



The Officers' Log

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ITALICA HONORED



There's a city in southern Spain named Italica. It was founded by Roman general Scipio Africanus as a veterans colony to italianize the newly won Iberian peninsula in 206 B.C.

The city produced two of Rome's greatest emperors -- Trajan and Hadrian. Nearby Seville coincidentally figured in the discovery of the New World, as it was home to Italian merchant families that helped finance Columbus' voyage in 1492.

With all these Italic connections, our president Bill Dal Cerro paid homage last month with a visit to these wellsprings of our modern world. *****



NYC MAYOR SEEKS ROOTS

New York's mayor Bill De Blasio dropped his German surname and adopted his maternal one many years ago out of love for all that is Italian. This year, he took his family to visit his ancestral home to show his biracial children their Latin side.

While Hizzoner got good and bad reviews on leaving the city and

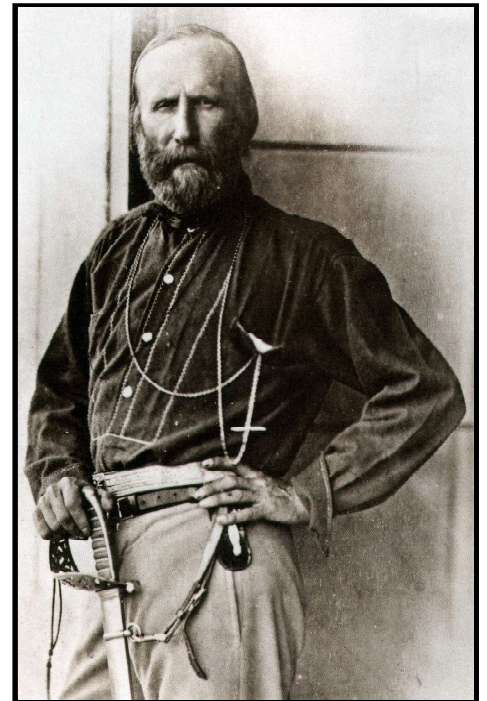


continent for a full ten-day vacation, the trip was positive experience for the DeBlasio's and Italy's image.

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LA CASA MYSTERY

We are, no doubt, obsessed by the struggle for *La Casa Italiana* at Columbia University. "The more layers you peel back the more reasons we have to complain," notes President Bill Dal Cerro.



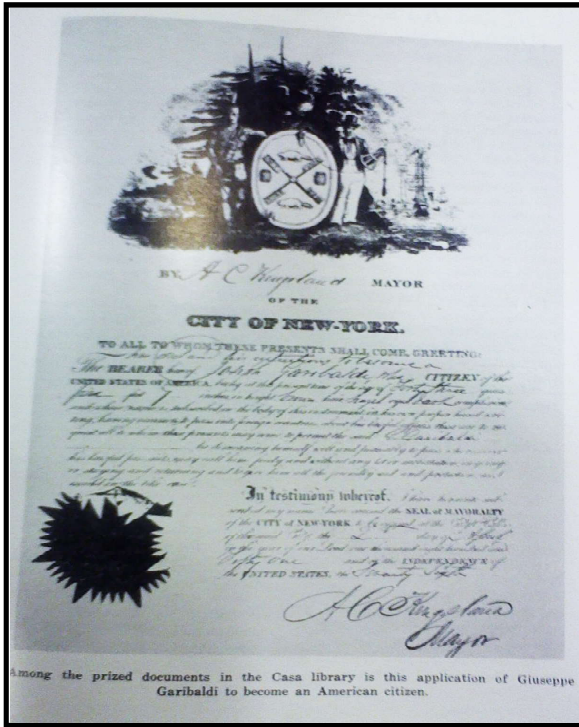
The latest head-scratcher is the whereabouts of Giuseppe Garibaldi's original application for U.S. citizenship. Our researchers found a photo (see page 2) of this priceless document in some off-campus archives. "It was probably given to *La Casa* by New York City back when *La Casa* was the cultural home of the Italian-American Community," suggests Executive Director John Mancini. "We cannot read the date on the photo but it had to be around 1850 when Garibaldi was in exile here after an aborted attempt to liberate Rome from the Papacy and French."

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La Casa Mystery from p. 1

Among the likely hiding places are within the Italian Academy, *La Casa*'s tenant, or Columbia's Butler Library. A librarian there suggested that it might have been donated to the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum on Staten Island at the time of *La Casa*'s sale to Italy. Our Institute has asked the Museum to investigate this possibility.

The caption reads: "Among the prized documents in the Casa library is the application of Giuseppe Garibaldi to become an American citizen."



Spread Our Gospel!

How many Italian Americans are getting the sort of information you read in this newsletter? Very few.

This is the difference between a "Classical" Italian and a "Lite" Italian.

Expand horizons!
Join us or gift a friend or relative!

We are the Alternative!

- Enroll the person below as a member (\$50 check enclosed)
- Renew my membership for 2014 (\$50 check enclosed)
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CBS: The Virus Spreads

As we predicted, the CBS hit series *Mike & Molly* will go into syndication with the FX cable channel in September. This series includes the episode "School Recital" in which the phrase "I'd take a bullet for this wop" is used. Syndication guarantees that this episode will be broadcast far into the future. An example of this is the *Seinfeld* series created in the 1990s and still being seen on TBS and other cable stations some twenty years later.

"*Mike & Molly* has taught us that even having two prominent Italian Americans on the CBS board means absolutely nothing," explains Vice President Tony Vecchione. "Neither one acknowledged our appeals."

The *CSI* (Crime Scene Investigation) franchise has also gone into syndication. This includes the episode *In Vino Veritas* in which one main character claims, "If you want to live a little you have to cheat a little" is an old Italian saying.

"Embedding such ethnic zingers in popular entertainment reinforces the incessant message that Italian Americans are morally challenged." explains John Mancini.

Helping Jews

In light of the on-going turmoil in the Middle East and Africa, Institute researcher Joe Graziose found this item on the internet: On the heels of the Six-Day War in 1967, the Jewish population of Libya was subjected to attacks by their Arab neighbors. Jewish community leaders appealed for aid in evacuating the country. Through an airlift and the aid of several ships, the Italian Navy helped evacuate more than 6,000 Jews to Rome in one month. Of these, more than 4,000 soon emigrated to Israel or the United States. The ones who remained stayed in Rome. Out of the approximately 15,000 Roman Jews, 4,000 are of Libyan descent, and constitute an influential part of the community.

NYC Mayor from p. 1

There was one critic who took the opportunity to trash Italy, politically and economically. Journalist Alexander Stille (family name Kaminetzkis) connects with Italy through his father who fled there from the USSR and wore out his welcome in Fascist Italy. Stille enjoys his glass-half-empty approach to Italy and likes to keep spreading his perspective. But this time, his polemic in the *New York Daily News* had an answer from the Italic Institute. We invite you to see the published response to Stille in our *Log* insert.

AUGUSTUS PLACEMAT DESIGNED

Here is a reduced sample of our new placemat specially designed by John Mancini and Andrew Ricci to commemorate the 2,000th anniversary of the death of Caesar Augustus. We are offering it free to Latin classes around the country in time for the fall session. If you know of a local school that would be interested in this free offer, let us know. Incidentally, the emperor's birthday is September 23rd. Says Chairman Rosario Iaconis, "Most people only know him as the ruler who ordered the census at the time of Christ. But his remarkable life still affects us in so many other ways, from the name of New Jersey to the Rule of Law." Adds Governor Don Fiore, "Every Italian American should know who he was and why he is the foundation of our heritage. Sadly, that's not the case."

"ROME WAS NOT BUILT IN A DAY"

as the saying goes. It took 722 years from the founding of Rome to the ascension of Italy's greatest son Caius Octavian, known to the world as Caesar Augustus. As the Founder of the Roman Empire, he had a profound effect on mankind down to our own day. His forty-five year reign and peaceful death in 14 A.D. solidified Rome's and Italy's place at the forefront of civilization. Let us consider how this man changed our lives.

He reorganized a domain that encompassed 80 million people on three continents. Roman provincial governments were the basis for many modern nations.



He completed the unification of Italy, integrating all the regions into a nation-state making Italy the beneficiary of the Empire's wealth and talent. Because of this, Italy would always be at the forefront of Western Civilization.



He reorganized the imperial government preserving the institutions of the republic that served as the model for the Constitution of the United States. His sound policies ushered in a period of relative peace and prosperity known as the *Pax Romana* (Roman Peace) that endured for two centuries.



He made Judea a semi-autonomous region allowing King Herod to rebuild the second Temple as well as the infrastructure and cities of Caesaria and Tiberias.



CAESAR AUGUSTUS 2,000 YEARS IN 2014 63 B.C. - 14 A.D.



The Latin language and alphabet became the standard tongue and foundation of all the Romance languages. It contributed close to half the vocabulary of the English language.



His name lives on in places even unknown to him, from Augusta, ME to Zaragoza, Spain, to Augsburg, Germany. Today's Italian holiday of *ferragosto* began as the Feast of Augustus. The month of August is named for him.



His title, Caesar, was carried beyond his age and empire. The name Jersey is a corruption of the Italian for Caesar, *CHEZ-sa-ray*. The titles of *kaizer*, *tsar*, and *shah* are all forms of the Latin *KAI-sar*.



His image and times miraculously remain with us in the *Altar of Augustan Peace (Ara Pacis Augustae)* in Rome. It was the first public monument to depict women and children. It contains the first Madonna & Child theme before the birth of Christ.

He consolidated the borders of the Roman Empire along the Rhine-Danube, sailed a fleet in the North Sea, completed the absorption of Spain, Portugal, Galatia (in today's Turkey) and a huge portion of the Balkans. His work would later bear fruit with the rise of Nova Roma (Constantinople/Istanbul) and its Eastern Roman Empire that would last until 1453.



The arts flourished during his rule. The Augustan Age was the Golden Age of Roman literature - by Virgil, Horace, Livy, and Ovid - works that would later fuel the Renaissance and humanism throughout Europe.

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GATHERING OF THE STAFF

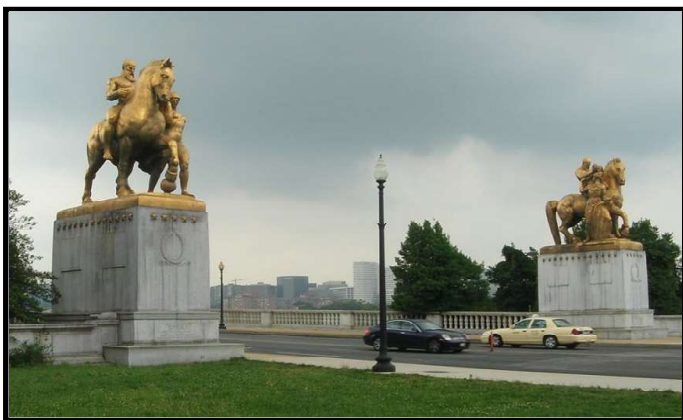
It isn't often in this computer age that Institute officers meet in person. But we found an excuse when our traveling President Bill Dal Cerro paid a visit to Long Island last month.



(l-r) Andrew Ricci, graphic design specialist; George Ricci, Governor; Tony Vecchione, Vice President; Bill Dal Cerro, President; John Mancini, Executive Director; Joseph Graziose, researcher; and Rosario Iaconis, Chairman.

MEMBER FEEDBACK

Some Institute members were inspired by Executive Director John Mancini's vacation article in the last Log to send us some items of interest they have come across.



Gennaro Pupa of California sent us a number of photos from his travels. The one above shows the dual sculptures titled "Arts of War: Sacrifice and Valor" astride the Washington, DC, entrance to the Arlington Memorial Bridge. The sculptor was Leo Friedlander but the bronze castings were "Donated by the Government of Italy in 1950"



Mike Bacarella of Illinois referred us to this photo and Italian-related story from the American West.

Giovanni Maria Augustini (1801-1869) - An Italian priest who came to America and wandered from one Indian tribe to another teaching the gospel and administering the last sacrament to people on the Santa Fe Trail. He lived for a time in a what's now called Hermit's Cave in Council Grove, Kansas, and later atop a mountain in New Mexico, known as Hermit's Peak. Father Augustini lived in this cave for five months in 1863. That fall, at age 62, he left Council Grove with a wagon train and walked the 550 miles to Las Vegas, New Mexico (near Santa Fe).

And speaking of the Old West, our **President Bill Dal Cerro** discovered that of the 228 Pony Express riders (1860-61) one was named Guglielmo Sangiovanni!

WE DIDN'T KNOW

Institute member **Bill Fanciullo** of New Jersey recently informed us that he is an alumnus of the Alpha Phi Delta fraternity, originally founded by and for Italian Americans in 1914. According to its website, "*As was the case with their parents before them, they [students] encountered many difficulties; not the least among them was exclusion from the normal social life on the various campuses.*"

"A group of Italo-American students, convinced of their innate status of equality, without fanfare, demonstrations or protest, formed their own colonies. From this modest beginning, Alpha Phi Delta was born."

Although the fraternity has had an open enrollment for many years it still honors its Italic roots. With headquarters in Camden, Delaware, the fraternity lists undergraduate chapters at 36 campuses, including Cornell, Penn State, Rutgers, and the University of Colorado.

At Bill's suggestion, we are reaching out to the fraternity to gauge its interest in our classical perspective. ****

