

AIHA Newsletter

A Publication of the American Italian Historical Association

An Interdisciplinary Association to Promote Understanding of the Italian Experience in America



169 Country Club Road • Chicago Heights, IL 60411 • 708.756.7168

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I write this current message during the first half of the first year of my second, two-year term. These past two years have been an intriguing experience, to be sure. I have worked with some excellent people, and they have all done their best to continue to bring forward the Association. I believe we have succeeded to a measurable degree in the commitment to centralization. We have centralized finances. The Publications Committee has committed to being more involved with the organization of the annual proceedings. We have scanned to CD older proceedings no longer available in print, and, if all works according to plan, we will make available all past proceedings on nicely packaged CDs. This is something our executive director and publications committee can work on together.



With regard to the Proceedings, I am happy to report that the CUNY/Hunter and the Lowell volumes are, respectively, as I write, (1) ready for the printer; and (2) already at the printer. The Chicago volume moves along, I have been told, and the Boca

volume, in turn, is at a final stage, to be submitted to the printer in May or June.

In my first message I mentioned certain issues that I thought needed tending with regard to the proceedings. I asked that we reconsider the nature of conference publications, precisely because each volume is somewhat distinct in nature. We had discussed the possibility of a digital “conference” publication; the jury, I repeat here, is still out, as there seems to continue to be a notable resistance. I also asked the Executive Committee to consider seriously the inception of a peer-reviewed, periodic publication of the Association that would be of an inter-, cross-, and multidisciplinary nature. This, too, remains a topic of discussion.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

38TH Annual AIHA Conference

November 3rd-6th, 2005

Los Angeles, California

“Speaking Memory: Oral History, Oral Culture, and Italians in America”

CALL FOR PROPOSALS INSIDE

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Dear Colleagues:

Due to the current financial restructuring that needs to take place in the next few months, this issue of the *Newsletter* comes to you in a virtual format.

Arrivederci a presto,
Anthony Julian Tamburri.

The American Italian Historical Association

Officers

Anthony Tamburri, President
tamburri@fau.edu
Carol Bonomo Albright, Vice President
Angela Danzi, Secretary
Frank Sorrentino, Treasurer
Angelo Tripicchio, Curator

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Dominic Candeloro
d-candeloro@govst.edu

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Frank Pesci (2006)
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John Paul Russo (2005)
Stanislao Pugliese (2006)

Newsletter Editors

Dominic Candeloro
d-candeloro@govst.edu
George Guida
gguida@citytech.cuny.edu

You must be a member of AIHA to present and participate in the conference. Join or renew your membership at <http://www.aiha.fau.edu/>.



With an eye toward AIHA's future activities, the regularization of conferences was something the Executive Council addressed during my first year. We did line up two years, but the post-LA conference site is still up in the air. As we get ready for this fall's conference, we should now all think to 2006, 2007, and 2008, all of which remain open. We "traveled" from Chicago to Boca to Annapolis, and are now planning for Los Angeles.

We still need to ask those of you who can, to consider organizing a conference. There are many places we might want to visit before returning to a familiar spot such as Boca Raton. The commitment is indeed of a timely and economical nature, but there are numerous "veteran" organizers who can offer assistance in various forms.



We have solidified, I believe, relationships with other cultural organizations. NIAF and OSIA have surely demonstrated their willingness to help AIHA events in their support of our more recent conferences and activities. Even greater success of such collaboration was evident in Annapolis. Frank Alduino and Frank Pesci, our local coordinators, garnered the unprecedented support of numerous organizations and entities for our 37th conference. A big hats off to them and their assistants! Their success, I am happy to say, is unequalled in AIHA's history, if memory serves me well. Their conference ultimately made a *substantial* contribution to AIHA's general coffers, more than \$22,000!

As I mentioned before, there is still much more work to do in various arenas (e.g., a sort of capital campaign). In order to do this work, I am hopeful that we can, in building on the efforts of those who have preceded us, bequeath to those who follow a more solid Association as it continues to move forward in its mission of interrogating the socio-historical, cultural, and artistic phenomena of what we can also call the Italian diaspora in North America.

A note of thanks goes out to George Guida and Dominic Candeloro for their work on the production of the AIHA *Newlster!*

Finally, I would like to thank Frank Sorrentino, our former treasurer, for having taken on the responsibility during our first term to move forward with setting up a financial structure that is commensurate with the new expectations of governmental agencies. Frank brought us a long way toward this goal. We shall continue to benefit from his diligence. *Infinite grazie!*

I look forward to seeing you all at the 38th annual conference in Los Angeles. I remain hopeful we will continue to make progress during our Executive Council and general membership meetings.

Arrivederci a novembre!

--Anthony Julian Tamburri

The 2004 AIHA Memorial Scholarship Winner

The 2004 AIHA Memorial Scholarship Winner is Matteo Pretelli, Ph.D. candidate from the University of Trieste, whose proposal focused on how the cultural propaganda of the Fascist Regime exploited Italian culture and language in order to win the allegiance of Italian immigrants in the US. The committee was uniformly impressed by his work and wishes him all the best in future studies.

--Mary Jo Bona, *Chair*, Scholarship Committee

SPEAKING MEMORY: ORAL HISTORY, ORAL CULTURE AND ITALIANS IN AMERICA

"AIHA in LA 2005"
38th annual conference of the
American Italian Historical Association
Los Angeles, California, November 3-6, 2005

Simon Rodia's Watts Towers, Los Angeles
Doubletree Hotel Westwood,
10740 Wilshire Blvd.,
Los Angeles, CA 90024
Tel. (310) 475-8711
Fax: (310) 475-5220

gm@doubletreelawestwood.com
<http://www.doubletreelawestwood.com/>

Special conference rate: \$129/room

In the heart of LA's Westside (Century City, Beverly Hills, Getty Museum, beaches). Walking distance to historic Westwood Village (restaurants, banks, shops and theaters), UCLA, the Istituto Italiano di Cultura. This conference will focus on research in the fields of oral history ("spoken memory"), local history, ethnography, oral and folk tradition, as they pertain to Italians in America, and will consider research methodologies, applications, and their sites (academia, community, public sector).

Check <http://www.iohi.org/> and <http://www.aiha.fau.edu/> for Further Details and Updates.

"AIHA IN LA 2005" PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Plenary speaker: Alessandro Portelli, Università La Sapienza, Rome: "What Makes Oral History Different?"
- UCLA programs: Presentation of the *Repertorium Colombianum*
- Oral history research workshop by the UCLA Oral History Program
- Sound and visual archives presentation by the Italian Oral History Institute and the UCLA Ethnomusicology Archives
- Receptions, concerts, exhibitions, traditional Italian frame drum and dance workshops
- Historic and cultural tours of Italian Los Angeles

SPONSORING INSTITUTIONS: Italian Oral History Institute, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, George L. Graziadio Chair in Italian Studies (California State University Long Beach), National Italian American Foundation, UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive, UCLA Oral History Program, the Historic Italian Hall Foundation.
Under the auspices of the Consulate General of Italy in Los Angeles.

CALL FOR PAPERS AND SESSIONS: Send name, affiliation, and a one-page paper proposal to conference chair. Panel submissions encouraged. In addition to proposals related to

the theme of the conference, we encourage submission of proposals on ALL topics that touch on Italian American culture. Digital submissions preferred. **Deadline: June 1, 2005.**

All participants whose names appear on the program must be members of AIHA in good standing for 2005. Visit <http://www.aiha.fau.edu/> to join online.

"AIHA IN LA 2005" CONFERENCE CHAIR: Luisa Del Giudice, Director, IOHI – Italian Oral History Institute., P.O. Box 241553, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1553; Tel: (310) 474-1698, Fax: (310) 474-3188, E-mail: luisadg@humnet.ucla.edu, Web site: <http://www.iohi.org/>

CONFERENCE PROGRAM CO-CHAIR: Teresa Fiore, Romance, German, Russian Languages and Literatures Department, California State University Long Beach, 1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90840-2406; Tel: (562) 985-4630, E-mail: tfiore@csulb.edu



NEW AIHA PUBLICATION! ORDER TODAY!

Italian Immigrants Go West: The Impact of Locale on Ethnicity

Edited by Janet Worrall (University of Northern Colorado) Carol Bonomo-Albright (Editor of *Italian Americana*), Elvira DiFabio (Harvard University), 2003, 232 pages, Volume 34 of the American Italian Historical Association Proceedings. ISBN 093467552x. \$20 paper, \$22 hardcover. 15% discount on 5 or more copies.

Immigrants are often thought of as arriving in New York and settling there. This volume of essays focuses on a variety of topics including the internal migration to the western areas of America--and to other countries, such as Australia and South America, and presents interesting information on the religious emigration of the Waldensians, the relationship between Italians and Mexicans in the Arizona copper industry; major league baseball players from the West Coast; opposing fascism in San Francisco in the late '30s; locale in Italian Australian writing; and the role of religion in emigration and assimilation of Waldensians and Mormons. The book also treats communities in Pueblo, Colorado; San Diego, Mendocino County, Calaveras County, and Oakland, California; Westchester County, New York; and Galveston, Texas.

ORDER FORM

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ St __ Zip _____

Email _____ Please send _____ copies. Amount enclosed _____

Mail this form with your check payable to AIHA to: AIHA, Dominic Candeloro, 169 Country Club Road, Chicago Heights, IL 60411 or email D-Candeloro@govst.edu. Phone 708-756-7168. For a complete list of AIHA books visit <http://www.aiha.fau.edu/>.

AIHA/Western Regional Chapter

Rose Scherini Memorial Scholarship

<http://www.aiha.fau.edu/wrAIHA/index.htm>

The Western Regional Chapter (WRC) of the American Italian Historical Association (AIHA) will fund two \$500 student scholarships. Students will be awarded scholarships based on the merit of their research proposals, which must include writing about or researching some aspect of the World War II story. Any project that provides information about new aspects of the wartime restrictions (material on the internees, local police records relating to turned-in contraband, oral histories, the detention of women) is welcome.

REQUIREMENTS

- *Recipient must currently be an undergraduate or graduate student.
- *Recipient must be continuing with her/his education.
- *Recipient must have a minimum 3.2 collegiate G.P.A.
- *Recipient must have research interest in the Italian American WWII experience.

APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT

- *personal data form (see below).
- *college transcripts (unofficial transcripts acceptable).
- *1 letter of recommendation (to be included with application or mailed separately).
- *500 word personal statement to include research proposal, relevant course work and/or research experience.

Send all application materials to:

Dr. Teri Ann Bengiveno, Las Positas College
3033 Collier Canyon Rd.
Livermore, Ca. 94550

For further information or questions email Dr. Bengiveno at Tbengiveno@laspositascollege.edu.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: All materials must be postmarked by **MAY 15, 2005**.

PERSONAL DATA FORM (Attachments acceptable)

Name of Applicant:

Mailing Address:

Home Phone:

Email address:

College (s) attended:

Degree Objective:

Expected Date:

Date Received:

College Major/Minor:

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all information furnished on my application and personal statement is complete and accurate. I hereby authorize the release of academic transcripts and other college records as may be required to determine and confirm my eligibility for scholarship.

Applicant's Signature:

Date:

AIHA BOOK SETS

We invite all Italian Americans and their organizations to join with us in distributing authentic and scholarly information about Italian Americans. To this end, we have enriched the offering of AIHA books. Through the courtesy of the National Italian American Foundation, we are able to include a 500-page study guide for the teaching of Italian American History and Culture, the *NIAF Milestone CD*, prepared by Salvatore LaGumina and John Marino, and the Coffee Table format *Italian Americans—A Celebration*, by Gay Talese. Moreover, our scanning project has made it possible for us to offer 20 out-of-print volumes of the AIHA proceedings on politics, religion, labor, social class, and relations with Jews on one serachable compact disk at low prices. We also are offering hard and soft copies of the latest AIHA volume (34), *Italian Immigrants Go West*.

Dissemination of this literature is a core value for all who profess an interest in Italian American Studies. If you are a member of an Italian American organization, I know that you will jump at the chance to get these publications into libraries and to individuals and organizations. Please take a half-hour to forward the message below to every appropriate person in your address book. Print multiple copies and send them to your academic and public library, Italian cultural center, and Italian American clubs. It's a win, win, win, win situation. Good books get out to people at a good price, and that benefits AIHA financially. You will have the satisfaction of bringing authentic information about Italian Americans to a larger audience. We will be standing by for your orders.

The American Italian Historical Association Book Set Includes 1-17 for \$100:

- ___ 1. *Italian American Radicalism: Old World Origins New World Developments*. Ed. R. J. Vecoli (1972), 80 pp.
- ___ 2. *Italian Americans in the Professions*. Ed. R. U. Pane, Intro. G. Schiavo (1983), 290 pp.
- ___ 3. *Italian Immigrants in Rural and Small Town America*. Ed. R. J. Vecoli (1987), 204 pp, ISBN 093467147.
- ___ 4. *The Italian Americans Through the Generations*. Ed. R Caporale (1986), 250 pp, ISBN 093467155.
- ___ 5. *The Interaction of Italians and Irish in the United States*. Ed. F. X. Femminella, Intro. G. Baroni (1985), 308 pp, ISBN 093467513.
- ___ 6. *Italian Americans: Struggle and Support*. Ed. Tropea, Miller, Beattie & Repetti (1986), 200 pp, ISBN 0934675171.
- ___ 7. *The Melting Pot and Beyond: Italian Americans in the Year 2000*. Ed. J Krase & W. Egelman (1987), 250 pp, ISBN 093467518x.
- ___ 8. *Italian Americans: The Search for a Usable Past*. Ed. R. Juliani & P. Cannistraro (1989), 304 pp, ISBN0934675198.
- ___ 9. *Italian Ethnics: Their Languages, Literature and Life*. Ed. Candeloro, Gardaphe, & Giordano (1990), 478 pp, ISBN 093467521X.
- ___ 10. *A Century of Italian Immigration, 1890-1990*. Ed. H. Landry (1994), 250 pp, ISBN 0934675279.
- ___ 11. *New Explorations in Italian American Studies*. Ed. R. N. Juliani & S. P. Juliani (1994), 246 pp, ISBN 0934675317.
- ___ 12. *Through the Looking Glass*. Ed. M. J. Bona & A. J. Tamburri (1996), 344, ISBN 093467535x.
- ___ 13. *Industry, Technology, Labor and the Italian American Communities*. Ed. Aste, Krase, Napolitano-Carman, & Worrall (1997), 294 pp, ISBN

0934675406.

- ___ 14. *Italian Americans: A Retrospective on the Twentieth Century*. Ed. P. A. Sensi-Isolani and A.J. Tamburri (2001), 273 pp, ISBN 9-9434675-50-3. [Available only on CD. CD also contains AIHA vol. 1 on Politics, and vol. 6 on Religion.]
- ___ 15. LaGumina, Salvatore. *WOP: A Documentary History of Anti Italian Discrimination*. (1973), 319 pp, ISBN 1550710478. \$20.
- ___ 16. Margherita Marchione, Ed. *Philip Mazzei: My Life and Wanderings* (1980), 437 pp, ISBN091632204.
- ___ 17. Rita Ciresi, *Pink Slip* (1999), 353 pp, ISBN 038532362X.

The AIHA Deluxe Book Set Includes the Above Plus Six of the Following for \$150:

- ___ 18. Edward Cifelli, ed. *The Selected Letters of John Ciardi* (1991), 475 pp, ISBN 1-55728-171-8. \$15.
- ___ 19. *Italian Immigrants Go West: The Impact of Locale on Ethnicity*. Worrall, Bonomo-Albright & DiFabio (2003), 232 pp, ISBN 093467552x. \$20.
- ___ 20. *Italian Americans: Looking BackùMoving Forward, A Study Guide for All Levels Prepared by the State Education Department of New York*, 541 pp. Supplied to AIHA through the National Italian American Foundation. \$20.
- ___ 21. Gay Talese (with a forward by Leon Panetta), *Italian Americans: A Celebration* (2001), 207 pp, Coffee table format, published by and supplied to AIHA by NIAF. \$25.
- ___ 22. *Milestones of the Italian American Experience, 1492-2003*, CD Rom, produced by NIAF.
- ___ 23. CD Rom of AIHA out-of-print volumes 4 (*Power and Class*), 11 (*Pane e Lavoro*), 21 (*Italian Americans in Transition*), 22 (*Italian Americans Celebrate Life*), 24 (*Italian American Public/Private Lives*). Total approximately 1000 pp.
- ___ 24. Vincent Lapomarda. *Charles Nolcini: Life & Music of an Italian American in the Age of Jackson* (1997), 100 pp, LC #96-095222.

Just Published, Offered Separately:

- ___ 25. Ed Maruggi, ed. *Italian Heart, American Soul* (2004), 256 pp, ISBN 0965887014. \$15.

ORDERING AIHA BOOKS

Ask your librarian to purchase the set, have your local Italian American club buy a set for the library, and buy a set for yourself. Unless specified, each book is available individually for \$12. We offer a SET of 17 titles for only \$100 including shipping. Prices include shipping.

Mark the list above to complete your order. Send the list and your check (payable to AIHA) to AIHA Books, 169 Country Club Road, Chicago Heights, IL 60411, (708) 756-7168, D-Candeloro@govst.edu.

Constructing a Bibliography AIHA: 1968-2003
Steven J. Belluscio, Editor

Bordighera Press

Since 1968, the American Italian Historical Association (AIHA) has held annual conferences in which participants have delivered papers across a broad spectrum of academic subjects, including literature, history, sociology, political science, art history, music history, film criticism, and popular culture. AIHA has also devoted considerable conference time to showcasing the creative work of poets, fiction writers, film directors, and musicians. Each annual meeting is followed—generally in a year or two—by a book of proceedings that features selected essays from the conference.

Historically, this prodigious and valuable body of material has been very difficult to research. Libraries typically do not hold every AIHA proceedings. Moreover, there has never a complete documentation of AIHA's published output, which has rendered the whole process of exploring this area of Italian/American scholarship haphazard at best, incomplete at worst.

This collection attempts to address this concern by listing every piece of non-fiction or fiction ever published in an AIHA proceedings, from 1968's *Ethnicity in American Political Life* to 2001's *Italian Americans: A Retrospective on the Twentieth Century*.

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**Order from AIHA, 169 Country Club Road, Chicago Heights, IL 60411.
\$15 Includes Shipping.**



ALSO AVAILABLE NOW! ASK YOUR LIBRARY TO ORDER:

***The Peasant and the Pen:
Men, Enterprise, and the Recovery of Culture in Italian American Narrative*
By George Guida**

(Peter Lang, 2003), ISBN 0-8204-6730-8

An important study of Italian American literature and culture, this book offers insights into the burdens and benefits of Italian American manhood through careful readings of Italian, Italian American and other narrative texts.

Available Now at <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/search-handle-url/index%3Dstripbooks%3Arelevance-above%26field-keywords%3DGeorge%252520Guida%26store-name%3Dbooks/102-8366230-6108108> **or** <http://commerce.peterlangusa.com/genBook.asp?CategoryName=Italian+Literature%2FCulture&ProductID=0-8204-6730-8&BooksSearch=QuickSearch&SearchOn=Title&SearchField=Peasant+and+the+Pen>

**The Center for Migration Studies
announces the publication of**

**An Italian-American Community of Faith:
Holy Rosary in Washington, D.C., 1913-2003**

By Mary Elizabeth Brown

A history of the only parish in the nation's capital serving Italian-speaking Roman Catholics. The book expands the bibliography available on Italian-American Catholicism by examining a community outside the mainstream of migration through generations of growth, from the urban Italian immigrants to their suburbanized grandchildren, who still return to worship in the same church.

Copies are available via Center for Migration Studies, 209 Flagg Place, Staten Island, New York 10314, Phone (718) 351-8800, Fax (718) 667-4598, Web <http://www.cmsny.org/>, or through the Church of the Holy Rosary, 595 Third Street NW, Washington, D.C., 202638-0165, Phone (202) 638-0165, Fax (202) 638-0793, <http://www.holyrosarychurchdc.org/>.



**BOOK PUBLICATION
ANNOUNCEMENT**

***Republican Ideals in the Selected Works of
Italian-American Joseph Rocchietti, 1835-1845***

**by Carol Bonomo Albright
& Elvira G. DiFabio**

Preface by Werner Sollors

This work offers scholars of immigration history embellished understandings of Italian immigration prior to the mass migrations of 1880-1920, allowing revision regarding this earlier Italian-American culture. It also is of importance to scholars of nineteenth-century American literature, of the Italian novel, and to those interested in the influence of Italian writing on other national literatures. Finally it provides useful information about the early 19th century to scholars of literature, history and cultural studies. It includes a Preface by Prof. Werner Sollors of Harvard University, an Introduction by Carol Bonomo Albright and Elvira DiFabio with translations of citations by Rocchietti by Elvira DiFabio, the novel *Lorenzo and Oonalaska*, the essay "Why a National Literature Cannot Flourish in the United States of North America" [reviewed by Edgar Allan Poe] with a selected bibliography and an index.

BOOK PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT**The Lost World of Italian American Radicalism
Politics, Labor, and Culture****Edited by Philip Cannistraro and Gerald Meyer****Praeger Publishers. Westport, Conn. 2003. 360 pages****ISBN 0-275-97892-3, \$29.95**

Radicalism had a powerful but largely unacknowledged influence in the Italian-American community. This study brings together sixteen selections that restore to Italian-American history the radical experience that has long remained suppressed, but that nevertheless helped shape both the Italian-American community and the American left. The detailed introduction by the volume editors interprets the overall history of Italian-American radicalism and offers extensive bibliographical references on the topic, which the volume editors organize into three sections: labor, politics, and culture. A concluding selection relates the radicalism of Italian Americans to that in other Italian immigrant communities. In the section on labor, Rudolph Vecoli, among others, traces the rise and decline of radicalism within the Italian-American working class, and Jennifer Guglielmo breaks new ground in uncovering the involvement of Italian American women in the radical movements. In politics, Paul Avrich unveils the violent reaction of anarchists in the United States to the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti, and Jackie DiSalvo identifies Father James Groppi as the most important white leader in the Civil Rights movement. On culture, Julia Lisella, Mary Jo Bona, and Edvige Guinta present pioneering interpretive studies on the work of Italian-American women in literature.

“From the thorough and incisive introduction by its editors, who provide nothing less than an indispensable contribution for anyone seeking to understand the Italian-American experience, this collection represents a long overdue correction of a great omission--the lost world of Italian American radicalism--that invaluable expands and enriches the field of Italian-American studies.”

--Richard N. Juliani Professor of Sociology, Villanova University

“*The Lost World of Italian American Radicalism* fills a void in the study of Italian-American history and culture by offering its reader a series of analytical and interpretive essays on radical Italian America. No one has yet to offer such a widespread panorama that has at its base the knowledge, intellectual expertise, and critical acumen of the who’s who of Italian-American studies that this collection offers, a representative list of more than three generations of scholars working in the field....A required book for anyone’s library, even those remotely interested in the subject.”

--Anthony Tamburri, Professor of Italian, Florida Atlantic University

**** Authors ****

PHILIP CANNISTRARO is Distinguished Professor of Italian American Studies at Queens College and the Graduate School, City University of New York. An authority on the Italian American experience and the history of modern Italy, he has written numerous books, including works on fascist cultural policy, *Il Duce’s Other Woman: Margherita Sarfatti*, and *Blackshirts in Little Italy*. Cannistraro has also edited *The Italians of New York: Five Centuries of Struggle and Achievement* and is coauthor of *The Western Perspective: A History of Civilization in the West*. He is currently writing a biography of Benito Mussolini.

GERALD MEYER is Professor Emeritus of History at Hostos Community College, City University of New York, and author of *Vito Marcantonio: Radical Politician, 1902-1954*. He has also written more than 40 articles, reviews, and encyclopedia entries on subjects ranging from Italian American educator Leonard Covello, to the history of Little Italies, and aspects of the Italian American encounter with the American Left. Meyer lectures widely and is an editor of *Science & Society*, *The Italian American Review*, and the *Community Review*. He is currently working on a history of the American Labor Party.

To Purchase Go To:

http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0275978923/ref=lpr_g_1/102-64234306588959?v=glance&s=books

Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting

November 4, 2004
Annapolis, Maryland

Present:

Officers

A. Tamburri, President; Carol Bonomo Albright, Vice-President; Dominic Candeloro, Executive Secretary; Angelo Tripicchio, Curator; Angela Danzi, Secretary.

Executive Council

T. Cerasuola, Mary Jo Bona, Josephine Hendin, Ernest Rossi, Stefano Luconi, Ed Maruggi, Maria Elisa Ciavarelli, Frank Alduino, Teri Ann Bengiveno, Frank Pesci, Salvatore LaGumina, Frank J. Cavaioli, Emelise Aleandri, Mario B. Mignone, Fred Gardaphe, Jerry Kruse, Luciano J. Iorizzo.

Guests: Joe Ricapito, Ernesto Milani, Celia Pesci, Robert B. Immordino

Regrets: Frank Sorrentino, Treasurer.

The meeting began at 1:15 pm.

Anthony Tamburri welcomed guests and members and reminded us that we can discuss and disagree with decorum and civility. Some members will arrive late to this meeting.

President's Report is in the current Newsletter, and mentions our accomplishments and challenges. Since 1987 the Association has grown, but there are places we need and want to go.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Candeloro.

Highlights:

- Proposed budget for 2005 presented, with a projected deficit of \$1,500.
- Newsletter costs at \$1,500 per issue, two issues, and one already subsidized.
- All proceedings are paid for.
- Operating account is presently at \$3000.

In the context of the budget, we discussed trimming expenses for the Newsletter. Currently, 1000 copies are printed and sent to 900 current and former members.

- We can send Newsletter online, but a hardcopy is a good product and speaks for the organization.
- We can shorten the Newsletter by omitting longer articles and keeping reviews to 500 words; we can prepare only one per year, sell ads, and charge a fee.

We are in need of an editor who will take responsibility for the Newsletter, and we need to settle the financial issues involved. George Guida assisted Tamburri and Candeloro last time and may be interested in taking the editorship.

With respect to conference expenses, Alduino and Pesci tentatively estimate that there will be a profit of perhaps \$10 -12,000 for the organization. All sponsors have donated substantial amounts.

The budget was accepted.

Curator's Report: Presented by Tripicchio

- As of Oct. 28th, the Center for Migration Studies, Staten Island, NY, has processed all AIHA materials in their archive. Donation to CMS for this work will be sent in 2005 as previously approved.
- New materials to CMS will be processed as received without further donations.
- New materials relating to the Las Vegas Conference were dropped off.
- Curator recommends that researchers call in advance if they plan to make use of their holdings, since archivist and librarian are not always present.
- We will retain vote tallies or the vote count from previous elections, not returned ballots.

Curator's report accepted.

Executive Director's Report: Presented by Candeloro

- We currently have a 900-name database with 53 lifetime members. Help is needed in making membership grow. A gift membership to a relative or friend is a good way to do this.

- The AIHA website, sponsored by Florida Atlantic University, contains all Newsletters, book listings, except the most recent. It needs to be updated with current names of Executive Counsel Members, etc. Updates should be sent to FAU for technical assistance.
- \$2600 in books sold to libraries and schools since Dec. 1st, 2003. If all members of the Executive Council would sell one set of books, we could do very well.
- Consider donating extra books we have authored, or books on relevant topics by other authors for us to sell.

Promotion of the organization:

- AIHA sponsored two sessions at the January meeting of the American Historical Association on the future of Italian American studies. These sessions were similar to those presented at the 2003 AIHA Conference.
- Past proceedings have been digitized; other titles are in good supply and selling.

The position of Executive Director pays \$12,000 on a year-to-year basis with no contract. It is up to the Executive Counsel to renew the agreement for next year.

Goals of the Executive Director for this next year:

- Increase membership to 500.
- Sell all books.
- Motivate members to take initiative to sign up new members, and to encourage book sales at their own libraries.
- Continue scanning past proceedings.
- Work with newsletter editor.

Maruggi prepared a survey to send to those whose membership has lapsed. Candeloro will distribute this survey.

Executive Director's report accepted.

Annapolis Conference: Presented by Frank Alduino

Italian flags are flying on Main Street in our honor.

Activities planned:

- Executive Council is invited to the Governor's Residence at 5 p. m. for a tour; this is the home of Governor Robert Erlich and his family.
- 6 p. m. reception for everyone at Miller Senate Bldg. Security check at this entrance required. Photo ID required for entry.

Advanced registration was 150, plus 30 late. There were other registrations for graduate students, those coming only to the banquet and other single events.

Originally, 50 rooms in the hotel were booked. Overflow went to other hotels including the Marriott Hotel on the waterfront, which usually goes for \$400 per night. Parking at the hotel is \$9 per night for conference registrants.

Events:

- Friday's luncheon at Phillips Seafood House on the dock. Guest lecturer at that event. Menu at the luncheon to include crab.
- Candlelight tour of private homes available.
- Saturday banquet with music.
- Two Sunday tours: walking tour and lighthouse tour.
- Garibaldi/Meucci Museum in Staten Island has brought materials here to display.

Alduino expressed his thanks to Frank Pesci, who provided assistance with arrangements, and to Jerry Krase who prepared the program and did other work, and to Candeloro and Tamburri.

The Counsel expressed our thanks to Frank Alduino and Frank Pesci for all their efforts.

Renewal of the Term of the Executive Director:

Tamburri asked the Executive Director to leave the room so that we could discuss the role of the ED, and the renewal of his term. The question was raised as to whether the organization generated a list of the duties expected of the Executive Director when the position was created. We need to formulate such a list, if it does not already exist, and to standardize a review process when the term of the Executive Director comes up for review or renewal. We

first instituted the role of the ED in Fall 2000, and it was renewed every year thereafter.

- It was suggested that the Executive Director's responsibilities should include the editing of the Newsletter.
- Maruggi, Bona, Gardaphe, Tamburri and Danzi will investigate whether a list of duties for the ED was generated and the terms of such a list. The Committee will prepare a list of duties or a job description for the ED, which they will circulate.

After a discussion of various options, a motion was made and carried that we offer the ED a one-year renewal, then in 2005 a second year reflecting a mutual discussion of the committees' recommendations of the redefined position.

Proceedings:

Vol. 31: Krase, Cannistraro and Scelsa: Near completion, requires acknowledgements. No index. Bordighera cannot produce the volume since they are not a New York entity. They will send the book in PDF file-form, and Scelsa will print at a cost of \$5000 for soft-cover proceedings.

Vol. 33: Aste: Complete, awaiting cover design. No index.

Vol. 35: Mormino: Editor has communicated with some authors. Gardaphe will write to him about details. The prior work of the publication committee in providing editors with guidelines begins with this conference.

A question was raised about the indexing of volumes. The ED will work on indexing both Vols. 31 and 33.

Vol. 36: Tamburri: All 24 articles accepted have been proofed, set, and sent out. They were corrected with yellow highlighting so that they could be indexed. There should be 23 essays in the final volume, which should be published before Vol. 35.

2005 Los Angeles Conference: Nov. 3-6, 2005

- Louisa Del Guidice, organizer. "Speaking Memory: Oral History...."
- Call for Papers will be on-line.
- Many co-sponsoring organizations including NIAF, UCLA Oral History Program, Italian Consul.

- Will run simultaneously with month-long festival, "Italians in LA," which includes concerts, exhibitions, etc.
- Highlights of conference include guest speakers, receptions, dance workshops, music.
- Editors for the volume have not as yet been chosen.
- Conference location is on the West side of LA, close to beaches, Getty Santa Monica, Italian LA, San Pedro, Sicilian fishing community, Long Beach, Beverly Hills, Century City, Brentwood.
- Hotel, reasonable rates, \$129 per room, UCLA is 20 min. away.
- Conference will be one day at UCLA, one day at hotel.

Budget for the conference was submitted to Candeloro and Tamburri. Some grant money is not yet included. Commitments from some organizations may be made in January 2005.

Publications Committee:

Gardaphe: With this conference and LA, the committee will implement guidelines agreed upon at our last meeting. We noted that the Executive Council must see the guidelines. Gardaphe will prepare them in final form in January 2005.

Election:

LaGumina and Worrall presented the slate. No Executive Council members up for election, just officers. There is only one person for each slot as follows:

Pres. Tamburri
VP Bona
Treas. Esposito
Sec. Danzi
Curator Ciotola

Officers are limited to two terms in each office.

Scholarship:

Bona reports that there were 7 applications this year, 4 from Italian scholars working in Italy, and 3 Italian Americans. All are Ph.D. students. This represents the best group of submissions since the mid-90s. Selection has been made, but not all have been notified as of this date, so no names will be mentioned here.

- Suggestion was made that these papers be archived to keep for reference and

that we look for ways to mentor these students, inviting them to conferences and other events.

- Candeloro will contact them, to invite them to become members of the organization.

Memorial Fund:

Iorizzo reports that \$27,116.15 is on deposit in Memorial Fund accounts. The bank documents have been prepared to make transfer to the control of the Treasurer with two names on the account, as was decided at a previous meeting. From this point on, the funds should be listed in one financial report. The check to the winner of the scholarship will be sent this week. Iorizzo expressed his concern that the funds remain for scholarship use only. We expressed our thanks to Lou Iorizzo for his years of service in managing this account.

Web Page:

Question was raised as to whether we are officially associated with H-Itam. If so, we need to approve of the editor.

- Krase noted that there is an official relationship through the H-net and that Candeloro, Gardaphe and Krase were involved in creating the list through their sponsorship, and in moderating it in past years.
- The list needs at least one person who will do the work of moderating.
- The public face at this time is Ben Lawton, and Candeloro assisting, with no formal documentation.

Local Chapter Reports:

Long Island Chapter:

Cerasuola, Tripicchio, La Gumina and Danzi reported activities for the chapter.

New York Metropolitan Chapter: Aleandri reporting for chapter (will send information.)

California: Teri Ann Bengiveno reported for the chapter.

- 52 paid members, 300 mailing list.
- Held programs, elections.
- Meetings held in Oakland City Hall.
- *Una Storia Segreta* still traveling, needs refurbishing.
- Public forum held in Richmond in July about Japanese and Italians in WW II.

- Readings held at library- Oakland Italian Family Businesses, and Artisanal Food of Piedmont.
- More information can be found at the national AIHA website.

Journal Support:

Motion was made and carried that we support the journals *VIA*, *Italian Americana*, and the *Italian American Review* as in the past.

Future Conferences:

We discussed possible sites for future conferences, including Boca Raton, Genoa, and Milwaukee.

Business meeting will be on Saturday, 6:30 – 7:30.

Meeting Adjourned 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela D. Danzi
Secretary

AIHA Scholarship/Memorial Fund Update

The following is fund information as of March 16th, 2005.

Balance in OCNB Bank:	\$1211.56
Deposits:	\$2114.00
Interest:	\$2.97
Total:	\$3328.53
Scholarship Expenses: (Matteo Pretelli)	\$1000.00
Total in bank, 3/16/05:	\$2328.53
Total in Pathfinder	
Bank CDs:	\$26097.71
Total on Hand:	\$28426.24

In Memoriam donations include, for Frank Barbaro and Michael Magnotta, by Teresa and Frank Cerasuola; And for Paul A. Martinelli by his mother Phylis Martinelli. We also thank the following members for their generous donations: Vincent Amodeo, Mario Aste, Robert Biagini, Dr. Roselyn Boneno, Jean Aragona Korosh,

Salvatore LaGumina, Umberto La Paglia, Serafina Magni, Frank Meserole, Anne Prisco, Stanislao Pugliese, Angelina Salvi, Paul Spalla, Nick Spilotro, Bill Tonelli, Angelo Tripicchio, and Joseph Tusiani. We finally thank those contributors and the others who have made this period one of our most productive ones, income-wise: Janet Worrall, Sal and Julie LaGumina and the many who participated in our raffle at the Annapolis Conference.

We hope that the spirit of giving this quarter will be contagious and that many more of our members will be moved to contribute to the Fund which is restricted for scholarship use only. With improved gifting and a rise in interest rates our fund should be able to grow at a pace where we can support more scholars with larger gifts.

--Luciano J. Iorizzo

A Note on the Retirement of Rudy Vecoli

When I read the following, "Professor of History and Director of the IHRC Rudolph J. Vecoli has announced his retirement, effective July 2005. He has headed the Immigration History Research Center for 38 years. During his tenure, its research collections and outreach programs have grown many fold," I felt the need to add some words on my behalf and that of the American Italian Historical Association. I assume there will be many more tributes in the queue.

I have been in the business of Italian American Studies for three decades. During that time, there has been only one constant; mention Italian American History to anyone in the know and the name "Vecoli" comes up. Rudolph J. Vecoli has been, is, and for a long time will be still the most recognized and respected scholar in the field of Italian American Historical studies. He has made major contributions to other organizations

like the Immigration History Research Center and the Ellis Island Foundation. He has ably served as a consultant to public and private agencies. He is a sought after lecturer, researcher, writer and teacher. I should also mention he is a photographer, as after I gave him a tour of Brooklyn some years back he sent me photos of Bensonhurst. He has been a mentor to many of the AIHA's best and brightest.

Rudy was a Founding Member of the AIHA and its first President (1967-1970). He was the editor of two of our most important proceedings: Volume 5, *Italian American Radicalism* (1972) and Volume 14, *Italian Immigrants in Rural and Small Town America* (1987) and a frequent (often controversial) contributor to our general, business, and Executive Council meetings. Professor Vecoli has been, in my opinion, the most vigilant about the necessity of the highest scholarly quality standards for Italian American and AIHA scholarship. Proud of who he is, where he came from, and where he is now, Rudy has ever been unwilling to accept second-rate work or people. He has never compromised his principles and has cherished his independence even when others in the field have sought popularity over scholarship. He and I have had many differences over these many years and he always prevailed, as he's much harder-nosed than I will ever be. We all offer our congratulations and thanks for all he has done and all we are sure he will continue to contribute to the Field of Italian American History.

---Jerry Krase

Member News

► Lawrence Baldassaro

Lawrence Baldassaro is Professor of Italian at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His article "Italian Americans in Sport" appears in the collection *Sport in American Culture* (Ed. Joyce Duncan. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2004, pp.183-85).

► Marcella Bencivenni

Marcella Bencivenni is Assistant Professor of History at Hostos Community College, CUNY. Her new book on Italian immigrant radicalism, *Calebresi sovversivi nel mondo: L'esodo, l'impegno politico, le lotte degli emigrati in terra straniera [Radicals from Calabria in the World: The Exodus, the Political Commitment, and the Struggles of Immigrants in Foreign Land], 1880-1940* (Ed. Amelia Paparazzo. Rubbettino Editore, Soveria Mannelli, CS, Italy, 2004, 164 pp., 10 Euro.) is largely based on the archives of the State in Rome. The book reconstructs the stories of hundreds of Italian immigrants from the Southern region of Calabria, who have contributed to the transnational struggle of the left and the working-class movement.

► Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum, Chickie Farella and Louisa Calio

The three collaborators had their work in a volume launched April 30 at Belladonna Gallery in Oakland (see <http://www.belladonna.ws/> or <http://www.darkmother.net/> for details). The book is *She is Everywhere*, and is comprised of writings by 50 women poets, ritualists, scholars, priestesses and others, on the dark mother's re-emergence in contemporary women's lives and work.

► Jon Cavallero

Jon Cavallero recently published an essay entitled "Frank Capra's 1920s Immigrant Trilogy: Immigration, Assimilation, and the American Dream" in *MELUS* 29. 2, and an essay entitled "Gangsters, Fessos,

Tricksters, and Sopranos: The Historical Roots of Italian American Stereotype Anxiety" in *The Journal of Popular Film and Television* 32.2. In early April he traveled to the Society of Cinema and Media Studies conference in London to take part in a panel on Italian American cinema with Fred Gardaphe and Giorgio Bertellini.

► George Guida

In November 2004 George Guida co-founded and now co-hosts the Intercollegiate Poetry Slam at the Bowery Poetry Club in New York City. His first book of poems, *Low Italian*, a finalist for the 2004 Bordighera Poetry Prize, will appear from Bordighera later this year. Among his most recent publications are:

---. "Las Vegas Jubilee: Louis Prima's 1950s Stage Show as Multicultural Pageant."

The Journal of Popular Culture 38.4 (May 2005):678-697. (<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/servlet/useragent?func=synergy&synergyAction=showTOC&journalCode=jpcu&volume=38&issue=4&year=2005&part=null>)

---. "The Government," "If My Son is a Moron," "My Mother's Ink" (poems). *Inkwell* 17 (Spring 2005):106-108. (<http://www.inkwelljournal.org/index.htm>)

---. "Learn Italian American in Nine Weeks!: Teaching Italian American Studies On Line," forthcoming in *Teaching Italian American Literature, Film, and Popular Culture*. Eds. Edvige Giunta and Kathleen Zamboni McCormick. *Options for Teaching*. New York: Modern Language Association, 2006.

► Jerry Krase

Jerry Krase is pleased to announce his most recent publications:

---. "Race and Ethnicity in Urban Areas." Co-editor with Ray Hutchinson. *Research in Urban Sociology* 8, Elsevier/JAI Press, 2005.

---. "Visual Sociology of Vernacular Landscapes: Images of Social and Cultural Capital." *Research in Urban Sociology* 8, Elsevier/JAI Press: 1-24.

---. "Basic Knowledge about Ethnicity in America." *Introduction to American Studies*. Ed. Yoneyuki Sugita. Okayama, Japan: University Education Press, 2005.

---. "Restrictive Covenants." *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. Ed. George Ritzer. London: Blackwell Publishers, 2005.

► **Fred Misurella**

Fred Misurella's essay, "A Cold Eye on Life: The Renaissance Style of Primo Levi," appears in *The Legacy of Primo Levi* (Ed. Stanislao Pugliese. New York: Palgrave-MacMillan, 2004). Misurella's book of stories, *Lies to Live By*, will be published by Bordighera in June. Eight stories comprise the collection. The stories take place during the last fifty years of the twentieth century and are about a variety of Italian-American characters. The stories have been published in *Kansas Quarterly*, *VIA*, *Kestrel*, and *L'Atelier du Roman* (in French); the final story, "Short Time," was published by Bordighera as a volume of its own in 1996.

► **Richard Peppe**

Richard R. Peppe's *Nuclear Weapons and the Blue-Eyed People* is available on Amazon.com. It includes a review of the literature on the IQ of Italian Americans and concludes that the evidence shows that their IQ distribution is similar to the white American majority. The book argues that it is inevitable that the glory days of the Age of Nuclear Weaponry will be about four generations in duration. Watch for <http://www.warbyiq.com/>.

► **Joseph Ricapito**

Joseph Ricapito taught "Italians in America" for two consecutive semesters at Louisiana State University. Each time the class filled. The majority of the students were Italian-Americans from the New Orleans area (most of whom are descended from Sicilians). But the second time the percentage of non-Italian-American students went up.

► **Laura Ruberto**

Laura Ruberto edited *Immigration in the West*, a special issue of *The Journal of the West*. 34.4 (Fall 2004). The issue includes two essays on Italian immigration, also by AIHA members: Janet Worrall's "The Impact of the Ku Klux Klan and Prohibition on Denver's Little Italy," and Nicholas Ciotola's "Italian Immigrants in Albuquerque, 1880 to 1930: A Study in Western Distinctiveness."

► **Vincenza Scarpaci**

Vincenza Scarpaci is working on a new version of the pictorial history of Italian immigration (New York: Scribners, 1982). Her article, "Ambiente Italiano: Origins and Growth of Baltimore's Little Italy" is forthcoming in *Italian Americana*.

► **Bobby Tanzilo**

Milwaukee-based AIHA member Bobby Tanzilo is working to create an exhibit focusing on Piemonte for the 2005 Festa Italiana on Milwaukee's lakefront. The exhibit is the second in a series that will feature a different region at each annual festa. A local FIAT club will bring a classic car, and other Piemontese companies are being invited, too. Piemontese music will play in the exhibit all four days of Festa Italiana, July 21-24, 2005. The committee is still working on lining up Piemontese musicians, singers and dancers as well as people qualified to lead cooking demonstrations of Piemontese specialties. Tanzilo is also hoping to stage a polentone and wine tastings of Monferrini wines at other venues in Milwaukee during Festa. Contact him at btanzilo@yahoo.com.

► **Bea Tusiani**

Bea Tusiani has recently had two books published: *Con Amore, A Daughter-in-Law's Story of Growing Up Italian American in Bushwick* (Bordighera, 2004) and *The Fig Cake Family* (Legas Press, 2004). *The Fig Cake Family* is a fictionalized account of a Sicilian family that has made "cuccidatti" for over a hundred years.

Book Reviews

***Surface Roots*, by Kenneth Scambray**

Toronto: Guernica, 2004

ISBN 1550711725, 200 pp

\$13 Paperback

Kenneth Scambray, a professor of English at La Verne University, has been book critic for *L'Italo Americano* since 1978. The author of several critical studies, Scambray demonstrates in his latest work that he can write whereof he speaks. *Surface Roots* consists of five short stories that fill several gaps in the growing corpus of Italian American writing. First and foremost, his stories sketch for us the landscape of Italians in California's Central Valley, where Scambray grew up. Each story, in its way, adds another dimension to the sketch, the stories proceeding from the present, where the narrator as modern academic seeks to find some hints of his familial heritage, to the recent past of the narrator's teens, then to the Fresno of his grandparents working in canneries, and finally a to nineteenth-century Calabria savagely occupied by the French under Napoleon. In one sense this produces an admirable structure, taking us from the mistrustful *ennui* of the Italian American as marginal academic in Los Angeles back to the source of his psychic distress in the helplessness felt by Calabrian peasants in the face of invincible occupiers. In another sense, however, it means that the reader must suspend his disbelief long enough to see what the hints in that first story imply—something that only becomes apparent when the subsequent stories are read. Tim is looking for the keys to his being, but so uncertain is he, especially in the face of his American wife's cynicism about this search for roots that seem decidedly superficial (the "surface" in the title), that we too remain uncertain until all five stories are read. A more imaginative arrangement of the stories, with one of the more historic renderings foregrounded, might have helped.

That said, what Scambray offers us in these five stories is a sure, subtle hand, which guides us through the roots of the unique saga of Central Valley Italians promised in the title. The sense of the landscape is vivid (even in Calabria, where Scambray appears to have spent time soaking up the feel of the places near Catanzaro), the presentation of the characters and their drama is convincing, the movement economical and perfectly paced. In the last story, "Bishops, Generals, and Donkeys," we learn, in a way that no history could duplicate, why southern Italian peasants distrust all political movements. Vito Luberto's bitter tale of betrayal by the Bishop of Catanzaro (who pretends to side with the revolutionary Carbonari and their Calabrian leader, Scarolla) renders the plight of the peasants painfully believable. Vito thinks he is heading for the bishop's protection and aid, only to be ordered to return to his village with six donkeys carrying arms, supposedly for the rebels. But the French have been tipped off, Vito is captured, his right hand is severed, and he is chained to a stake in the village square to die, literally crucified, beneath the eyes of his father, his betrothed, and the whole village.

It is this historic "Fear, Submission, Survival"—a "triad as omnipresent in the villagers' lives as the Holy Trinity," according to Scambray—that explains why Italian immigrants have seemed so resistant to movements for self-determination in the New World. Even current history texts cast them as essentially passive and impossible to unionize. One 2005 text, Goldfield's *American Journey*, puts it this way: "Jewish textile entrepreneurs, for example, sometimes hired only Italians because they thought them less prone to unionization than Jewish workers." But here is where Scambray's California, in stories like "The Wooden Fig Press" and "Walking the Line," fills another gap. For it is almost unknown that many Italian immigrants eagerly took part in strikes, and these stories dramatize that action. First, "The Wooden Fig Press" refers to the great strike against the canneries in which Angie and his wife Gabriella took part. Though the story does not specifically treat the strike, it mentions it in narrating the story of the women in the fig packing plant, with their long hours and attempts to hide figs so they may fill up an extra box or two at the end of the day. Each box brings them a paltry penny and a half, but what we learn is that even such meager earnings, and the cooling fans that take some of the misery out of the oppressive valley heat, were the result of the big strike in the mid-1930s. Moreover, the narrator informs us that it was the women who were the engine of the strike: "It was the women who caused the most trouble. No one could do their

packing jobs, without the plant's training new women, which took time and money. When they walked with the men, the plant died."

This is the strike story that is given full treatment in "Walking the Line." Here we learn how difficult and terrifying it was for workers to strike during the Depression. The gate of the packing plant was besieged each day by those looking for jobs. Any minor infraction of rules was cause for instant dismissal. Italian families are depicted as fractured, some wanting to cross the picket line to accept work, any work, while their brothers, cousins, sisters argue with them to hold firm. Here again, however, Scambray's tale upsets the stereotype. When the union organizer suggests that women will always cross a picket line, Angela sets him straight: "'Well I'll tell you something,' Angela said. 'There's two groups. Barese women and Armenian. They've been spittin' fire for a year. Now all they talk is strike, ever since Bonners went out. We're all fed up.'" Thus, not only are women in the vanguard of the strike, but different ethnic groups, including Italians, cooperate to bring the strike to a successful conclusion. Finally, we see that the former peasants have brought with them more than strong backs; they have also brought a sophisticated sense of what human dignity is. For when, at the story's end, Joe, the union organizer, is lecturing Angelina and Nick—"This is a struggle. You gotta keep that in mind."—Angelina's last words, which comprise the story's conclusion, are:

"'Struggle,' she said. "'Who does he think he's talking to?'"

In short, while history can offer us generalities, we must go to fiction for the kind of specific, lived truth available only in stories of individuals. Ken Scambray's new collection offers us that, in a part of California that has received almost no coverage until now.

--Lawrence DiStasi

***Suicidio di un poeta etnico/Suicide of an Ethnic Poet*, by Justin Vitiello**

Roma: Edizione Cofine, 2004

160 pp

€ 10.00

Returned from Temple University's Tyler School in Rome to the home campus in Philadelphia, Justin Vitiello is completing a new collection after having published with Edizioni Cofine in Italy his *Suicidio di un poeta etnico/Suicide of an Ethnic Poet*. A preface explains why the book was published there rather than here. Packed with adventures and agonies, confrontation and struggle, and then, with hard-won adroitness and precision, but without promises, a great exorcism and resolution, this volume is noteworthy.

Facing pages are unevenly matched because neither side translates the other. Rather, the poems were composed bilingually, sometimes the Italian first, sometimes the English. It's a lively way to read, trying to guess which had priority. Taken together they yield a composite logic; for instance, an American landscape, mountains in Montana, transforms when "*la Madonna/ della sciovia/ benedice Butte...*"—but the ski-lift has vanished in English (54-55). Like certain predecessor poets, Vitiello, by bringing together disparate traditions, makes something new cohere. The Madonna of the Ski-Lift reminded me of Robert Hayden's

High amid
gothic rocks the altar stands
that honored once
a tipping fiercely joyous god.

In both languages a reader is led to touristic meditation on "such gods as they possess,/ as they have lost." Vitiello did in fact take a seminar with Robert Hayden, a kind and gentle man, Williams College alumnus, a follower of Baha'i, who taught at Fisk before becoming professor of English at Michigan, where Vitiello spent ten years. Though not bilingual, Hayden certainly did meld African American and European American traditions, and so too Vitiello brings together continents.

A reader—this reader, anyhow—can't help guessing that the Italian came first for Vitiello's Theseus (48-49):

*Non avrò mai niente
perchè sono cresciuto
in troppi labirinti
dove ho tagliato fili
senza uccidere altre bestie
che le mie ...*

Here syllables and word-order convey more than an English approximation can. Fused, allusion and music prove that one language alone cannot suffice, not even for puissant piss-ant Americans. Elsewhere, English has the advantage over Italian: “under agent-orange dusk” raised goose-pimples, but “*sotto crepuscoli di defolianti*” lacks explicit color (126-127). When a near-equivalence is not perfectly congruent, the slippage can be provocative; thus “ten days are like ten years” is and is not “*dieci giorni sono dieci anni*” (108-109)—the English has to explain “are like” while the Italian “gets it” directly-*certo*. I prefer “in pallors of parlors” to “*nei pallori dei salotti*” (130-131); but happily it's not either/or, a reader is offered both. Felicitous to the ear are instances where vowels and consonants reinforce meaning on both pages: “wallow in ferment/lurk in dark niches” and “*nell'agguato di nicchie ammuffite*” (130-131)—I do admire that one.

A single poem sometimes emerges so strong and intense from autobiographical flow that I paused to let vibrations subside. Such a poem is “teacher (1967)”/“*a un maieuta (1967)*.” Not maestro, not *insegnante*, not anything from the root of magister, but: *maieuta*, closer in sound to *maiestà*, majesty. Another such poem in which a single word transfixes is “one more Hades/ *un altro Ade*.” Courage of the quip is in “yo-yo,/ no strings attached” (138), in the elliptical “Washingdoom” and “dear abby affairs.” Vitiello pulls a neat trick, positioning Bob Dylan and Hamlet together in a poem, the road and the court. Strength builds through intimate evocation of poets gone before: “oh Walt! oh Federico! oh Allen!” In that final dream mode, apocalyptic accelerations build to indictment and judgment, precondition to the final clear-water floating rebirth.

Commentary can introduce but not substitute for the bilingual triumph of this volume. Like Vladimir Nabokov translating his fiction back and forth Russian-English, and Samuel Becket writing French-English parallel versions of his plays, Justin Vitiello shapes a life-journey not Italian American but at once Italian and American, assimilating history of two nations, two geographies, two languages, a model for posterity and a joy for readers now.

For ordering information, e-mail Justin.Vitiello@Temple.edu.

--Blossom Kirschenbaum

Baltimore's Own Little Italy Artist: The Artwork of Tony De Sales, by Rita D. French, Perrin L. French and Irvin F. Lin

Palo Alto, 2003

224 pp.

\$29.95

This volume spotlights the artwork of Tony De Sales. His pen and ink drawings, some colored with crayon or simple paint, documented the architectural details and settings of his origins in working-class Baltimore. Tony's sister, Rita De Sales French, and brother-in-law, Perrin L. French, unite Tony's life story with his artwork.

For thirty five years Tony maintained his “outdoor” studio and sales room at the corner of Fawn and High streets in Little Italy, an intersection frequented by locals, tourists and celebrities en route to see the sights of this historic and culinary-rich area of Baltimore. Tony's grandparents, his paternal side from Palermo, his maternal side from Warsaw, arrived in Baltimore in the early part of the twentieth century. The people

he met on his corner of Little Italy often became friends. He gave them postcards of his prints to mail back to him when they returned to their homes across the U.S. and the world.

The book is filled with reproductions of Tony's artwork and some photos of the actual scenes he drew accompanied by descriptive text. It covers the span of his artwork: Little Italy, Baltimore Harbor at Fells Point and seaway, Annapolis and places outside Maryland that Tony visited.

This volume makes a perfect gift for collectors of Italian American art and devotees of maritime and urban landscape art. It would serve well as a souvenir for tourists to Baltimore, Annapolis and Washington D.C., and a rewarding way for residents of the Baltimore-Washington D.C. corridor to learn and appreciate the place they call home.

For ordering information, contact Genovefa Press, P.O. Box 50954, Palo Alto, CA 94303, <http://www.genovefapress.com/>.



Cinema Italo-Americano: A Selective List of Recent Films

This is a selective list of films that deal substantially with the Italian American experience. With one exception it is limited to American films released 1990-1999.

ANGIE (1994) dir., Martha Coolidge. Angie Scacciapensieri, a young working class Italian American woman, defies convention in her conservative Bensonhurst, Brooklyn neighborhood by dumping her fiancé, having an affair with an Irish lawyer, and almost abandoning her child born out of wedlock in order to find her mother who left her 25 years ago. Based on the novel *Angie I Says*, by Avra Wing.

BETSY'S WEDDING (1990) dir., Alan Alda. Alda directs and stars in this comedy about an Italian American father trying to mount a fancier wedding than he can really afford for his daughter. Part of the price for the American dream is denial of his ethnic roots.

BIG NIGHT (1996) dirs., Stanley Tucci & Campbell Scott. "A pair of immigrant Italian brothers trying to save their struggling restaurant in 1950s New Jersey by hosting a high feast for the famous singer [Louis Prima] they've been told is on his way." --*Newsday*

A BRONX TALE (1993) dir., Robert De Niro. A directorial debut for De Niro, this film is based on Chaz Palminteri's autobiographical reminiscences of growing up in the Italian Belmont section of

Bronx in the 1960's. Follows the conflict experienced by a sensitive boy who wishes to please his hard-working Italian American father while at the same time being attracted by the lifestyle of the local Mafia wiseguy.

CITY OF HOPE (1991) dir., John Sayles. A contemporary drama set in a decaying New Jersey city. Several subplots revolve around the story of Nick Rinaldi and his relationship with his father, Joe, a self-made building contractor who tries to do the right thing in spite of having to make compromises within a corrupt urban system.

THE FRESHMAN (1990) dir., Andrew Bergman. Naive film student becomes involved with unconventional Mafia family. The Don is played by Brando, who does a comic-opera parody of his *Godfather* (1972) performance. Ethnic stereotyping is played down.

THE GODFATHER, PART III (1990) dir., Francis Ford Coppola. The saga continues with an aging Michael Corleone (Pacino) attempting to mastermind his removal from the world of crime. These Byzantine machinations involve selling off his criminal interests while retaining an influential role in the governing body of organized crime and a complicated financial deal with the Vatican bank.

GOODFELLAS (1990) dir., Martin Scorsese. Based on the true story of Henry Hill, who grew up in a Brooklyn Italian American neighborhood and dreamed of becoming a member of the Mafia. Screenplay based on Nicholas Pileggi's book, *Wiseguy*. Violent, fascinating and realistic look at the pedestrian daily activities of a mob family.

HOUSEHOLD SAINTS (1993) dir., Nancy Savoca. A magical-realistic tale (peppered with love, faith, and surrealism) of the marriage of a

sausage-maker and a drab movie fan. The story is set in New York's Little Italy and spans the late 1940's to the 1970's. The latter part of the film switches its focus to their daughter who is either cursed or blessed with a mystical faith. Based on the novel of the same title by Francine Prose. Savoca also directed **True Love** (1989).

I LOVE YOU TO DEATH (1990) dir., Lawrence Kasdan. Black comedy based on true story of philandering Italian-born pizza man. Kline, as an oversexed Italian Lothario, survives various murder attempts ordered by wife and refuses to press charges when he learns truth because she did "the right thing."

IN THE SOUP (1992) dir., Alexandre Rockwell. Offbeat, low budget zany comedy about aspiring Italian American filmmaker and a purportedly art-loving gangster who dupes him into being an accomplice in crime supposed to raise cash for a movie project.

JUNGLE FEVER (1991) dir., Spike Lee. Story of an interracial love affair between an African American architect and an Italian American office temporary from Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. Film attempts to present prejudices and fears of the two communities in very rhetorical fashion. Subplot concerning self-destruction of hero's brother changes focus of film.

LOVE IS ALL THERE IS (1996) dirs., Renee Taylor & Joseph Bologna. Comical retelling of *Romeo and Juliet* as a feud between Italian American families who operate catering businesses in the Bronx, one of which features hearty southern Italian cuisine while the other, newly arrived, features the fare of northern Italy.

MAC (1993) dir., John Turturro. A story of three Italian American blue-collar brothers who exemplify pride of skill and workmanship in the face of the waning of the work ethic in modern times. The film was also written by Turturro, who based the main character on his father.

MARIO AND THE MOB (1992) dir., Virgil Vogel. A made-for-TV comedy about a Mafia capo and restaurateur who assumes custody of his dead sister's five children. He eventually learns to love his nieces and nephews, marries his long-suffering mistress, and goes straight.

MEN OF RESPECT (1991) dir., William Reilly. Modern version of *Macbeth* with a Mafia setting in locales such as City Island in the Bronx and Greenwich Village. Follows plot of Shakespeare's drama closely, with dialogue couched in mob street talk.

MOBSTERS (1991) dir., Michael Karbelnikoff. Traces the rise to power of the young Lucky Luciano, his Mafia associate, Frank Costello, and

the formation of the national organized crime syndicate. Relations with Bugsy Siegel and Meyer Lansky of the Jewish mob are also presented.

MY BLUE HEAVEN (1990) dir., Herbert Ross. A comedy about an Italian American gangster from N.Y.C. who, after divulging Mafia secrets, is secretly relocated to suburban California as part of the FBI's witness protection program.

MY COUSIN VINNY (1992) dir., Jonathan Lynn. Pesci plays another comic role as a fledgling and totally inept Italian American lawyer from Brooklyn who attempts and succeeds (against all odds) in defending his cousin on murder charges in a southern small town. Newcomer Tomei plays his flashy and loud (but smart) girlfriend who masterminds her boyfriend's legal victory.

NUNZIO'S SECOND COUSIN (1994—released 1997?) Dir., Tom DeCerio. An 18-minute short about "...a gay police detective named Tony (Vincent D'Onofrio)[who] turns the tables on a bunch of gay-bashing teen-agers..." *NY Times*.

ONCE AROUND (1991) dir., Lasse Hallstrom. Placidity of close-knit, well-to-do (but basically blue-collar) Italian American family is disrupted by daughter's older, aggressive, super-salesman, non-Italian suitor.

OSCAR (1991) dir., John Landis. Broad comedy based on older French farce by Claude Magnier. Stallone plays Angelo "Snaps" Provolone, a 1930's gangster who is trying to go straight and achieve upper-class respectability. Includes cameo appearances by past movie stars.

THE PALERMO CONNECTION (1990) dir., Francesco Rossi. Present-day Italian American politician runs for mayor of NYC on a platform to legalize drugs. His campaign leads him to Palermo, his ancestral city, where he is confronted by the same people who forced his father out many years ago.

ROCKY V (1990) dir., John G. Avildsen. This "Rocky" returns to Avildsen as director, although Stallone is still author of the screenplay. The Italian Stallion is financially broke; hence, he decides to train an upcoming young boxer. The newcomer proves to be an ingrate; thus, brain-damaged Rocky is obliged to have it out with him in a street brawl instead of in the ring.

TRUE IDENTITY (1991) dir., Charles Lane. A Mafia comedy in which Henry, a black British comedian in real life, plays an aspiring African American actor who recognizes a mob chieftain who is thought to be dead. In order to survive, the actor assumes (with heavy makeup) the character of an Italian American hit man.

29th STREET (1991) dir., George Gallo. Comedy based on true story of first N. Y. State lottery winner, Frank Pesce. Presents picture of warm Italian American family in Queens, New York. Hero's lifetime lucky streak always turns disaster into advantage. The real Frank Pesce plays his brother, Vito.

USED PEOPLE (1992) dir., Beeban Kidron. This comedy, set in 1969 in Queens, N. Y., tells of the unconventional wooing of a recently widowed Jewish woman (Shirley MacLaine) by a debonair Italian widower (Marcello Mastroianni) commencing at the deceased husband's *shiva*. Intra-familial and inter-ethnic conflicts abound.

VENDETTA: SECRETS OF A MAFIA BRIDE (1991) dir., Stuart Margolin. Originally made as a four-hour TV movie. A young, beautiful Italian American woman unknowingly falls in love with the son of a Mafia boss and later discovers her husband is the murderer of her father. Shortened for release as a video under title **A FAMILY MATTER**.

--Angelo Tripicchio

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