



The Founders' Log



No. 3

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November 1997

Memorandum

Founders of the Italic Studies Institute, 1987

Stefano Gristina

John Mancini

Carl Pescosolido

November, 1997

Re: Romano Team Steps Down

Dear Member,

It is our sad duty to report that we have accepted the resignations of Michael Romano and Patrick Grecco, President and Vice President of the Executive Council effective Oct. 15th. These resignations were a culmination of at least eight months of disharmony. Both Mike and Pat strongly disagreed with the "path" being taken by the Governors. We were at odds on a number of issues, which we will not dwell on. (A copy of our August 1st memo to the Executive Council will be furnished to members upon request.) Suffice it to say, we are deeply disappointed at the loss of these two fine men but hope they continue as members of the Institute.

The resignation of Romano and Grecco and their inactivity over recent months has negatively impacted the Plenary Council. To restore the momentum, we have appointed John Mancini as President *pro tempore* until we can reconstitute the Executive Council.

Fortunately, our programs have not been disrupted and we are pleased to report that Aurora has some 200 youngsters enrolled this month for language and culture study. Our unique program is being supported by the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) as well as by the Italian Republic through IACE (Italian American Committee on Education). Of course, the Institute must fund all deficits.

Hopefully, you have received, or will be receiving shortly, *The Italic Way* (XXVII). We had some printing problems which still need to be sorted out. This accounted for the delay in mailing.

Some more good news is that our Italian American Agenda (you will find a draft in the new *Italic Way*) was officially endorsed by NIACA (National Italian American Coordinating Association). We were pleased to present the Agenda, which was created by our Advisory Council, in Washington DC to the NIACA board. NIACA is a new umbrella group to which we belong that also includes the Sons of Italy, NIAF, UNICO, and a host of other groups. NIACA's blessing on this Agenda confirms the correctness of our path.

Furthermore, our initiatives in the U.S. Congress to redress the 1942 persecution of Italian-Americans is gaining important allies and support. Over 70 legislators have endorsed a resolution to investigate the events of 1942. Both NIAF and ISI are carrying this ball. *Newsday*, *The NY Times*, *The Washington Post* and ABC-TV's *Good Morning America* have all featured stories on this sad episode thanks to ISI and NIAF.

**Send your comments to:
The Council of Governors,
in care of the ISI Office.**

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We welcome your participation. Please send us job opportunities, new employment, personals or any other news items of interest.

Fax the ISI office at: (516) 488-4889

*or mail to:
Italic Studies Inst.
PO Box 818
Floral Park, NY*

**Our Website address is:
italic.org
Visit us and tell your friends.**

Keep those U.N. Petitions coming! We have received over 300 signatures for The White House.

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The Founders are resolved to build on these successes and to work vigorously to rebuild the Executive and Plenary Councils. Our membership should be proud to belong to an organization that is in the forefront of Italian American affairs. We must always remember: we are an Institute, we are not a club.

Your continued support will guarantee the Institute's greater success.

Warmest regards,

The Founders

DA VINCI EXHIBIT

Working models of Italian Renaissance inventions are on display at 2 World Financial Center (Liberty Street Gallery) through March 1st. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors. The exhibit is open every day but Monday, between the hours of 11:00 AM to 6:00PM (till 8:00 PM on Wednesdays). Saturday and Sunday: noon to 5:00 PM. For information call (212) 945-0505.

Aurora is Recognized Nationally

Our pre-packaged Aurora program for 5th & 6th graders is receiving funding grants from the Italian government and the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF). Thus far, \$5,500 has been pledged from these sources. Aurora is currently operating at six centers in the Metropolitan area. The Level 1 program is offered free to all children. Approximately 30% of the children do not have Italian surnames. About 10% of the students have no Italian blood.

Utica Museum Celebrates Its 12th Anniversary

Institute member Prof./Cav. Philip DiNovo had a dream to preserve and promote the Italian heritage in Upstate New York. In 1985, he realized his dream with the opening of a cultural center and museum in collaboration with St. Mary Mt. Carmel Church.

We urge anyone in the Utica area to visit this unique center to gain greater insight into the immigrant experience. In its cultural mission, the center offers Italian language instruction, cooking classes and traditional Italian celebrations during the various holidays.

For more information contact Prof./Cav. DiNovo at (315) 684-9502.

Our Founder Funds School Library

Institute co-founder Carl Pescosolido has endowed yet another Institution, this time a library at one of his son's prep schools, the Governor Dummer Academy in Massachusetts. Carl's gift to the school was in memory of his late son, Carl Jr., who died in an auto accident in 1993. The Academy is older than the United States, founded in 1763. Carl was pleased that the Academy utilized an Italian architect and an Italianate style.

Carl has encouraged us to locate the right property for our Manhattan headquarters and research library of Italic Civilization. Our first choice didn't pan out but our search continues. With Carl's help and spirit we will make it.

October Luncheon Held

The Plenary Council resumed its Manhattan luncheon schedule with a buffet at La Veranda Restaurant near Times Square. President *pro tem* John Mancini introduced Tony De Nonno as our new Aurora Youth Program Director. He also announced plans for a major Christmas luncheon, a band concert and a golf outing this spring, as well as the 11th Annual Dinner Dance to be held on May 30th. Over \$1,000 was raised for the Aurora expansion.

NIACA endorses Italian-American Agenda

The new umbrella organization for the major Italian-American organizations (NIACA-National Italian American Coordinating Association) has officially endorsed our Advisory Council's national agenda for political action. The endorsement took place at a Washington DC conference on October 25th.

Advisory Chairman Alfred Cardone praised the endorsement as a first step in Italian-American unity of purpose.

PLENARY COUNCIL MEMBER PROFILE

She's Taking a Head Count...

Member: Michelle Roberts

Name of Business:

A. Taylor Personnel

Years with the Company: 5

Profile: Michelle is an Executive Recruiter at A. Taylor, an Executive Search Firm that fills employment voids at a variety of companies.

The firm has over 25 employees comprising four areas of specialty: Office Support, Financial Recruitment, Medical Staffing and Temporary staffing. They are approximately four times the size of the average agency and their offices include State-of-the-Art testing facilities, which contain the capability to design tests for particular industries.

Michelle says that candidates are referred to her because of her good reputation. Indeed, her recruiting approach focuses on integrity. She says that she pays just as much attention to a candidate seeking a \$40,000 position, as she does to one looking for a \$150,000 job. Also, "the way we approach potential applicants is aesthetically different from other Executive Search Firms. We interview them in private areas, where there are no phones or other distractions." Through this in-depth interviewing, testing and screening process, the firm can assure its clients that any potential employees are qualified for the jobs they may be contracted for. This is part of an ethical standard subscribed to by the National Association of Personal Consultants, of which A. Taylor is a member. Their code of ethics is rigorously maintained.

Michelle has established excellent working relationships with many of the leading corporations in New York, including Conde Nast, Fleishman Hillard and Heidrich and Struggles. Some of the firm's other clients include: Lehman Brothers, Grey Advertising, Cisco Systems, Price Waterhouse and B.B.D.O.



NOVEMBER ALMANAC

The ninth month of the year, until the Romans moved New Year's from March to January.

Nov. 5 - Ella T. Grasso was elected governor of Connecticut in 1974. The first female elected as a governor in the United States.

Nov. 7 - Patriot Giuseppe Garibaldi turns Southern Italy over to King Victor Emanuel in 1860 with a handshake after having liberated it from the Spanish Bourbons. The following year, Garibaldi was offered a commission as general in the Union Army by President Lincoln.

Nov. 10 - In 1494, the first book of accounting was published by Fra Luca Pacioli. It explained to the world the Italian method of double-entry bookkeeping, a mainstay of today's capitalist society.

Nov. 15 - In the year 1512, Michelangelo's ceiling painting in the Sistine Chapel was first seen by the general public.

Nov. 18 - Comedienne Imogene Coca, famous co-performer with Sid Caesar during the 1950's, was born in 1908.

Nov. 19 - In 1941, the Italian Army's crack Ariete Division fought a gallant defense against overwhelming British & Empire forces at El Gobi in the Western Desert. Their stand allowed Rommel's Afrika Corps to safely retreat.

Nov. 21 - The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge was dedicated in 1964. The longest suspension bridge in the world was named after Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazano who first sailed into New York Harbor in 1524 for the French.

Nov. 25 - Joltin' Joe diMaggio, baseball great, was born in 1914 in Martinez, California.

Nov. 27 - Italian physicist Giovanni Giorgi was born in 1871. He developed the Giorgi International System of Measurement (also known as "mksa") He contributed greatly to hydroelectric technology, urban trolley development and electrical distribution networks.

WHY PARTY ALONE?

On Friday Evening, December 19th, the Institute will host its first **Multi-Office Holiday Bash**.

For info, call (516) 488-7400.

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