



UPDATE

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

May, 2018

www.italic.org



The Mysterious Signor Riotta

In our last Update we reported that the Italian Consul General in New York tried to convince us that one of the current Italian board members at the Italian Academy (housed in *La Casa Italia* at Columbia University) was just as good as a genuine Italian American. (If you recall, the Italic Institute has been pleading for ten years that Columbia and the Italian government reinstate Italian Americans at *La Casa*, the palazzo that we built in 1927 and operated for 63 years until it was sold to Italy.) Anyway, that fellow is Gianni Riotta, a

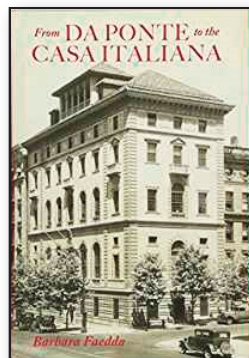


journalist who “divides his time between Rome and New York” according to his bio.

It seems that no one can arrange a meeting with Signor Riotta and us, and the noted communicator doesn’t respond to emails. We know he exists, but what sort of subterfuge is the Italian government pulling? It’s all the more disturbing because this stunt is being perpetrated on NYS Assemblyman Anthony D’Urso, as well.

It’s been two years since we nominated Dr. Richard Gambino for a seat on the Board. Yet, the Consul General refuses to meet with or even acknowledge Gambino’s existence. Dr. Gambino is a top intellect of the Italian American community, author of *Blood of My Blood* and *Vendetta*, which was made into an HBO docudrama. Whatever courtesy and diplomacy the Italian government purports to have are not apparent in this matter.

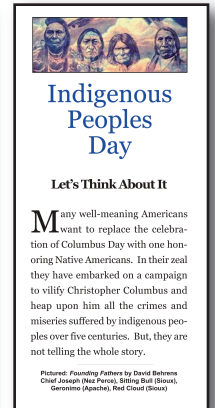
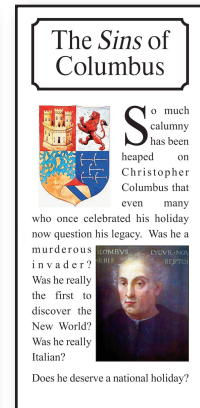
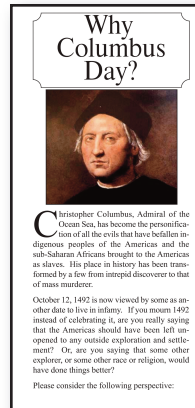
A new book (right) by Barbara Faedda, the Sardinian assistant to Italian Academy Director David Freedberg, details the history of *La Casa Italiana* and pointedly omits four decades of Italian American leadership from 1945 - 1990. □



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