



The Officers' Log

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IMAGE PROBLEM

Mafia Funeral Stuns Rome

Italians are quite proud of their contributions to the arts. In fact, the arts are deemed by many to be more important than national image. With that sort of priority, Italy has been awash in Mafia cinema (a bastardization of art) for decades.

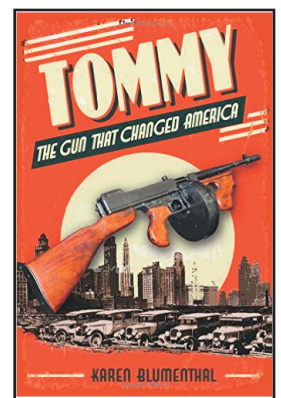
“DeNiro is a god over there,” recalls Institute Governor Don Fiore. “During our *Shark Tale* battle, the Italians were set to give him honorary citizenship for his Mafia roles.” The actor even did a voiceover Mafia shark named Don Lino in *Shark Tale*.

Already tarred by British pundits as a nation awash in
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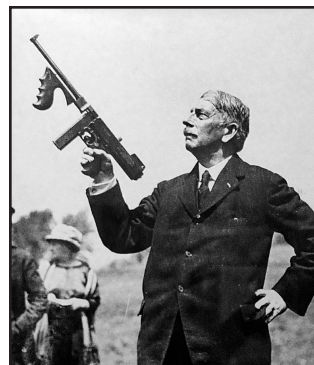
ANOTHER TALIAFERRO!

The “Tommy Gun”

Skimming through the book review section of a newspaper, one of our staffers found a new book on the “Tommy Gun,” that iconic weapon made famous by 1930s gangsters. Officially known as the Thompson Submachine Gun, it was developed by John Taliaferro Thompson (below), an Army general in the First World War .



The Italic Institute has often documented the deep Italian roots in America. One family we have profiled often is the Taliaferros of Virginia, whose ancestor Robert immigrated from England before the Revolution.



“There was a Col. Taliaferro on George Washington’s staff,” says Executive Director John Mancini, “and a Capt Taliaferro mentioned in connection with the Lewis & Clark Expedition.”

cont'd on p.2



GET YOUR BANNER READY!

Columbus Day is next month. While many self-serving politicians and business leaders are performing “colomboectomies” to expunge the Great Navigator from our national legacy, the Italic Institute has produced the ultimate display of pride for your home, club, or business. Show your colors for \$45. Order the banner through italic.org or by check payable to the Italic Institute, PO Box 818, Floral Park, NY 11002.

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Taliaferro, from p.1

In *The Italic Way* article on the family, it was revealed that the T in Booker T. Washington was Taliaferro and the Confederacy's first Secretary of State was Robert Taliaferro Hunter. Actress Glenn Close is a Taliaferro.

"Thompson's family tree can be found on *wikitree.com*," explains Mancini, "and goes back to Robert Taliaferro who came to America from England around 1750. Robert's grandfather, Bartolomeo Tagli-ferri, moved to England from Venice in the 1500s."

Alfred Cardone, our Advisory Council Chairman, observes, "Many English pioneers had Italian roots. Italians moved in significant numbers to England during the late Middle Ages, becoming English. Many anglicized their names like John Cabot, the great explorer."

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STAND BY YOUR MAN

or Business as Usual?

"Italian American groups proclaim their commitment to defending Columbus Day," according to Executive Director John

Mancini, "but what they mean is burying Columbus with cultural frivolities. Although it became a federal holiday to celebrate the joining of the New World with the Old, it has been degraded into a Kiss-Me-I'm-Italian kind of day."

"Both sides are to blame," observes Advisory Chairman Alfred Cardone. "Native Americans want us to believe the New World was a paradise before Europeans came. And Italian Americans have made the day an ethnic culture fest. The science, the daring, and immeasurable global benefits are all ignored."

"The Sons of Italy has basically turned Columbus Day over to the local politicians on Staten Island, NY," adds Mancini. "Borough President James Oddo is 'allowing' the Sons to dress up in a Columbus costume for a sideshow because the name Columbus has been dropped from the main event to suit political correctness. What's next, renaming the Verrazano Bridge?"

Image Problem, from p.1

political corruption and rampant organized crime, Italy awoke recently to the sight of an old-time Mafia funeral in the heart of Rome, complete with horse-drawn hearse and accolades to the deceased *mafioso*. A brass band played the theme from *The Godfather* and a helicopter dropped rose pedals on the 500 mourners. A member of Parliament called it a humiliation of all Italians.

"If Mussolini was considered a 'clown,'" suggests Executive Director John Mancini, "then Italy today has the whole circus. As much as we love our ancestral homeland, it definitely has an image problem from a to z. And, of course, it reflects on us in America."

"Such a travesty must never transpire anywhere in *Alma Mater Italia* – Palermo, Naples, Milan – let alone the Eternal City, *Roma Caput Mundi*," declares Institute Chairman Rosario Iaconis.

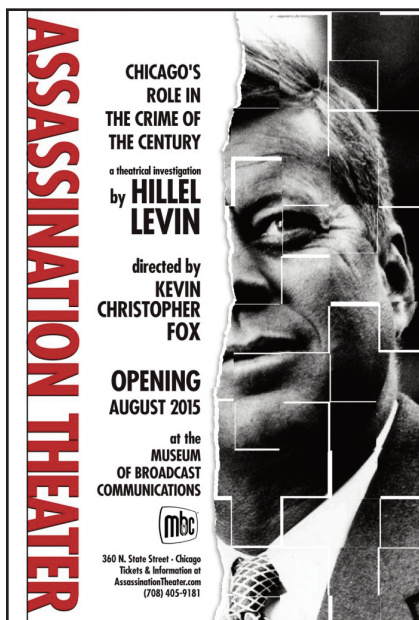
PROTOCOLS OF THE MAFIA

Reaping the Tainted Fruits of Puzo, Coppola, Scorsese, and Chase

Jews often cite *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* as the source of much anti-Semitism. They claim it is a bogus document created in Czarist Russia purporting to reveal the master plan for Jewish domination of the world.

We wonder: Is there a *Protocols of the Mafia* somewhere that reveals how Italians already rule the world through global crime and assassination? “Don’t laugh,” says Institute President Bill Dal Cerro, “Just this year we have witnessed a book and a stage play “revealing” that the Mafia assassinated President John F. Kennedy. The book went further by blaming the Mob for the killings of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King.”

Dal Cerro is referring to a play by Hillel Levin that premiered this August in Chicago entitled *Chicago’s Role in the Crime of the Century*. “Out of the myriad of conspiracy theories about JFK’s assassination,” explains Dal Cerro, “the idea that ‘the mob’ was behind it has long been bandied about, as well as dismissed. Yet, Levin asserts that it is the ‘most plausible answer.’”



And he has an ally in Italian author Stefano Vaccara whose book, *The Man Behind the JFK Assassination*, blames the mob for the murders of both RFK and MLK. “The only discrepancy between Levin and Vaccara,” observes Institute Director John Mancini, “is one points to the Chicago Outfit and the other to the New Orleans mob. But why split hairs, Italians did it either way.”

To demonstrate how comprehensive this idea of the *Protocols of the Mafia* has become, Dal Cerro points out how ESPN journalist Don Van Natta recently “revealed” that the mob “fixed” the 1973 “Battle of the

Sexes,” the famous tennis match between Bobby Riggs and Billie Jean King.

Scoffs Institute Advisory Council Chairman Alfred Cardone: “*The Protocols of Zion* are mere child’s play compared to those of the Mafia.”

“The ultimate victim in all of this, of course, is the reputation of Italian Americans. We are continually befouled by such unending nonsense,” laments Dal Cerro.

CONTROLLING FACTS

The importance of the Internet as a source of information cannot be overestimated. Millions of people consult the on-line encyclopedia, Wikipedia, every day. Our staff uses it often and sometimes we stumble on things that don’t sound right.

Wikipedia is overseen by a number of editors, but the real watchdogs are the general public who may be experts in a particular subject or can cite expert sources.

Whenever we find a questionable entry on Wikipedia we contact Institute member Mario Ignagni of Minnesota (right). Mario knows what it takes to revise misinformation. Two examples of his work occurred last month:



Here is the original entry under “American Mafia.”

Law enforcement still considers the Mafia the largest organized crime group in the United States.

Here is how it reads now

A 2010 U.S. government report on organized crime (“Organized Crime in the United States: Trends and Issues for Congress”) ranks Italian organized crime activities in the U.S. third, behind Russian and Asian organized crime.

Under the entry “Salvatierra, Jesuit Missionary”

Before

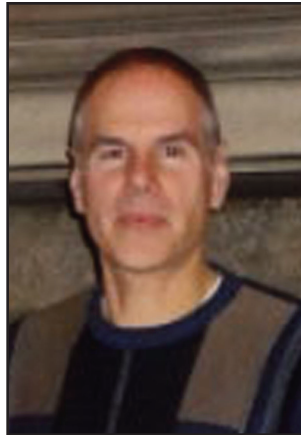
Juan María de Salvatierra, S.J., (November 15, 1648 – July 17, 1717) was a Catholic missionary to the Americas, born in Milan to a Spanish family.

After

Salvatierra was born Gianmaria Salvatierra in Milan. His father was of Spanish origin, and his mother was Italian.

CATCH US ON FACEBOOK

You would think the Italic Institute had reached most Italian Americans after 28 years. The truth is we are still known only to a few, mainly older, *paesani*. Last year, our Chairman Rosario Iaconis launched a Facebook page to gather “friends” among the millions using social media. Recently, member Frank DiPiero(r) of Illinois offered to crank up that Facebook outreach to draw in a wider range of folks.



To measure our progress, Facebook counts visits to a page as “likes.” We are starting this venture with 500 likes. Let’s see if we can reach the thousands.

ONE TOUGH MARINE



Her superiors thought she was too tough on female recruits and forced her out of the Marine Corps. But Lt. Colonel Kate Germano wanted her recruits to meet the same gruelling standards as male Marines, that meant in stamina as well as weapons proficiency.

Some believe Germano has become a casualty of gender equality.

The Detroit-born officer is the daughter of a former Army officer, with a zeal for military excellence. (We believe she’s Italic, but must confirm.)

Whatever your opinion of women serving in combat units, Lt. Colonel Germano has now made it a national conversation.

Note: Ever wonder why we pronounce colonel as kernel? Who knows! But the title comes from Italian - *colonello* - meaning the commander of a column of soldiers, that would be a battalion of 600. ****

POX ISLAMICA

“Our Institute has coined a new term to describe the dismal wave of religious dogma that is sweeping the globe these days.” explains Executive Director John Mancini. “It is the *Pox Islamica*.” It is a disease that is challenging the core of our secular society, a society built on a Greco-Roman foundation.”



The Roman theater at Palmyra, Syria, built two thousand years ago. It was still in use for a pre-ISIS dance recital (top); now for mass executions by the new Zealots of the Middle East (bottom).

The Middle East was once ruled by our Italic ancestors who introduced a 200-year era of peace called the *Pax Romana*.

“This was before Muhammad was born but when Judean Zealots were the ISIS of their day,” explains Advisory Chairman Alfred Cardone. “It took two wars and the dispersal of Jews to restore sanity to that part of the world.”

Not content with massacring infidels, raping women wholesale, and committing genocide, ISIS wants all vestiges of history, including the *Pax Romana* destroyed. Weeks ago, ISIS blew up the ancient pagan Temple of Baal and murdered a local archeologist, stringing his body up on a traffic light, to purge scholarship and the past.

“As Italian Americans, we should understand our ancestral connections to this region,” says Governor Don Fiore. “The stark difference between our *Pax Romana* and their *Pox Islamica* is astoundingly evident.” ****