



The Officers' Log

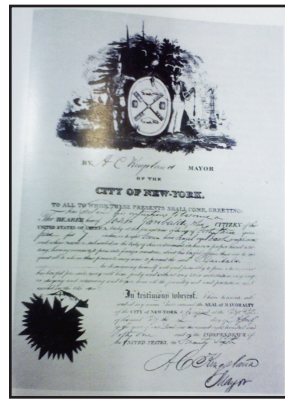
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GARIBALDI MYSTERY CONTINUES

Are there two original documents?



(left) Copyright Comune di Milano - all rights reserved - Milano, Archivio delle Raccolte

In our quest to locate a missing Garibaldi document once housed in *La Casa Italiana* at Columbia University we had reached a dead end, of sorts. But the story of our search piqued the interest of long-time Institute member Joseph Geraci of Virginia.

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“KIDS” PUT COLUMBUS ON TRIAL

Kids do the darndest things. So, should we be surprised that some 13-year-olds attending a middle school in the Hamptons on Long Island decided to indict Christopher Columbus and stage a mock trial of his dirty deeds?



Reports Executive Director John Mancini,

cont'd on p.3

Lou Gallo of the Sons of Italy tries to reason with these 13-year olds. But the fix was in.

A DEEPER PRIDE

New House Banner Designed for Columbus Day and More.



“Do we go down without a fight?” asks Institute President Bill Dal Cerro, referring to the nationwide movement to vilify Christopher Columbus. “With this newly designed house banner we now have something to symbolize the true meaning of the holiday.”

“It’s all about discovery, science and daring,” declares Chairman Rosario Iaconis. “Columbus Day was established as a reaffirmation of American unity. We celebrate the Renaissance genius of the Admiral of the Ocean Sea — a bond linking our ancestral homeland and the New World.”

Christened the *Italian Explorers Banner*, it was designed by the Italic Institute for display on Columbus Day and other days important to the Italian pioneers who opened the Americas and set in motion our modern world. They include John Cabot, Amerigo Vespucci, Giovanni da Verrazzano, Enrico Tonti, and Alessandro Malaspina.



To link the explorers to

cont'd on p.3

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Garibaldi Mystery, from p.1

Joseph discovered that the document, originally labeled "Application for U.S. Citizenship" by the staff of *La Casa* was actually a passport issued by the City of New York in 1851. Such things were done in those days. Joseph found this out after requesting a copy of Garibaldi's American passport held by a museum in Milan. Lo and behold, the passport was identical to the so-called Application for Citizenship we were looking for. Our document photo was too blurry to read but the museum's copy was legible. As you can see from the two photos (top), the documents are identical, except for a damaged seal on the *La Casa* version.

The next question: is the Milan passport from *La Casa*? Is the mystery solved? Joseph thinks not. The museum's records show the passport coming to them in 1921. The *Casa* photo is presumed to date after that. Moreover, the seal on *La Casa*'s passport is damaged, unlike the museum's. So, were there two original passports? Was one carried by Garibaldi and left to the Milan museum and another kept in the New York City Archives? If so, did the Archives donate their original to *La Casa*? Or were there more than two originals?

"We contacted the New York City Archives," explains Executive Director John Mancini, "but they have no record of the passport or giving it away. We even reached out to two former directors of *La Casa* and each could not recall seeing the passport." So, who took the photograph and labeled it? "Right now, all our chips are on finding the last librarian at *La Casa*, Bob Connolly," says Mancini. "The photo caption reads that 'this prized document is in the Casa library'. Will Connolly have all the answers?" The search continues.

[Special thanks to Nicoletta Rivolta, Valeria Giannelli, and Ilaria De Palma at the Milan Archives for their cooperation and research on our behalf.]

HOW DUMB?

If you are wondering how stupid people in the media are look no further than radio's ultra-conservative *non-mensch* Michael Savage (pictured). On his April 14th broadcast he had this to say about Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti:

"The idea of an Italian astronaut, I don't know, the whole thing doesn't



match to me. Putting the words Italian and astronaut in the same sentence, unto itself, is bizarre in the world I'm living in."

Clearly, Savage is living in the "real" world of Italic goons, guidos, and goofballs, in short, the media world.

Vice President Anthony Vecchione, who caught Savage's mutterings says, "Imagine, this guy has an audience of followers."

DE BLASIO, THE FREE SPIRIT

New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio is going national with cross-country speaking engagements.



De Blasio is a liberal's liberal. Born Warren Wilhelm, Jr. (left) of Germanic and Italic parents, he changed his persona with a double name-ectomy to Bill De Blasio (below) and naming his mixed race children Chiara and Dante.

"He loves playing with names," declares Executive Director John Mancini, "and he eats pizza with a fork in the Italian style. But that's as deep as he goes. He totally ignored our appeal for aid in restoring La Casa Italiana's mission at Columbia University. But he panders to other communities."



Mancini cited a recent capitulation De Blasio made to the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community over unsanitary



circumcisions. "De Blasio did not back his own Health Department, which wanted to stop mohelim [non-medical circumcisers] from orally sucking the infant's wound, and made a pilgrimage to Orthodox leaders to assure them of his support (in

photo with skullcap)."

There have been a number of incidents of genital herpes transmitted to infants by the mohelim, with two confirmed deaths since 2000. Former Mayor Michael Bloomberg, himself Jewish, was at odds with this sect.

Columbus "Trial," from p.1

"The kids' verdict was swift: guilty of crimes against humanity. Did I also tell you 8% of the students at the school are mixed race Shinnecock 'Indians,' a tribe looking to open a casino?" The students further petitioned the Southampton school district to drop the Italian explorer's name from the holiday.

Long Island's *Newsday* just loved the story and gave it almost a full page with a large photo on, of all days, St. Patrick's Day.

"I submitted a letter to the editor wondering how 13-year-olds conceived of this so far from Columbus Day and even knew what a mock trial was." Explains Mancini, "Obviously, the kids were inspired by some teachers with an agenda." Mancini's letter was never published. "I suggested that as the students realized Columbus didn't land on North America they could have looked for more appropriate villains in holidays like Thanksgiving (Pilgrims) or Presidents Day (which honors slave-owning and land-grabbing presidents.)"

It didn't help matters that a representative from the Sons of Italy agreed to "testify" on Columbus's behalf. The fix was already in.

Explorers Banner, from p.1

America, the banner has a field of blue and white stars at the top. It is made of weather-resistant material and readable on both sides.

Our Institute will be offering these banners free of charge to cultural centers around the country. The banner kit includes a pole, mounting bracket, and a summary of display days and explorers. For those members who wish to purchase a banner for their home, a special price of \$35 includes shipping.

"We want to launch this banner as visible advertising," says Executive Director John Mancini. "We're hoping friends and neighbors will see them and ask where to buy them. They can be directed to our website www.italic.org to be ordered. *****

AUTHOR IN DEMAND

Bettina's Work Continues to Inspire

For those of you familiar with the Italic Institute's *Italy and the Holocaust* report, you know that it was partly inspired by the work of author/member Elizabeth Bettina. We first met Elizabeth at a Long Island Holocaust museum where she presented her book, *It Happened in Italy*, recounting personal stories of Jewish internees during the war.

Elizabeth reports that her stories are now being incorporated into a new documentary entitled *My Italian Secret: The Forgotten Heroes*, narrated by Isabella Rossellini. Elizabeth has been named Consulting Producer for the project. Observes Institute Chairman Rosario Iaconis, "Elizabeth's efforts continue to enhance the legacy of the Italic people."



THE BALBO LEGACY

Institute Governor Don Fiore was invited to speak on Italian aviator Italo Balbo at the Italian Cultural Center in Chicago recently. He was joined by archeologist Tim Libaris from Loyola University. While Don addressed the details and significance of General Balbo's historic crossing of the Atlantic in 1933 with 24 seaplanes, and landing on Lake Michigan, the archeologist gave the audience a rundown on the Balbo Monument,



erected with a 2,000-year old column from Roman Ostia (the ancient port at the mouth of the Tiber River).

The column is the oldest antiquity owned by the Chicago Park District and probably one of the oldest outdoor public monuments in the U.S. In fact, Libaris views the monument, despite its Fascist symbols and inscriptions, as a price-

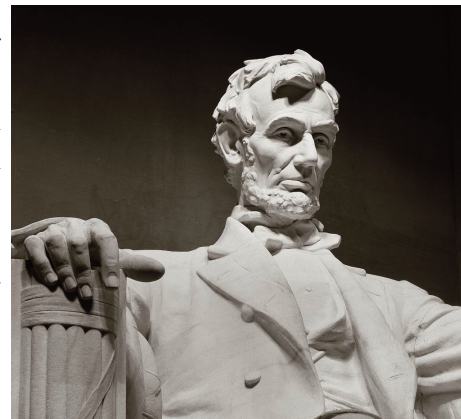
less historical treasure to be preserved and honored.

"That the Italian government and the representative of a major American university could freely discuss Balbo's feat and the memorial, without distorting the good relations between Italy and the U.S. at the time, was refreshing," Don observes.

INFORMATION POWER

An important part of preserving our Italian heritage is monitoring the mass media, not just newspapers, movies and television shows but also the internet. "You would not believe the depth of ignorance and defamation that circulates 24/7 on the internet," explains Institute Vice President Tony Vecchione.

Recently, Institute member Mario Ignagni of Minnesota noticed that Wikipedia (an internet encyclopedia) failed to credit the Piccirilli Brothers for sculpting the statue of Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial. Wikipedia allows documented changes to its entries so Mario submitted the revision below:



The Lincoln Memorial is an American national monument... The architect was Henry Bacon; the designer of the primary statue – *Abraham Lincoln*, 1920 – was Daniel Chester French; **the Lincoln statue was carved by the Piccirilli Brothers;** ^[2] and the painter of the interior murals was Jules Guerin."

[excerpted from Wikipedia]



A native Detroit, Mario (left) became an engineer at Honeywell in Minneapolis working on the Apollo manned spacecraft program. Since retirement, he has been an active "Wikipedian," with an interest in Italian and Italian-American history and culture. As

Institute Governor Don Fiore observes, "The bits and pieces of our gifts to America are always being undermined. We are fortunate to have people of Mario's caliber literally keeping the records straight."
