little startling or a type of Italian song.**

*more upbeat we have dropped our Media Madness section and expanded the features.)*

Enjoyed your fine work in reporting the facts in your latest magazine! Over the many years I've subscribed to many Italian magazines, but it seems they come and go and mostly disappear in time. We especially enjoyed Mr. Cardone's article on *L'arte dell'Arrendersi*.

Please continue your efforts to bring out the truth and injustice to the Italian community.

**Giovanni Chiappe**  
San Mateo, CA

I am a junior in high school and have always been proud of my Italian heritage. My mother isn't of Italian descent and I think that's why we never had any stress on our heritage. Recently my father received in the mail information about your

organization. I believe what your organization is doing is great.

**Megan Funaro**  
Crystal Lake, IL

### SAY WHAT?

In regard to your review *The Amazing Story of the Tonelli Family in America*, please help me out a bit.

I am an American of Italian heritage who has kept up with the language, and in fact, continues to study it. My wife is of Sicilian descent and was speaking Italian before she spoke English.

Please tell us the difference between a *stornello* and a *stornuzzo*. I have Webster's New World Italian Dictionary, with over 100,000 words, and those two do not appear.

I have also asked our Italian friend, born, raised and educated in Italy and with a Ph.D in language. She tells me that a *stornello* is a small bird. She did not know the meaning of *stornuzzo*, and it was not in her Italian dictionary, either.

Is it a dialect word? We are all now very curious. I would appreciate it if you would drop me a line and let me know.

**Ken Musto**  
Port Washington, NY

(Ed. An unfortunate misprint is responsible for one half of the confusion. What



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# UPDATE

appeared as stornuzzo should have been starnuto, which, as you know means "sneeze." Sorry for the slip-up.

Stornello, however, stands on its own. A stornello is a traditional and still popular style of folk song very common to central Italy, mostly in the regions of Lazio and Toscana. The lyrics are ever-changing and often invented on the spot. Claudio Villa and Carlo Buti were renowned for their stornello singing.

However, your Italian friend is correct in translating stornello as a "small bird." The musical connection may have derived from the light-hearted nature of this type of song. -D. Fiore)

## OLYMPIC BASE

Italian Olympic athletes from some 14 different sports, including track and field, wrestling, swimming, boxing, weightlifting, Judo, baseball, archery, diving, table tennis, fencing and others, will converge on Winston-Salem in July to train for the Summer Olympics, which begin July 19 in Atlanta.

Italy is the only Olympic superpower to designate one U.S. city as a central training site for all sports. Italian Olympic officials will make Winston-Salem their headquarters for the weeks preceding the Atlanta games.

The address for the Winston-Salem Convention and Visitors Bureau is Post Office Box 1408, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. Telephone (910) 725-2361 or 1-800-331-7018. Fax (910) 773-1404.

**Ralph Simpson & Assoc.**  
Raleigh, NC

## ALIVE & WELL

We wish to thank the Institute for its recognition of Regina Warga who has studied Latin for four years. The commemorative and the check provided by ISI continues to help in the fostering of the study of Latin here in Sacred Heart Academy.

We will continue to instill in our students an appreciation for the Romans' contributions to Western Civilization.

**Sister Mary Sheridan**  
Hempstead, NY

## \$2.2 Million Job Discrimination Award Affirmed

by Deborah Pines

(excerpt from *New York Law Journal* 20 Sept. 1995)

A federal judge in Manhattan yesterday upheld a \$2.2 million bias award to an Italian-born banker who was fired in 1987 after a supervisor said he wanted to "Americanize" the Manhattan bank branch where he worked to counter its reputation as a "Mafia shop."

In a 41-page ruling touching on such controversial legal issues as the binding nature of claims in personnel manuals and appropriate attorney's fees in employment cases, Southern District Judge Denny Chin approved the award to Antonio Marfia from his former employer, T.C. Ziraat Bankasi, a Turkish agricultural bank, in *Marfia v. T.C. Ziraat Bankasi*, 88 Civ.3763. The award includes \$800,000 in compensatory damages, \$1 million in punitive damages, \$170,000 in prejudgment interest, \$296,000 in attorneys' fees and \$6,600 in costs.

Judge Chin's ruling rejected virtually all of the bank's challenges to a jury's findings in February of national origin discrimination, breach of contract and fraud. It adjusted the jury award of \$2.6 million to eliminate double recovery for some claims.

The bank's lead lawyer, Glenn M. Kurtz of White & Case, said his client plans to appeal.

Mr. Marfia's lead counsel, Herbert Eisenberg of Davis & Eisenberg, said his client is "pleased to see that the jury and the court held the bank responsible for its offensive conduct."

Mr. Marfia, 53, a naturalized U.S. citizen who lives in Fairfield, Conn., filed suit after he was discharged in May 1987 from his position as senior vice president of the New York branch of T.C. Ziraat Bankasi which is headquartered in Turkey. Mr. Marfia had earned increasing pay and responsibilities since he had begun working at the bank in January 1984.

The jury found Mr. Marfia's Italian origin played a role in his dismissal by a supervisor who had made discriminatory remarks about the number of Italian-American bank officers at the branch.

Jurors also found breach of contract by the bank whose personnel manual promises, among other things, discipline only for "just and good cause." And they found fraud by the supervisor who reportedly got Mr. Marfia to refuse a five year job contract with another bank by claiming he would have a job at T.C. Ziraat Bankasi for the "rest of (his) professional life."

Judge Chin's ruling rejected multiple challenges by the bank to the jury's conclusions and award. He found it proper for statements deemed "admissions" by Mr. Marfia's bank supervisor to be read to the jury after the supervisor defaulted on his obligations in the lawsuit. The default followed the supervisor's failure to complete his deposition and apparent destruction of documents, Judge Chin wrote.

In addition, Judge Chin found sufficient evidence of discrimination and of an express agreement by the bank to limit its right to terminate employees at will. Among signs of that agreement, Judge Chin considered language in the bank's personnel manual.



**Judge Chin**

(Ed. We thank our treasurer George Ricci for bringing this to our attention.)





# All'Italiana



## HOLY SPOOK!

Somebody up there likes Casper the friendly ghost. Or maybe somebody up there likes Monsignor Joseph Funaro, the artist who brought the pasty-faced phantasm to the television screen in the 1960s. Thanks to the rotund wraith, the Bensonhurst-born cartoonist earned enough money to attend the seminary and follow his true calling. Funaro joined Paramount Studios in Manhattan as an apprentice artist. Although he remembers being spooked by cartooning deadlines, Funaro also recalls how Casper, Popeye and Olive Oyl came in handy as he made Latin translations of the Bible for a group of Benedictine monks in Pennsylvania. Today Monsignor Funaro presides over the Assumption of the Blessed Mary rectory in Brooklyn Heights. As director of public relations for Catholic Charities, he has continued to use his God-given artistic abilities.

## MOSQUE ROMANA

The nation that pioneered religious liberty with the edict of Milan in 313 AD now has its first grand mosque in Rome. Construction of this citadel of Islam in the midst of Catholic Italy consumed twenty years in fundraising and construction, with the bulk of the \$50 million price tag paid by Saudi Arabia.

Interestingly, the idea for a mosque in Rome was first suggested in the 1930's. However, the gentlemen in charge of the Italian government at that time made it a condition that the Moslems would have to allow a Catholic church in the holy city of Mecca. The

Moslems refused and bided their time until the oil embargo of the 1970's made Italians less demanding of religious reciprocity.

## DIABETES ADVANCE

A medical research team at the University of Massachusetts led by Dr. Aldo Rossini announced a break-through in treating diabetes. Dr. Rossini has been able to transplant insulin-producing cells into diabetic mice without the use of anti-rejection drugs.

Literally tricking the immune system of the diabetic mouse into tolerating the foreign transplant, this new technique overcomes a major hurdle in restoring insulin production. Currently, human patients who undergo transplants can only receive them from close matching donors and must live with drugs that have serious side effects.

Sara King of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation believes that Dr. Rossini's work "is an important advance toward an eventual cure."



Actress  
Ida Lupino

## ONE BIRTH - SEVEN DEATHS

• **John A. Scali**, 77, passed away in October. Scali served as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations from 1973 to 1975. However, his real place in history could be dated to 1962 when he acted as intermediary between President Kennedy and Premier Krushchev during the Cuban Missile Crisis. As a well-respected journalist of that era, the Soviets placed much faith in Scali to communi-

cate terms for a peaceful settlement of the nuclear showdown. Through Scali's efforts a deal was struck and the two superpowers disengaged.

• **Foster Furcolo** [FER-ko-lo], 83, two-time governor of Massachusetts from 1956 to 1960. The Democrat's proudest accomplishments were the establishment of a community college system, expansion of the University of Mass., and programs for the elderly.

• **Ida Lupino**, 77, English actress. A descendant of Italian-English actors dating back to the 17th Century, she starred with Humphrey Bogart in *High Sierra*, among her many roles.

• **Tony Romeo**, 56, songwriter. He wrote the 1970 hit song *I Think I Love You*, sung by the Partridge Family.

• **Helen Boiardi**, 90, entrepreneur. She and her husband Hector turned a Cleveland restaurant menu into a line of canned pasta during the 1930's. So customers could pronounce their family name easier, labels used the phonetic spelling Chef Boyardee.

• **Cesare Gianturco**, 90, radiologist and inventor. Born in Naples and educated at the University of Rome, Dr. Gianturco developed the use of x-rays as a treatment in medicine rather than just diagnosis. He held 10 current American patents for devices used in heart and circulatory procedures.

• **Juan Manuel Fangio**, 84, racer. Argentine-born son of Italian immigrants, Fangio captured 5 world auto racing titles during the 1950's. Once, he was kidnapped by Fidel Castro's rebels in an attempt to embarrass Cuba's Batista government during the Grand Prix of Havana in 1958 but was released unharmed.

• The much awaited birth of the child of Italian political figure **Alessandra Mussolini** took place on July 15th. The 33 year old, first-time mom christened the 7 lb. 11 oz. girl Caterina in honor of *Il Duce's* grandmother. A portrait of the *Duce* will adorn the nursery.





Gen. Powell and his literary half, Joseph Persico

### GHOSTWRITER

One of the few people who knows retired General Colin Powell really well is Joseph Persico, his ghostwriter. Chosen from a bevy of writers interviewed by the former general, Persico had the right stuff to get Powell's nod. The twenty-month assignment produced a worthy 643-page autobiography of one of the decade's most popular public figures. Persico got so carried away by his intimate relationship that he found himself urging the general to take the plunge into presidential politics. When Powell hesitated, a sympathetic Persico told him even a defeat would be "in a noble cause." "But I like to win," was the soldier's reply.

### THE HUNCHBACK OF PALERMO

Forget the trial of the century. Before long, O. J. will be passe. The trial of Andreotti which has began in Palermo will occupy center stage. Former Italian prime minister Giulio Andreotti is on trial for collusion with the mafia, Italy's most vicious terrorist group.

## All'Italiana

Whatever the merits of the case against the stoop-shouldered confidant of presidents, popes and potentates, one thing is certain: Italy's dirty laundry is once more hanging out to twist in the wind.

### ZINGING NUN

If you want sympathy call Mother Teresa. If you want confrontation just tune into Mother Angelica on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN). Born Rita Rizzo in Canton, OH, Mother Angelica has no patience with lapsed and weak-kneed Catholics.

She's been labelled the "zinging nun" for her attacks on feminists and liberal Catholics. Mother Angelica is for the Latin mass and papal infallibility. Essentially, she preaches the old-time religion -- the way it was before Vatican II.

Partially disabled from a work-related accident in her youth, Mother Angelica founded EWTN in 1981. It is



now a network with a staff of 134 and a \$32.4 million budget. Praise the Lord!

### BEYOND THE CALL

• When U.S. aviator Scott O'Grady bailed out over Bosnia he had to evade Serbs and live on ant life. Fortunately, his resourcefulness and training paid off when the Navy came to his rescue. The two-man helicopter rescue team included Capt. Paul Fortunato of Menton, OH. By the way, Capt. O'Grady is part Calabrese on his mother's side.

• When a man armed with a .38-cal pistol jumped the White House fence earlier this year he was was met abruptly by Secret Service agent Scott Giambattista. Actually, he was tackled by the agent. However, during the scuffle an-



Swimmer Andrew Pinetti

other agent shot the gunman, accidentally wounding Giambattista. For his swift action Giambattista received a heartfelt "thank you" from his boss, President Clinton.

• Andrew Pinetti loves to swim. So he couldn't resist the challenge of the 5.5 mile course between the Golden Gate Bridge and the Oakland Bay Bridge. He did it in 1-1/2 hours. Now, that's no record but Andrew is only 12 years old and that is a record. He is the youngest to complete the distance.

### AIRBORNE

You might have seen one of these cylinders flying effortlessly across a field racking up yardage like a pro. It's the amazing X-zylo, a hollow plastic cylinder weighing less than an ounce and measuring some 3-inches in diameter and 2-inches long. It has been thrown 655 feet, more than twice the length of a football field. This aerodynamic wonder was invented four years ago by student Mark Forti who majored in business administration. Forti's education will now help him market this phenomenal device.







# World Notes



## ITALOSAURUS

Nearly half the population of Argentina is of Italian descent and one of those scions just made history. Auto mechanic/fossil hunter Ruben Carolini uncovered the remains of the largest carnivorous dinosaur to date. Bigger than the T-Rex, this 40-foot, 8-ton monster was probably three tons heavier than its Tyranosaur cousin.

The beast has been named *Giganotosaurus carolinii* in honor of its discoverer.

## CREDIT CARD CONVENIENCE

Franco Modigliani, the Nobel Prize winning economist and professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Francis M. Vitigliano, a pension industry compliance expert, have conceived of a credit card that takes the sting out of high interest payments. Rather than paying stratospheric interest rates to banks on major credit card purchases, these innovators have devised a method that allows consumers to pay interest back to themselves. According to Modigliani, this "will encourage people to build up their savings, because the money will be much more liquid than it used to be." The essence of the plan is that this credit card allows consumers to tap into their retirement savings account. The safeguard is that everyone realizes that a retirement account constitutes a major portion of one's life savings. Depleting such a fund through excessive withdrawals would severely damage an individual's golden years.

## SPACE GALORE

President Clinton awarded the nation's highest technology award to three IBM scientists whose discoveries made possible erasable, rewritable compact discs.

Jerome Cuomo and Richard Gambino, along with associate Praveen Chaudhari, shared the honor for developing the basis for a \$2 billion per year data storage industry. A 3-inch disk holds the equivalent of 3,700 file cabinets.

Chinese experts spoke glowingly of the marketing potential in the Middle Kingdom if pasta rather than noodles were eaten even once a week.

But alas, the growing love of macaroni has contributed to a shortage of durum wheat, the very stuff of good pasta.

And lest we forget, Italians are still the greatest eaters of pasta with an annual per capita consumption of 61.7 pounds. Second and third places go to Venezuela and Argentina with around 27 lbs each. The U.S. is number 6 with 19.8. Even Mother Russia manages to wolf down 15.4 lbs per soul.

## SEPARATISTS UNITE!

While the world still awaits Italy's north-south breakup, an idea as looney



IBM scientists Praveen Chaudhari, Jerome Cuomo and Richard Gambino

## WORLD PASTA

Rome, the center of Catholicism and the symbol of Western Civilization, is now the focal point of global pasta.

This past October, forty nations as diverse as Burkina Faso (Africa), China, and India sent pasta experts to a first-ever conclave in the Eternal City where they learned the art of pasta from its creators. After one delegate tasted a sampling of macaroni cooked *al dente* he had to admit, "In Turkey we cook it too long."

And so it went as scores of noodle eaters were exposed to the rites of authentic Italian pasta preparation. A team of

as its great advocate Umberto Bossi of the Lombard League, Canada and Britain are quite nearer to dissolution. A recent plebescite by Quebecers to part company with its Anglo-Saxon conquerors lost by only 50,000 votes. To be sure, the French and Indian War (1759) is not yet over.

And the English are having a hard time of it convincing Scotland that its 300-year subjugation is the best of all possible worlds. The Scots are toying with reestablishing a Scottish Parliament and keeping their North Sea oil to themselves. Then, there is Northern Ire-



# World Notes



O.J. and his pal Paula

land which may, in the not-too-distant future, reunite with Eire. Even more frightening would be a break with Wales. The Queen's son Charles would then become the Prince of Nothing.

## LOVE BIRDS?

Fresh from his legal triumph in L.A., superstar O.J. Simpson sought to reawaken his romance with former Playmate Paula Barbieri. The two stole away to Florida where Barbieri's parents have a home. All through the adverse publicity O.J. suffered over the past year his Italic girlfriend stood by her man (even taking a vow of chastity until his release) despite her father's objections. Only after O.J. brought a commercial photographer with him for some photo-ops with his Italic princess did she send him packing. The question is, will her anger last?

## FAMILY MATTERS

In yet more studies the strength of the Italian social system is evident.

According to the recent Luxembourg Income Study, children are better off being poor in Italy than in the United States. The disparity reflects mainly the lack of adequate health coverage and family support systems. Of the 18 countries studied, only Israel and Ireland fell

below the U.S.

Another study by the New York-based Population Council found that Italians had one of the lowest divorce rates in the world and was among the lowest in out-of-wedlock births. The U.S. and Northern Europe had the worst rates.

## FINALLY DID IT!

A new record in the piston-engine airplane class was set on August 4th when former NASA test pilot Einar Enevoldson and three companions achieved an altitude of 60,867 feet in the newly-developed Grob Strato 2C, a specialized aircraft designed to study ozone depletion in the stratosphere. Despite such high-tech advantages of a wingspan of 185 feet, two 400 hp engines and propellers nearly 20 feet in diameter, the Strato made no less than twenty-nine trial flights before it managed to top the previous record — one which had remained unsurpassed since 1938 when Col. Mario Pezzi of the Royal Italian Air Force logged in at 56,047 feet with a Caproni ca.161bis aircraft.

## CUBAN CRUISE

Hungry for foreign currency and his place in the new world order, Communist tyrant Fidel Castro has cut a deal with an Italian cruise line.

It's been more than 30 years since Havana beckoned the Caribbean cruise trade. The fact of the matter is Cuba was the primary destination of most cruise ships during the 30's, 40's and 50's. So, to break the ice and recapture the market, Fidel has granted permission to the Italian company, Costa Crociere, to steam

to Cuba. The first visit was in November by the 480-passenger ship Costa Playa. Will Fidel partake in the midnight buffet? Watch out for stowaways!

## GLOBETROTTERS

Among the millions of tourists who visited these American shores in 1994, Italians ranked number 8 with a mere half a million sojourners. The top spots went to Canadians (15 million), Mexicans (11.3 million), Japanese (4 million), Britons (2.9 million), Germans (1.7 million).



This 1938 Caproni biplane held the world's high altitude record for piston engines until this year.

## ITALIANS OVERSEAS

Besides the millions of immigrants Italy produced over the centuries, we can now report that over four million Italian citizens are now residing outside of the *patria*. Here is where they can be found:

Germany - 557,000  
Switzerland - 374,000  
Belgium - 117,000  
Britain - 73,000  
USA - 330,632  
Canada - 149,550  
Argentina - 1,361,290  
Brazil - 448,817  
Africa - 70,719  
Oceania - 90,259 (mostly Australia)  
Asia - 21,794

The Italian government estimates that there are 58.5 million people of Italian descent outside of Italy. Since the population of Italy is 57 million, that makes 115.5 million Italic people roaming the earth. And that doesn't include the wannabees!





## Editorial

### CAR 54 WHERE ARE YOU?

Drug wars are erupting in Columbian and Dominican neighborhoods in Queens. The Russian mob runs nationwide rackets from Brighton Beach, Brooklyn. Human slavery, kidnappings, and gang murders are rampant in Manhattan's Chinatown.

So where does New York's mayor Rudy Giuliani focus his crime-busting attention? Little Italy, of course. What Italic crime gang is keeping the dollar bills pinned to San Gennaro's vestments? Break up the Italic cartel that runs the Fulton Fish Market so we can eat cheap seafood. Take on the Italic mob and the City will be a decent place for all honest, hardworking multi-culturalists.

Mayor Rudy's courage is not in facing down the Mulberry Street Festival or the fishmongers of Fulton Street. Rather, it's his fearless contempt of the Italian-American vote, if there is such a thing.

Bowing to pressure from the ACLU and Russian-American groups, the New York City Police Dept has agreed not to compile a public list of Russian mobsters to avoid stigmatizing a politically correct group. Nice. When did Italian-Americans rate such favorable treatment?

The reality is that busting Italic criminals makes great press and is backed by a billion-dollar movie industry. Anyway, calling attention to slavery in Chinatown will give the city a bad image.

By the way, the price of fish never did come down. - John Positano

### THE FINI VISIT

Gianfranco Fini, President of the Italy's National Alliance Party (*Alleanza Nazionale*) came to the United States in October for two reasons. First, to normalize relations between the Italian Right and the Washington and Jewish establishments. Second, to meet firsthand the leaders of the Italian-American community. On both counts his visit was an uncompromised success. The staff of *The Italic Way* was honored to meet with Fini, thanks to the efforts of our own Plenary Council members Anthony Cardillo and Judge Dominic Massaro.

Prognosticators in Washington know that Fini is the man to watch in Italy's next election (tentatively, the spring of '96). President Clinton has now met him.

The Italian Right is unlike our own. Fini, like most Europeans, believes in universal health insurance with optional access to private treatment. Rather than States Rights, as many would demand here, Fini's Right believes in firm national control with strong guarantees of democracy. The *Alleanza* wants a Second Republic for Italy, much like France's Fifth Republic, or our own, where a

president is popularly elected and has executive power. And most of all, Fini wants a strong Italy, one that acts like the world's fifth economic power. This is especially important in light of Britain's decline and Germany's rise. - JLM

### SURVEY RESULTS

Our survey results (see p. 10) point out a number of interesting trends.

- More than half our respondents are dating or married to non-Italic "significant others" — assimilation is taking its toll.
- A clear majority feels that the Media is trashing our image — some "upbeat" people would have us believe that we media-watchers are too sensitive.
- We were heartened to find that 75% knew that the Italian "nation" started in Roman times. Too many scholars and authors would like us to believe that Italy sprang spontaneously from Greek or Medieval ooze.
- It is sad to find that barely a majority knows that Italy is the 5th industrial power. Should we blame those Visa donkey commercials?
- Only a minority of respondents have closed the book on Fascist Italy. Clearly, a plurality, if not a majority, would like to see more open study into this period.
- The appreciation of the Roman legacy is not as strong as we might like. Nearly 20% considered the Romans "mostly bad" and only 50% considered Italy's contributions to civilization of prime importance. This is shocking to those of us with strong history backgrounds. -Alfred Cardone

## *The Italic Way*™

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# Forum of the People



During the months of August and September we mailed out 10,000 survey cards to members and non-members, the latter mostly in the states of Ohio and Illinois. We offered a drawing for \$1,000 to those who completed and returned the card. 376 cards were returned. Here is how this cross-section of Italian-Americana responded:

**1. What percentage Italian descent are you?**

0%.....4%  
less than 1/4..... 2%  
1/2.....13%  
3/4.....4%  
100%.....76%

**2. Are you married to or dating someone who is all or part Italian?**

Yes.....42%  
No..... 55%

**3. How do you view your heritage?**

Not important..... 3%  
Very important.....94%

**4. How do you feel the Media is treating the Italian heritage?**

Fairly.....30%  
Insultingly.....61%  
I don't care..... 5%

**5. From what time do you date the history of the Italian "nation"?**

The Roman Era.....75%  
The Middle Ages..... 4%  
The Renaissance.....16%

**6. Where do you think Italy ranks among the industrialized nations?**

Fifth.....52%  
Tenth.....26%  
Twentieth.....14%  
Not considered industrialized..... 4%

[The correct answer is "Fifth"]

**7. What is your opinion of the Fascist Era?**

It was a stain on Italian history.....35%  
It needs unbiased study.....49%  
No opinion.....15%

**8. What do you believe to be the lasting value of the Italian heritage?**

Warmth & Humanity.....23%  
Food, Art & Music..... 34%  
Keystone of Western Civ.....50%

**9. Were the Romans the "good guys" or the "bad guys" of history?**

Mostly Good Guys.....74%  
Mostly Bad Guys.....19%

## \$1,000 Prize Winner

A drawing of the completed entry cards was conducted at our Aurora Youth class.

The winner of the \$1,000 prize was

**John Saputo**  
of  
St. Louis, MO

Congratulations!





## REVIEW

### Crossing Ocean Parkway: Readings by an Italian American Daughter

by Marianna De Marco Torgovnick  
The University of Chicago Press  
177 Pages, \$22.50

In a chapter entitled "The Politics of the 'We'" Marianna De Marco Torgovnick quotes from an essay by Georg Lukacs, an early 20th century Hungarian writer, and comments: "I admire Lukacs's essay for its insights; I envy its intellectual power. Yet I am also aware of discomfort when reading (some of its) passages."

That is very much how I regard De Marco Torgovnick's book. Its few pages took me an interminable time to get through because of the discomfort they caused. Most days I could not read more than a few paragraphs without putting it aside in exasperation.

This was not because of the writing. The Duke University English professor has a facile, highly readable style (despite the use of academic-style footnotes for information that could just as easily be included in the text). Her descriptions of the loss of her baby and death of her father, for example, are remarkably poignant.

Nor is it because of her personality. She comes across as a decent, neighborly type, modest about all things (save, perhaps, her high IQ). She has been hurt but not beaten down by life — and her grit makes her endearing. If she speaks as candidly as she writes, she must be a delightful dinner guest.

My objection is to her identification with Italian America.

She subtitles her work "Readings by an Italian American Daughter" but her major point is that she has succeeded in life by cutting herself off, in all significant ways, from her roots.

The Ocean Parkway of her title is a



boundary between the "stifling" Italian America of her childhood and the "liberating" world of her adulthood. (The other side of Ocean Parkway is Jewish. As a youth she saw Jews, as many non-Jewish New Yorkers do, as surrogate WASPs. Her liberation was complete when she married a Jewish man. Had she been raised in an Italian section of a city other than New York she might have married an Episcopalian.)

Like too many Italian American intellectuals she has sold out on her heritage. That is our misfortune as a people, her tragedy — even if she doesn't realize it — as a person. She provides no leadership to the national Italian American community and, consequently, should not be surprised if she, like so many other Italian American intellectuals who have done the same, gets little Italian American support.

She may not have sold out in the vicious way of a Mario Puzo (to whom she devotes a whole, glowing-with-praise chapter), a Martin Scorsese or a Chazz Palminteri. She does not trade in on the myths concerning Italian American crime. Rather, she accepts it and other equally questionable myths about the ethnic group as facts and glosses by them. How else could she write:

• "Italian Americans are famous for many things — their food, their savvy in

Northeastern politics, their celebrities and their Mafia." (Preface, p. VII).

(Not many would argue about the food, but is that Italian America's paramount claim to fame? Jim Florio, Geraldine Ferraro and Mario Cuomo were so savvy none any longer hold office in the Northeast. What group isn't famous for its celebrities? Isn't that when celebrity status is all about? "Their Mafia"? That is like a Jewish American writing that "Jews are famous for "their shylocking." Ugh.)

• "... my mother lived in Calabria between the ages of four and 16, on a small, poor farm where animals shared the main room." (Preface, p. ix.)

(This may be so, though I doubt it. There are isolated cases of strange behavior the world over. But to suggest this is a norm for Calabria — or anywhere, really — strains the imagination.)

• "Italian Americans in Bensonhurst are notable for their cohesiveness and provinciality; the slightest pressure turns those qualities into prejudice and

### Like too many Italian American intellectuals she has sold out on her heritage. That is our misfortune as a people.

racism." (Chapter 1: "White, Female, and Born in Bensonhurst," p. 7)

(This is another myth. Why, again, is an "Italian American Daughter" buying into it? Not challenging it? At least examining it? In fact, Italian Americans are one of the least racist people in the United States, mixing tolerantly with Blacks, Hispanics and Asians since long before the Civil Rights drive of the '60s; many were lynched for not having been sufficiently racist for their white neighbors. But I doubt De Marco Torgovnick has heard Italian Americans were ever lynched.)

(cont'd on p.28)





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## Focus



**1928 Lancia Lambda**  
Independent front suspension and unibody construction.



**Fiat 500 (1957-1975)**  
About 1 million are still on the road.

# AUTO INGENUITY

by Don Fiore

When it comes to cars the general public is bombarded with images of flawless German engineering, zero-defect Japanese production techniques, British elegance, and so forth. Italians are generally thought to make impractical muscle cars that have more neuroses than a Woody Allen character. What the world doesn't know about the Italian auto industry can fill a book, but in this case, an article. As we shall see, Italian ingenuity has contributed tremendously to the development of the automobile, both in design and engineering. From the prototype of the first internal combustion engine in the 1850's to such standard features as unibody construction, independent front and rear suspension, four wheel brakes, and specialized vehicles like urban mini-cars and subcompacts, Italy has played a vital part in the evolution of the automobile.

When Hitler visited Italy in 1938, he was upset when he was met at the train by King Victor Emmanuel and a horse-drawn carriage. "Isn't it about time," he later snarled to Mussolini, "for someone to inform the House of Savoy of the invention of the automobile?"

*Der Fuehrer* would have been surprised to learn that Victor Emmanuel was already proficient behind the wheel way back when little Adolf was still a mere lad in *lederhosen*.

Victor Emmanuel was, in fact, an auto enthusiast and the first monarch in the world to obtain a driver's license. That historic event took place in 1901, when a borrowed automobile made it possible for him to reach the Queen's bedside to witness the birth of Princess Yolanda. The King became an instant convert to motoring, and by year's end no less than ten

handsome automobiles were parked in the Royal Garage.

As might be expected, His Majesty displayed a noted preference for Italian-built cars, much to the applause of the Autoclub of Italy, which once threatened to deny membership to applicants who drove foreign makes. But Victor Emmanuel's choices were not always based on pure patriotism, for even then Italian cars were earning worldwide renown for performance and style.

Italians were in the forefront of auto evolution. The first Italian motor car was built and tested at Verona in 1884 by Enrico Bernardi. It was a mere one-third horsepower. By way of comparison, America's first horseless carriage was built in 1893 by the Duryea brothers. And if it's history you want, the first internal combustion engine was designed and built at Florence in 1856 by Eugenio Barsanti and Felice Matteucci. Admittedly, it wasn't the modern version of the automotive engine. It was a 2-cylinder, 3-stroke machine. It was the Germans Otto and Daimler as well as the Frenchman Lenoir who further developed the 4-stroke engine we know today. Automobile technology is truly an international effort.

### TRADEMARK AUTOMAKERS

Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Lancia and other instantly recognizable trademarks proudly trace their origins to those vintage years and are still with us today. Others emerged and vanished, their lives cut short by a soft domestic market, the economic turmoil of the 1930s or Italy's catastrophic involvement in the Second World War. Though gone, they are far from forgotten, at least among antique collectors and auto historians who consistently rank Italian classics among the world's finest.



# Focus



The very ring of its name caused the **Itala** line to be the favorite of Italy's superpatriotic Queen Mother, Margherita, who was almost as avid an auto enthusiast as her son. Founded in 1903 by motor pioneer Matteo Ceirano, the Itala Auto Works initially restricted itself to the production of competition machines. International recognition was secured four years later when the Italian team of Scipione Borghese, Ettore Guizzardi and Luigi Barzini took first prize in the Peking-to-Paris Auto Marathon. The three intrepid motorists had departed from the Chinese capital in an Itala racer on June 10, 1907, and their grueling, 10,000 mile odyssey lasted a full two months. Yet they reached the finish line weeks ahead of their closest competitors.

Itala continued to be a racetrack regular until the ambitious tastes of the 1920's encouraged its builders to venture into the market of elegant coupe-de-villes and cabriolets. Despite some early successes in the production of luxury cars, and notwithstanding the Queen Mother's faithful patronage, the company found itself in financial trouble by the end of the decade. A series of desperate corporate restructurings followed but did not rescue the ailing auto works from

described as "Luxury Cars with Latin Arrogance," quickly won favor among the rich and famous. Satisfied customers included Douglas Fairbanks, Clara Bow, Mary Pickford, Jack Dempsey, Grace Moore and, of course, Rudolph Valentino, who owned two. Innovations like the first regularly-produced straight 8-cylinder engine and four-wheel brakes (invented by Oreste Fraschini back in 1909) were introduced to the world through these machines, though such advanced features were doubtless appreciated not so much by their well-heeled owners as by the chauffeurs who invariably did all the actual driving.

The opulent I.F. towncars did not come cheap and their astronomical price tags, comparable only to the cost of a Rolls-Royce, ultimately proved to be their own undoing when the high-living, Roaring 20's gave way to the austere 1930's. Henry Ford maneuvered to buy the financially-troubled firm, but with Mussolini's intervention Italian airplane builder Gianni Caproni took control instead. Solvency was maintained over the following years only through the production of military equipment, while the I.F. automobile division continued to teeter on the brink of extinction. After a final comeback



The first Ferrari Testarossa (redhead), 300 HP, V-12. Body by Scaglietti.

the world-wide economic slump spawned by the Great Depression. By 1934, the noble Itala line was permanently relegated to history.

Nearly parallel to Itala's lifespan was the course that unfolded for Cesare **Isotta** and Oreste **Fraschini**, who formed a partnership in 1900 with the intention of building high-performance racers. The lure of lucrative government contracts induced them to switch gears upon Italy's entry into World War I, during which time they produced aircraft engines. A third change in direction came after the Armistice, when the company suddenly emerged as the leading purveyor of Italian luxury cars.

The long, smooth Isotta-Fraschini machines of the 1920s,

attempt in the luxury car market failed in 1946, the I.F. firm renounced its aristocratic airs and turned to the unglamorous business of building diesel trucks.

**Lancia** is another venerable name in Italian motoring. Race car driver Vincenzo Lancia established this firm in 1907 to build what he thought were nice, tranquil touring cars, but which were interpreted as slick, trend-setting sports cars by everyone else. A classicist, Lancia designated his succession of products by the Greek alphabet, working his way to *Theta* in 1914. That model made automotive history by becoming the first European car to offer standardized lighting and an electric starter. Unibody construction and independent front suspension incorporating hydraulic shock absorbers were



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# LA Via Italica

XXIV 1995

La rivista dell'Istituto di Studi Italici

## LA MAPPA GENETICA DI TUTTA L'UMANITA'

di John Mancini

Il problema della preminenza tra istinti naturali ed educazione ha a lungo occupato le menti di molti Americani. Ogni tanto infatti viene fuori una nuova teoria o una scoperta che riafferma la maggiore importanza dell'ambiente nei confronti dell'ereditarietà. Verso la fine degli anni '50 e durante gli anni '60 l'ambiente fece la parte del leone nella ricerca della causa prima di povertà, crimine ed intelligenza. La società dei benpensanti era corroborata dalla convinzione che il comportamento umano potesse essere controllato da leggi ad indirizzo sociale e la scienza del comportamento



Cugini? Gli Aborigeni dell'Australia ed i Cinesi

forniva l'ispirazione, grazie a studi su cavie sia animali che umane che utilizzavano metodi di modifica del comportamento, come il rinforzo positivo o negativo, la privazione del sonno ed altre varianti ambientali. Chiaramente nessuno intendeva negare l'influenza dei geni sul comportamento, infatti l'allevamento di animali, come i cani; aveva dimostrato che razze diverse avevano temperamenti ed abilità diverse, ma gli umani venivano in qualche modo considerati meno dipendenti da fattori genetici di quanto lo fossero i cani.

Tale atteggiamento cominciò a cambiare quando i mass media diffusero i risultati di alcuni studi condotti su gemelli. Si ebbe notizia di gemelli che, separati alla nascita ed allevati in ambienti completamente differenti da famiglie diverse senza alcun legame di parentela, mantenevano

## INCHIESTA

Durante i mesi di agosto e settembre abbiamo mandato 10,000 di questo formulario ai nostri soci e ad italo-americani che abitano negli stati dell'Illinois e dell'Ohio. Abbiamo ricevuto finora 376 risposte.

- In quale percentuale Lei e' di discendenza italiana?**  
0%... 4%      meno di 1/4... 2%      1/2..... 13%  
3/4... 4%      100%... 76%
- E' sposato/a, o fa coppia con qualcuno che e' in parte o del tutto di origine italiana?**  
Si ... 42%      No... 55%
- Come considera la propria origine?**  
Non importante... 3%      Molto importante... 94%
- Come considera l'atteggiamento dei mass media nei confronti dell'Italianita'?**  
Equo... 30%      Offensivo... 61%      Non mi interessa... 5%
- Da quale periodo Lei fa partire la storia dell'Italia?**  
Epoca romana...75%      Medioevo...4%      Rinascimento...16%
- In che posizione si trova l'Italia tra i paesi industrializzati?**  
5... 52%      10... 26%      20... 14%  
Non e' considerata industrializzata... 4%  
(L'Italia e' di fatto al quinto posto)
- Qual e' la Sua opinione sul periodo fascista?**  
E' stata una macchia nella storia d'Italia... 35%  
Richiede uno studio senza pregiudizi... 49%  
Non ho un'opinione in merito... 15%
- Quali sono i valori fondamentali dell'Italianita'?**  
(scegliere una sola risposta.)  
Calore e umanita'... 23      Cibo, arte e musica... 34%  
E' una pietra miliare per la civiltà occidentale... 50%
- I Romani erano i "buoni" o i "cattivi" della storia?**  
Per lo piu' buoni... 74%      Per lo piu' cattivi... 19%

IL VINCITORE DEL PREMIO \$1,000 E'  
JOHN SAPUTO di ST. LOUIS, MO



tuttavia delle somiglianze prodigiose nel comportamento e nelle abitudini. Tali somiglianze, che includevano la predilezione per la stessa marca di dentifricio, o la scelta di mariti o mogli che si assomigliavano, sorprese molti studiosi e rivelò una misteriosa prevalenza dei geni nei confronti dell'ambiente.

### La curva a campana

La recente pubblicazione del libro di Charles Murray *Bell Curve* [N.d.t. *La curva a campana*] ci pone di fronte a ciò che alcuni considerano come la logica conclusione della genetica: le razze umane non sono solo diverse dal punto di vista delle caratteristiche fisiche, ma anche da quello dell'intelligenza e questo, ci vien detto, spiega il perché l'Africa centro-meridionale non abbia mai raggiunto un grado di civiltà simile a quello raggiunto dall'Europa o dall'Asia, allo stesso modo ciò offre una razionalizzazione del perché i neri d'America abbiano sofferto economicamente negli Stati Uniti.

In contrasto con il libro di Murray è sorto e si va diffondendo tra gli scienziati un movimento che intende eliminare il tradizionale concetto di razza. Esso sostiene che le categorie relative all'apparenza fisica sono fuorvianti nella classificazione delle razze. Infatti alcune razze apparentemente diverse, hanno invece delle caratteristiche comuni dal punto di vista genetico. Per esempio, i neri soffrono di anemia drepanocitica, come pure alcuni popoli mediterranei e le popolazioni dell'Asia meridionale. Gli antropologi continuano a cercare in Africa la madre di tutte le razze per provare che la razza è solo uno stato mentale e che le variazioni di capelli, pelle, occhi e di altre caratteristiche superficiali apportate dalla natura non cambiano la sostanziale uguaglianza di tutte le razze (recentemente alcuni antropologi sono giunti alla conclusione che la costruzione di arnesi inizio in Africa circa 20.000 anni prima che manufatti simili apparissero in Europa).

Per provare le varie teorie genetiche, gli scienziati si riproposero di identificare e catalogare i geni. Negli anni 50 infatti la scienza della genetica era stata trasformata dalla scoperta del DNA, il codice della riproduzione. Negli anni che seguirono gli scienziati iniziarono a decifrare il codice e ad identificare molti dei geni all'interno di cellule umane, tanti da suggerire ad alcuni scienziati un'impresa colossale: la mappa dei geni di tutta l'umanità, composta da qualcosa come 5 miliardi di persone. Tre scienziati italiani osarono sfidare il mondo servendosi di 110 marcatori genetici e di parecchie estrapolazioni statistiche.

### La mappa genetica di tutta l'umanità

Il prof. Luca Cavalli Sforza, genetista alla Stanford University, il prof. Paolo Menozzi, ecologo all'Università di Parma, e il prof. Alberto Piazza, titolare di genetica



**Un marcatore genetico aveva erroneamente attribuito origini irlandesi agli Islandesi. Quando la storia ha dimostrato che le cose erano andate diversamente, i ricercatori hanno creato la propria versione della storia, includendo monaci irlandesi che spargevano il proprio seme. Lo stesso marcatore genetico è poi stato utilizzato in Italia.**

umana alla Facoltà di Medicina dell'Università di Torino, con l'aiuto dei propri collaboratori prelevarono campioni di sangue da 1800 esemplari di popolazioni sparse su sei continenti, nello sforzo di effettuare la mappatura di tutta la famiglia umana. Essi produssero un libro di mille pagine del peso di sette libbre [N.d.T. kg 3 ca.] arricchito da più grafici, cartine e tabelle di quanti una persona sana di mente vorrebbe mai esaminarne. Si tratta insomma di un punto di partenza per capire davvero chi siamo e da dove veniamo.

I tre autori per cautela affermano che le proprie conclusioni non sono accurate, fanno bene, perché anche se ci piacerebbe moltissimo riconoscere in quest'opera un altro capolavoro italiano, la verità è che è pieno di ragionamenti che non stanno in piedi e di conclusioni strane, molti dei quali relativi al popolo di cui gli stessi ricercatori fanno parte: gli Italiani.

Alcune delle osservazioni più interessanti rappresentano una vera novità. Per esempio, sebbene essi possano apparire africani per il colore della pelle e la larghezza dei nasi, o caucasici per l'arricciatura dei capelli, gli aborigeni australiani sono lontani cugini dei Cinesi. E che ne dite dei Baschi del Nord della Spagna? Ebbene essi non hanno alcun parente tra le "tribù" europee. Gli autori suggeriscono che i Baschi possano essere discendenti dei primi abitanti dell'Europa e dei Cro-Magnon, gli artisti delle grotte. Chi sono i parenti più lontani? Secondo questo studio "la differenza maggiore tra le specie umane si riscontra tra Africani e non-Africani" (pag. 83). Questo, secondo gli scienziati, dimostra quanto sia lontana nel tempo la prima migrazione degli umani dalla madre Africa. Nonostante le decine di migliaia di anni trascorsi da quando i nostri



antenati si separarono, tutti i rami della famiglia sono ancora molto ben collegati geneticamente.

### Accuratezza discutibile

Quanto sono affidabili queste generalizzazioni? Ricordate che questo studio monumentale utilizza la statistica e sapete bene cosa disse Mark Twain in proposito: ci sono bugie, bugie sfacciate e statistiche. In questo caso, quanti campioni avrebbero dovuto essere prelevati per analizzare 5 miliardi di abitanti sulla terra? Quali dei marcatori genetici (cioè le caratteristiche del sangue presenti in tutti gli esseri umani, che variano con l'appartenenza ai diversi gruppi etnici) sono stati confrontati in ogni campione etnico? Sono infallibili tutti i marcatori genetici? Quale peso è stato attribuito dagli studiosi ai fattori storici quando essi contrastavano con i marcatori? Che ne fanno dei tratti genetici fisici non presenti nel sangue? Perché non considerare cultura, religione e linguaggio come marcatori?

Una delle possibili falle nello studio è riscontrabile già a partire dai campi di specializzazione dei tre scienziati:

### I risultati della loro ricerca e delle analisi statistiche scalderebbero il cuore di un separatista "Lumbard".

genetica ed ecologia, non storia o archeologia. Un compito così imponente avrebbe richiesto decenni per il suo completamento se fossero state considerate tutte le discipline attinenti, quindi molte di queste sono state ignorate e le conclusioni sono state basate sostanzialmente su analisi del sangue. Per mantenere un certo controllo apparente, i campioni sono stati prelevati per lo più da popolazione "aborigene". Per esempio, dato che gli Stati Uniti sono sostanzialmente un paese di immigranti, i campioni sono stati prelevati solo da Indiani americani. In Europa i ricercatori hanno preferito le campagne alle zone urbane, visto che in queste ultime è più facile riscontrare una mescolanza genetica. Per quanto riguarda altre caratteristiche fisiche (colore della pelle, capelli, statura, ecc.), esse sono soggette ai cambiamenti ambientali nel corso dei millenni. Linguaggio, religione e cultura poi non vengono trasmessi sessualmente e quindi pare che il sangue sia tra tutti il più affidabile. No?

Nel caso dell'Islanda, in cui, stando a dati storici, la popolazione è omogenea e presumibilmente di origine nordica, alcuni tra i primi ricercatori utilizzarono ABO (cioè il gruppo sanguigno) come marcatore. Quello che scoprirono fu alquanto sconvolgente: stando ai tratti sanguigni, i nativi dell'Islanda erano più scozzesi che vichinghi (norvegesi). Ma invece di mettere in dubbio il marcatore ABO che era stato utilizzato, i ricercatori cercarono

di riscrivere la storia, suggerendo che i vichinghi avevano rapito degli scozzesi da utilizzare come schiavi in Islanda e che dei monaci irlandesi si recarono sull'isola e, oltre alla parola di Dio, sparsero il proprio seme. Fu solo dopo che i marcatori ABO furono discrediti (poiché anch'essi sono soggetti alla selezione naturale! pag. 277) che altri marcatori ed un po' di storia tradizionale riuscirono a verificare la parentela degli Islandesi con i Norvegesi.

### Le tribu' scomparse d'Italia

È alquanto curioso il fatto che il prof. Piazza ed i suoi collaboratori abbiano scelto di utilizzare proprio ABO come il marcatore più importante per lo studio dell'Italia. I risultati della loro ricerca e delle analisi statistiche scalderebbero il cuore di un separatista "Lumbard". Sostanzialmente lo studio divide l'Italia in tre gruppi etnici, o quattro, se si conta anche la Sardegna. Nel Nord abitano i tipi teutonici, vicini ai Nord-europei, nel centro vivono i discendenti degli Etruschi e nel Sud e in Sicilia i rampolli dei Greci. Questi ritrovamenti si basano su una storia semplicistica: l'antica Grecia colonizzò in effetti parti del Meridione d'Italia, gli Etruschi occuparono il centro della penisola ed i Barbari invasero il Settentrione alla caduta dell'"impero" - sapete bene quale intendo, vero? Ecco il problema di questa rilevazione: l'Italia italica non c'è. I Romani ed i milioni di genti italiche che abitavano l'Italia centrale e che a migliaia colonizzarono il resto dell'Italia, insieme all'Europa ed al Mediterraneo durante il corso di 500 anni non trovano posto in questa ricerca: "i Romani ebbero un'influenza minima o nulla sul modello genetico" (pag. 260).

Secondo questi studiosi esistono soltanto poche popolazioni "pure", e tra queste i Greci (antichi e moderni),

### Solo 13 delle 20 regioni italiane sono rappresentate in questo studio genetico.

i Nord-europei, e gli Ebrei (senza contare che ci sono gli Askenaziti ed i Sefarditi e senza contare i 2.000 anni di diaspora vissuti a contatto con *goyim* dei più disparati gruppi etnici). Ogni altro gruppo europeo, stando a questo studio, ha perso la propria purezza ed i ricercatori non menzionano nemmeno l'esistenza di geni dominanti e recessivi, parlano solo di predominanza etnica. Provenendo da studiosi italiani, questa ricerca sembra stranamente teutonica.

Come mai i ricercatori non hanno trovato delle popolazioni italiche in Italia? Forse una delle ragioni è che hanno scelto di prelevare campioni di sangue solo da 13 delle 20 regioni d'Italia. Sembra infatti che non siano stati prelevati campioni



in Umbria, Marche, Abruzzo, Molise e Basilicata, mentre pochissime zone del Lazio, della Calabria settentrionale, e della Campania meridionale sono state considerate. Guarda caso, queste zone erano proprio il cuore della civiltà italiana.

Poi c'è anche un piccolo problema storico. È vero, i Greci colonizzarono le rive dell'Italia meridionale 3.000 anni fa, ma i loro insediamenti si trovavano per lo più lungo la costa e gli storici antichi scrissero che queste colonie vennero poi riassorbite dalle tribù dell'entroterra. Non fu per caso che le popolazioni italiane ripresero il controllo dell'Italia, della Sicilia e della Sardegna verso l'anno 222 a. C., essi avevano la forza militare per poterlo fare e l'abbondanza di popolazione per assorbire culturalmente tutta l'Italia, impiantando colonie dappertutto.

*Le tribù locali, che secoli prima erano state ridotte in schiavitù dai Greci, o respinte nell'entroterra, aumentarono e si moltiplicarono, mentre i loro padroni coltivavano il benessere con l'aborto e l'infanticidio. In breve tempo le stirpi locali furono in grado di contendere il controllo dell'Italia meridionale. Le città greche si rivolsero a Roma chiedendo aiuto: esse furono aiutate, ed assorbite.* (libera traduz. **The Story of Civilization** di Will Durant, vol. III, pag. 659).

*[furono talmente tanti gli Italici che] sposarono i Greci conquistatori, che il loro sangue, il loro carattere ed i costumi in Sicilia presero un colorito appassionato e sensuale.* (libera traduz. da Strabone, il geografo greco dell'antichità, ibid., vol. II, pag. 170).

A questo punto viene naturale chiedersi: se la colonizzazione greca ha avuto tanta parte nell'analisi dei ricercatori, come mai la massiccia colonizzazione dell'Europa e del Mediterraneo non ha giocato un ruolo equivalente? I romani hanno disseminato colonie di Italiani in tutto l'Impero: in Spagna e Portogallo ce n'erano 35 chiamate Italica, in Nord-Africa gli storici dicono che fossero presenti 400.000 Italiani, e persino oggi c'è una discreta colonia in Tunisia (lì è nata infatti l'attrice Claudia Cardinale). La costa della Jugoslavia era densamente popolata da Italiani e in Grecia c'erano quattro o cinque insediamenti italiani. Mi pare abbastanza ragionevole chiedersi come facciano i ricercatori a ravvisare unicità nell'etnia greca a non in quella italiana, dopo 500 anni di dominazione romana e 400 di dominazione turca in Grecia?

Nella loro terra del Nord-Italia i nostri tre ricercatori italiani possono essere stati maldestri nello scegliere di prelevare i campioni nelle campagne piuttosto che nelle città, visto che la storia ci tramanda che quando i Germanici



Il dr. Luca Cavalli-Sforza (d) ed il vecchio imperatore "Italico" Vespasiano (70 d. C.) che si sta senz'altro rivoltando nella tomba.

Lombardi entrarono in Italia, essi sfuggivano le città e preferivano invece mantenere delle dimore più familiari in campagna. I Romani restarono nelle città, cosa che, dopo tutto, era parte della loro civiltà. È possibile quindi che gli "aborigeni" della campagna abbiano conservato più geni nord-europei?

Infine, anche se i genetisti si fanno beffe dell'idea di marcatori fisici, poiché essi sono soggetti a selezione naturale, e forse scomparso il naso romano? O la calvizie maschile, il tormento di Roma, ha forse lasciato il posto a chiome fluenti dopo che i Goti si riversarono nella città? Parrebbe alquanto discutibile ricreare dei gruppi etnici solo sulla base dei tratti del sangue, specie visto che anch'essi sono soggetti alla selezione naturale, ma è ancor più allarmante che tre scienziati dell'Italia settentrionale, pur così presi dal compito di mostrare la somiglianza tra tutte le razze, restino così freddi e disattenti nel proprio ragionamento che gli Italiani risultano inconciliabilmente diversi tra loro.

Forse questo genere di costruzione dei tipi umani si basa su fondamenta sabbiose. Forse coloro che sono ossessionati dalle classificazioni sono influenzati da una quantità di ragioni sociali, più che scientifiche, o forse si sono avviati nel mondo nuovo della genetica carichi di preconcetti. Anche se può essere consolante considerare l'umanità come sostanzialmente omogenea, ciò non deve snaturare la realtà delle diversità culturali ed una cultura etnica è certamente costruita sui geni come pure su molti altri elementi intangibili. La classificazione dell'umanità sembra quasi un compito superumano: chi sarà il sacerdote di questa nuova religione? È forse il caso di chiedersi se la genetica non sia troppo importante per essere lasciata nelle mani dei genetisti e degli esperti di statistica.

\*\*\*\*

(Traduzione di Maria Galetta)





other Lancia innovations, both appearing in the popular *Lambda* series, marketed throughout the 1920s.

No references to the Greek alphabet were intended when the Alfa trademark was born in 1910. Despite the phonetic similarity, the name is really an acronym for *Anonima Lombarda Fabbrica Automobili* (Lombard Automobile Works Corporation), a company set up at Milan to build and sell French cars to Italians. Mechanical engineer Nicola **Romeo** eventually acquired controlling interest and began building his own Italian cars to sell to the French (or anyone else who could afford them). Though their success has been of legendary proportions on both road and racetrack ever since, Alfa-Romeo machines were not mass produced until after the Second World War. Today, the company is owned by Fiat, which outbid a takeover attempt by Ford in 1986.

A contributing hand to the rise of the prestigious Alfa Romeo line was lent by the motoring genius Enzo **Ferrari**, who designed for the firm until 1938. Two years later, he opened his own plant near Modena to create automotive masterpieces that remain on a strata all their own. Though Fiat has owned the Ferrari trademark since 1969, the company scrupulously maintains its corporate autonomy, as well as its pride in producing the fastest (and many say the most beautiful) cars on the planet.

Inspired by Ferrari's success, Italian tractor manufacturer Ferruccio **Lamborghini** began trying his own hand at building sports cars in the 1950's, with results encouraging enough to warrant the establishment of a factory at Bologna in 1963. While never quite capturing the Ferrari mystique, the Lamborghini line significantly contributed to Italy's reputation for creating cars that were as stunning as they were unaffordable. A Swiss consortium took over the Lamborghini label in 1972, which was, in turn, purchased and held by the Chrysler Corporation from 1987 to 1993.

For a time, foreign ownership was also the unhappy fate of the foundering **Maserati** auto works, initiated in the best of Italian family traditions by the five Maserati brothers in 1926. Their focus had been strictly on the racetrack, and it wasn't until well into the 1950's that the company began experimenting in the commercial sports car market. By then, the brothers were long gone but the company continued their tradition of a meticulous, built-by-hand style of craftsmanship, with production figures never reaching more than a car or two per day. While such costly manufacturing techniques resulted in price tags to match, it wasn't enough to keep the books balanced. The Citroen corporation of France bought Maserati in 1969 and, unable to turn a profit, announced that it was shutting down the plant for good. Fortunately, the Italian De Tomaso investment group rushed to the rescue, purchasing and reviving the Maserati line in 1975.

**Bugatti**, long a legendary label in *French* car building, is another errant Italian name that has at last come home. The son of a Milanese goldsmith and furniture designer who expected his children to become artists, young Ettore Bugatti found the neighborhood garage a much more appealing place to exercise his imagination than the fine arts academy. In



The new Fiat Bravo designed to capture the European compact market.

1898, at the age of 16, he dropped out of school to take a job at the Prinetti-Stucchi workshop just as the company was making its transition from bicycles to motor cars.

Enthusiastic and exceptionally talented, he quickly graduated to the designing table, attracting attention across Europe with his fresh concepts and ideas. Bugatti was lured from Italy in 1909 to design successively for De Dietrich, Peugeot and other French and German builders before setting up his own factory near Strasbourg. From that point, he repeatedly demonstrated that he hadn't rejected his father's hopes, having simply chosen another medium for artistic expression.

On the road or the racetrack (the number of Bugatti victories passes well beyond the one thousand mark), Bugatti's creations were invariably sublime blends of elegance and excellence. To have such masterpieces credited to France, even though they were the products of a brilliant, Italic brain, was the sort of thing that drove many patriotic Italians up the wall.

Bugatti was a car for the rich and famous. Dancer Isadora Duncan made it infamous in 1927 when she was strangled as her flowing scarf got caught in the her Bugatti hubcap.

Ettore Bugatti died in 1947, his auto works not surviving long thereafter. But in 1986, the Bugatti label was resurrected by an Italian concern with the opening of Bugatti Automobili at Modena. Powered by a high-tech V-12, 3.5 liter engine and capable of reaching 215 mph, the Bugatti EB 110, showcased in 1992, proved that nothing had been lost in the line's repatriation. However, the company is again struggling to survive.

Though thousands who purchased them in the 1960's may have thought they were driving Italian cars, all those little subcompacts bearing the **Innocenti** label were, in reality, repackaged Leylands, Austin-Healeys and other British Motor Corporation products. The real strength of Frederico Innocenti's Milan-based, industrial empire rested on the design, production and global exportation of technologically advanced, heavy manufacturing equipment. Fords, Volkswagens and other mainstays have been built with Innocenti steel presses, while the Innocenti technique for forming seamless steel structural tubing revolutionized the entire industry.

From its small shop origins in 1922, the firm had evolved to an economic giant by the 1940s, only to be reduced to ashes by

(continued on p.26)





# PERSPECTIVES

## WHEN SPAIN OCCUPIED SOUTHERN ITALY

by Don Fiore

History, especially in recent years, has undergone some radical rewrites, the most dramatic example being the sudden descent of Columbus from great visionary and hero to pillager and scoundrel.

The socio-political motives behind that transition are clear to everyone. At least they're more readily comprehensible than another new interpretation of history, recently reported by columnist Remo Rizzato of the Los Angeles weekly *L'Italo-Americano*, which seeks to prove that the two centuries of repressive Spanish control of the post-Renaissance Italian peninsula, once universally regarded as a grim repeat of the Dark Ages for Italy, was actually a boon and blessing instead.

The leading voice behind this perspective, writes Rizzato, is Italian historian Fausto Nicolini, who maintains that Spain's strong military and political presence in Italy, which lasted through the 16th and 17th centuries, brought all sorts of benefits to the country. One of these, he says in curious convolution, was protection against foreign domination! Without the Spanish on hand to intervene, insists Nicolini, the city states of Italy, wholly incapable of uniting in mutual defense, would have inevitably suffered the worse fate of becoming Turkish vilayets, or at the very least, provinces of France.

Rizzato contributes his own view that, notwithstanding the miseries described in Manzoni's classic work in Italian literature, *I Promessi Sposi*, Spain's political administration of Italy was not all that bad. Most of the Spanish-appointed viceroys

and prelates who governed the land, he points out, were Italians themselves. The presumed implication is that Italy enjoyed a sort of self-rule during that gloomy stretch of history. And those traditional accounts of repression? They were concocted, at least in part, by latter day, anti-Catholic nationalists seeking someone to blame for Italy's much-diminished profile on the international stage between Renaissance and Risorgimento.

The quickest way to test the validity of the Rizzato/Nicolini argument is simply to compare Italy's position in a variety of areas before and after the Spanish occupation.



Most historians trace the initiation of Spanish influence in Italy to the Papal election of the Spaniard Roderigo Borgia (Pope Alexander VI) in 1492. By that time the Renaissance was in full bloom and the regions of Italy could justly consider themselves the technological, economic and cultural nerve centers of the Western world. Their universities and medical schools in both northern and southern Italy, the best in Europe and always on the cutting edge of research, attracted thousands of scholars from all over the continent (such scientific luminaries as Copernicus and William Harvey were educated in Italy). Intellec-

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tual vitality was encouraged and supported by enlightened governments which, in most cases, offered their citizens the closest thing to democracy found anywhere on the continent.

Renewing their Roman inheritance (*renaissance* actually means "rebirth"), the Italians had again emerged as second to none in architecture and civil engineering, and the advancements which they pioneered were imitated in many foreign cities. Financing all the grand scale construction was the enormous wealth amassed by the various Italian states as trade and distribution centers of Oriental goods for Europe. Italian sailors, who carried these goods to port, were renowned for their superior seamanship, and it was quite common for foreign carriers to hire Italian captains and crews to man their ships. (The first Spanish, French and English expeditions to the New World were headed by Italians).

The Italians had set the ground rules for another field of commerce, international banking, as the Medici house began loaning money not only from its Florentine institution, but also from branch offices opened in England, France and Germany. Modern financial terms derived directly from the Italian, like credit, interest, and the word bank itself, reflect Italy's primacy in the field.

Italy's predominance in the fine arts during this age of Botticelli and Verrocchio hardly needs restating. We should note, however, that Italians were also setting the trends for every other cultural avenue. The French were still apprentices

to their southern neighbor in the fashion and culinary arts, while etiquette books written in Italy taught table manners to English noblemen.

Sparkling with brilliant, humanistic activity, Italy was Europe's schoolmaster and guiding light to an ever higher order of civilization. But the peninsula remained politically divided, which indeed rendered it easy prey to those who coveted its wealth. During the early years of the 16th century, a series of competing military incursions against Italy were launched by France and Spain, with the latter finally taking permanent hold of the lion's share of the land in 1559.

Now let's jump ahead on our time line to survey Italy's condition after, say, one hundred years of Spanish

rule. The universities and libraries are still open, but their reputation rests mostly upon their venerable old age, as the chief centers of scientific progress have shifted to Northern Europe. The Roman Inquisition, a direct import from Spain, had effectively delivered its grim message that the free expression of ideas would no longer be tolerated in Italy. The concept of Man's natural dignity, a cornerstone of Renaissance philosophy, continues to exist only in a misty, religious sense. In reality, passivity has wholly replaced vitality as the typical characteristic of the Italian populace. Distrust of officials and the reliance on pragmatic "arrangements," the bane of southern Italy today, are developed during this interval. Those who are inspired to greatness prefer to seek their fortunes abroad.

(continued p.22)

### Spanish control of the Italian peninsula was universally regarded as a grim repeat of the Dark Ages for Italy



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## REVIEW

### Power, Pasta And Politics: The World According to Senator Al D'Amato

by Sen. Alfonse D'Amato  
The Easton Press, 1995, 357 pp.

Who would have thunk it? Al D'Amato: Senator, Statesman, Author.

In the heyday of Italian-American political ascendancy, the 1980s, Al D'Amato and Mario Cuomo were viewed as opposite sides of the same coin. The provincial politician versus the classical orator. Senator Pothole versus Governor Cicero. Though he was praised as a scrappy political infighter who wielded considerable clout in Washington, Al always took a back seat to Mario. Despite his hoary tales of immigrant travails, Cuomo sounded every bit the patrician. By virtue of his nasal Long Island accent and less-than-stirring public utterances, D'Amato seemed more like Leo Gorcery of *Bowery Boys* fame than a powerful member of the United States Senate.

By 1995, however, much had changed. Mario Cuomo, the once highly touted presidential aspirant, had fallen from his pedestal. Spurning a run for the Rose Garden, Cuomo lost the governor's mansion to George Pataki. Salerno's answer to Hamlet now hosts a radio talk show and is seen by some as the anti-Limbaugh. Al D'Amato snatched victory from the jaws of a near certain defeat by retaining his Senate seat against a boorish Bobby Abrams. In doing so he bucked the 1992 Clinton electoral tide. This come-from-behind victory increased his visibility and power. In New York, D'Amato became the kingmaker, backing Pataki for Governor. In Washington, he threw his support to Bob Dole in the 1996 race for the White House. And as Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, he presides over the inquiry into the Whitewater morass. D'Amato also found time to court the vivacious



and sexy Claudia Cohen. In between these pursuits he penned a book.

As a political memoir, *Power, Pasta and Politics* is satisfying fare. As a personal reminiscence, it is not quite *al dente*. In other words, it lacks bite. A better title might have been: *Power, Polenta and Politics*. Why do Italian-American politicians feel the need to placate their publishers with mushy proletarian prose about Mamma, Mamma Mia, Ellis Island and the old neighborhood? Irish-American politicians give a wink and a nod to the old sod. They don't beggorah the imagination with incessant prattling about poor bedraggled lads and lassies yearning to be free. In his memoirs, Tip O'Neil portrayed his Irish ancestors as a race of hearty urban pioneers who reinvigorated Boston politics with their wit and Celtic wisdom. Senator D'Amato missed an opportunity to elaborate on his learned uncle, a professor at the University of Rome. He mentioned this fact on the Charlie Rose television program but did not see fit to include it in his book. Perhaps Hyperion, his publisher, feared such information might force bookstores to stack the senator's tome in the science fiction section.

On another level, Al D'Amato offers

a tantalizing glimpse into the psyches of assorted movers, shakers and political fakers. Liz Holtzman, the Margaret Hamilton of New York, is accurately depicted in all her wickedness and anti-Italian bigotry (Holtzman used the same Italo-bashing tactics against Geraldine Ferraro when she ran for the Democratic nomination for senator in 1992.) Old time GOP boss Victor Farley is soundly denounced for calling Republican voters in D'Amato's 1980 Senate bid and asking them what they thought of Alfonse "Tomato." And former Secretary of State James Baker comes in for a sorely needed drubbing:

"I didn't like him, and I know he didn't like me. He was personally repelled by Yitzhak Shamir. And he thought he was vastly superior to some Italian-American senator from Long Island. Jim Baker is a blue blood, a snob, and he didn't care for ethnic Americans of any stripe. While he was free to dislike me, it was a dereliction of duty for the secretary of state to treat the prime minister of Israel like a panhandler."

While Senator D'Amato's heart is almost always in the right place and he has deep affection for all things Italian, his solidarity with his heritage is sometimes out of kilter. As this book reveals, the senator will circumnavigate the globe in defense of Israel, Ireland, and Lithuania. He'll rail against British human rights abuses, Iraqi aggression and Palestinian terrorists. He'll excoriate the James Bakers of the world for insulting an Israeli leader—or just the Likud Party. Yet when it comes to his Italic roots, Al D'Amato reverts to type. Instead of drawing upon the ancient Italian senate of Rome and discussing how it inspired our very own legislative body, Al unfavorably compares the restaurants on Mulberry Street to Mamma D'Amato's delectable dishes. Oy Vey!

Maybe Claudia Cohen can teach Al D'Amato a thing or two about *gravitas*.

- RAI





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Al Crecca's 1976 Ferrari 308 GTV-4. Purchased on a whim for his 40th birthday, this mint condition powerhouse is still performing road duty. Al puts the car through its paces weekly with short trips around Long Island.



Frank Ferrante bought a piece of history when he found Benito Mussolini's 1939 Alfa Romeo. According to documentation, this Alfa carried Il Duce and his mistress Claretta Petacci on their last ride before being shot by the Communists. (A new theory has it that the couple were shot accidentally in the car.) Although he purchased it here, Frank sent the vehicle back to Italy for a complete restoration.



Joe Peluso's 1954 Mercury and 1928 Model A Ford. "Look but don't touch" is Joe's philosophy. He painstakingly restored the Model A, so its only mission in life is to appear at car shows and parades.



Frank Guida purchased his 1965 Maserati Sebring in Milan. The 6-cylinder 3500 GT has fuel injection and is in perfect condition. Offers will be considered.





## Spanish Occupation (from p.17)

Taxes levied by a severe, Spanish-created hierarchy of Church officials and viceroys are among the heaviest in the world. Restricted by ponderous and unyielding government bureaucracies, industry and commerce have survived only on the most modest scale. The business centers of Europe have moved to England, France and Holland, while Italy becomes utterly impoverished. One only has to look to Ibero-America to see the similarities with the Spanish occupation of the Italian south.

Amidst their struggle to build their own economic and political empires, Northern Europeans fondly refer to the land as *Italia Felix* ("Happy Italy"), but they mean it in the "ignorance-is-bliss" sense. Italy is no longer a force in world affairs, but a retreat from them. Endowed with great natural beauty, and dotted with big churches, dusty museums and interesting architectural ruins, it serves chiefly as a sleepy haven for weary vacationers who will find themselves eagerly attended upon by an ingratiating and docile peasantry.

The Spanish protection for which historian Nicolini believes Italy should be so grateful did not last forever. By the early 18th century, Austria had displaced Spain as the peninsula's dominant foreign landlord. Though Italy was eventually able to pull itself together, drive out all foreign rulers and emerge as a unified nation, its recuperation from centuries of Spanish misrule did not come easy. Some of the residual effects have lasted even until modern times, with the stubborn economic disparity between north and south topping the list (the poverty-ridden Kingdom of the Two Sicilies was the last vestige of decadent Spanish rule in Italy). It likewise was the Italian Kingdom's overzealous drive, during the late 1800's, to make up for lost time in acquiring Great Power status which led to further neglect of the south. Adding to the south's woes was a depressed agricultural market caused by cheap American grains.

To those historians who would shift the blame for the south's endemic problems from Spain to Northern Italy there



**The Bourbon palace at Caserta (near Naples)**  
It rivaled Versailles at the cost of southern Italian poverty.

is a lesson in the hardships of the recent German reunification: blending two separate economies and political systems is a nightmare that even the wealthy and efficient West Germans never anticipated. Fifty years of East German Communism had a lot in common with two hundred years of Spanish domination.

It's impossible to say with certainty whether the country would have fared better without the Spaniards. But it certainly could not have fared much worse. In any case, Nicolini's jaunt down the "history as might have been" path invites the opposing argument that Italian reunification might have come centuries earlier had the Spaniards kept away. Instead of reducing the peninsula into another collection of Balkan states as he imagines, a Turkish invasion might just as likely have rallied the thoroughly Catholic Italians into mutual defense. Macchiavelli, after all, was already urging his countrymen to unite in arms against foreign incursions by Christian armies. The threat of Moslem conquest would have presented a cause for unity beyond the sense of Italic kinship to which he appealed. And in what manner a victorious and united 16th century Italy, with all its Renaissance virtues intact, would have drastically altered the course of world history is really a thought to ponder!

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## The Nittany King

by John Moody

At one end of the ivy-draped practice field, a potbellied man limps along, the cuffs of his baggy trousers rolled above his socks. Alone with his thoughts, he shakes his head in dismay, mutters and then scratches something on a much folded sheet of white paper. You might think he was a curmudgeonly equipment manager or an eccentric classics professor. But what gives his identity away, more than the familiar face or the trademark retro eyewear, is the manner in which the behemoths on the field cast periodic glances his way. They know that on that sheet of paper Joe Paterno may be writing down how the rest of their lives will turn out.

Joseph Vincent Paterno, 68, is now two games into his 30th season as the head coach of the Penn State football team. One Saturday the Nittany Lions demolished Temple 66-14 to stretch their winning streak to 19 games, the longest in the nation. That also gave Paterno his 271st victory as a head coach, which is fourth on the all-time major college list, behind Bear Bryant (323), Pop Warner (319) and Amos Alonzo Stagg (314). The only coach ever to win the Rose, Sugar, Orange and Cotton bowls, Paterno has had five unbeaten, untied seasons and two undisputed national championships. He might have had a third last year, but the college football polls gave the mythical national championship to Nebraska, which made everyone in Happy Valley, including Paterno, very unhappy.

The coach, though, is not just about football. He is about a graduation rate of 80% among football players, second in the nation — by a hair — to Notre Dame. He is about giving \$250,000 of his own money to the university for a new library extension. He is about staying put in State College, even though he has had tempting offers to go elsewhere, pro and college. He is about making sure his charges keep their grades up: he keeps a chart with each player's GPA and JVP, and if the grade point average falls below the Joseph Vincent Paterno projection set for him, that player will find himself on the bench.

Says Fran Ganter, the Penn State offensive coordinator who has served under Paterno for 25 years: "We've had kids who signed with a pro team and are making a million dollars a year, but they come back to finish up those last three credits, and do you know why? Because they'd be afraid to look Joe in the eye if they didn't. Other schools have graduation rates of 30 or 40 percent. It's a sin; it's a rip-off. It gives me a pit in my stomach to think about what goes on elsewhere."

What goes on elsewhere? Well, since 1980, seven of the 12 schools that have finished No. 1 in one of the major polls were subsequently hit with NCAA sanctions or inquiries,



**"Blacks like to say they don't believe in Joe. They think what he's done is too good to be true."**

including the last five: Miami, Washington, Alabama, Florida State and Nebraska. If Diogenes worked for the NCAA, one of the few places he could rest easy would be Penn State.

In a Flatbush accent that hasn't been softened by four years as an undergrad at Brown University or 46 years in State College, Paterno says, "The program you have usually starts with the type of people you recruit. Unfortunately, other people keep promising kids things — 'You're gonna get a chance to play, a shot at the pros,' and so on. What we say is, 'We don't want people who can't be part of the bigger campus.'"

Strange as it may seem, Paterno actually entertained — however briefly — the prospect of taking over the University of Miami's scandal-ridden program last year. "There was just enough adventure or something to the idea that it scratched my bark. I thought about it one night, then called and said, 'For crying out loud, I'm not the right guy for the job.'"

Paterno tells a story about a meeting he had with a player and his parents, in which he had to tell them their son would not be allowed to play because he hadn't applied himself in summer school. "His mom was crying, and she came up to me, and I thought she was gonna hit me. But instead she hugged me and said, 'Thank you for caring.'" By the same token, Paterno has kept other athletes on scholarship and told them to forget about football so they could concentrate on their studies.

Some might call what he practices Paterno-ism, and there are others who say that the coach is out of touch. But Don Ferrell, Penn State's academic athletic adviser for 12 years, thinks differently. "Blacks like to say they don't believe in Joe," says Ferrell, an African American. "They think what he's done is too good to be true. They have a certain perception of Joe that leaves me speechless. Joe's an educator and a father, and not just a coach. He never lets the young people down. He is the ultimate experience."

Or, in the words of Penn State senior Scott Stewart, "Coach is old, but he's really cool."

(Reprinted from *Time Magazine*)

*The Italic Way*





# News of the Institute

## 8th ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

We broke all attendance records with just over 800 guests at the Waldorf. Dinner chairman Vincent J. Ponte and his committee surpassed all financial goals. The 1996 Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, May 4th. Hold that date!



(Far left) Trip-to-Italy winners

(l.) Social Chairman Mike Carbone with Golf Chairperson Elizabeth Polizzi  
(r.) Pres. Mary Ann Minucci with Dinner Chmn. Vincent Ponte & Events Coordinator Monica Polizzi.



Past Gov. and Domus Director John Santora with Vincent Ponte



A view from the balcony



Outgoing Financial Secy. Bob DeSiena with Pres. Mary Ann Minucci and Vincent Ponte

## PROJECT DOMUS, Inc.

Discussions are underway for the fundraising phase of our Manhattan brownstone project. The proposed building will be the base for Italic Studies and a forum for our business network. A cultural center will house our research library.

Project Domus was officially launched on October 6th when ISI co-founder Carl Pescosolido pledged \$100,000.

## COLUMBUS CONCERT

October 6th marked our first ISI Governors Columbus Day Family Concert at the French Institute's Florence Gould Hall on Manhattan's 59th St. The event featured our 27-piece Italic Studies Concert Band playing a varied selection of opera, marches, and Neapolitan songs. The highlight of the performance was tenor Alfonso Tepedino and soprano Christina Miliotis. A hot buffet was served afterward. Although attendance was light those who turned out were suitably impressed by the quality of our band and promised to spread the word in '96.

The evening was momentous for our building program (Project Domus). Institute co-founder Carl Pescosolido pledged \$100,000 to kick off the fundraising drive. Although medical problems kept him home in Massachusetts, Carl was anxious to make his pledge at our first Manhattan cultural event.



The downpayment is received by Governors Albert Crecca, Steve Gristina, Michael Downey, Lou Mantia, and John Mancini. President Mary Ann Minucci stands in for Carl Pescosolido





The Italic Studies Concert Band led by Maestro Jerome Sala



Ten-year-old Antonia Mancini shows daddy (and Concert Chairman) John the finer points of an instrument. Band manager Frank Cardone looks on.

## MIDWEST COUNCIL FORGES AHEAD

Forty new general members from Ohio and Illinois entered the rolls of the growing ISI Midwest Council headquartered in Chicago. A number of strategy sessions were held by Vice President Mario Scozia and his Executive Council to plan growth. Among the techniques being pursued are media exposure. Spearheaded by energetic Financial Secretary Bill Dal Cerro (a "young Turk" of the Italian persuasion) the Council has managed to get articles and letters published in a number of Chicago dailies. And just to liven up the Windy City, Dal Cerro led a group of Midwest Council members (including Lionel Bottari, Walter Santi, Jennifer Dini, Laura Dini, Robert Dini and Albert Verri) in a dignified picketing of the movie, *To Die For*, starring Nicole Kidman. The ISI wanted to bring to the public's attention the blatant distortions of this based-on-truth potboiler. While in real life an Italian-American was the prosecutor in a heinous crime, the movie has made the murderer Italian-American. The theater confrontation was broadcast on a local CBS news show and made the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

The Institute takes to the streets!



Anthony Cardellino, Al Verri, V.P. Mario Scozia, Fin. Secy. Bill Dal Cerro, Prog. Secy. Don Flore, Joey Stella, and Dr. Fred Meccia.

Al Verri (with glasses) makes his point as Emil Venuti, Anthony Cardellino and Dr. Fred Meccia look on.



## NEW GOVERNORS

The Council of Governors announced the appointment of the following Plenary Council members to the ranks of Governor:



John LoBlanco



Vincent J. Ponte



Eugene Skowronski



Michael Carbone





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**AUTO INGENUITY** (from p. 15)

the devastations of war. No quitter, the resilient Frederico rebuilt and retooled to produce motor scooters in the 50's. He correctly predicted, however, that steady, economic recovery would soon allow Italians to trade in their scooters for cars. Intent on finding an expedient way to cash in on this promising market, Innocenti worked out a deal in 1961 to assemble and sell BMC/British-Leyland products in Italy. At first, most of the components assembled at the auto plant came straight from the Sceptered Isle, although body designs and interiors were often modified and improved, sometimes by such noble masters as Pininfarina, to suit Italian tastes. Marketed exclusively under the Innocenti label, these cars sold so well across the continent that British-Leyland gave its blessings for them to develop an identity wholly their own.

The production machinery and car building sectors of the Innocenti complex went their separate ways in 1972, with the latter remaining under British control for the next four years. In 1976, the company was sold and restructured as the Italian-owned Nuova Innocenti Corporation.

Like Frederico Innocenti, scooter-maker Renzo Rivolta played a decisive role in post-war restoration of the European auto industry by designing the super-economical Isetta "bubble car" just as the Suez crisis of 1956 threatened to upset the world's fuel supplies. Licenses to build and sell the little two-seater were extended to Britain and France, but its major manufacturer was Germany's ailing BMW corporation, which the "bubble car" is credited with rescuing from particularly

hard times. Americans know it as character Steve Urkel's wheels in the ABC television show *Family Matters*.

The result of this sudden success and financial fortune was the **Iso-Rivolta** corporation, through which the emboldened Renzo Rivolta meant to storm the gates of the prestige sport car market for peerage with Ferrari and Lamborghini. With their sharp Bertone styling and monstrously powerful engines (for which 150 + mph was a matter of routine), a successive line of high-priced Iso coupes roared across the world's highways throughout the 1960s.

Though the cars were winners, the Milanese factory from which they emerged was perennially beset by strikes and other labor problems. This and, ironically enough, a new Mideast oil crisis of the early 1970's, hurled the company into an insurmountable financial crisis and brought about its dissolution in 1976.

But the Iso was not gone for good. Italy's soaring economic status of the Eighties helped the Rivolta family to regroup their resources and put the firm back in business. A new generation of Iso machines, as unabashed in hefty horsepower as its predecessors, was brought to life in 1993.

**AUTO BODY DESIGN**

Just as Italy has stamped its name on fashion, furniture, and jewelry design, so too has it become synonymous with car styling. Pininfarina, Bertone, Ghia, and Giugiaro are marks of distinction in auto design. We invite you to turn to pages 20 and 21 for a survey of their work. (See p. 20 & 21)



# News of the Institute



(Continued)

## GOLF OUTING

The golf outing is getting so popular that foursome reservations are closed out well in advance. As usual, Chairperson Elizabeth Polizzi organized a thoroughly enjoyable day, with good weather besides.



## SEPTEMBER PICNIC

The weather was perfect and the company was great at the annual picnic at Pratzl Brauhaus in Pomona, NY. The picnic committee included Michael Carbone, Lou Mantia, Pat Grecco, and Michael Romano, among others.



## AURORA CLASS IN SESSION

Our Italian class began a Level I program on November 4th with 26 boys and girls aged 10 thru 12 enrolled. The Italic Studies Institute is the only organization with a unique youth program to promote Italian language and heritage.



## I.S.I. MEETS ITALIAN LEADER

Gianfranco Fini, president of Italy's National Alliance Party and possible contender for Prime Minister of Italy, met with *Italic Way* staffers John Mancini, Rosario Iaconis, and Alfred Cardone while on a political visit to the U.S. Fini was escorted on his tour of New York and Washington by Institute members Judge Dominic Massaro and Anthony Cardillo who also heads up the Tricolor Committee, an arm of the National Alliance. (Photo: Gianfranco Fini (2nd from left) with NY Lt. Gov. Betsy McCaughey, former U.S. Amb. to Italy Maxwell Raab, and NYS Supreme Court Justice Massaro.)

## MUSEUM ENROLLED

Professor Philip DiNovo, director of the Italian-American Museum in Utica, NY, was the first to apply and be accepted into the ISI Available Resources Program. The Museum is being developed by the Italian-American Historical Society and serves the Utica-Albany area. Prof. DiNovo is well-known for his devotion to heritage. His unstinting work brought him to our attention. As part of the Available Resources program, the museum receives credits for books and educational items in our catalogue. Moreover, the museum can apply for subsidies for an Aurora Youth Program and special cultural events. We welcome the Utica Museum and wish it *auguri*. \*\*\*\*





## Crossing Ocean Parkway (from p.10)

• “The travel agency (a Mafia front?) has no one who knows how to ticket me for the exotic destination of North Carolina and no computer for doing so.” (Chapter 1: “White, Female, and Born in Bensonhurst,” p. 17)

(No computer? What more proof do you want that it is a “Mafia front”? De Marco Torgovnick must be sure this is enough, for she cited NOTHING else to substantiate the charge.)

Why go on? These were culled from the first few pages. Remarks that reek with insensitivity to Italian Americans abound throughout the book.

Oddly (or not so oddly, perhaps) she is extremely sensitive to slights and slurs of women, Jews, African Americans and others, but despite being the victim of anti-Italian bigotry — her account of why she did not get tenure at an unnamed New England college is a lesson in how prevalent Italophobia still is in America — she does not have a real understanding of its virulence (or the antidote: knowledge of her heritage).

When De Marco Torgovnick’s Jewish mother-in-law is forced to live in a non-Jewish area, she aches for the woman because “she is away from home and out of culture.” Too bad she

has never felt a similar pain for herself.

Her chapter on *The Godfather* (the Puzo book, not the films) is the most painful chapter of all, from the perspective of Italian American dignity. Calling it “the world’s most typical novel,” she goes on to laud it for a slew of literary qualities. But no mention is made of the enormous calumny Puzo committed by

**The saddest part is that she doesn’t have a clue about her own cultural ignorance. She seems to think loyalty to her parents and a residual taste for Italian cuisine is enough to make her an informed Italian-American.**

extending the Big Lie about Italian Americans. One wonders if she could write about the literary qualities of *Mein Kampf* without mentioning its anti-Semitism. She has done as much here.

The saddest part is that she doesn’t have a clue about her own cultural ignorance. She seems to think loyalty to her parents (condescending though it may be) and a residual taste for Italian cuisine is enough to make her an informed Italian

American. Far too many Italian Americans share her cultural ignorance, but for a person of her intellectual abilities there is no excuse. Why has she not sought out knowledge about her own people, as she has done for so many other groups? She apparently thinks she knows all, intuitively, but she does not.

She writes mockingly about the lack of an Italian American literary tradition. But from the books she cites, it is clear she has read very few Italian American writers.

There is no denying that Italian Americans have been marginalized by the literary and educational establishments, as she notes. But we have had writers. An English professor who claims to be an “Italian American daughter” should have read — and in a work like this should have cited — writers like Pagano, Schiavo, di Donato and many, many more. Did she ever hear of Rose Basile Green’s monumental study, “The Italian American Novel?” I doubt it.

Alas! Like Gay Talese, whose immature Italian American consciousness was shown to be developing in *Unto the Sons*, the best that can be said for De Marco Torgovnick is that if she does her homework, she may someday produce a book that won’t cause Italian-Americans to wince.

*Crossing Ocean Parkway* is not it.  
- BOB MASULLO

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