



UPDATE

Italic Institute of America
“Italian Pride on a Classical Foundation”

December, 2017

www.italic.org



Awaiting Italy’s Answer

Institute associate and State Assemblyman Anthony D’Urso (D-NY) has now written two letters to Consul General Francesco Genuardi to request an Italian American seat on the Board of the Italian Academy (*La Casa Italiana* at Columbia U.). The CG’s written response to the first letter did not address the request but a subsequent meeting of the two men was promising. To confirm that discussion, D’Urso sent a follow-up letter. It has now been over one month and no reply has been received.

This Board issue has gone on for nine years with both Columbia and the Italian Republic. Whether the Consul General or his boss the Ambassador will resolve it remains to be seen. What is it about this issue that has provoked such questionable treatment of us by both the university and the Italian Republic? While no Italian American has held a post at the facility we created, Italy continues to enjoy tax-exempt status for it, saving \$150,000 each year.

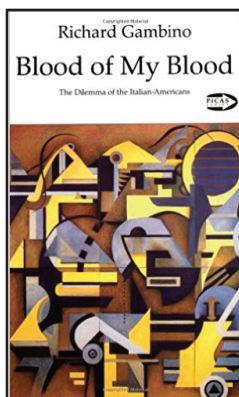


La Casa's 2nd floor Teatro today, just as built by Italian Americans in 1927. The

entire seven-story building has been off-limits, on a daily basis, to the Italian Dept. and students since 1991.

Special Gift for Donations

For those of you who support our efforts with donations of \$100+, we will thank you with an autographed copy of Dr. Richard Gambino’s landmark work, *Blood of My Blood*. The first, and best, journey into the Italian American experience, this book reveals the forces that shaped our progress and perspectives.



Dr. Gambino remains one of the giants of our community.

Academia Abandons Columbus

Just like Italian opera where the themes of betrayal and infidelity are rampant, American universities are churning out scholars determined to lynch the Great Navigator and trash his holiday. Predictably, many of those academics are go-with-the-flow Italian Americans.

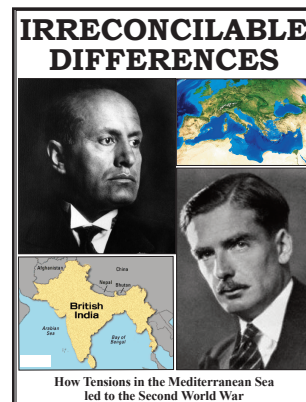
In one of our blogs we noted how Fred Gardaphe of the Calandra Institute at Queens College, NYC, apologizes in a debate on YouTube saying, “*we got stuck with Columbus.*” He suggests replacing him with Black activist W.E.B. Dubois, among other diverse people.

Academics William Connell and Stanislao Pugliese recently published a book of essays on Italian American history that suggests we downgrade the stature of Columbus to “*a small figure*” and acknowledge that his deeds ranged from “*the unsavory to the indefensible.*” It doesn’t matter that one author is Irish and the other Jewish, they belong to an ivory tower clique that includes most ethnic Italian academics who echo Diversity’s radical message: Dump the Genovese navigator!

New Report in Works

The Italic Institute goes where others fear to tread.

In the hope that it could be a future television documentary, we have been assembling a wealth of information on a cause of WW II that has escaped academia and the media: the 1930s rivalry between Italy and Britain. We plan to publish this report in mid-2018.



On-Line or Off

Read our blogs at italic.org or sign up for hard copies of 2018 blogs with the enclosed response card. You can use it to order Columbus brochures or make a donation to support our work. We also welcome your comments.