



The Officers' Log

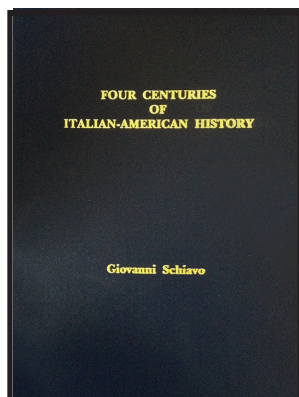
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FATHER OF OUR HISTORY

The Schiavo Family and Our Institute Go Public



It was the work of a lifetime, researched over decades and first published in 1952. Too few people knew of its existence until now. Giovanni Schiavo's monumental history of our presence in America can now be read
cont'd on p.3

PBS SERIES INFORMATIVE...BUT

John Maggio, the wiz behind the new PBS documentary *The Italian Americans*, can be praised on many levels for assembling this 4-part series, especially for getting PBS's blessing. "But Mr. Maggio had an inside track," says Executive Director John Mancini. "He worked for PBS, plus his narrative conformed to the tried-and-true perspective of Italians as struggling, but grateful, immigrants. He created a very emotive film but left out 400 years of our untold history and blamed only northern Italians for all our miseries in Italy."

A full review of this series will appear in the next issue of *The Italic Way*.

ITAL-JAZZ BOOK A REALITY

Two Members Blaze a New Trail

Fifteen years in the making, the new book *Bebop, Swing, and Bella Musica: Jazz and the Italian American Experience* fills an important niche in American musical history. Written by IIA members Bill Dal Cerro and David Witter, the book chronicles the amazing, often overlooked role which Italian Americans have played in jazz, from the music itself (from Dixieland to modern) to racially integrating it (e.g., band leader Joe Marsala recruited black musicians in the mid-1930s, even before Benny Goodman).



As the author Joachim-Ernst Berendt once wrote: "No other European country produced such a significant number of American jazz musicians as Italy."

"We thank the National Italian American Foundation in Washington D.C. (NIAF) for its initial grant of \$5,000, which helped us set up our first interviews," says Dal Cerro, our Institute's national president. Initial passages of the book were first serialized in past issues of *The Italic Way* (visit our archives). Bill also credits "amazing book designer, Bob Aulicino, and our proofreader/editor extraordinaire, Peggy Fox (also an IIA member)." We know that readers will be impressed.

To enjoy this musical journey order a copy (@\$19.95), by visiting the website (www.italiansinjazz.com) or contacting the authors at davidmojowkn@gmail.com or bdcerro@yahoo.com

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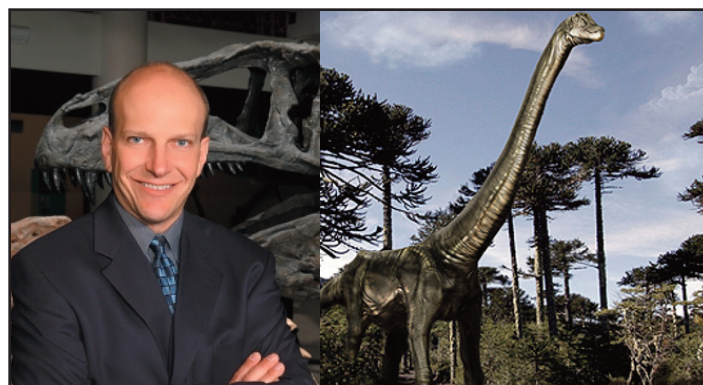
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MEN OF SCIENCE

He has taken some flak this winter but it's not rocket science, as they say. But **Louis Uccellini** takes it in

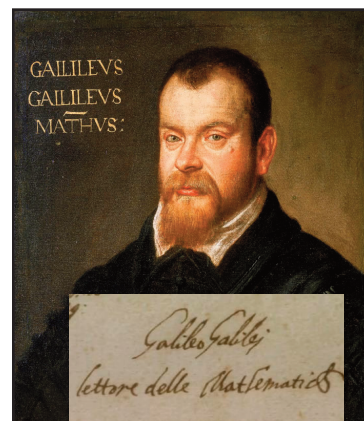


stride as the nation's weather "forecaster-in-chief," Director of the National Weather Service. Take the case of the "blizzard that wasn't" in late January. Uccellini's computers were off by about 75 miles, sparing New York City what eastern Long Island and New England suffered. The problem was the MTA shut down the NYC subways prematurely. Lucky you're not Boston!



Last September, paleontologist **Kenneth Lacovara** reported that his team had unearthed the largest dinosaur species ever found and named it Dreadnoughtus - 85 feet long, 30 feet tall and weighing 65 tons, but only an adolescent! The fossil, bearing a 37 foot neck, was found in Argentina in 2005.

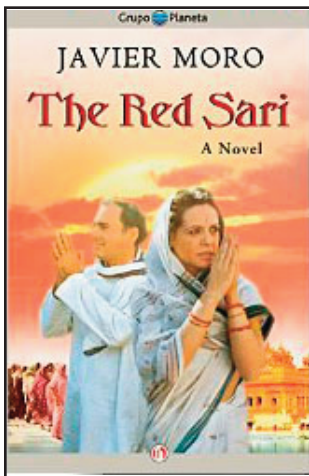
A letter written by Italian scientist **Galileo Galilei** in 1607 is now worth \$60,000 to \$80,000 according to an appraiser on TV's *Antiques Roadshow*. The 43-year-old Galileo signed the letter as "A Reader of Mathematics."



A Sari Story

On the whole, Americans and Europeans have embraced multiculturalism, sometimes to their own detriment. So-called “white people” often walk on eggs not to offend immigrant cultures that arose without a Greco-Roman foundation. Is it impolite to mention how many of these cultures are intolerant of religious freedom, the rights of women, and secular expression – hallmarks of our Greco-Roman heritage?

The nation of India is a case in point. Italian-born Sonia Gandhi has led the Congress Party for many years by virtue of her marriage into the famous Gandhi family. Her Italian roots have been somewhat of an embarrassment in a country exploited by Europeans (the British)



for two centuries past. The problem came to a head five years ago when the Congress Party was in power and a novelized biography of Sonia was written by a Spanish author but never published. Now that Congress is out of power, the book has been published and distributed in India. According to the Spanish publisher, the main reason the book was held up for five

years was its detailed description of Sonia’s humble Italian birth. “They [Congress Party attorneys] told us that was completely offensive,” stated publisher Elena Ramirez. *The New York Times* related that author Javier Moro told them that the Party objected to the book because, in a country

where her foreign birth is a political liability, it delineated her Italian origins. Curiously, Sonia Gandhi never ran for public office, but her half-Italian son Rahul (pictured with



Sonia) might have been named Prime Minister had the Congress Party won in last year’s elections. A Hindu nationalist won instead.

Just for the record, there are two Indian-American governors in the United States; Bobby Jindal (R-LA) and Nikki Haley (R-SC). It’s not a secret! ****

Our Quiet Image



Born in Milan, Italy, in 1977, Capt. Samantha Cristoforetti has studied in Italy, Germany, France and Russia and has a Master’s Degree in Solid Rocket Propellants.

She graduated from the Italian Air Force Academy in Pozzuoli (near Naples) in 2005, becoming

a fighter pilot, and spent some time at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. She completed basic astronaut training in November, 2010. In 2012, she was assigned to an Italian Space Agency mission aboard the International Space Station and launched on a Soyuz spacecraft from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on 23 November 2014, where she is currently on duty. You can find her on Twitter as @AstroSamantha.

Meanwhile, back on earth, Michael Suffredini is the manager of the International Space Station. His job includes design, manufacture, testing, and delivery of complex space flight hardware and software, working directly with international partners.

Suffredini is just one more Italian American



space manager that included Rocco Petrone, project manager of the first moon landing, and Riccardo Giacconi, of the Hubble Space Telescope ****

FATHER OF OUR HISTORY, from p.1
or referenced at our website: *italic.org*.

“This 328-page compendium of *Four Centuries of Italian-American History* documents the Italic underpinnings of the United States. It dispels the mythos of Italians as Gianni-come-lately immigrants,” says Chairman Rosario Iaconis. “Our Institute owes a debt of thanks to the Schiavo family for allowing such a masterwork to enter the public domain. Indeed, anyone and everyone of Italic descent should be grateful.” ****

A HOLLYWOOD CONNECTION



Anyone who follows cable food critic Anthony Bourdain might be interested to know that a producer of his show is Tom Vitale (left), son of long-time Institute member Frank Vitale (right). Tom is holding an Emmy for his team work with Bourdain's *Parts Unknown*, a CNN series.

The show travels around the globe introducing viewers to foreign cuisines and culture, including a number of visits to Italy.

Tom got infected with the camera bug by dad Frank Vitale, a filmmaker by trade. Frank has done a number of film projects for the Institute such as our *America: The Italian Legacy* video narrated by the late Geraldine Ferraro. You can catch the video on our website italic.org, under "Galleria Italica." Frank currently works in film production for the March of Dimes.



REGIONAL TEAMS MEET

Every once in a while our officers take time off from emailing each other and meet face to face.

Top photo: a gathering of our Chicago team led by officers Don Fiore (Governor) and Bill Dal Cerro (President). Left to right: Walter Santi, Don Fiore, Frank DiPiero, Peggy Fox, and Bill Dal Cerro. Walter is a long-time member who monitors the media and doesn't hesitate to speak out. Frank, also a member, is a businessman who moonlights as a local radio host of an Italian American affairs program. Peggy is our dauntless research specialist.

Lower Photo: our Metro New York crew includes (l-r) Chairman Rosario Iaconis, Vice President Anthony Vecchione, Executive Director John Mancini, and Advisory Counsel Chair Alfred Cardone.

Plans are afoot to convene our Western branch in the near future.

