



The Official Log

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ITALY'S WOES

Aliens & Earthquakes

As if Italy didn't have enough on its plate with a tsunami of illegal aliens and a stagnant economy, the earth shook in the Appenines last month, killing some 250 people and leveling towns that date back to the Middle Ages.



Italians have heroically endured volcanoes (the only three in Europe) and earthquakes for millennia. Things haven't improved much since Pompeii was buried

because Italians build with stone. In fact, most live in homes well over one hundred years old, before earthquake resistant technology existed. (cont'd on p.2)

TEACHERS PUSH FOR CHANGE

Ethnic Agendas to Replace Universal Values



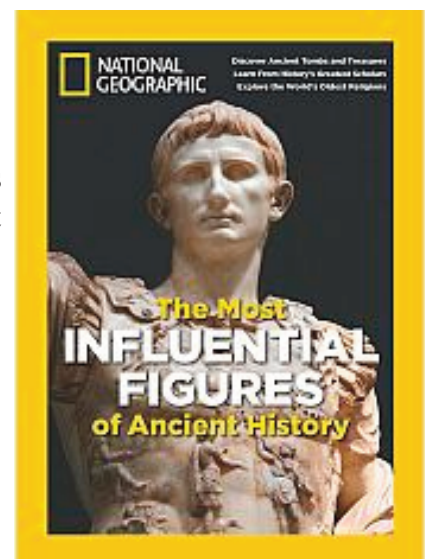
The National Education Association, to which most of this country's teachers belong, recently passed Business Item #24 which calls for the replacement of Columbus Day with *El Dia de la Raza*/Indigenous People's Day. To fuel the change, the NEA has allocated \$50,000 to prepare literature and strategies for approach- (cont'd on p.3)

MIXED MESSAGES

National Geographic magazine often publishes special editions on various subjects. This past summer it was "The Most Influential Figures of Ancient History" with Caesar Augustus, founder of the Roman Empire, on the cover.

This summer also saw the remake of *Ben Hur*. While the 1959 version of the film, starring Charlton Heston, gave the Romans some balance, this year's version was totally anti-Roman. "Its message is clear: the world was a better place without the ancient Italic people." observes Institute Analyst Alfred Cardone, having seen both versions.

Despite poor box office, more people will see *Ben Hur* than read the *Geographic*.



Italy's Woes, from p.1

Still, each tragedy brings the inevitable accusations of illegal construction, Mafia contractors, and endless red



tape hindering recovery and rebuilding. The truth is: Italy is one big heritage site, impossible to fully earthquake proof. But the Italian Republic, marking its

70th year, seems to catch as much blame as Mother Nature in these tragedies.

Worse still, the Italian character always seems to play the leading role in the country's misfortune. France's *Charlie Hebdo* published the unsavory cartoon above, perhaps to show its Muslim enemies that it can satirize anyone, even a Latin "sister." The tasteless cartoon plays on *Pasta Amatriciana*, which originated in one of the destroyed towns.

OUR QUAKE QUOTE

The New York Times

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2016

Italy's 'Dantesque' Quake

TO THE EDITOR:

In "Italy's Fragile Beauty" (Op-Ed, Aug. 25), Beppe Severgnini quotes a witness to the seismic devastation of Amatrice, Accumoli and Pescara del Tronto who describes it as a Dantesque calamity.

The earthquake has turned whole stretches of central Italy into earthly infernos, with entire towns nearly disappearing from view. But under the guidance of Italy's Civil Protection Department, expert rescuers and first responders have reacted with an alacrity born of grit, compassion and grace under pressure.

Yet more arduous labors lie ahead; rebuilding communities, retrofitting ancient structures and edifices with earthquake-proof technology and restoring normalcy. As Prime Minister Matteo Renzi declared, "Now we must dry our tears, and then the credibility and honor of us all will be in granting a true reconstruction that allows residents to live and restart."

ROSARIO A. IACONIS
Mineola, N.Y.

The writer is chairman of the Italic Institute of America.

WHAT'S IN YOUR DNA?

by John Mancini, Co-Founder



If you plan on taking a DNA test to trace your roots, be aware that it is not all that definitive. I received my results last month showing that I'm 68% Italian/Greek and 11% Western Europe (German/French?). The rest of me is from the Caucasus (Armenia?), North African, Middle Eastern, Jewish, and Iberian.

Coming as I do from four Italian grandparents, the 21% miscellaneous was surprising. But, the first thing you should know is that there is no pure ethnic DNA source to compare you to. Your DNA is compared to DNA samples recently drawn from living populations who are, no doubt, themselves mixed. And samples are limited, say 1,000 people from the Middle East, a few thousand from Italy, and so on. Your DNA link to North Africa, for example, means that only some of your DNA code is similar to the samples on file from North Africa. Moreover, it seems that the laboratory cannot distinguish between Greeks and Italians, so most of my DNA matches that pool of samples.

History tells us that Italic people mixed with lots of other folks, from the mysterious Etruscans to the colonizing Greeks and invading Germans. We also know that the Greeks and Italic people (aka Romans), colonized North Africa, the Middle East, as well as Western Europe. So, do those local inhabitants have traces of Greek/Italic DNA, hence the similarity? Do I have Jewish blood or do some Jews in the pool have a dash of my mixture? (It would be interesting to see their DNA reports.) Not surprisingly, I have no Asian or sub-Saharan links. Again, we know that the Romans did not settle in those parts and those folks didn't come to Italy until recently. Here is something else to ponder:

The Census Bureau defines White people as those "having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes people who reported "White" or wrote in entries such as Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Near Easterner, Arab, or Polish." Whites constitute the majority of the U.S. population, with 77.7% of the population as of 2013. There are only 62.6% Whites when those who describe themselves as "Hispanics" and "white" are taken out of the calculation. Question: Why count them out? -JLM

ARE YOU PREPARED?

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.



Why Columbus Day?



Christopher Columbus, Admiral of the Ocean Sea, has become the personification of all the evils that have befallen indigenous peoples of the Americas and the sub-Saharan Africans brought to the Americas as slaves. His place in history has been transformed by a few from intrepid discoverer to that of mass murderer.

October 12, 1492 is now viewed by some as another date to live in infamy. If you mourn 1492 instead of celebrating it, are you really saying that the Americas should have been left unopened to any outside exploration and settlement? Or, are you saying that some other explorer, or some other race or religion, would have done things better?

Please consider the following perspective:

Why Columbus Day? can be ordered 100 @ \$25 at *italic.org* or to the address above. Perfect for clubs, lodges, and groups to inspire your members.

INDIAN WARS

Holding Back the Tide

Last May, we reported on an anti-Columbus movement in Southampton, Long Island. Our Institute joined forces with the CSJ (Commission for Social Justice, Sons of Italy) in an appeal to that community’s Board of Ed not to rename Columbus Day for Indigenous Peoples. Our adversary was the Shinnecock Tribe, some of whose children attend the public schools.



If you Google Images: “Shinnecock Tribe,” you will see that intermarriage has substantially changed this “indigenous” people.

In late July, the school Board announced that it would temporarily use a generic calendar with no designation of actual holidays. During the course of the year they will host community forums to discuss a school calendar with named holidays.

Says Lou Gallo, an Institute member who heads the New York CSJ, *“I am convinced that if we did not show force on March 15th the Board would have already substituted Indigenous Peoples Day for Columbus Day. Our Southampton allies and watchdogs will keep us posted when the community forums materialize and notify us of any emergencies regarding Columbus Day.”*

ground up. Can these grassroots protests eventually lead to a Congressional surrender? Politicians only have one goal – to be reelected.”

One of the problems in preserving Columbus Day is that most people believe it’s a celebration of Italian American culture, which it is not. Such a misconception leads to parallel debates: Native Americans see the holiday as celebrating their extermination while Italian Americans see losing the day as an insult to Italian culture.

Says Mancini, *“It’s Columbus, stupid! And exploration, human progress, and joining two worlds. Not chicken parmigiana and Ferraris.”*

Teachers, from p.1

ing school boards around the nation.

While the anti-Columbus movement has centered around universities and individual city school districts, the NEA decision is aiming for a national school standard.

What is different in the NEA approach is linking Hispanics with indigenous peoples. *El Dia de la Raza* (The Day of the [new] Race) is how Columbus’s discovery is celebrated South of the Border. It honors the mixing of European and indigenous peoples – *mestizos* – mixed bloods. Clearly, the NEA is creating a new alliance among the non-European population.

Observes Institute Director John Mancini, “Columbus Day is a Federal holiday which is being eroded from the

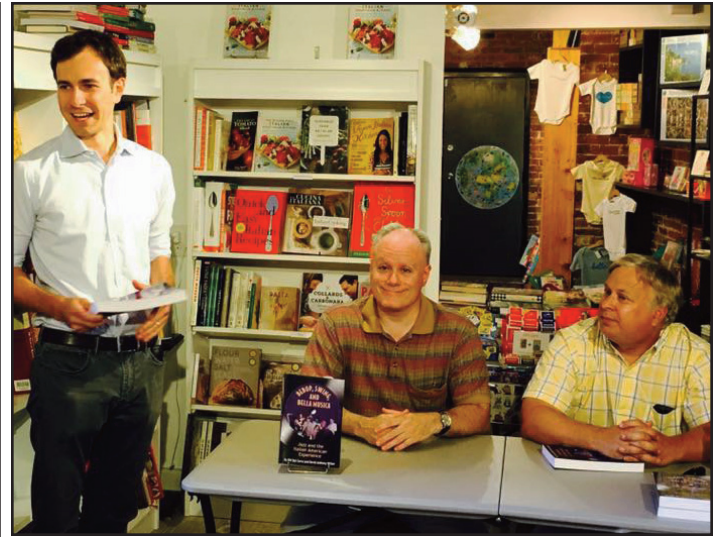
CANADIAN VISIT

Our roving analysts Bob Masullo (Sacramento) and Bill Dal Cerro (Chicago) teamed up for a vacation trip to Toronto this summer. Bob was referred by a neighbor to Canadian Tony Carella who lives outside Toronto. Tony was more than delighted to take the American pair around, giving them insights into Italian Canadians. They also spent a day in Vaughan, a suburb northwest of Toronto with a population in excess of 300,000.

The interesting thing about Vaughan's population is that more than a third (over 100,000) is Italic. Moreover, the mayor, Maurizio Bevilacqua (Abruzzese background), and six of Vaughan's other eight city council members are scions of *il Bel Paese*. They (and their Italian backgrounds) are: Michael Di Biase (Molise), Mario Ferri (Lazio), Gino Rosati (Abruzzi), Rosanna De Francesca (Calabria), Marilyn Iafrate (Friuli) and Tony Carella (Sicily/Le Marche).

According to councilman Carella, the vast majority of Italians came to Canada after World War II (unlike in the U.S. where most came in the 1880-1924 period) and many settled in the downtown Toronto area. As they prospered they began to move to the suburbs.

"By the early 1970s, Italian developers were selling building lots just beyond the northern boundary of



AUTHORS ON TOUR

Institute member Nicola Orichuia (left) hosted a book signing at his IAM Books, in Boston last August. Authors and Institute members Bill Dal Cerro (center) and David Witter (right) promoted their new book on Italian Americans in Jazz: *Bebop, Swing, and Bella Musica*.

Bill reminded everyone that February 2017 will be the 100th anniversary of the first Jazz recording, *Livery Stable Blues*, by Nick LaRocca and his Original Dixieland Jazz Band. How many Jazz buffs know that? ****

fastest growing city in Canada, with a 38 percent increase in population during that period. It is projected to have 416,000 people by 2031.

Carella, a council member for 16 years, gave Dal Cerro and Masullo (and Masullo's wife Eileen, sister Nancy, and brother-in-law Richard Hill) a red-carpet tour of Vaughan, which included a visit to the Vitanova Foundation (a treatment center for people with addictions).

The Vitanova Foundation was started in 1987 by Carella's wife, Dr. Franca Damiani Carella, an immigrant from what was Zara, Italy (now Zadar, Croatia). It is housed in a 15,000-square foot home.

Having introduced the Italic Institute to Carella, our travellers managed to coax him to write an article on Canada for the coming issue of *The Italic Way*.



(l-r) Bill Dal Cerro, Bob Masullo, and Tony Carella

Toronto, in the Town of Vaughan," said Carella. "Italian builders knew their market, as evidenced by the houses they built, with two kitchens, good-sized *cantine*, and verandas set behind brick arches."

Today Vaughan is one of the fastest growing cities in North America. In fact, from 1996 to 2001 it was the