

A woman in Italian military camouflage is kneeling on a grassy field, aiming a rifle. She is wearing a helmet and a jacket with an Italian flag patch. In the background, another soldier in similar camouflage is visible, standing and looking towards the camera. The scene is set outdoors with a blurred background of trees and a building.

# THE Italic Way

XXVI 2001

The magazine of the Italic Studies Institute

**Not Your  
Grandfather's Italy:  
Change Overtakes the Peninsula**

**In this Issue:  
Pecora the Giant-Killer  
Aqueducts  
An Italian-American  
Cowboy  
Lady Power, Part 1  
Book Review: Pontius Pilate**



# **ILLITE ELECTRIC**

353 WEST 48TH ST. NEW YORK, NY 10036

PHONE: 212. 262. 9488

- **Switchgear and Power Generator Installation**
  - Main Riser and Power Distribution
  - Mechanical Equipment Wiring
  - Control Wiring
- **Electrical Alterations and Renovations**
  - Electrical Maintenance
  - Lighting Maintenance

24 hours a day, 7 days a week including holidays  
Emergency Toll Free: 800. 865. 8655

[www.illite.com](http://www.illite.com)

Contact Info: [dcvg@illite.com](mailto:dcvg@illite.com)





# The Italic Way

## Contents

Director - Italic Way - Rosario A. Iaconis  
 Managing Editor - John L. Mancini  
 Production Manager - Rita L. Mancini  
 Feature Writers - Alfred Cardone,  
 Bill Dal Cerro, Don Fiore, Robert Masullo

*The Italic Way*™ (ISSN 1079-2619) is published by the Italic Studies Institute, Inc., PO Box 818, Floral Park, NY 11001, ©2001 by the Italic Studies Institute, Inc.. All rights reserved. *The Italic Way* is a trademark of the Italic Studies Institute. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. Subscription is free to all members of Italic Studies Institute, Inc.

Direct all inquiries to (516) 488-7400.  
 Fax: (516) 488-4889 Website: italic.org  
 email: ItalicOne@aol.com

Letters.....	1
All'Italiana.....	4
World Notes.....	6
Editorials.....	8
Forum of The People.....	9
Pontius Pilate.....	11
Focus: "Not Your Grandfather's Italy".....	12
Lady Power.....	17
Naples in Revolt.....	19
Roman Aqueducts.....	21
Italian American Cowboy.....	23
Ferdinand Pecora.....	24

## Letters

### Correction

In issue XXX, "Deep Roots in America", we stated that Morro Castle was in Cuba. Actually, it is in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The fortification was designed and built by Italian engineer Battista Antonelli around 1589.  
*(pictured right)*

### LETTERS

To the Editor (*NY Times*, July 28, 2000):

Re: "A Big Crowd That Aspires to Be a Mob" about a casting call for those interested in auditioning for parts in the TV series *The Sopranos*:

Glorifying a fictitious family of gangsters is puerile enough. But actively taking part in the dissemination of a stereotype adds insult to bigotry. Such a display of ethnic derision by "young cigar-chomping men in muscle T-shirts and women with tall hairdos and spiked heels" only encourages those who profit most from anti-Italian intolerance.

Tony Soprano is the polar opposite of a traditional *paterfamilias*. Indeed, this caricature evinces not a scintilla of the no-nonsense humanism that has been the hallmark of the Italian father since the days of Caesar Augustus.

Rosario Iaconis  
 Director, Italic Studies Institute.

To the Editor (*NY Times Magazine*, June 25, 2000):

In his article (*The Way We Live Now*, June 18th), Stephen S. Hall decried America's slide into Italian-style politics. While it is custom-



ary among the Anglo-Saxon intelligentsia to sneer at the "operatic parade of dysfunctional Italian governments," there is no greater comedy of errors than the soap opera known as the American political process. America is a nation where barely 30 percent of the electorate bothers to vote on Election Day and where a governing class boasts a wrestler turned governor and a carpetbagging first lady as a senatorial hopeful.

Rosario Iaconis  
 Director, Italic Studies Institute.

*(Ed.: The ludicrous events of the 2000 election and the Clinton pardon scandals of 2001 have proven Iaconis to be not only an astute political observer but a clairvoyant as well.)*

Dear Editor:

Re: Anti-defamation

You guys are doing a great job with the meager resources you have at hand. We have a far better reputation as geniuses in "organizing crime" but not one in organizing against bigotry.

Walter Santi  
 Bloomingdale, IL





## Letters

Dear Editor:

Re: "Deep Roots in America" (Issue XXX)

Italian thought and mores contributed significantly to America's focus on the individual. The thoughts of Filippo Mazzei and Cesare Beccaria, with their emphasis on the individual, were influential during our revolution. In addition, the Italian immigrant brought a unique and fierce loyalty to the principles of family and private property.

We must remain loyal to our American heritage and faithful to the unique Italian contribution to the American philosophy.

Emily Cremezzani Kobos  
Poughkeepsie, NY

Dear Editor:

Issue XXX was another great one. I look forward to each new issue.

You can add the following facts to the "Deep Roots in America" article: In 1624 thirty-four families from Holland came to Albany, NY. Among them these Italian names appear: Rachel DeGarno, Rosina Fero, Agnate DeGarno, Catalyn Trico, and Anna Rosina. Trico was an Italian born in Paris and in 1625 gave birth to the first white child in New York State, her name was Sara Rapelja. These Italians were Waldensi, a pre-Reformation denomination. In 1601, the Duke of Savoy drove 500 of these families into exile, some going to Holland.

Prof./Cav. Philip J. DiNovo  
President, American Italian Heritage Assoc.  
Albany, NY

Dear Editor:

The latest issue, as usual, was beautifully written. The organizational positions are as strong and upfront as ever, and I agree with just about every point of view.

Vincent Romano  
Monroe Twp, NJ

Dear Editor:

After reading your article, "Deep Roots in America", I wish to note that my Italian side came to these shores during colonial times. Our immigrant ancestor, John Thomas Longino, had five sons, at least one served in the American Revolution. A later descendent, Dr. Thomas Dick Longino, served in General Joe Wheeler's Confederate Army in 1864-65. After he became a medical doctor he served on the Atlanta City Council for seven years and established the Health Dept in that city.

Camille Longino  
Chicago, IL

Dear Editor:

Re: Editorial in issue XXX

I have finally arrived at an opinion on *The Sopranos*. The show presents more negatives than positives. David Chase, the creator, as well as the other negative artists like Coppola, Scorsese, and Puzo went looking for only negative themes. Why did they go one way and not the other in their storytelling? We all know the answer. They are prostitutes!

Our history is so overwhelming and powerful. How did they miss the point? How can our enormous contributions be overshadowed by their negative movies?

Joe Diorio  
Hot Springs, AR

## Tidbits

### EDUCATIONALLY CHALLENGED

Some early 20th Century education reports by the Federal government came to light recently as some folks wanted to compare today's Asian and Hispanic immigrants with yesteryear's European masses. Be careful jumping to conclusions:



Italian immigrant children graduated to high school at half the rate of non-immigrant white children (for example if 80% of native whites went on to high school only 40% of Italian kids did) It got worse. By the end of the 1920's only 25% of Italian students that made it to high school eventually graduated. A 1909 study found that twice as many Italian elementary students were left back than non-immigrant whites. A 1919 report on IQ scores revealed that the median for Italian 10 year olds was 84 compared to 109 for native whites.

Explaining life behind these statistics will make them more meaningful. For example, Italian poverty was unquestionably a major cause of the higher drop-out rates. Families desperately needed child labor to raise the family income. Deaths of wage earners and desertions by fathers were not uncommon among Italian immigrants, which further demanded that children leave school or divide their time. Of course, there was no safety net as today so school was a luxury, and IQ tests can be culturally biased. Also remember that Italian parents had little or no education themselves to assist their children in homework or to relate to school officials and teachers. As for IQ, that same study revealed that native whites with unskilled working parents had IQ tests nearly identical to the Italian children. And just to put things into perspective: a 1911 study found that about half the Jewish children throughout the country were left back that year!



Jennifer Capriati

### FEMALE ATHLETES

A visitor to our website asked us to name some Italian-American females who had won Olympic medals. Here is what we came up with: Donna de Varona (swimming 1964) Linda Fratianne (skating 1980), Mary Lou Retton (gymnastics 1984) Non-Olympic champs include Jennifer Capriati (tennis), Donna Caponi Young (golf), Millie Martorella (bowling)

Got any more? Contact us at [ItalicOne@aol.com](mailto:ItalicOne@aol.com).



## YEAR ONE A.D.

*U.S. News & World Report* (1/8/01) did a feature written by a Lewis Lord on the First Century A.D. The cover blurb read: "2,000 years ago, life under Roman rule was bleak and brutal, setting the stage for Christianity". To continue that simplistic line of observation we could add: ...setting the stage for medieval intolerance and the Dark Ages. And the centuries before the Roman Empire weren't much more progressive, especially in the ancestral bogs of the U.S. News writer.

## FOLLOW UPS

### ALL THAT JAZZ

You may recall that we did a two-parter on Italians in Jazz which we forwarded to filmmaker Ken Burns who was working on a PBS special about Jazz. Although Burns did mention Italians in the development of Dixieland Jazz he slanted their contribution as adversaries to black jazz artists. The co-author of our article, Bill Dal Cerro, was more than piqued. Bill notes that the first integrated jazz band was formed in Chicago in 1937 by Marty Marsala.

### SOPRANOS AUDITION

Last summer the much-revered *New York Times* sent one of its correspondents to participate and report on a cast call for the HBO series *The Sopranos*. Fourteen thousand budding actors descended on the New Jersey site and police had to be called in to control the crowd. The story by the participant/reporter appeared on the *New York Times* front page that Sunday. When our staff wrote to the reporter questioning the appropriateness of participating in the news, especially in light of the controversial nature of the series, he exploded. He mailed ISI a three page letter essentially telling us to get lost. Here are some excerpts:

"As an Italian-American filled with enough pride to warrant a salute from the Italian flag itself, I'm having major trouble trying to understand the true function of the Italic Studies Institute. Your critique and overall concerns regarding *The Sopranos* story have me a bit saddened and much more befuddled.

"Taking your letter apart thought by thought, how exactly was my journalistic objectivity blurred by my story? If 14,000 people show up at an event, any event, isn't that newsworthy enough to include in the paper of record?

"And even though the piece was written in whimsical tones, did I not accurately report the facts? Were my conversations with some of the people there completely made up? The fact remains that there were indeed cigar-chomping men and women with tall hair and short skirts on hand. And there was a reason for that. It was a casting call for a television show about a mafia family, and all those people were trying to



Our Chicago rep, Bill Dal Cerro, points out some negative vocabulary.

do - myself included - was have a little fun while entertaining a near impossible dream - to get a bit part on a hugely successful and entertaining show. It's as *simple as that*. Case closed....

...pass these words of advice along to your own colleagues: get a grip on reality. Your Institute fans the flames of ethnic-smearing, instead of extinguishing them, by overreacting to something as harmless as *The Sopranos* story I wrote for the *[NY] Times*. Whenever you react the way you did to a story like mine, or a TV show *The Sopranos*, you are helping perpetuate a stereotype by placing a magnifying glass over a non-issue and turning it into something much larger for all the world to see, and in the end, we are left with Italian-Americans squaring off against Italian-Americans, just like your Institute and myself have squared off over this non-issue...Fuggedaboutit." - Vincent Millozzi

[Ed. This is the man that the *NY Times* chose to write a front-page story about an audition for "Italian-looking" people to star in a national series featuring a family of murderers, thieves and degenerates. Is this institutionalized stereotyping or yellow journalism? Either way, like the man says...this is reality.]

### FORBIDDEN ITALY

A story appeared in the August 13, 2000 issue of the *New York Times* reporting that Italian museum officials were exhibiting pornographic artwork from ancient Pompeii. *The Italic Way* can proudly say that we did a cover story on this very subject in issue XV back in 1992. Reprints are available through our office.



Some of the estimated 14,000 dreamers who showed up for a New Jersey audition for *The Sopranos*. Egged on by smarmy PR hacks and shock jock radio man Howard Stern, the nation was solicited for "Italian-looking people" to play bit parts in the hit cable show.





# All'italiana

## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

• Master stone carver at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, **Vincent Palumbo** died at age 64. One of many Italic craftsmen recruited for the century old project, Palumbo produced the bust of Martin Luther King, among other works.

• Award-winning TV director **Al DeCaprio**, whose work included *Sgt. Bilko*, *Car 54*, *Where Are You?*, and *The Miss America Pageant* died at age 83. (Mr. DeCaprio was a founding advisor to the Italic Studies Institute)

• **Lou Groza**, 76, famed place-kicker for the Cleveland Browns, was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1974. He still holds the Browns record of 1,608 game points.

• **George Musso**, 90, lineman for the Chicago Bears, was team captain from 1936 to 1944 and inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1982. He agreed to play for \$45 per game, at one time, just to be a Bear. During his college days he played against Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford, future U.S. presidents.

• **Leo Nomellini**, 76, Italian-born Hall of Famer and player for the San Francisco 49ers, weighed 264 pounds and stood 6'3" tall. His career spanned 14 seasons and 174 consecutive games. Known as the Lion from his college days, Nomellini became a legend in 1955 when he burst a muscle-testing machine during a trial run.

• The construction manager for the World Trade Center in New York City, **Rino Monti** died at the age of 71. An employee of the Port Authority of NY and NJ for 40 years, Monti's greatest project was the Twin Towers where he oversaw 200 contractors, 500 subcontractors and numerous suppliers. The project consumed 400 pounds of steel, 425,000 cubic yards of concrete and utilized 3,500 workers.



Rino Monti, construction manager extraordinaire

• Former U.S.

Senator **John Pastore** of Rhode Island, 93, was the first Italian-American elected as a senator and the first elected governor (New York's Charles Poletti succeeded to a governorship in 1942) from 1945-1950. The highlights of Pastore's career included keynote speaker at the Democratic Convention of 1964, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy that provided backing for the treaty banning atmospheric testing, and his role in passing the 1964 Civil Rights Act. He was under consideration for Lyndon Johnson's vice president when the Joe Valachi (*Cosa Nostra*) Hearings in Congress cast a shadow on Italian-Americans in general.



• **Dr. Anthony Raimondi**, 71, the neurosurgery pioneer who taught two-thirds of the most prominent neurosurgeons in the world. Knighted by the Italian Republic in 1980.

• **Dr. Rene Favaloro**, the Argentine heart surgeon who pioneered the coronary by-pass technique using a vein from the patient's leg, that is the basis for millions of heart surgeries each year, died at age 77. Favaloro first performed the operation in 1967 on a 51 year old woman at the Cleveland Clinic. He abandoned a lucrative medical career in the United States to establish a heart surgery foundation for the poor in South America.

• **Ugo Fano**, 88, Italian atomic scientist who studied under Enrico Fermi. Fano pioneered the study of the effects of radiation X-rays and ultraviolet on biological cells. In the same field, (Harald Rossi, 82, the Austrian-born radiation oncologist designed many instruments in radiation measurement including the Rossi Counter to gauge contamination in microscopic sites like cells.) Fano's international papers have had a profound effect on the use and safety levels of radiator in medical and industry.

• **Dr. Cesare Maltoni**, 70, studied cancer risks in the workplace and campaigned for stricter health & safety codes throughout the world. His investigations into benzene and vinyl chloride have made factories and workplaces safer. He cofounded the Collegium Ramazzini, based in Italy, for the study and prevention of workplace hazards. It was named after the 17th Century Italian physician who pioneered safety in the workplace with his book *Diseases in Workers* published in 1700.

• **Candida Donadio**, 71, the literary agent who sold such manuscripts as *Catch 22* and *Goodbye Columbus*. When she marketed the book in October, 1957. It was her suggestion that changed the name of Joseph Heller's book from *Catch 18* to *Catch 22* which was her birthday that month.

• **Frank Toscani**, the real hero of the book and movie *Bell for Adano*, died at age 89. The 1945 book by John Hersey retold the true story of Major Toscani who restored the church bell in the American-occupied Sicilian town of Licata. In the movie version, Toscani was played by actor John Hodiak as Major Joppolo. Unfortunately, Hersey had given Joppolo a love interest in Adano which caused complications in

Toscani's married life resulting in a lawsuit against the novelist. The suit was resolved amicably when Hersey agreed to give all the profits to the American Red Cross.

• **Luiz Bonfá**, 78, composer, guitarist and a creator of the Brazilian Bossa Nova along with Antonio Carlos Jobim and Joao Gilberto.

• **Jose Greco**, 82, Italian-born and part Spanish, introduced Spanish dancing to a world audience. He died of an infection from injuries caused by a scuffle with Amtrak Police.



Flamenco master Jose Greco



• **Michael Mortara**, 51, a partner in Goldman Sachs, was instrumental in founding the market for mortgage-backed securities in the 1970's and 1980's along with Lewis Rangieri. The concept of bundling mortgages and selling them to different investors help expand the mortgages by spreading the risk. The idea has spread to loans, and credit cards debts.

### WORLD TRAVEL BY FOOT

An Italian historian has now documented evidence that the world's first global traveler was a Calabrian fellow named Giovanni Gemelli Careri from 1693 to 1698. Traveling by land and sea from Italy eastward to Cuba this adventurer had been dismissed as a braggart until now.

### BRAINY LADY

Seventeen year old Mariangela Lisanti of Westport, Connecticut, won 1st prize in this year's Intel Science Talent Search. Mariangela won the national trophy and \$100,000 toward her college education last March with her study of electron transport in tiny nanostructures. Her investment in equipment was \$35. Her work may contribute to the further miniaturization of electronics. Mariangela fits an old Italic stereotype: the creative genius.



Inventor Mariangela Lisanti

### STRINGS ATTACHED

Sixteen investors have raised \$3.5 million to own a 1735 violin made by Italian master Giuseppe Guarneri, one of 100 known to exist. By comparison there are 700 Stradivari around. The investment group expects the violin to appreciate 5.5% per year and is planning to flip it in 25 years for \$10 million after taxes. The violin is now leased to a virtuoso who agrees to play it regularly and pay for maintenance and insurance. This is art for business' sake.

### VENICE AND DEATH

Most normal people associate the city on the sea with beauty and vitality. But some Italian psychologists are convinced that many suicidal people see it as a siren of death. Calling it the "Venice Syndrome," Venetian psychologist Dr. Diana Stainer found that Britons, Germans, Frenchmen, Spaniards, and Americans have a weakness for suicide in Venice. Maybe it's the water which recalls the ambiotic fluid

of the womb, or the historical importance that generates psychic disturbances, or the black gondolas that look like floating coffins that set off the desire to end it all. No mention was made about Italian suicides. Maybe they respond to the old saw, "See Naples and die".

### FASCIST VOGUE?

The architectural community was aroused recently when the Italian government revealed plans to sell off Mussolini's creation in the outskirts of Rome known as *Foro Italico* (Italic Forum), a planned civic center that includes an Olympic stadium and government buildings. Comments in defense of retaining the *Foro* for public use range from Prof. Giorgio Muratore who claims that politics controlled negative aesthetic judgments. Instead of saying, as before, that it was ugly and Fascist, young architects say that it is Fascist but beautiful.



A distant relative to the Watergate Complex

A *New York Times* article quoted a 20 year old political science student at the University of Rome as saying, "It's beautiful, imposing, it's majestic." Another student was quoted as saying, "[everything now] is glass office towers, but this is closer to our roots. It's classical, but with a modern feel." [Note: The Fascist architect who originally worked on *Foro Italico*, Luigi Moretti, later designed Washington's Watergate Complex.]

### RESEARCH TIMES FOUR

Imagine a parent's pride if one or two of their children became doctors. What about if four of them are doctors involved in research that may cure paralysis? The Vacanti medical family is just that. Charles, Robert, Francis and Martin are all members of different teams searching for solutions to tissue growth and regeneration. Charles and Martin, at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, have already had spectacular success in regenerating the spinal cord of a crippled mouse that now can walk. Meanwhile, at Harvard Medical School, brother Joseph is growing a human heart. While being on different teams usually means keeping secrets, these brothers are sharing their ideas which is what they say accounts for their exceptional progress.







# WORLD NOTES

## OLYMPIC TALLY

As always, Italy placed in the top ten in the world-class athletic events at Sidney, Australia, in 2000. With a total medal count of 34, Italy was number seven in the standings, matching sixth place winner, France, with 13 gold medals. The Italian women's fencing team copped the gold to mark Italy's 100th Olympic medal in fencing. Baseball competition pit Italy against the American team led by Dodger manager Tommy Lasorda. Not surprisingly, the U.S.A. won 4-2.

## WORLD LEADERS

It is becoming more apparent that individual Italians are being entrusted with high-ranking positions in the international community.

- Former Italian premier **Romano Prodi** is President of the European Union's Executive Commission,
- Crime fighter **Pino Arlacchi** is the United Nations drug czar raising Cain both within the UN and out.
- **Carla del Ponte** is the chief prosecutor for the UN War Crimes Tribunal. She has her sights on former Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic and has bearded the butcher in his own country despite her unpopularity there.
- **Mario Monti** is the European Union's top antitrust regulator. Among his targets have been the World-Com/Sprint combo, the Time Warner-America Online merger, and the Volvo/Scania pairing. The one monopoly Monti cares to see is closer ties between the members of the European Community.
- Indian leader **Sonia Gandhi** easily won reelection as president of her Congress Party capturing all but 94 of the 7,542 votes cast.
- Sardinian businessman, **Renato Soru**, chairman of Tiscali, scored when his internet company acquired a French rival to become Europe's second largest internet provider after the German company T-Online.

## OIL IN THE FAMILY

The Italian knack for good management goes back to Imperial Italy so it shouldn't be a surprise that the nation of Kazakhstan has selected AGIP, Italy's hydrocarbon monopoly, to develop and manage it's national oil field, the fifth largest in the world with estimated reserves of 10 to 30 billion barrels. AGIP must contend with six different governments, including Russia and Turkey, to lay its pipelines. Their deadline is 2005.

## SALUTE!

So you think living in the richest country in the world guarantees your good health? Think again. The World Health Organization ranked the quality of health care around the world and found that the French and Italians have no equals. Assessing such criteria as overall health of the population, responsiveness of the national health care system, equality of health care and distribution of costs, the WHO chose France #1 and Italy #2.



A tribute to genes and Italian healthcare, 112 year old Antonio Todde.

The USA ranked #37. The problem with the United States is not in the availability of expensive surgery and medicine but the fact that preventive care is marginal and much of the population lives without health insurance. To add insult to injury, Italy spends only about half as much as the U.S. per capita for health care (\$1,824 vs. \$3,724). The average Italian even lives longer, 72.7 years versus 70 in the U.S. Italian women have the world's lowest risk of sexual and reproductive dangers (according to Population Action Int'l). Finally, the oldest man in the world is Italian, living in Sardinia at age 112, according to the *Guinness Book of Records*.

## PROFITABLE STAY

Talk about the gift that keeps giving, Britain's occupation by Imperial Italy lasted 350 years and imbued it with Graeco-Roman civilization. If that weren't enough recent finds of caches of Roman coins have thrilled modern Brits. In London, 43 gold coins, the equivalent of four year's salary of a Roman soldier, were found under a mosaic floor. Near Glastonbury in southwest England over 9,000 silver *denarii* were found in a field, probably the site of a Roman villa. The area is the legendary burial ground of King Arthur (Artorius was his actual Roman surname, yes, of Italic stock). Incidentally, under the old British money system a "pence" was abbreviated as "d" which stood for, right....*denarius!*



While we are on the subject, Museum of London archeologists believe they have uncovered the first-ever remains of a female gladiator in the old Roman cemetery. The bones were interred with gladiator-decorated ceramics and other tell-tale links to the trade. In those days female gladiators didn't fight with shaving cream and oil.

## TAKING CHARGE

Italian-Americans are taking the lead in some interesting fields. Dr Pierluigi Gambetti, a neuropathologist, heads the



Surveillance Center at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland that is charged with protecting the American public from Mad Cow disease. The center receives certain diseased human brain samples from autopsies around the country. Dr. Gambetti's staff must then determine any possible link to Mad Cow. There have been 92 known deaths in Europe from *Mucca Pazza*. None, thus far, in the U.S.

The Middle East may be a confusing issue to most Americans but Bishop **Joseph A. Fiorenza**, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, has reached an opinion. Under his leadership, the Conference recently called for the establishment of a Palestinian state and an end to anti-Semitism in America.

The country has a new Italian-American governor. **Donald DiFrancesco** succeeded Gov. Christie Whitman of New Jersey as Whitman heads to Washington to work for the Bush Administration. DiFrancesco is the second Italic governor of the state, James Florio being the first. However, he is the only governor in the nation with an Italian surname since Gov. Paul Cellucci of Massachusetts resigned recently to become ambassador to Canada. Governor George Pataki of New York is part Italian but his surname is Hungarian.



Dr. Pierluigi Gambetti on guard for Mad Cow in the USA

#### SPEAKING OUT

Italian Cardinal Giacomo Biffi made headlines when he publicly suggested that Italian immigration laws should favor Roman Catholic immigrants over Muslims, pointedly observing that Muslim notions of family and the status of women are "incompatible with Italian culture." He was immediately denounced as a racist by the Italian political left. Notwithstanding, center-right leaders considered the Cardinal's concerns "worthy of attention." (Point of information: Rome presently has the largest mosque in Europe while there are no Christian churches in Mecca or Medina.)

An Italian couple has been rebuffed by both the Italian medical establishment and the courts in their efforts to hire a surrogate mother. "Common sense prevailed" was the comment from the president of the Italian Medical Association. The couple has left the country for America where seven states allow surrogate parenthood. In Western Europe, only England allows it.

#### SPACE NEWS

Last September, the space shuttle Atlantis crew included Italian-American Richard Mastroacchio. The mission was to complete final preparations of the living quarters of the International Space Station. The Italian Space Agency has provided a \$150 million cargo carrier, named Leonardo, for the station that transports crewmen and supplies from the station to the shuttle.

Space's first tourist is Italian-American businessman Dennis

Tito. The 60-year-old former NASA employee has this thing for space travel. He paid the Russians \$20 million to beam him aboard the Mir Space Station. But before the deal was consummated the Mir was pulled out of service and replaced by the International Space Station. To keep their end of the bargain the Russians sent Tito up to the new jointly-owned station. Coincidentally, NASA rocketed up Italian astronaut Guidoni around the same time giving the space station an Italian ethnic plurality.

NASA wants Italy to build more modules in exchange for more free trips.

Tito the tourist is yet another Italian first. Let's not forget that Italian American Rocco Petrone managed NASA's first moon landing back in 1969.



Cosmonaut Dennis Tito savors his expensive vacation

#### IN REVERSE

A surprising number of Argentines of Italian origin are clamoring to return to the boot in light of their country's economic malaise. Last year, some 14,000 citizens requested passports from the Italian embassy to seek their fortunes in the ancestral homeland. Many feel that life was better in Argentina under military rule than the more corrupt and permissive civilian governments. Italic people make up about 40% of the Argentine population.

#### ETHNIC UNREST

While it appears that Italians have accommodated their Germanic citizens in the region of Alto Adige (a part of Roman Italy retaken in the First World War) with liberal language and cultural concessions, the French have been resistant to the Italic people of Corsica. But that may now change. Corsica, birthplace of Napoleon Buonaparte, may be given unique autonomy status from Paris, allowing it to amend French laws and teach its Italian dialect in public schools. Neither France nor Spain freely admits that their nations are beset by ethnic divisions from Basques, Brittons, and Catalans, all remnants of the pre-Roman populations. England already has its hands full with Scots, Welsh, and Irish independence movements. By contrast, Italy looks almost monolithic!

#### CRIMINAL MOSAIC

While the media distracts the public with overblown Italic criminal images, most of the country is waking up to the reality that every ethnic group is hitting the mean streets. The city of Los Angeles is beset by Hispanic, Russian, Asian, and Armenian crime syndicates, among others. Drugs, illegal immigration, insurance fraud, auto theft, murder, tax evasion, money laundering, you name it, are being perpetrated by the newcomers to the American dream. Although law enforcement officials know them for what they are, the American media rates these groups way below the Italian American for screen image.



# Editorial

## LEAVING ELLIS ISLAND

Like many others, I have experienced the rush of finding a grandparent's name on a long-forgotten ship manifest from the Ellis Island archives. I suppose I could even enroll my family name on the island's registry for a few dollars to claim this poor man's Plymouth Rock. But what is the point? Was Ellis Island the defining moment for the Italian Americans in the New World or was it merely one of many entry gates for us?

We have transformed the Atlantic passage and the beachhead at Ellis Island into a grand spiritual event. Granted, it took some degree of courage to forsake an old familiar culture to start a new life in America. And, it appears a vindication of that ancestral trek when children and grandchildren later achieved a comfortable economic status. But are we selling ourselves short by highlighting an immigrant past rather than the truer version of the Italian American story. That story was covered in our last issue, *Deep Roots in America* (n. XXX). In short, our ancestors partly financed the discovery of the Americas, led Europeans to these shores, and assisted in the building and defending of civilization here.

If our Italian grandparents were courageous in coming here one hundred years ago it is the same courage that millions of English, Germans, Irish, Scots, Jews, Poles, Asians, and Hispanics have demonstrated over the preceding centuries. Immigrants are still facing harrowing passages to participate in the American dream. What makes them so special? Nothing. Whether the other groups were escaping poverty, religious persecution, hunger, pogroms, Communism, dictatorship, or whatever, coming to America was not such an agonizing choice. But, we of Italian origin should rightfully see our transplantation here as an older and more complex immigration. Our real treasure is not Ellis Island but the very foundations of the New World and the United States. Our inspiration should be our forebears' courage and foresight in exploring this world, in the fine Italic hand behind the Constitution and the American form of government, and, eventually, in our muscle and blood in creating an enduring civilization.

This is the real stuff of our heritage. It's the mental fuel that we need to rise above the low expectations

that has given us *The Godfather* and *The Sopranos* instead of the moon.

Isn't it time to get off the beach and take the high ground?  
- JLM

## PECORA FOR THE PEOPLE

Though they claim to worship at the altar of the Muses, Hollywood's creative types are nothing more than ritual purveyors of recycled prejudices. If Hollywood had any chutzpah, however, it would mine a treasure trove of real-life heroes whose exploits changed the course of history—and bettered the lives of everyday citizens. The only hitch is that LaLa Land might have to scuttle its fixation with crude Italian stereotypes. One such champion of the people who would be ideal for the silver screen (or cable TV) is Ferdinand Pecora. (*read history on p.24*)

Picture a Vincent Bugliosi-like prosecutor bringing Wall Street's smarmy white-collar criminals to justice during the early days of the New Deal. Possessed of a rapier-sharp mind and indefatigable integrity, Pecora fights for truth, justice and the American way—and wins. Furthermore, he takes on the likes of J.P. Morgan Jr., Herbert Hoover, Calvin Coolidge and assorted robber barons and pols who prospered as the stock market crumbled and the banking system collapsed.

Riveting courtroom confrontations would feature Pecora's dissection of the pompous and the corrupt. And these scenes would need no theatrical embellishment. You see, in his time, Ferdinand Pecora was the living embodiment of all that is good about America. His crusade against organized malfeasance in business led to the Security and Exchange Act of 1934. Pecora did not suffer corporate fools gladly. He just prosecuted them.

Suspend disbelief for just one moment and imagine Stanley Tucci ascending the stage of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion to accept an Oscar for his portrayal of this intrepid Italian American.

What a sea change that would be.

-RAI

"Call for our free gift catalog 516-488-7400"

• • •  
"Visit our Website"  
[www.italic.org](http://www.italic.org)



# Forum of the People



## THE TROUBLE WITH RUDY

By Louis Cornaro

Those of you who inhabit the hinterlands beyond the Metro New York area may find it surprising that a goodly number of Italian Americans here have an uneasy relationship with the "Italian" mayor of this city. It is as though Mayor Rudy doesn't trust us. He rarely, if ever, attends any of our ethnic functions (even when being honored, which is rare now), except maybe when a political crony is involved. Making matters worse, he is a very vocal fan of *The Sopranos*, which annoys us no end, as does his incessant mimicking of the *Godfather* characters on national television. He has even had the cast of *The Sopranos* come to City Hall for an award, and he let them ride on victory floats when the Yankees copped the series (I suppose it was to cheer them up after the Columbus Citizens Foundation banned them from the Columbus Day Parade).

His term as mayor was no boon to Italian Americans. I would guess that the number of his co-ethnics in his administration is probably less than in past administrations. His admiration and concern for the Jewish community borders on pandering. He once chased Yasir Arafat out of Lincoln



Crazy legs Giuliani shaved for the occasion

Center, which places him politically to the right of most American Jews. He flies to Jerusalem to show his solidarity but rarely drives over a bridge to see his Italian-American constituents.

His relations with minorities is abominable. He makes Slobodan Milosevic look like a civil rights advocate. The fact that Harlem and the other ethnic enclaves are now prospering has more to do with the national economy than Giuliani's largesse. The same is probably true of the decline in crime, the corporate and real estate boom, and the employment rise. Rudy's major thrusts have been to build a new sports stadium in Manhattan, where

one wants it, attacking museum exhibits, and going after Italian American criminals. Meanwhile, the building department is almost an appendage of crooked Hasidic builders. The water system is in disarray. Garbage disposal costs are through the roof. The homeless are still that way. Education is in the pits. The truth is, Rudy's talent is in prosecuting, not city planning. If the city looks cleaner it's because building owners have taxed themselves to put private sweepers on their avenues.

Unfortunately, Rudy's obsession with Ital-crime leaves

him little time to go after the Russian *mafia* which is contaminating Wall Street, the Israeli mob that is dumping Ecstasy on our kids, the Asian slave and heroine trade, the Hispanic cocaine gangs, Hasidic con artists who use the city coffers as their personal school voucher system, and the Korean massage and brothel chains. Instead, he has unleashed his law officers on the San Gennaro Feast, the Fulton Fish Market, the trash industry, the Italian bread industry, and anywhere else he smells a *paisan*. It all looks heroic and makes great headlines in the accommodating press.

If I were a shrink I would guess that his disdain and distrust of Italian Americans dates back to his own crime fam-



Her Honor, Mayor Ruby

ily antics. It was recently revealed that Hizzoner's father and uncle "were sent up the river." Who wants to do a Harold Giuliani imitation for the national media?

But what about his Italian values? Ask his wife Donna Hanover. He was once married to his own cousin, southern style - and we don't mean the south of Italy. He claims he didn't know he needed a Church dispensation to keep it in the family, and this from a lawyer no less! Well, he dumps the cousin and marries Donna. Two kids later and he's dating another woman. When discovered by the press he publicly announces his divorce, before he lets Donna know. This is the nice guy who takes offense to distasteful artwork.

If this weren't enough, the Mayor is a compulsive cross-dresser. Now, maybe once we can forgive but three or four times? What is with this guy? He even shaved his legs for a Rockerte show. To bundle all his hang-ups, the show was a takeoff on the Italian mob.

Because of term limits, Rudy is finished as mayor at the end of the year. Whether he has aspirations in Albany or Washington we do not know. Either way, we can be sure that he will be of no assistance to Italian Americans. And he sure ain't no role model for our kids.

[Ed. The author's views do not reflect those of the Italic Studies Institute nor The Italic Way Magazine.]

*If he has aspirations...we can be sure that he will be of no assistance to Italian Americans.*



# Concepts At Work

## FIRSTTECH

### PC Internal & External Cleaning



### Acrylic Products



### SERVICES:

- \* Sub-Floor Cleaning & Sealing
- \* Switch Room Cleaning
- \* Internal & External Hardware Cleaning
- \* Access Floor Surface Cleaning
- \* Data Center Design & Build
- \* 24 hour Emergency Response Service
- \* Telephone Cleaning & Disinfecting
- \* Raised Access Floors Sales & service
- \* Harmonic and Load Testing
- \* Infrared Scanning

### PRODUCTS:

- \* Protective Acrylic Covers
- \* Water Emergency Kit
- \* Leak Detection Systems
- \* Floor Lifter Tools
- \* HEPA Air Filtration Units

### Computer Center Cleaning



### Raised Floor Accessories

#### Floor Lift-A-Lock Box



#### Floor Lift-A-Bracket



For Information Call

(732) 566 -1001

#### FirstTech Plaza

Two Industrial Dr. Cliffwood Beach, NJ 07735-6157

e-mail: [general@FirstTech-corp.com](mailto:general@FirstTech-corp.com) 732/566 1001 Fax 732/566 1333



## Pontius Pilate

Ann Wroe, (*Modern Library*, 1999, 412 pages)

"Tiberius, most venerated Emperor of Rome and Supreme Lawgiver, I, Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judaea, send thee encomiums and greetings. In matters of governance, I bring to thy attention a case of sedition that has muddied the political waters in this dusty province: the trial of an itinerant preacher, Jesus of Nazareth, who proclaimed himself to be the son of a deity. Some called him the Christ, a Greek affectation, while others reviled him as a magician and a blasphemer. According to their ancient Hebrew text, a bible of sorts, a 'messiah,' is prophesied to appear in their midst. But the rabbis of Jerusalem did not think this Jesus came in fulfillment of their scripture. He is said to have performed miracles, cured the infirm, even raised the dead. Lepers were cleansed and blind men could see. Yet the Jews opposed him for desecrating their sabbath with such parlor tricks. Perhaps other Jewish priests resented this self-anointed rabbi. Perhaps they feared outright rebellion against Rome. As his prominence grew, so did unrest throughout Judaea.

When they brought him before me, I requested that the matter be adjudicated according to the law of the Jews. Such is the wisdom of Tiberius and the magnanimity of Rome. Still, Herod and all the rest would have none of it. They claimed this bedraggled Nazarene posed a threat to the security of the province. They said he plotted against our *pax et imperium*. They beseeched me to try him as an enemy of the state,

As you know, my lord, the whole of Judea, indeed, this entire swath of earth, is a hotbed of rebellion. It is in the nature of these semites to court anarchy. Fanaticism is in their blood. They stone their unfaithful women, mutilate their men's genitalia and imbibe locusts in the desert. And they share none of our rationalism. In truth, they are a most vexing race. Gratus before me and Lamia, legate of Syria, would surely agree.

When they brought this Jesus of Nazareth to my palace a second time, I found him blameless. True, he espoused a kingdom, but it was not of this plane of existence. It posed no threat to Imperial Rome. His god is a local tribal deity no different than Gilgamesh. This 'messiah' was merely delusional. Christ believed himself to be both god and man, father and son. And this "kingdom of god" was simply a product of his fevered imagination—not a cabal of seditionists. Yet the Jews persisted in their rants. The air was thick with rebellion, a contagion that could spread from Caesaria to Tiberias to Jerusalem. I had to resolve this matter in the most expeditious and forthright manner. Accordingly, I opened a court of inquiry. Jesus the Christ was found culpable. Yet I offered clemency to one of three prisoners charged that day, hoping the Nazarene would be spared. Rather than freeing Jesus, however, the Jews chose a

common thief by the name of Barabbas.

Having done my part I washed my hands of this man's fate. He was crucified forthwith by the Italian regiment."

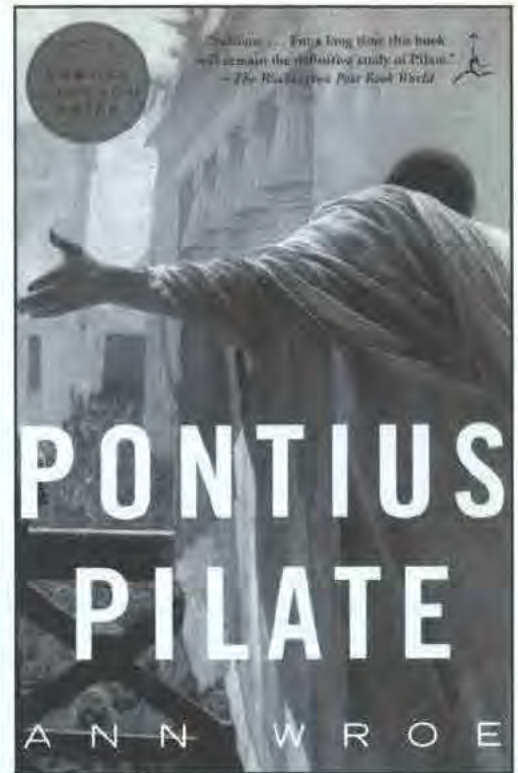
One can almost imagine the Emperor Tiberius, in his villa on the blissful isle of Capri, arching an eyebrow as he read Pilate's account. He might have

viewed this missive as a minor annoyance about a fractious people in a far-flung province. Or it could have triggered his legendary fury. Judaea had always been a troublesome realm.

Is the letter apochryphal? Perhaps. Yet the very name Pontius Pilate conjures up so many images. What is fact, what is fiction and what is early Christian cant remains open to conjecture. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Jesus Christ suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried." But did he rise again to walk among the living? Did he ascend into heaven? Ann Wroe addresses this prickly topic briefly, but devotes the bulk of her book to a day in the life of history's most famous procurator.

The Pilate of fact, not fable, succeeded Valerius Gratus as governor of Judaea. He governed the province from 26 to 36 A.D., which, included, of course, the date of Christ's crucifixion. He built an aqueduct to ferry much-needed water to the parched province of Judaea, and to make amends, perhaps, for a heavy-handed attempt at colonial rule. In adorning Jerusalem with aniconic shields bearing the Emperor's visage, Pilate erred. Though they found the Jews querulous, the Romans allowed them greater self-rule than any other part of the Empire. You might say that Judaea enjoyed the greatest autonomy in the Middle East. The shields and other icons extolling Tiberius rankled the children of Abraham. Pilate, in all his haughtiness, had flaunted Roman power carelessly, wasting precious political capital. In the end, complaints

(continued on p. 16)





## Focus:

# Not Your Grandfather's Italy

by John Mancini and Rosario A. Iaconis

For most Italian Americans, Italy is a collection of quaint villages from whence their grandparents or great grandparents fled to seek a better life. Unless they have visited their ancestral land or read the few periodicals that present Italy in a balanced light there still remains the lingering image of a poor agricultural country that is reinforced by television commercials and Italian movies like "Cinema Paradiso" and "Life is Beautiful." True, those hilltop villages still exist as they have for a thousand years, but within them can be found all the modern appliances and gadgets that we are all familiar with.

While the mind is fixed on a picturesque Italy, the heart embraces the Italy of stout virtues: strong extended families, oldtime morality overseen by strong mothers and fathers, a Catholic nation united in one faith and a people who often stop to enjoy life.

In short, this was your grandfather's Italy. But it bears little resemblance to 2001. Some momentous changes have occurred that are transforming Italy into a very untraditional place. What has happened in the United States is happening in Italy and Europe. The global economy with its heavy influx of Third World immigrants along with radical social phenomena, women's liberation and gay rights have made their marks on Italian society. Some 2% of the Italian population is foreign. Rome now has a mosque. Women are being accepted into the military. Marriage is now optional and having children is out of fashion.

A recent segment on the television news program *60 Minutes* featured a rather new phenomenon in Italian society: men who are remaining single and still living with

their parents. Known by the not-too-flattering label of *mammoni*, or momma's boys, these grown men, well into their 40's in some cases, have contributed to a very dismal statistic, the zero birthrate. Essentially, Italians are becoming extinct at a rapid rate. The old taboos against birth control, abortion, and bachelorhood have fallen by the wayside causing the native population to stagnate. Where once Augustus penalized unmarried men with



Milan has replaced Paris as fashion capital



The new Italy is animal-friendly. Animals rights is a sure sign of a wealthy nation.

extra taxes to force up the Roman birthrate, the Italian men are passively encouraged to delay or avoid fatherhood by government taxation policies and by the very family structure that has made the nation great. Mamas still dote on their free-spirited sons, cleaning their childhood bedrooms, cook-



A traditional view of the "old" country

ing their favorite meals, doing their laundry and running their errands. The boy-men, so treated, have all their domestic needs fulfilled at little or no charge while they carry on their dating without commitment. The resulting decline in children is now being offset by an influx of immigrants.

These immigrants, legal and illegal, hale from all continents. Consequently, racial issues which never existed before are now common. Racial hatred, xenophobia, and interracial coupling are transforming some parts of Italy into tinderboxes of violence. New immigrant crime organizations have





President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi revives Italian patriotism

boatloads of illegal aliens hoping to enter Europe by way of the peninsula.

While not as dire as the crises facing France, Britain or Germany, Italy's vulnerability has resulted in waves of Kurdish, Albanian, Gypsy and African (North and Sub-Saharan) diasporas. This strains the nation's resources and has contributed to crime waves in Milan and Rome. Recently, a *New York Times* editorial excoriated the Italians for mounting a crackdown against Gypsy criminality. Both of Italy's political poles, the center-left and the center-right, have struggled to find a middle ground that respects civil liberties yet preserves the viability of the Italian nation. Virtually all the major establishment figures, from industrialists to economists to political candidates—except northern separatist Umberto Bossi—have repudiated the xenophobic reactions.

Still, Italy's negative birthrate and the depopulation of towns and villages in mountainous central and southern Italy, could dramatically alter the ethnic make-up of a people who predate Jesus Christ. Rome, the seat of universal Catholicism, has become home to thousands of Muslims. And they have erected an imposing mosque in the heart of the Eternal City. Italy's economic prosperity continues to attract many Third-World immigrants who take jobs shunned by the affluent Italians. Unlike the United States, Italy (along with France, Britain and Germany) has difficulty sustaining such a demographic influx. When you combine Italy's aging population with the increasing birth rate of Third World families and include the rising cost of pensions for an ever-growing number of senior citizens, the mix is quite volatile.

To counter the growing social liberalization and ethnic diversity, center-right parties led

sprouted in many northern Italian cities. Southern Italy is literally awash in *clandestini*,

by the National Alliance (AN) fought for years to have overseas Italians represented in the Parliament. The center-right believes that the overseas Italians have retained the strong traditional values that are endangered in the ancestral homeland. Led by stalwart AN party veteran Mirko Tremaglia, the law was finally approved late last year. Representatives of Italian origin living around the world convened for the first time in Rome last December to hear the ground rules for their eventual participation in the Italian legislative process. There are 57 million Italic people outside of Italy, as many as there are natives of the peninsula. Only those who have dual citizenship (about 4 million) or are Italians living abroad will vote for 12 Deputies in the parliament's lower house (out of 630 deputies) and 6 Senators out of



Touching scene, crushing prognosis: momma's boys are cutting Italy's birthrate

315. Only time will tell if Tremaglia's hunch is correct and just how much weight this influence will have.

*The resulting decline in children is now being offset by an influx of immigrants.*

Like most countries around the globe, Italy is trying to emulate American capitalism. The buzz words are privatization, decentralization, and globalization. The first crucial test Italy needed to pass was to gain entry into the newly formed European Union, the descendent of the old Common Market. In what amounted to a fiscal miracle, Rome reduced its onerous national debt to meet new European requirements within 18 months. Large chunks of government monopolies that dated back to the Fascist era were sold off, taxes were raised, pensions reduced, and tax cheats put through the ringer. The results were phenomenal. Despite the pain and protest, the

Italian people understood what was at stake and bit the bullet. The prime minister who oversaw this amazing transformation, Romano Prodi, so impressed his European counterparts that they elected him President of the European Commission, the executive branch of the Union.

Although you may still take a gondola ride in Venice or throw a coin in the Trevi Fountain, by the end of the year the *lira* will be replaced with the new *euro*, the uniform currency of the Union. Not since the Roman *denarius* has Europe shared the same currency. For Italians everything will seem a bargain. What was once 1,500 *lire* will now be 1 *euro*.

At times, the new Italy clashes with the old Italy. Two recent court decisions have galvanized the women's rights movement. The



Newly-elected Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is moving Italy to the right.





*With Compliments . . .*



1860 EAST TREMONT AVENUE • BRONX, NEW YORK 10460 • (718) 518-8055

SECURITY BY LAW ENFORCEMENT  
♦ PROFESSIONALS ♦  
♦ PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS ♦

*Established 1985*

NYS CERTIFIED  
SECURITY GUARD TRAINING SCHOOL  
(State Certified Instructors)

N.Y. (718) 518-8055  
CONN. (203) 357-9818  
L.I. (516) 358-0224  
NYC (212) 980-0111

*Serving Our Clients - 24 Hours a Day - 7 Days a Week*

RONALD T. BELLISTRI, CEO  
JAMES WOOD, PRESIDENT





## "Not Your Grandfather's Italy"

first offered the court's opinion that women should shun short skirts to prevent rape. This ruling brought Italian women, led by Alessandra Mussolini, into the streets sporting jeans to mock the judgement. In another ruling, the court has found one-time patting by men of a woman's bottoms not harrassment. Old customs die hard and the old guard wants to preserve its privilege. Nevertheless, women



New Deputy Prime Minister Gianfranco Fini is the most respected politician in Italy

are on the march, literally.

As part of a far-reaching realignment of the military, female soldiers will now join the ranks of Italy's armed forces, and not merely in an auxiliary capacity. Some will enter combat-ready units as our magazine cover shows (the black cock feather in her helmet identifies the soldier as a member of the *Bersaglieri*, elite Italian infantry.) Given the nation's pivotal peacekeeping role in the Balkans, Africa and throughout the globe, the implications of a feminist fighting force will be hotly debated for years to come.

Speaking of the military,

the new Italy is scheduled to eliminate the 200-year old conscription by the year 2005.

The one structural defect of the old Italy that continues to defy improvement is Italy's constitution, that convoluted reaction to Fascism. Plagued by electoral laws that allow minor parties to cause major disruptions in political coalitions, any Italian government runs the risk of falling precipitously. Giuliano Amato's technocratic reign ended, for all intents and purposes, just last March when President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi dissolved Parliament. The general election, held on May 13, made media magnate Silvio Berlusconi the new prime minister. Berlusconi has vowed to reform the destabilizing political system and to make Italy more efficient with a smaller bureaucracy and lower income taxes.

One of the least desirable reforms being sought by one of Berlusconi's triumvirate, Umberto Bossi, is regional autonomy. Interestingly, the third partner, Gianfranco Fini (AN), wants a stronger central government with a U.S.-like president at the top. This schizophrenic triumvirate crashed and burned shortly after it came to power in 1995 because of Bossi's intransigence. While Fini subscribes to *Roma*

*As for overall health care, Italy ranks among the top 5 nations of the world*

*Doma* ("Rome rules"), Bossi sees *Roma Ladrona* ("Rome robs"). These are certainly odd bedfellows.

Italian federalism would enable, say, Lombardia to essentially withhold tax revenue earmarked for other regions. As a result, a hospital might shut down in Calabria, or infrastructure repairs in Puglia could be postponed indefinitely. Worse yet, other regions might opt for full autonomy not

unlike Spain's Catalonia. The Veneto region has already indicated it may move towards a referendum in that direction. The result there could prove devastating for Italian unity and may well be in contravention of the Italian constitution. Italy's ceremonial president Carlo Azeglio Ciampi has warned about this schism in public statements.

Economically, the new Italy is in sync with Europe's central bank and myriad regulations emanating from Brussels, seat of the Community. Unemployment in Italy registered a significant drop thanks to increased hiring in telecommunications, airlines and other services firms. Italian unemployment was the lowest in 8 years. In fact, 600,000 new jobs were created in



Gypsies and other illegal aliens from Africa, Albania, and the Near East are taxing Italy's patience and resources.



Elements of the famed Folgore (Lightning) Division on their way to East Timor. Italy wants a global presence.

(continued on p. 22)





# M & T

## PLUMBING & HEATING CO., INC.

MARK D. TEICH

LIC. PLUMBER NO. 661  
FIRE SUPPRESSION LIC. NO. 0044B

120 EAST 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10003  
TEL: 212/673-6700  
FAX: 212/353-0702

(Pontius Pilate continued from p. 11)  
by the Jewish establishment did, in fact, reach Tiberius, prompting the Emperor to admonish his procurator. Yet, Pilate found Jewish intransigence to be strangely admirable.

Flavius Josephus, the Jewish historian and Romanophile, found Pontius Pilate to be a harsh administrator who bungled his mission. Ann Wroe is not entirely convinced. While she chronicles his insensitivities, Wroe also reveals a Pilate who strove to discharge his duties against the surreal backdrop of an alien culture. She relates his fastidiousness, his impeccable cleanliness and his considerable ego. She describes Pilate's passion for his wife, Procula. We even discover Pilate, an Italian languishing in a kosher land, longing for Tuscan olives, sweet figs and hot sausages.

In the summer of 1961, a team of Italian archaeologists made another discovery amid the ruins of Caesaria. Among those blocks was Pilate's stone. In the manner of the ancient stones built into the walls of medieval Italian buildings, this one had been hacked from its original position and put to another use.

Ms. Wroe informs us that after assiduously cleaning the well-worn tablet, the Italian archaeologists were able to discern the stone's Latin inscription: "Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judaea, has made this Tiberieum and dedicated it to the Augustan gods." Although Greek was the common tongue of public notices in this part of the world, Pilate chose his native Latin to demonstrate his love of Rome.

Yet what became of this scion of Italy who encountered the son of God? History tells us that upon

his return to the Eternal City, Pilate learns of Tiberius' death. After that, he disappears into the mists of time. The author regales readers with one fanciful tale after another. In some Nordic versions, he is spotted in Germany and Switzerland as, alternately, a giant, a wraith and a lost soul condemned to traverse the globe for all eternity. In other incarnations, the Roman procurator becomes the ancient equivalent of Elvis Presley. There are still some peasants in Provence who claim to have had Pontius Pilate sightings. Anatole France, a well respected biographer, wrote a short story in 1892 in which Pilate retired in exile to Sicily with his daughter. And there he lead a relatively happy life of peace and obscurity. When asked about his most famous antagonist, Pilate replied "Jesus? Jesus of Nazareth? I don't remember him."

We may never know what actually happened to Pontius Pilate. His place in history, however haunts us still. In an interview with Britain's *Sunday*

*Telegraph* in 1996, Tony Blair concurs:

"The intriguing thing about Pilate is the degree to which he tried to do the good thing rather than the bad. He commands our moral attention not because he was a bad man, but because he was so nearly a good man. One can imagine him agonising seeing that Jesus had done nothing wrong, and wishing to release him, just as easily, however, one can envisage Pilate's advisers telling him of the risks, warning him not to cause a riot or inflame Jewish opinion. It is a timeless parable of political life."

\* \* \*





# LADY POWER: ITALIC WOMEN THROUGH THE AGES

BY  
BILL DAL CERRO

(Part 1 of a 3 part series)

*"La prima donna del mondo"—The First Lady of the World. Those words were penned by the Italian poet Niccolò da Correggio, singing the praises of Mantua's brilliant and vivacious Renaissance Queen, Isabella d'Este (1474-1539).*

And yet, Correggio's phrase could also have been written in the plural. For, in fact, many Italic women have, over the centuries, distinguished themselves as the first ladies of the world, setting standards of leadership and achievement which continue to astonish members of both sexes.

In addition to their physical grace and beauty, which has inspired countless poets, painters and photographers, *le donne italiane* possess many of the same virtues of Italic men: passion, intelligence, creativity, fortitude and even political savvy. Why should this be a surprise? After all, the two brothers who founded the city of Rome in 43 B.C., Romulus and Remus, were nurtured not by mortal parents but by a shewolf. And, as Rome expanded its Empire, grateful city fathers paid homage to their new patroness of the city—named, of course, Roma.

Stodgy old Cato the Elder often evoked the ire of Rome's ladies when he attempted to restore male chauvinism. In his failure he quite eloquently summarized women's status in classical Italy, *"We Romans, who rule all men, are ruled by our women."*

Centuries later, historian Will Durant further underscored the feminine strength of the Italian nation, referring to Italy as "the nourishing mother of Europe." And, as we shall see, Italic women have certainly "rocked the cradle" of Western Civilization from its very beginnings.

## ETRUSCAN ROOTS

The uniqueness of the women of Italy predates classical Rome. It began during the era of the Etruscans, the highly developed civilization which occupied central Italy in pagan times. One distinguishing trait of Etruscan society was its highly advanced attitude toward women. Etruscan women were considered equals in marriage; many of them even pursued careers as lawyers and teachers. They were also known

for their piercing physical beauty, especially for their 'Etruscan eyes', i.e., large, brown almond orbs, not unlike those of Gina Lollabrigida.

One of the first great women of Italy was of Etruscan origin: Tanaquil, the so-called "good queen" who served as trusted advisor to her ruler-husband, Tarquin. In a relationship remarkably similar to that of 20th century American president Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor, Tanaquil pretty much ruled as a coregent with Tarquin, advising him on matters of state. When Tarquin was assassinated, Tanaquil wasted no time in propping their son, Servius Tullus, on the throne, thus ensuring a continuation of the family dynasty.

Tanaquil, it was said, had clairvoyant powers; so, too, did a group of ancient women who traversed the Italian countryside: the sibyls. These nomadic women were alleged to have had magical powers, chief among them the ability to predict the future. Although, as stated, the sibyls toured the provinces (quite unlike their modern counterparts, who use 1-800 phone numbers), one of them did show an entrepreneurial spirit, settling down in a cave outside of Naples. Soon thereafter, the Sibyl of Cumae became a national celebrity, with everyone from politicians to peasants seeking out her advice.

It can be assumed that Etruscan women were a demanding lot who, unlike their Greek contemporaries insisted on social equality with the menfolk. Wall paintings attest to the fact that Etruscan women dined and tipped the light fantastic with their husbands. In Greece, by contrast, the women stayed home and the men cavorted with courtesans or attended symposiums (literally, drinking parties).

## THE RISE OF ROME

Eventually, Rome became the dominant power in the Mediterranean, subsuming Etruscan culture as well as other local Italic tribes such as the Aequians and Volscians. Rome's ascension also brought with it some internal strife, giving rise to an image which most people associate with modern Italian operas: the self-sacrificing heroine.

Verdi may call her Violetta and Puccini may call her Tosca, but her spirit first materialized in 509 B.C. That's



Gina Lollabrigida Eyes: an Etruscan genetic gift

*Julia Felix, a native of Pompeii, combined real estate skills with business know-how; creating the ancient Italic equivalent of a suburban shopping mall.*

(continued on pg. 26)







SERVICES, INC.



CONSULTANT

- FACILITY MANAGEMENT
- OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
- ENVIRONMENTAL
- ENERGY

VINCENT J. PIZZULLI  
President  
212-599-0427  
516-757-0599  
917-933-5330





# NAPLES IN REVOLT, 1647

## *Spain's Role in Molding the Southern Mentality*

by  
Don Fiore

It has been observed by sociologists and laymen alike that there is a distinctly southern Italian mentality with positive and negative cultural traits. These attitudes were carried to the New World and still manifest themselves in many Italian Americans. The strong family values that have created strong support systems and stable neighborhoods have also contributed to a protective insularity and an apathy toward the outside world. It has been labeled *campanilismo*, a concept derived from the notion that some Italians only care about things within the range of their church bell (i.e., their small community). This rejection of the outside world allows outsiders to perpetrate all kinds of mischief and defamation.

Having had on its soil the great civilizations of *Magna Graecia* (Greek colonies), Etruria, and Rome it is difficult to discern what forces reshaped the population of southern Italy to create *campanilismo*. Some have suggested that during the latter Roman times southern Italy was peopled by foreign slaves imported by Roman landowners to work their vast estates. Among those who subscribe to this theory was the late Mario Puzo (*The Godfather*) and David Chase, nee De Cesare (*The Sopranos*), both of whom gained fame and fortune by denigrating the Italian heritage. Each mused that he was probably a descendent of Roman slaves, thereby taking little pride in the classical, or for that matter, the modern Italian heritage.

Even the supposedly beneficent rule of southern Italy and Sicily under the Germanic Frederick II (*Barbarossa*) during the 11th Century was a sign post on the road to perdition. Although his intellectual curiosity was legendary he maintained a feudal realm in Italy. German historian Jakob Burckhardt describes Italians under Frederick's rule as "...not a people, but a disciplined multitude of subjects" who were forbidden to marry outside his lands and who could not travel abroad. He secured his power utilizing Saracens from Sicily known for their lack of pity, as his internal police. (were these Pre-Camorra gangsters?)

Author Massimo Salvadori (*A Pictorial History of the Italian People*, 1972) saw the dual effects of the Counter Reformation

and Spain's domination as the final decline in the southern Italian character. These latter two developments complemented each other "...to produce conformity, docility, and passivity, to create the conviction that governmental authority is out of reach of common people and that hierarchical order is the natural order."

It is the 17th Century. Newly gained American territories to which Italian navigators had opened the way provided a steady stream of wealth to Spain, Portugal, England, and France. Dutch merchants flourished through the deployment banking techniques and methods of commerce devised by Italian businessmen. Built upon the sturdy foundations set by

Italian scholars, science and technology continued its advance in universities from Germany to Scotland. But on the Italian peninsula itself, such progressive activities came to all but a dead halt. In an astonishingly short amount of time, the land changed, in both intellectual and economic terms, from the wealthiest to the poorest in Europe.

Foreign conquerors, the Church, and most of all, the divisive,

self-serving Italian nobility, shared responsibility for Italy's swift and thorough degeneration. Throughout the first half of the 16th century, the peninsula served as a battlefield between competing French and Spanish invaders, each backed or opposed, severally and variously, by rival Italian powers seeking to preserve as much of their status and position as possible in the face of inevitable conquest. Ultimately, Spain emerged as victor, and most of Italy was reduced to a much-exploited possession of the Spanish monarchy for generations.

The Church, rapidly losing so many souls to Protestantism, welcomed the arch-conservative Catholicism of the Spaniards, and the intellectual freedom that had elevated Italy to its Renaissance glory was actively and effectively suppressed on spiritual as well as political grounds. As clearly shown by the Roman Inquisition's condemnation of Galileo in 1630, no departure from the orthodox would henceforth be tolerated in Italy.



A depiction of the Neapolitan revolt against Spain.  
Duplicity was another tool of oppression.

*Thousands in the rebellion  
were summarily hung*

(continued on p. 27)





**DO IT THE ITALIAN WAY...**

**COME IN TODAY  
AND EXPERIENCE FOR YOURSELF**



FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WANT TO EXPERIENCE THE ULTIMATE IN "ITALIAN CUISINE" ALLOW ROSSINI'S TO DELIGHT YOUR PALATE. THE IDEAL SPOT FOR A BUSINESS LUNCH OR A ROMANTIC INTERLUDE.

OPEN 7 DAYS  
WITH LIVE  
ENTERTAINMENT

*Rossini's*

ITALIAN CUISINE  
108 East 38th Street  
Between Park & Lexington Aves.  
New York, N.Y. • 683-0135





# THE ROMAN AQUEDUCTS

BY ALFRED CARDONE

Forty percent of the world's six billion people still lack basic sanitation as we enter the 21st century. In fact, more than a billion people lack the most basic water supply according to a study sponsored by the World Health Organization and the United Nation's Children's Fund. It is estimated that 2.2 million deaths from dysentery alone could be prevented by the provision of safe water and sanitation.

Considering these grim statistics, one cannot help but be amazed at the remarkable accomplishment of the ancient Romans in building a vast system of aqueducts to provide safe water and sanitation throughout their extensive empire more than two thousand years ago.

The process began with the location of a wholesome and plentiful source. This search developed into something of a science for the Romans who were very much concerned with the quality of their water. In addition to the clarity, taste, and flow of the water, engineers were expected to observe the general health, physique and complexion of the local inhabitants who regularly drank it. Rock and soil types were also used as clues to the water's quality.

The Romans also mastered effective methods of water treatment. Large impurities were removed by settling tanks built anywhere along the aqueduct's course. These tanks would slow the flow of water, so that particles of sand and rock carried along by the current would drop down and collect at the bottom of the tank. The sediments were periodically removed by a crew after the water of the aqueduct had been shut off or diverted. The emperor Hadrian added an especially elaborate tank to the *Aqua Virgo* aqueduct, which channeled the water through a series of chambers on two levels before allowing it to continue on its course.

The aeration that Roman water underwent along its course, and at some of the fountains in the city, also contributed to its purity. Something resembling the cascade aeration of modern water systems would have

taken place. This aeration allowed the water to breathe off odors and precipitate some of its minerals. The common Roman practice of transporting water in large unfilled conduits permitted a great deal of exposure to the air.

By definition, aqueducts were artificial channels by which the Romans conducted water to specific regions. While the Greeks originated the use of tunnels for this purpose, Roman engineers, such as the famed

Marcus Agrippa, greatly improved upon this method. Gradually, three basic styles of Roman aqueducts were developed: bridges, arches and syphons. The arches were made to slow the water down and restrain it so that it would not burst the lead tubes that were installed beneath the city. Modern engineers still wonder how the Romans calculated and achieved a slope of nearly ten feet for every 3,200 feet of rock-cut or



A Roman aqueduct crossing the Spanish countryside.

arch-borne channel.

The syphons or inverted syphons carried pipes which took the water down one side of a valley and up the other to an elevation almost equal to its starting point. Syphons were used as an alternative to the aqueduct bridge when the valley to be crossed was over fifty meters below the channel level, otherwise requiring a massive and sometimes unsustainable arcade of high arches. Syphon channels carried water in an open-air gravity system, which filled a basin and created an airtight pressurized system descending to the valley floor in pipes made generally of lead.

The water was forced up the opposite hillside of the valley by the water pressure on the descending side and filled another basin just below the elevation of the starting basin. From there, the water proceeded once again in an open-air unpressurized channel. Syphons would have been used more extensively by the Romans were it not for the high cost of transporting massive quantities of lead to the construction sites. Stone for bridges, on the other hand, was plentiful and generally locally at hand.

*"How can you compare the useless Pyramids of Egypt, or the beautiful non-productive works of the Greeks, with these constructions?"*

(continued on p. 28)





one year, 240,000 of which took place in three months. Significantly, 223,000 of the new jobs were in the services sector. And the *Mezzogiorno* (the Italian south), for the first time surpassed the northern and central regions in employment growth, posting a 1.7% increase.

The south also received a bit of good news from a battery of technical experts regarding the suspension bridge that would link Sicily to the mainland at Reggio Calabria (between Messina and Villa San Giovanni). According to the experts, the project is feasible, technically and financially, within a decade. More importantly, the funds would be split 60% private and 40% public. Even under a federal system, the coffers of the state would not be unduly strained. And it would raise Italy's international profile even as the improved *Mezzogiorno* prospers. All that is needed is the political will.

In Sicily, Mayor Leoluca Orlando has burnished Palermo's image and improved the quality of life by reaffirming an ancient Roman principle — the rule of law. As a result, scores of *Mafia* terrorists were convicted and incarcerated. Enlisting the aid of school children, Mayor Orlando led a grass roots movement to restore decaying churches and his-

*"In tribute to Italian resolve Palermo was the chosen site a for a world conference on successfully combatting organized crime."*



Hon. Mirko Tremaglia: the new government minister for millions of Italic people beyond Italy.

toric palaces. The Massimo Opera House has been rebuilt as a symbol of Palermo's renaissance. In tribute to Italian resolve to eradicate the *Mafia* gangs Palermo was the chosen site a few months ago for a world conference on successfully combatting organized crime.

Nationally, the news is also salutary. Crime is down nearly across the board. Rome, for example, is a low-crime capital. The Eternal City had only 26 homicides in the year 2000.

Compare this figure with those of other world capitals: New York (671), Paris (105), Berlin (86), Athens (79) and Madrid (48).

The Italian Republic is poised for change — not all of it benign. Although it has been an oasis of hygiene in a Europe afflicted with Mad Cow (*Mucca Pazza*) disease — most prominently in France and Britain — Italy just reported seven cases of this contagion. Ironically, it was from a meat supplier (in the north) who provided the ground meat for invading MacDonalD's outlets. It is likely that these bovines became brain addled when they were fed grain from Britain. In the vast majority of cases, the Italian government keeps a vigilant eye on meatpacking and processing.

As for overall health care, Italians were astonished to learn that their country is ranked among the top 5 nations of the world in providing excellent medical, child development, nutritional and therapeutic services, according to the U.N.'s World Health Organization. The other nations in this exclusive club are the Latin sisters France, Spain, San Marino (another Italian nation) and Malta. The United States is ranked an embarrassing 146. (Tell that to your grandfather who invariably excoriates Italian health care.)

#### QUICK FACTS ON ITALIAN LIFE TODAY:

**Tax rate:** 67% (Highest in world)  
**Home ownership:** 78% (highest in world- USA is 66%)  
**Household savings rate:** 17% (USA is below zero)  
**Per capita range:** \$19,500 to \$33,000 (south to north)  
**Vacation time (average):** 6 weeks per annum  
**Holidays per year:** 10  
**Automobile ownership:** 32 million cars for 57 million people (4th largest market in the world)  
**Cooking skills:** an estimated 80% of 20-year old females can't cook  
**Smoking:** about 24% of the population smokes, but falling  
**Cell phones:** 33 million  
**Nuclear Power plants:** 0  
**Genetically altered foods:** None  
**MacDonalds:** 230 stores employing 10,000 workers

Finally, on March 8, 2001, the Shuttle Discovery lifted off from Cape Canaveral carrying the multipurpose Italian logistics module "Leonardo." This is one of three pressurized cargo modules furnished by the Italian Space Agency to transport equipment and personnel to the International Space Station. Each module costs approximately \$150 million, and Italy's total contribution to this nascent star trek is in the neighborhood of \$60 billion. The future may also bring Italy together with France and the U.S. for a joint venture to Mars.

Your grandfather would never have imagined that!

(Ed. Cesidio Tallini and Anthony Cardillo assisted in writing this article)





# From The Bronx to Madison Square Garden: LONG HORSEBACK RIDE FOR ITALIAN AMERICAN COWBOY

by Robert A. Masullo

His personal stationery has a lariat logo and identifies him as "The New Star of the Old West." The handsome 30-year-old is a real-life, modern day cowboy who makes his living on the rodeo circuit.

But there are two things about this young man that don't seem in sync with that line of work.

First, he doesn't hail from El Paso, Laramie, Tucson—or anywhere west of the Pecos. In fact, he's not even from west of the Hudson. He was born in the Bronx and, when not riding the range, still hangs his Stetson there.

Second, his name is not Slim, Tex, or Hoot. It's Angelo. Angelo Iodice. (YO-dee-chee)

That's right. He's a third generation Italian-American, all four of his grandparents having been born in Italy.

So, how did he become a cowboy?

"It started when I was very young, 5 or 6 maybe, and my parents took me for pony rides in Van Courtland Park" (in the northwest Bronx), explains Iodice, neither in a Western drawl nor in the movie/TV version of a New York Italian American accent.

He sounds the way most real, educated Italian Americans sound—like all other real, educated Americans.

"I really loved those ponies," says Iodice.

The feeling was mutual. The ponies responded to him beautifully. Consequently, when he turned 10 his parents, Rose and Ralph Iodice, allowed him to "graduate" to horses.

From then until he was 18, he went riding every weekend on the long bridle trail in Pelham Bay Park (also in the Bronx). His brother, Silvio, and sister, Luann, often joined him. "They loved being on a horse, too, but not as much as I did," he says with a laugh.

Still, going from horseback riding weekends to earning one's living as a performing cow poke is a stretch.

Iodice credits another Bronx Italian American for putting him on that career path.

"When I was 13, I met Helen Panzella. Her husband,

Nick, was a blacksmith at the Pelham Bay Park stables. She had been a prize-winning trick rider in rodeos and circuses when younger. She had worked all over the United States and Canada."

"Anyway, when she saw how much I liked horses she said I reminded her of herself as a child. We became pretty good friends and she became my mentor. She taught me how to ride—hanging off the side of a horse; laying across the saddle, and standing up in the saddle."

The nascent cowboy thought his weekend lifestyle was just great but he also had another life, as a normal big city teenager and student.

"I was a happy kid, but I was leading a double life. I couldn't really talk about horses with my friends. They would have thought I was crazy. When they wanted to do something fun it was to go to a baseball or basketball game. I went to see the rodeo. Everytime there was a rodeo in Madison Square Garden or anywhere else near New York, I would go. My parents didn't mind my riding, but they couldn't fathom someone having a career doing anything with horses. So I would talk about my dreams mostly to

Helen."

Iodice was a good student at Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx—where he studied Italian—and later at Pace University in Pleasantville, N.Y. If anyone asked he would say that he was going to become a lawyer. But in his heart he knew what he really wanted to do with his life.

"Even before I met Helen, I wanted to be in show business. I wanted to be a trick rider in the rodeo. And then, when I met her and started to actually learn some basic tricks, I was hooked. I knew that I would become a cowboy."

Although he didn't know about it when he enrolled, Pace University had an equestrian club. When he found out about it, he immediately joined. The club wasn't concerned with what he wanted to do with horses—its main reason for being was to play polo—but at

(continued on p.32)





# FERDINAND PECORA VS.

(Adapted from an article by Milton S. Gould, Esq. *Long Island Newsday*)

Almost 70 years ago, a wave of outrage raced through the country, comparable to the sleazy days of the 1980's when junk bond mavens like Ivan Boesky and Dennis Levine wreaked havoc on investors. Even today's "boiler room" machinations dominated by the Russian *mafia* and independent crooks like William Goren and Martin Frankel are fleecing millions of dollars from hard working Americans. Frankel stole over \$200 million and Goren was recently convicted for stock fraud worth \$32 million.

Of course, there are many differences between 1933 and now. In that time, the malefactors who sapped our national well-being were the colossi of our community, men who were social as well as financial titans - to an entire nation symbols of power and prestige, of wealth and stability — men like J. P. Morgan, Bernard Baruch, and Charles Lindbergh.

Today we are reeling from the flagrant derelictions of comparatively obscure manipulators, quintessentially parvenus who have come from nowhere through the business schools and law school, where they sharpened their skills to emerge as financial freebooters.

There is another enormous difference between that time and today.

In 1933, this country and the rest of the western world was in the grip of Depression. There was a vast hemorrhaging of confidence in individuals, the practices and the institutions that only a few years before had underpinned an unprecedented prosperity.

During this time of boom and bust was a lawyer named Ferdinand Pecora, a Sicilian immigrant who rose through the New York City Tammany machine to serve twelve years as a prosecutor in the District Attorney's office. His reputation for artful investigating and fearless prosecuting led to his selection late in 1932 as special counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking and Currency. The committee had begun hearings that April. But for months, nothing startling was disclosed. Then, with Pecora's advent, the pace picked up, and there began to issue from its sessions some of the most revolting revelations of the times.

All during the summer and autumn of 1933, while the newly elected president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, was pulling the nation back from the abyss, Pecora, flanked by a staff of experts whose indignation matched their skill, captured the interest and imagination of press and public with a daily tableau of why and how the seemingly impregnable financial structure of the richest country on earth had been ravaged by the gluttonous depredation of erstwhile heroes and unprincipled rascals.

What was produced for public view was a parade of moguls, snatched by subpoenas from their family retreats, their clubs and their yachts, and subjected to an inexorable inquisition.

All marveled at the precision with which this Italian upstart (that's what they called him) marshaled his facts and fired his shafts. Years later, John T. Flynn, who toiled day and night as a member of Pecora's staff and who later became a celebrated investigative journalist, would write: "I looked



Pecora, 1933 with his sunlamp tan.

with astonishment at this man who, through the intricate maze of banking, syndicates, market deals, chicanery of all sorts, and in a field new to him, never made an error in figure and never lost his temper."

The historians of the era all record that the climatic witness was the great J.P. Morgan Jr., head of the lordly house that bore his name. One of the most sensation-

al moments in Morgan's testimony came when Pecora drew from this king of the beasts that he had paid no income taxes for several years.

When word of this testimony reached the ears of Roosevelt, he summoned Dean Acheson, then undersecretary of the Treasury.

Acheson explained that it was a legal tax dodge for the very rich to use tax

write-offs year after year to avoid income taxes. The president promptly insisted that the law be changed so that capital losses could be used as write-offs only in the year in which they had occurred.

Even more startling was the disclosure wrung by Pecora from a grudging Morgan that the House of Morgan maintained a preferred list of persons to whom it sold securities at prices below market and without strings, so that these favored few could realize huge instant profits.

Morgan admitted that he had invited into his magic circle his good friends, "good sound straight fellows," as he described them.

The air became electric, and public indignation reached a fever pitch when Pecora elicited from the harried Morgan that his list of the favored few included such towering figures as ex-President Calvin Coolidge, General John Pershing, aviator Charles Lindbergh, former presidential candidate John W. Davis and financier Bernard Baruch.

Even worse, the list included Owen J. Roberts, a member of the U.S. Supreme Court, and William H. Woodin who, even as the testimony was given, was serving as Roosevelt's secretary of the Treasury. What Pecora demonstrated was that the Morgans and other financiers had created a

*Pecora's investigations helped to create for us the era of full and complete disclosure, of truth in the selling of securities*

W

A

L

L

S

T

R

E

E

T







Pecora in later years after an unsuccessful bid for mayor of New York.

network of highly placed and influential figures, all beholden to the magnate for favors.

The hard and ugly facts were that, through the era of euphoric prosperity that ended with the Depression years, when so many millions were suffering and starving, the financial control of the nation was in the hands of predatory rascals caring nothing for their fellows and passionately devoted to making a fast buck.

Even harder and uglier were the methods by which these buccaneers had operated. A desperately tired and hungry nation learned how, as so many of the unemployed sold apples on street corners and stood in line at soup kitchens, a cabal of highly placed flimflammers had exploited the gullibility and greed of the little people who were on nobody's list of freebies.

People learned about worthless investments palmed off on

*All marveled at the precision with which this Italian upstart (that's what they called him) marshaled his facts and fired his shafts.*

a deluded nation by lies and tricks, about rigged stock market pools in which worthless securities were run up in price by manipulation, enriching the insiders while the public was left holding the bag; they learned about the shameless construction of tier upon tier of so-called "holding companies" by the utility magnates, rulers of financial empires, revealed as mockery kings of snow.

They learned how conspiratorial groups of insiders unloaded worthless bonds on widows and orphans by lies and deceptive practices.

Pecora's investigations helped to create for us the era of full and complete disclosure, of truth in the selling of securities as exemplified in the Securities Act of 1933.

Out of this came the salutary federal guarantee of bank deposits under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Public Utilities Holding Company Act of 1935 and many other remedial and protective measures. Any objective observer must concede that these reforms have achieved their laudable objective.

These acts of the 1930's are still used by the Security and Exchange Commission in combating the still prevalent boiler room tactics of today. Notwithstanding, Wall Street is still the breeding ground for the most creative and outrageous financial gimmicks. Junk bonds, hostile takeovers, poison pills, derivatives, and pyramid schemes are still putting the system at risk.

The need is to find men such as Ferdinand Pecora to show us the way out of prevailing chicanery and shame.

\* \* \* \*

### Interview with Ferdinand Pecora (excerpts)

By Dominick Lamonica, (*Atlantica Magazine*, August, 1933)

[Editor's note: Ferdinand Pecora declined many opportunities for appointment to high office after his Senate investigations. He became a justice of the State Supreme Court in New York State, where many recall his scholarship and unfailing courtesy. He resigned from the bench in 1950 to pursue an unsuccessful candidacy for mayor of New York. He died in 1971, at 89.

In 1933, just as he began his work in Washington, DC, my father's cousin, Dom Lamonica interviewed him for the Italian American publication *Atlantica*, of which he was the editor. Pecora had strong feelings about his ethnic brethren that still ring true today.]

**Background:** Born in Nicosia, Sicily in 1882, came to America when he was 5 years old. His family did not settle in an Italian American neighborhood preferring to assimilate quickly. Like Fiorello LaGuardia Pecora was not Roman Catholic but Episcopalian. He entered politics as a Teddy Roosevelt Progressive and later switched to a Wilson Democrat. He embarked on his career in public service with an appointment to the D.A.'s office in 1918.

**On ethnicity:** "...become Americanized as quickly as possible, retaining certain cultural attachments and traditions which America is glad to receive as our contribution, but not overdoing it...it is unfortunate that immigrants have gathered largely in segregated groups...making assimilation difficult."

**On Italian American organizations:** "To a large extent these Italo-American societies...are formed to serve the personal interests and advancement of the leaders or organizers."

**Personal life:** Cigar smoker, married to a non-Italian, darkly tanned from the use of a sun lamp on his doctor's recommendation.

\* \* \* \*





when Lucretia, the wife of a Roman soldier, committed suicide after being raped by her husband's rival, to prevent bringing shame upon her family. Before doing so, however, Lucretia did ask that she be avenged (and she was). The concept of Italic "honor," then, heretofore seen as a "macho" attitude, appears to have a feisty female core.

As the Romans increased their influence, they borrowed other concepts and ideas from the Greeks, particularly their religious practices. This included "Romanizing" famous Greek goddesses, i.e., molding them to fit the needs of the Italic people.

After a few years, citizens began worshipping a plethora of strong, mythological female figures. They included Venus, goddess of Love; Diana, goddess of War; Luna, goddess of the Moon; Fortuna, goddess of Chance; Vesta, goddess of the Hearth; Minerva, goddess of Wisdom; Juno, goddess of Marriage; Terra, goddess of the Earth; and Ceres, goddess of the Harvest. (Note: A large statue of Ceres, as in "cereal", adorns the top of the Midwest Stock Exchange building in Chicago's financial district.) One of these strong women was actually a real person: Cloelia. In 507 B.C., during the middle of a war, Cloelia swam across the Tiber River and rescued fellow Roman women, who had been taken prisoner by a rival tribe. A grateful Senate built a life-sized statue of Cloelia in the Roman Forum, one of the only women to be honored in such a fashion.

Surrounded by statues of these powerful goddesses, Roman women, especially among the upper classes, sought to embody the virtues which they represented. Of these, Livia, wife of the great Emperor Augustus, is perhaps the most striking example. A dignified, educated woman (despite her media image in *I, Claudius* and *The Sopranos*), Livia stood side-by-side with Augustus throughout his 40-year reign, ushering in one of the most prosperous periods of world history, the *Pax Romana* (or, Roman Peace).

Many historians feel that Livia still hasn't been given enough credit for assisting Augustus in this remarkable achievement, although she did receive a posthumous award: the Emperor Claudius declared her "divine," one of the first women accorded such an honor. Citizens who recalled Livia's public works projects and political acumen could now worship her as a goddess.

The goodwill engendered by Livia soon filtered down into Roman society at-large. Although women could not vote or hold public office, they could own property, visit public facilities (such as the famous baths) and even own their own businesses. For example, Julia Felix, a native of Pompeii, combined real estate skills with business know-how. After a mild earthquake damaged her block-long home in 62 A.D., Felix, to raise needed repair funds, rented out space to a variety of small business owners: bakers, butchers, innkeepers, farmers

and clothes dealers —creating the ancient Italic equivalent of a suburban shopping mall.

### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Unlike women in other ancient cultures, who were largely relegated to the background, Italic women were encouraged to be seen as well as heard.

Today, Italian women strut their stuff on the runways of Milan. In classical times, the streets of Rome served as an open-air fashion show. On any given day, women of all classes could be seen showing off the latest trends in clothing, jewelry or hair styles, many of them imported from Roman provinces in Europe or the Middle East.

Anyone who has visited Rome's famous shopping street, the *Via Condotti*, see Italian women continuing this "Hey, Look at Me" tradition today.

The Italic woman's sense of *una bella figura* (making a fine impression) has, indeed, expanded throughout the centuries, with names like Versace, Prada and others dominating the modern world of style and high culture. Yet, their ancestors in classical Rome were no slouches in the image department. Julia Domna, wife of the Emperor Septimus Severus, traveled with her husband all over the empire, where her innate elegance won over the crowds. Italic housewives marveled at Julia's regal clothes and creative hairstyles, often changing their own to give themselves that "empress" look. And, in fact, emperor's wives routinely appeared on Roman coinage along with their husbands.

On a more substantive level, Italic women freely spoke their minds. In 42 B.C., after declaring a war, the Senate decreed that all upperclass women should be taxed to finance the military campaign. This didn't sit too well with Hortensia, the daughter of a famous orator. Like a chip off the old block, Hortensia angrily marched to the Roman Forum with some 1,000 women in tow, where she spoke out against this unfair tax. Her speech was so inspiring that the Senate promptly reconsidered the measure.

Gaia Afrania also achieved a certain notoriety. She became a familiar face at

the Forum — not as a defendant, but as a prosecutor, racking up a record number of lawsuits. She sued so many people, in fact, clogging up the court system, that one Senator bitterly referred to her as "the best known example of women's litigiousness."

Sabina, the wife of Emperor Hadrian, founded a women's law advocacy group. Although the group had no official legislative powers, it was allowed to act as a consultant on issues relevant to women's lives, such as marriage, property and children's education.

In the arts, Bassilla from Aquileia became the Meryl Streep of her day, an actress who entertained both emperors and the public with her dramatic gifts. Sulpicia was the distaff



Messalina, the powerful and scandalous wife of Emperor Claudius

(continued on p. 30)





# ACC CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

*General Contracting and Construction Management firm  
specializing in interior and exterior renovations of  
major corporate, retail, educational, institutional, and healthcare facilities  
in the Metropolitan Area.*



Michele Medaglia, President  
24-64 45<sup>th</sup> Street  
Long Island City, New York 11103  
Telephone: 718-545-4141 Facsimile: 718-204-4838  
E-Mail: info@acc-construction.com

## NAPLES IN REVOLT, 1647, *(continued from p. 19)*

While wholesale socio-economic regression was the fate of every over-taxed and abused sector of the Spanish-ruled portions of the peninsula, no where was the despoiling more thorough than in the Kingdom of Naples. Now designated a mere vice-royalty of the Spanish crown, its unfortunate inhabitants languished under a misgovernment surpassed only marginally in brutality by that imposed on Spain's American conquests. Here, the very concept of human dignity, much less of human rights, was utterly rejected. The peasantry, which comprised the overwhelming majority of the region's population, was made to understand that its purpose was to serve and obey the will of God, which meant unquestioned acceptance of its lot and complete submission to Church and Spanish authority.

Life for the average southern Italian was henceforth defined by little more than succeeding episodes of toil, hunger, disease, and death. All measures of anything that could be considered wealth were routinely shuttled into the hands of the Spanish, their allied Catholic authorities, and the compliant and greedy local nobility. Yet, despite the almost unimaginable poverty in which they subsisted, the rag-clad and undernourished subjects of the Kingdom of Naples became and continued to be the most heavily taxed population in Europe. Dignified only by the degree of creativity in which they were conceived new taxes were levied frequently and upon almost every activity, enterprise, and item of value. Only a fraction of the collected moneys was utilized for the

general welfare, most of it serving to enrich Spain and its corrupt Italian lackeys.

Historians continue to comment on the transmutation of a once independent-minded and vibrant race to the subservient and passive minions of foreign powers from the 16th through early 19th centuries. Not until the stirrings of the *Risorgimento* would assertiveness, courage, or militancy be included again in a description of the Italic character. But in more than one instance, the Italians gave ample demonstration that the old, spiritual fires were still burning, and that their long enduring subservience was due more to the overwhelming severity and power of their oppressors than to any deficiencies of their collective character.

In 1647, for instance, a rebellion erupted spontaneously and swiftly, taking the rulers of Naples entirely by surprise. The event was triggered, predictably, by yet another new tax, this time on all types of fruit, a staple in the meager diet of the peasantry. To ensure the prompt remittance of this tax, collection stations had been posted near every fruit vendor's booth in the city's crowded Piazza Mercato. It was here, on July 7th, that a quarrel over the latest levy erupted between collection agents and an impoverished, 27 year-old fish vendor named Tommaso Aniello d'Amalfi.

Much of what is recorded about Masaniello, as this brash young man was called, is based on conjecture. His rise from faceless obscurity to historical prominence was far too sudden

*The dual effects of the Counter  
Reformation and Spain's domination pro-  
duced conformity, docility, and passivity.*

*(continued on p.29)*





The first Roman aqueduct, the *Aqua Appia*, was an underground aqueduct built around 310 B.C. during the administration of Appius Claudius Caecus, for whom the famous Appian Way is named. It conveyed water to the thirsty city of Rome from newly discovered springs about ten miles away. This was the first of the famous eleven aqueducts which were eventually constructed from 310 B.C. to A.D. 226 to supply the great city.

The *Aqua Marcian*, built by the praetor Marcian in 144 B.C., was the first Roman aqueduct to carry water above ground. It was the third and longest of the eleven aqueducts and carried spring water more than 56 miles from east of the city to the Capitoline hill. The bridged section of this aqueduct, which featured 60-foot-high arches, was about ten miles long. This sturdy aqueduct later carried two additional channels that rode piggyback on its arches. Other aqueducts to Rome included the *Aqua Anio Vetus*, *Aqua Anio Novus*, *Aqua Tepula*, *Aqua Julia*, *Aqua Virgo*, *Aqua Felice*, *Aqua Alsietina*, *Aqua Hadriana* and the *Aqua Augusta*.

Water flowed to the city by the force of gravity alone. To absorb the impact of this great force, each of the aqueducts ended in a grand fountain which bore a plaque identifying the emperor or other wealthy sponsor who financed the work. These were the direct ancestors of the magnificent fountains that today grace the city of Rome.

All told, 30 miles out of a total of the 260 miles comprising Rome's aqueduct system actually crossed over valleys on stone arches. The remainder were underground conduits constructed mostly of stone and terra cotta pipe, although some pipes were made of lead and bronze. Recently, a theory has gained some acceptance that lead poisoning, either from pipes or perhaps utensils, led to the mental deterioration and thus decline of Rome's ruling class and was therefore a contributing factor to the fall of Rome. Two factors, however, limited the harmful effects of lead pipes. Taps, which could stop the flow of water, were not widely used by the Romans. As a result, the water seldom rested in pipes, which is where it could gather harmful concentrations of lead particles. Rome's water also contained plenty of minerals, which coated both the channels and the pipes with deposits that prevented the water from making direct contact with the lead. These considerations tend to cast serious doubt on the validity of this theory concerning the decline of Rome. The water went through a series of distribution tanks within the city, and the excess was used to flush out Rome's extensive system of sewers.

Water was stored in water towers or water tanks known as *castella*. The purpose of these *castella* was to divide the water while holding it at a high enough point to achieve maximum distribution under pressure. Water was divided into three separate compartments for private users, the public baths and the public fountains, with the priority being given to the public fountains from which

the majority of the people would obtain water to meet their daily needs.

At a *castellum*, the water system was converted from an open gravitational system to a pressurized supply in pipes. A fitting called a *calix* was used to connect an individual pipe to a *castellum*. The *calix* was a nozzle equipped with a flange that fit against the inside of the *castellum* wall. Depending on the user's water allotment or fee, a *calix* would be provided in one of several officially stamped sizes. The smallest size was called a *quinaria* with a diameter of .9 inches. It was the basic unit the Romans used to measure water. Illegal water taps were a constant concern of the *Curator Aquarum* (Director of Waters).

*A controversy over an Aqueduct built by Pontius Pilate with Jewish money may have affected his later treatment of Jesus.*

Together the eleven aqueducts supplied about 150 to 200 million gallons of water to the city of ancient Rome each day. Remarkably, parts of several are still in use today (one feeds the famous Trevi Fountain). With this vast amount of fresh water, ancient Rome boasted between 1,200 and 1,300 public fountains, 11 great baths, 867 lesser baths, 15 *nymphaea* or monumental decorated showpiece fountains, and 2 artificial lakes for imperial naval exhibitions.

The ancient Romans built aqueducts in all parts of their empire, many of which are still standing. Their majestic arches may be seen today in Greece, Italy, France, Spain, North Africa and Asia Minor. (Incidentally, it was Pontius Pilate's use of temple funds for an aqueduct in Judea that stirred rebellious feelings among his Jewish subjects.) Fresh water traversed Tunisia, carried 50 miles by a series of arches from Mount Zaghuan to Carthage. Under Roman rule, during which 400,000 Italic settlers migrated there, the cities of North Africa enjoyed decent hygiene for the first time with the delivery of fresh water for baths and drinking. The aqueduct of Segovia in Spain is also especially impressive and was built by the Emperor Trajan early in the second century A.D. This aqueduct, which is still in working order today, is part of a ten-mile-long water supply system for the city. It is built with two tiers of arches and spans an 800-meter valley and is 28 meters high at its highest point. This aqueduct is built entirely from granite, and uses no mortar or mechanical connection between individual stones.

The most beautiful and the most enduring of the Roman aqueducts was built at Nimes, in France, by Marcus Agrippa from 20 to 16 B.C. The aqueduct system at Nimes brought water to the town from springs 31 miles away. A bridge, the Pont du Gard, was built over the Gardon River, measuring 323 feet in length and standing 53 feet high, complete with support arches and tiers. This stone edifice is slightly bent against the course of the river and is not only absolutely practical, but architecturally magnificent.

It is understandable that these grand aqueducts

(continued on p. 32)





and brief for any accurate, biographical sketch to be built. The few, first hand accounts that exist simply depict him as typical of his class and calling; illiterate, barefoot, and desperately poor. He has also been contradictorily characterized as guileful and cunning; certainly advantageous survival traits for his time and place, and as blunt, crude and naive. Succeeding events support both views.

In any case, Masaniello can surely be described as being an angry man on July 7th, 1647, since his wife, charged with tax evasion by concealing a quantity of grain in her home, had been arrested, fined and jailed. By most accounts, his impromptu protest at the market place was quickly joined by his brother Giovanni and cousin Tommaso, their increasingly loud and boisterous dispute drawing dozens, then hundreds of onlookers. The shouting continued until the three men, oblivious to the threat of arrest, physically overturned the collection booth. The spectators roared with approval and the rebellion was on.

With Masaniello at its head, the crowd surged out of the piazza, growing larger by the instant until it numbered, reportedly, in the tens of thousands. Violence was inevitable. Government officials were hauled into the street, kicked and beaten while their residences were burnt to the ground. Many were murdered. Too stunned and terrified to respond with force, the panicked police chief and his gendarmes fled for their lives. Within a matter of hours, all of Naples was at Masaniello's command.

The Spanish viceroy, Rodrigo Ponce De Leon D'Arcos, hastily ordered the repeal of the fruit tax, a concession that was hardly enough to satisfy the suddenly empowered populace. Masaniello, shuttled to the role of leader and spokesman for the peasantry, demanded more. Each demand, the reduction of certain taxes and the abolition of others, a reduction in the price of bread, government representation for the poor, was granted in a wholly uncharacteristic spirit of conciliation by the viceroy.

Not two weeks after the uprising began, Masaniello accepted an invitation to discuss the impending reforms over dinner with government authorities. He was promptly served poisoned wine, drugged, seized and beheaded.

Masaniello's murder did not bring an end to the rebellion, which by now was spreading across the all of southern Italy. Instead, leadership passed into the hands of a lawyer-priest named Don Giulio Genoino. Articulate and well educated, Genoino had long been a thorn in the sides of both govern-

ment and church for his ceaseless advocacy for the poor and downtrodden. In fact, some speculate that Genoino had secretly orchestrated the events of July 7th, with Masaniello simply acting out the priest's instructions.

In any event, Genoino inherited a difficult situation. To many of those incited by the uprising, political and social reforms were a secondary consideration. Instead, the first order of business was vengeance for years of outrages and abuse. Though relative calm was restored in the city of Naples over the succeeding weeks, Genoino was unable to control the acts of violence directed against the nobility in the provinces, thus reducing his ability to credibly negotiate with Spanish authorities.

Whatever concessions might be secured in the people's favor could hardly be guaranteed, since the Spanish and Italian nobility were by no means above treachery. Neither could Genoino expect support from his ecclesiastic superiors, as the Church was firmly aligned with the ruling class. Without organization and a strong hand, the uprising was sure to be crushed by the Spanish army already on its way to Italy. Since Genoino could not achieve either of these, the possibility of permanent reform could only be sustained through the military intervention of another foreign power.

The logical candidate was France, Spain's old rival in the domination of the Italian peninsula. And indeed, without invitation, the French dispatched an army to Southern Italy in September to take advantage of the chaos as a step toward regaining their lost Italian holds. Greeted initially as liberators, the French could not long disguise their true motive and found no support, from the Italian people once Spanish forces arrived. Victorious again, the Spanish lost no time in restoring the old order to the Kingdom of Naples at gunpoint. Thousands who participated in the rebellion were summarily hung, and no meaningful reforms were ever

enacted. Founded upon unconcealed greed and ignorance, misrule by Spain and its Italian and Papal accomplices continued to systematically deny Southern Italians almost every facet of social progress that the rest of the Western world eventually began to enjoy. The legacy of near-hopeless poverty, illiteracy, the virtual absence of meaningful economic opportunity, and pervasive lawlessness in any issue beyond the immediate, self-interests of the ruling classes, and complete distrust of authority characterized Southern Italian life well into modern times.



A rather young-looking portrait of Masaniello, the rebel of Naples.

*Misrule by Spain and its Italian and Papal accomplices denied Southern Italians the social progress that the rest of the Western world began to enjoy.*

\* \* \* \* \*





version of Ovid, a composer of scandalously erotic poems. Cornelia, daughter of the great Roman general Scipio Africanus, regularly met with writers and poets of the day, creating an idea which Italic women from the Renaissance would later perfect: the literary salon.

Another Cornelia became the model for an image which still casts its spell over Italy and Italic culture: *Mamma*. As the mother of the famous Gracchi brothers, Cornelia Gracchus's example of toughness and nobility set an example for all Italic women to follow. Widowed at a young age, Cornelia became a strong-willed single mother, choosing to raise her two sons alone. Later, when they were assassinated after trying to reform Roman agrarian policies, Cornelia steadfastly carried on, a symbol of enduring Roman motherhood.

Even that fabled feminine intuition has strong Italic roots. Portia, seeing her husband Brutus toss and turn all night (he was plotting Julius Caesar's death), asked him to open up to her. Like many macho men, he refused. The next morning, Caesar's wife, Calpurnia, asked him not to go the Senate, having had a frightful dream; Caesar, too, refused.

The rest, as they say, is history—all of which could have been avoided if Brutus and Caesar had simply listened to their ladies. Stubbornness, thy name is man!

#### SAINTS

When it comes to that most ennobling of Italic virtues, humanism, the leadership of ancient Italic women takes on a special glow.

Eumachia of Pompeii, a wealthy philanthropist, donated much of her money to her beloved hometown, erecting temples and public buildings. In central Italy, Ummidia Quadratilla lived to be a ripe old age (78)—luckily for the citizens of Casinum, her home city, who benefitted from her generosity in constructing amphitheaters. On a smaller scale, Faustilla was Eumachia's lesser half in Pompeii—she distributed monies but collected interest, perhaps the world's first mortgage loan lender.

The chaste Vestal Virgins, precursors of Roman Catholic nuns, presided over the Sacred Fire of Vesta, goddess of the Hearth. If the flame ever went out, it was said, disaster would befall the Empire. One Vestal Virgin in particular stood out: Aquilia Severa. Surviving a sordid public scandal (the wicked emperor Egalabalus violated her virginity because he wanted to sire "godlike children"). Her reputation was so pure that she was reinstated as a Vestal Virgin, a complete relaxation of the rules.

After the Emperor Constantine declared Christianity the empire's "official" religion in 313 A.D., Roman women became some of the most fervent and powerful followers of Jesus of Nazareth.

In Ostia, near Rome, Fabiola, from a well-to-do family, established the world's first free public hospital, dedicating



An Italian lady with pen and book, from Pompeii. Educated females were common in Italian history.

*Sabina, the wife of Emperor Hadrian, founded a women's law advocacy group to act as a consultant on issues relevant to women's lives, such as marriage, property and children's education.*

it to "the glory of the Church." A religious woman named Etheria literally went on foot in her zeal to praise Christ, traveling through every town and village in the Holy Land. Like any good traveler, she kept a diary, which can still be read in its original Latin.

Unfortunately, some Italic women didn't get a chance to celebrate their faith. Rufina and Secunda, daughters of a Roman senator, underwent torture for their conversion. Their bodies were buried near the Via Aurelia road outside of Rome, where a church stands in their honor.

And Cecilia, a rich Roman woman, lay in pain for three days after executioners botched several attempts to kill her—first by scalding her in hot water, then by trying to behead her. Even as she lay dying, her vocal chords damaged by the blows of the sword, she continued to sing out psalms to those who gathered to comfort her. She is now the patron saint of music.

Faustina the Younger, wife of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, certainly had the patience of a saint—she

sired 13 children, a record amount in those days!

#### SINNERS

Every society has their "bad girls," those passionate females who usurp what are considered "proper" modes of feminine behavior. What that meant in classical days is that a woman "acted like a man"—that is, either demanded full equality or, more typically, mimicked the worst excess of the male ego: pride, greed, sexuality or political ruthlessness. Italic women were no different—although, being Italic women, they loomed just as large as their masculine versions.

In modern America, we have pop star Madonna Louise Ciccone, aka Madonna, using her sexuality to shock and undermine a puritanical, male-dominated society. Her Italic counterpart was the Empress Messalina, third wife of the Emperor Claudius. Thirty four years younger than Claudius when they wed in 48 A. D. (he was 48, she 14), Messalina quickly grew tired of her plodding husband and equally plodding cabinet members.

Whenever Claudius was away, she delighted in scandalizing the public with her antics, which included painting her nipples gold or visiting brothels unannounced and challenging the working women to "duels" (i.e., seeing who could satisfy more customers in a given hour—a contest which Messalina usually won). When Claudius's cohorts finally silenced Messalina, the old emperor, upon hearing the news, simply nodded his head in relief.

Italic women didn't shy away from the battlefield, either. Fulvia, the wife of Marc Antony, frequently stirred up revolts against towns or villages who balked at her husband's authority. When Antony left Fulvia in 42 B.C. to dally with Cleopatra in Egypt, she waged war against Antony's enemy, Octavian, as a way of showing him her loyalty. It didn't work. Needless to say, if Fulvia had gotten her own hands on the Queen of the Nile, it might have put professional wrestling to shame.

\* \* \*







Seafood Restaurant  
Northern Italian Specialties

For  
Elegant Surroundings  
and the Finest in Sea Food  
and Meat Dishes

SINCE: 1982

Some say the "star has fallen" on this "Venice on Lex", but most call it "a hidden treasure" with "first-rate seafood", "friendly staff" and intimacy that's "perfect for lovers."



Piano Lounge  
Sky-Light Room

LUNCH - DINNER  
Mon.- Fri. Mon. - Sat.

Corporate  
Parties

346 Lexington Avenue (Corner of 40th St.) N.Y.C. 10016  
Tel. (212) 687-4425 • Fax (212) 983-6040



Marino Gerazounis & Jaffe Associates, Inc.

100 West 32nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10001-3210  
waiting for change

Tel: (212) 643-9055  
Fax: (212) 643-0503

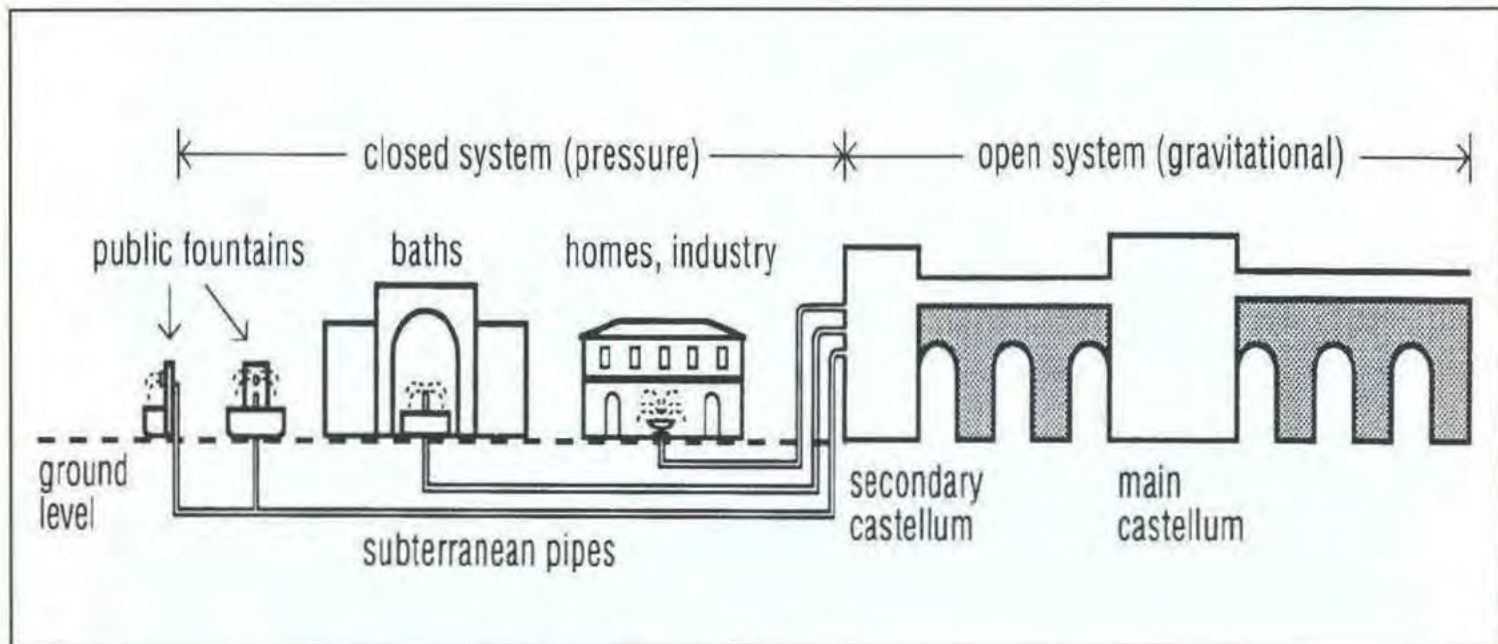
in affiliation with MG Engineering P.C.





**The Roman Aqueducts** (continued from p. 28)  
 inspired admiration and awe throughout the centuries. Perhaps Sextus Julius Frontinus, Rome's first century A.D. Curator Aquarum said it best: "How can you compare the useless Pyramids of Egypt, or the beautiful non-productive works of the Greeks, with these constructions?" People yearned more for fresh water, the sustainer and

cleanser of life, than for such monuments which, although beautiful, served no useful function. Roman aqueducts were not only visually magnificent, but provided a reliable system of clean water for the extensive empire a luxury which a tremendous portion of the world's population still does not enjoy.



**Italian-American Cowboy** (continued from p. 23)

least it did keep him around the animals he loved. He eventually became captain of its polo team.

Officially, Iodice was majoring in communications and minoring in education. Before he would become a "lawyer" he would become a "teacher." That was his story. But weekends and summers he worked around horses. These jobs did more than help pay for his education. They were his real education.

At the age 23 he was hired by a rodeo circuit full-time and he has been cowboy'ing ever since. He taught himself how to work with ropes and whips. He's designated as a "trick rider and roper" and also does tricks with a bullwhip.

He has won many awards, including two Montie Montana Trick Roping Showmanship Awards (equivalent to a Most Valuable Player award in baseball) and the Rodeo Act of the Year Trophy Buckle.

Most of the year Iodice is on the road, living out of a suitcase. "I love Italy best. I've visited every part of Italy. It's all wonderful and it makes my very proud of my name and my heritage."

When not working or being a tourist Iodice heads to the Bronx, where he bunks at his parents' house. The handsome, olive skinned cowboy, who stands 5-foot-9 and weighs 170 pounds, is not married. He was engaged to Alida Wallenda (of the famous circus family) but because of competing career demands, it didn't work out.

In November of 1999, Iodice saw his life come full circle when he performed in the National Horse Show at Madison Square Garden, the same place that sparked his imagination as a child.

"That was a dream come true," he says.

To aspiring Italian American cowboys, he says: "Go for it. We can use more."

"Sometimes when people hear my name, they throw some stereotype cliché at me. I try to turn it back on them. Fortunately, in the rodeo it is mostly good natured banter. I haven't run into many bigots. But still, it would be nice to have a few more people in rodeo with names like mine."

\* \* \* \*







LACOR MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC.

*Air Conditioning • Refrigeration • Heating*

114 Fulton Street  
New York, NY 10038

~

Tel.: 212-233-5607

Fax: 212-233-8725

E-mail: [TomL@Lacormech.com](mailto:TomL@Lacormech.com)



*Ennio  
&  
Michael*  
ristorante

539 LaGuardia Place  
between Bleeker and West Third Street  
(LaGuardia Place and West Broadway are the same street)

*For reservations please call*  
212/677-8577

---

The Italic Studies Institute  
P.O. Box 818  
Floral Park, New York 11001

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
FLORAL PARK, NY  
PERMIT # 14