

La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

June 2004

" Annual Report from the Vice Consul of Italy in St. Louis", presenter Joseph Colagiovanni, J.D.

Next Meeting

Wednesday

June 16, 2004

Cocktails- 6:30p.m.

Dinner-7:00p.m.

RSVP—Dan Viele

(636) 537-5960 or

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"The culmination of Pirandello's genius is seen in his plays, "Six Characters in Search of an Author," (1921) and "Enrico IV," (1922). Both these plays were at first only accepted by the "Counter Culture Cult," - Marixists, Existentialists, Futurists..."

n March 1997, Joseph Colagiovanni was appointed Honorary Vice Consul for the Government of Italy in St. Louis. At our June meeting, Joe Colagiovanni will give his annual "year in review." Specifically, he will tell the Italian Club members what the office of the Honorary Vice Consul has been doing during the last year and what he anticipates will be the major focus of their activities in the coming year. He will also answer questions from the member-

ship. The Vice Consul's office is at One Metropolitan Square, Suite 3800, in downtown St. Louis and is staffed by an administrative assistant fluent in English and Italian. The office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (phone: 259-2008 and fax: 259-2155). In addition, Colagiovanni spends one Saturday each month at the Italia-America Bocce Club on the Hill.

In addition to his duties as Honorary Vice Consul, Mr. Colagiovanni is a

Partner in Bryan Cave LLP, a leading national and international law firm. Mr. Colagiovanni is a member of the International, and Real Estate Development, Construction and Project Finance practice groups and leader of the Firm's Construction Law Section. Mr. Colagiovanni is an Adjunct Professor at the Washington University School of Law, and the President of the Federation of Italian-American Organizations.

"Luigi Pirandello: The Man and the Playwright" presented by Anthony Perrone

Greek-Sicilian dialects. Back in

Sicilian literature has contributed immeasurably to the brilliant and glorious tradition of Italian letters. One of Sicily's foremost writers, and who transformed modern world theatre, is Nobel Prize winner (1934), Luigi Pirandello. Pirandello's prolific writings encompass over 100 novels of various lengths, 3 volumes of poetry, and 55 plays, translated into many languages. His works are still studied in universities and performed worldwide. Pirandello was born in Agrigento, Sicily, on 28 June 1867, at the time of the struggle for the unification of Italy, in which his family participated. . He showed an early interest in literature and humanities. wrote and staged a play at the age of 12. In later years, due to failures in sulfur mining investments, the family moved to Palermo. There, Pirandello studied law and literature: and became interested in the Fascist movement. In 1887 he enrolled at the University of Rome where he wrote drama, short stories, and poetry in the literary style of "Verismo" (realism). In Bonn, Germany he studied the new science of linguistics. His doctoral thesis was on the phonetics development of the

Rome he obtained a position as Professor of Literature. Deep financial loss, his wife's mental illness, and WWI Austrian imprisonment of his son affected Pirandello's literary style and tone, rendering it cynical and paradoxical. At this time he wrote the renowned novel, "II Fu Mattia Pascal." His first successful play was "Pensaci Giacomino," staged in 1916. From then on he concentrated solely on playwriting, departing completely from "Verismo," and moving on to experimentalism and to the avant-garde. Pirandello's innovative style in playwriting dims the demarcation between such opposites as reality and fiction, comedy and tragedy, normal and abnormal, etc. His tone is ascetic and austere, masking an underlay of strong suppressed emotion; the movement slow and disciplined, the language stylized, giving a semblance of classical dignity to the characters. Pirandello's deeply psychological plays deal with problems of personality: that people do

not perceive themselves, or others,

as they really are. The characters

are middle class, leading common-

place lives: strong women; men who are weak, neurotic, guilt-ridden, and unfulfilled. The characters seem to vanish and return to where they first emerged. In addition, the plays appear to end as they began, inconclusive, leaving the observer slightly shocked and perplexed. The culmination of Pirandello's genius is seen in his plays, "Six Characters in Search of an Author,"(1921) and "Enrico IV," (1922). Both these plays were at first only accepted by the "Counter Culture Cult," - Marixists, Existentialists, Futurists, etc. With time Pirandello's plays won favor with the general public as well. After an enormously successful career, earning high esteem worldwide, Pirandello died in Rome on December 19, 1936, and buried in Agri-The presenter, Professor Anthony Perrone, Italian Club member who has given talks on various subjects for the Italian Club, was born in Sicily, emigrated to the U.S. in 1958, and spends every summer in Sicily. He has taught Spanish at Lindenwood College, and at Normandy Senior High School.

by Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips

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L'Angolo Del Presidente by James Tognoni

My Fellow Members

The Italian Club continues to flourish. Our meetings have fantastic attendance with incredible and interesting presentations. The Club has been involved in a variety of activities this spring: the Film Series, the Film Seminar, the recent Fraschina concert and the trip to Herrin. It has been a very busy time

In June we bid a fond farewell to member and friend, Carla Bossola, who returns to Italy with her family. We all sincerely thank Carla for all of her expertise and help over the past 6 years. The June meeting promises to be an evening of celebration. We will have the presentation of the Italian Club Heritage award. This year's honoree is Msgr. Salvatore Polizzi. We will witness Vince Imperato receiving the Purple Heart that he was entitled to as a result of an injury during World War II. Joe Colagiovanni, Honorary Vice Consul, will present the annual review of affairs of the Italian government. Joe is always informative and engaging. Be sure to join us for this very special evening. Best wishes to you and yours. I will see you at the June meeting.

Ciao, Jim jtognoni@earthlink.net or 314-753-9618



Presentation to Dr. Carla Bossola at the May 19th meeting by Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips, Jim Tognoni, Gene Mariani & Barbara Klein

Msgr. Salvatore Polizzi to Receive the Italian Heritage Award

On June 16th at our Italian Club meeting, Msgr. Salvatore Polizzi will receive the Italian Heritage Award from the Italian Club of St. Louis. Msgr. Polizzi has shared his love, concern and expertise with the Italian community and greater St. Louis community for most of his life. Please join us in honoring him.

Italian Language Award to St. Ambrose Students

The Italian Club of St. Louis acknowledged two stellar students in the St. Ambrose graduating class on Friday, May 21st at the Graduation Mass and Award Ceremony at St. Ambrose Church. Mary Godfrey and Madalyn McGahan received the first annual award for their Outstanding Performance in the Italian Language Program. The students were presented a Certificate and an Italian/English dictionary. Rev. Vincent Bommarito, Pastor, and Sr. Maureen Martin, Principal, were presented a plaque. The presentation was made by Vice-President, Marie Cuccia-Brand.



Congratulations Dan Viele

Congratulations to Italian Club Treasurer, Dan Viele. Dan was just appointed Associate Vice-President of Academic Affairs and Director of Metropolitan Campuses for Webster University.

Alberto Fraschina Concert

The Concert Committee is pleased to report that the Sunday, May 16th concert at St. Ambrose Church, with visiting tenor Alberto Fraschina from Cuggiono, Italy, and soprano Kathryn Thompson, of New York City, was a huge success with close to 400 people in attendance!

The singers, who were accompanied by pianist Sandra Geary, treated the crowd to a wonderfully aria-laden performance with Kathryn singing "Quando men vo" from La bohème, and Alberto singing "Quanto e' bella", "Quanto e' cara" and "Una furtiva lagrima" from L'Elisir d'Amore, "Caro mio ben", "Panis Angelicus", "Questa o quella" from Rigoletto, "Musica proibita", "Mattinata", "Ave Maria", "Dal labro il canto" from Falstaff, "Largo", "Tu ca nun chiagne", "O sole mio", and an encore of "Il lamento di Federico" from L'arlesiana. After intermission, ICSL President Emeritus, Eugene Mariani, presented on behalf of the entire Italian-American community a Mayoral Proclamation to

Dr. Carla Bossola. The proclamation, which recognized and thanked her for the many cultural and educational contributions she has made to St. Louis during her six year stay here as lecturer on behalf of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, proclaimed Carla an honorary citizen of the City of St. Louis.

After the concert, a light reception was held at the Sacred Heart Villa where guests could mingle and meet the performers.

The concert, which was organized by the Italian Club of St. Louis and the Ecoistituto della Valle Ticino, was sponsored by the Italian-American



community of Greater St. Louis. The Concert Committee would like to especially thank these sponsors, too numerous to mention, without whose generosity the concert would never have occurred. In addition, we are very grateful to Father Bommarito of St. Ambrose Church who provided a wonderful venue for the concert, to the Sisters of the Sacred Heart Villa who allowed the use of their facilities for the reception, to Gloria Griffero who hosted Alberto during his stay in St. Louis, to all who helped with the event, and to everyone who attended and made it a success! Most importantly, we would like to thank our performers— Alberto Fraschina, Kathryn Thompson and Sandra Geary. Mille grazie a tutti!

Carolyn Ranzini Stelzer & Barbara Klein

TERZA PAGINA

I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

Eugenio Montale (Genova 1896 – Milano 1981) trascorre l'infanzia e l'adolescenza tra Genova e Monterosso, luoghi e paesaggi divenuti poi essenziali per la sua poesia. Di salute malferma, compie studi irregolari, nutrendo una forte passione, oltre che per la letteratura e la poesia, anche per il canto.

Per Montale gli anni '20 e '30 furono anni difficili nella sua carriera letteraria al non essere ben visto dal regime fascista per le sue idee liberali. Nel 1925 pubblica il suo primo libro di poesie, Ossi di seppia. Conosciuto come il più importante esponente della poesia ermetica italiana, Montale mantiene stretti legami con Vittorini e Gadda e altri poeti italiani e stranieri contemporanei. Nel 1926 pubblica la seconda raccolta di poesie, Le occasioni. Nel '48 si trasferisce a Milano, dopo aver ricevuto il carico di giornalista e critico letterario per «Corriere della Sera». Negli anni Cinquanta e Sessanta, riconosciuto come il più grande poeta italiano vivente, riceve numerosi riconoscimenti culminanti nel 1967 nella nomina a senatore a vita, e nel 1975 nel premio Nobel per la letteratura

In occassione della partenza per l'Italia della nostra cara socio Carla Bossola, propongo questa poesia, tolta dal libro di poesie Le occasioni, scritta dal suo poeta preferito, Eugenio Montale. Speriamo che lei non si scordi di tutti i suoi amici di St. Louis—sicuramente noi non ci scorderemo mai di Carla, Peppino, e del loro bellissimo figlio Cesarino! Grazie mille, Carla, per tutto quello che hai fatto per l'Italian Club di St. Louis!

Il fiore che ripete di Eugenio Montale

Il fiore che ripete dall'orlo del burrato non scordarti di me, non ha tinte più liete né più chiare dello spazio gettato tra me e te.

Un cigolìo si sferra, ci discosta, l'azzurro pervicace non ricompare. Nell'afa quasi visibile mi riporta all'opposta tappa, già buia, la funicolare.



In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

Camogli: "Città dei Mille Bianchi Velieri"

Chi vede l'antico borgo di Camogli non lo scorda più. Situata nel ripido e verdissimo anfiteatro naturale, tra gli ulivi e i pini marittimi



della Liguria levante, Camogli è anche il paese natale del nonno materno di Carla Bossola e un posto preferito di villeggiatura per lei. Le case altissime, di 7-8 piani e anche più, strette una accanto all'altra, con le facciate dipinte a colori vivaci, che permettevano ai marinai che tornavano a casa di riconoscere la propria abitazione anche da lontano, fanno da sfondo all'affascinante porticciolo che si affaccia sul Golfo Paradiso.

Ca moggi, "casa delle mogli", probabilmente deve il proprio nome

alle donne che rimanevano in città ad attendere i mariti usciti in mare. Gli uomini, che avevano il loro primo ingaggio in mare a 9-10 anni, con l'imbarco per la Gorgogna, diventati marinai, capitani, armatori, nel periodo tra '700 e '800 fanno di questa piccola cittadina una potenza di mare superiore per armamento persino a quella di Genova e Napoli. Dal porticciolo salendo una ripida scalinata si può raggiungere l'antica chiesa parrocchiale di S. Maria Assunta, innalzata su uno scoglio a picco sul mare. Nel castello è sistemato un interessante acquario con esemplari della fauna del Tirreno.

Camogli bella in tutte le stagioni, per una romantica passeggiata, una gita al mare, la spiaggia o semplicemente per gustare un' ottima foccaccia. In particolare la seconda domenica di maggio offre spettacolo tutto particolare con la sua celebre Sagra del pesce: due tonnellate di bughe, sugarelli, acciughe, sarde, saragotti ed altri pesci da frittura rigorosamente freschissimi, 1600 litri d'olio e una padella di 4 metri di diametro. La sagra che ogni anno richiama migliaia di turisti è dedicata a San Fortunato patrono dei pescatori e sono proprio i pescatori ad offrire il pesce azzurro ai turisti nello splendido contesto della piazzetta. La festa di Stella Maris è la prima domenica d'agosto, quando, a sera, migliaia di piccoli ceri vengono accesi e lasciati gallegiare sulle onde del mare per rendere omaggio alla Madonna. Una processione di barche impavesate a festa fa da sfondo alla Santa Messa celebrata sullo Scoglio di Punta Chiappa.

Le frazioni di Camogli sono anche loro molto conosciute nel mondo come: Ruta, San Rocco, San Fruttuoso di Capodimonte, Punta Chiappa, e San Nicolò. S. Fruttuoso di Capodimonte è una bella abbazia, oggi restaurata e di proprietà del FAI. Un luogo che la natura e la storia hanno reso assolutamente unico: prima abbazia benedettina, poi covo di pirati, è appartenuta per secoli ai principi Doria. Punta Chiappa, un caratteristico borgo marinaro che prende nome dall'omonimo masso di puddinga proteso in mare, un tempo scelto ed utilizzato dai pescatori, sia come luogo di rifugio per le barche e gli attrezzi da lavoro che per i traffici mercantili. Oggi è meta turistica d'estate, nel periodo di attività dei battelli.

Camogli e dintorni sono da vedere! Per ulteriori informazioni vedi www.camogli.it Buon viaggio in Italia!!!

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Celebrating over 80 years of Italian Culture and Heritage

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FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS

June 16- Report of the Vice-Consul by Joseph Colagiovanni, JD Presentation of the Italian Heritage Award

July 21 - Italian Buffet Dinner & Film

August 18 - Matera e Alberobello by Pete Puleo

September 15 -The Enemy Among Us by David Fiedler

The Italian Club meets the third Wednesday of each month for dinner at da Baldo's Restaurant

> Cocktails—6:30p.m. Dinner- 7:00p.m.

OPERA THEATRE OF ST. LOUIS

The Opera Theatre of Saint Louis will be presenting two one-act Italian masterpieces, *Cavalle-ria Rusticana* by Pietro Mascagni and *Sister Angelica* by Giacomo Puccini, on the same evenings May 27, 29 June 2, 4, 15, 19, 23, 27. For further information see: www.experienceopera.org

MEDICI EXHIBIT IN MEMPHIS

On Friday, April 23, 2004, an exhibit of artifacts from the Medici's opened in Memphis. The Medici's were the primary family in Florence for over 400 years. Under their tutelage the Renaissance began and developed. This exhibit includes many artifacts owned or are associated with the Medici.

The Medici were responsible for sponsoring the major artists of Florence by providing them with commissions for their work. Some of the artists that received commissions from the Medici were Michaelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Giotto, Sandro Botticelli, Donatello, Fra Angelico, and Filippo Brunellschi. Works by all these artists are included in the exhibit.

Some of the other objects include the Papal Ring of Pope Leo X, a fork that Caterina de' Medici introduced to the French court when she became Queen of France, a copy of Galileo's telescope, and a pair of Michaelangelo's slippers. The exhibit will be at the Pyramid in Memphis through October 3, 2004. For additional information call 1-800-2MEMPHIS or online to www.wonders.org.

SKETCHES FROM ITALY: BILL KOHN

The new show "Sketches from Italy: Bill Kohn", will run from May 25 through July 18, at the Saint Louis University Museum of Art, located in O'Donnell Hall at 3663 Lindell Boulevard. The opening reception is Friday, June 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public. The show consists of selections from the artist's sketchbooks that he drew during several trips to Italy.