

La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

November 2004

Humanitas and Religion in Machiavelli's "La Mandragola" by Simone Bregni, Ph.D.

Next Meeting

Wednesday

November 17

Cocktails- 6:30p.m.

Dinner- 7:00p.m. \$20 per person

RSVP-Dan Viele

(636) 537-5960 or

ItalianClubSTL@aol.com

Although Niccolò Machiavelli man to have intercourse with is widely recognized for his her. Callimaco then helpfully cynical views on politics, essuggests to Nicio that an unpecially in his masterpiece, witting-fool be found for this purpose, and - well, you can The Prince, it is relatively little known that he also guess about the outcome of Simone the plot for yourself. Bregni will discuss Machia-The images of author and

character emerging from La Mandragola are quite different from those depicted in The Prince. In this play are found characters who portray peculiar aspects of contemporary society and possibly of Machiavelli's own complex personality. Focus is on Machiavelli's character as revealed by the play; a moral man of vivid imagination and excellent story-telling abilities who saw contemporary life as it really was. A man shedding light on the moral corruption of his times while also expressing distaste for a society that saw itself as perfect; using narrative dynamics of drama to distance himself from that corruption while simultaneously informing his audience about it. Bregni will discuss the notion of poet, linking it to a representation of religion and individual freedom in the context of a writer's attitude and cultural environment during greatly changing times.

Simone Bregni, a member of the Italian Club, was born in Novara, Italy. He received a Laurea from the Universita' di Torino (1991) and a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut (2001). He is Assistant Professor and Director of the Program of Italian Studies at St. Louis University.

by Gene Mariani

An Italian Music Sing-Along!

The October meeting of the Italian Club was truly memorable. Music filled the air. It

wrote comedies.

occurrence,

velli's most popular comedy,

La Mandragola (The Man-

drake). The 1521 play, alleg-

edly based on an actual 1504

young man's (Callimaco) de-

sire to bed Lucrezia, the

young and beautiful wife of

elderly and foolish Nicio,

who, above all else, desires

a son and heir. Callimaco,

masquerading as a doctor,

convinces the husband to

drug Lucrezia with mandrake

to increase her fertility, but adds the dire warning that

the mandrake will kill the first

concerns a

was a delightful evening of singing led by the intrepid Aldo Della Croce and the beautiful accompaniment of Joe Tucci on the accordian. The chorale made up of Daniela and Gianpiero Della Croce. Sue Della Croce Trese, Linda Bami Hausman along with Richard and Marie Cuccia-Brand gave a superb performance. The me-

lodic Italian songs were beautifully sung. They included, Santa Lucia, Dove Sei Stato Mio Bel Alpino, Vieni Sul Mar, La Montanara,



Come Prima, a beautiful and rousing presentation of

Volare and ending with the lovely Va Pensiero. The evening was a splendid treat for

> all. The chorale sang with the gusto and passion that songs deserved. The program made the meeting, as usual, one of the best of the year for the Club members. We look forward to the next performance of the group with pleasure and anticipation. Well done, Aldo and

his singers!

by Vito Tamboli

"The melodic Italian songs were beautifully sung. They included, Santa Lucia. Dove Sei Stato Mio Bel Alpino, Vieni Sul Mar, La Montanara, Come Prima, a beautiful and rousing presentation of Volare and ending with the lovely Va Pensiero"

L'Angolo Del Presidente by James Tognoni

Dear Fellow Members:

Thanks to all of you that cast your vote during the last meeting. I appreciate your confidence in allowing me to serve you for another term. We will have a new Secretary and Director beginning the first of the year. I would like to thank Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips and Gloria DiMartino Etling for serving in these respective roles over the past few years. They are both a tremendous asset to our fine organization and have contributed greatly.

We have many exciting activities planned for the fall and holiday season. We have the St Louis University – Gene Mariani awards to be presented at the November meeting. The Hill Nativity Walk will begin on December 1. We are co-sponsoring films on December 3 at the St. Louis Art Museum, and, we have the Christmas party at the December meeting.

In the past months, the Board has discussed forming various committees and outlining descriptions of their functions. We are com-

mitted to doing this and plan to have this completed in the early part of 2005. Please consider how you may be able to volunteer to serve on one of these committees. As always, if you have suggestions, compliments or complaints, please let me hear from you. Remember to make your reservation for the November meeting. It promises to be a most enjoyable evening.

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Cíao, Jím jtognoni@earthlink.net

2nd Annual Hill Nativity Walk

The second annual Hill Nativity Walk, a cultural display of Italian and Italian-style presepi (nativity scenes), will take place from December 1, 2004 to January 6, 2005, in the storefronts of Hill merchants. Those who are interested in displaying their presepi may enter the contest in one of three categories: organization, adult or children. A monetary prize will be given for the best of each category. In addition, we are looking for creative members who are interested in assisting with the installation and display of presepi in the Hill Nativity Walk.

The Hill Nativity Walk is co-sponsored by the Italian Club of St. Louis and the Hill Business Association. *Please call Barbara Klein (314)422-3102 for more information.*

Christmas on the Hill

On Saturday, December 4th, the Hill Business Association and Hill 2000 will co-sponsor "Christmas on the Hill". The businesses will be open until 9:30p.m., restaurants will be seating until 10p.m. and shuttles will be running from 3-11p.m.. There will be Christmas lights, carolers and carriage rides. This will be a great opportunity to visit the Hill and see the beautifully displayed presepi on the Hill Nativity Walk.

Italian Club Elections at the October Meeting

Elections were held at the October meeting. The Officers and Board member will be: President– James Tognoni, Vice-President– Marie Cuccia-Brand, Treasurer– Dan Viele, Secretary– Debbie Torpea Monolo, and Director– Tony DiPaulo. The Installation of Officers and Board member will take place at the January 2005 meeting.

Columbus Day

Thank you to all who helped organize and work at the Italian Club's booth on Columbus Day! It was a beautiful day and a great success.

Valerio Bianco Spirit of Columbus Award recipient



Long-time Italian Club member, **Nelson Pasqual**, died on Sunday, October 31 at the age of 83. Pasqual had served as Secretary of the Italian Club. Our condolences to his family and friends.

Italian Club Christmas Celebration Wednesday, December 15th

Plan to attend this special event that will include a gourmet dinner by Baldo and sketches from "Pinocchio" performed by the Pannetone Players. Who knows? We may even have special visitors!

St. Ambrose Church Library (Biblioteca Sant'Ambrogio), The newly formed library will have an Open House in the Rectory, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, November 21st

Donations of books in Italian, such as Italian-English dictionaries, any aspect of spirituality, the Bible, etc., or monetary gifts are also greatly appreciated. Donations may be brought to the Rectory during business hours. For more information contact Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips, Librarian, at 535-9748 or e-mail Dorotearp@aol.com.

Benvenuta! The Italian Club of St. Louis would like to welcome Dott.ssa Raffaella Sforza to St. Louis! Dott.ssa Sforza is the the lecturer assigned to St. Louis by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to fill the spot vacated by Dott.ssa Carla Bossola. Dott.ssa Sforza, who is a graduate of Rome's Sapienza University, has been a lecturer for twelve years, having spent time in Finland, Slovenia, and most recently Greece. She is now teaching Italian at Washington University. Benvenuta a St. Louis!

Medici Family Is Cleared - Cosimo Medici: Not a mur**derer** - The mysterious deaths of members of the Medici family, a clan who dominated the Florentine Renaissance, have been the subject of dark rumors for centuries. In 1562, two sons of Grand Duke Cosimo Medici I, Garcia and Giovanni, died just five weeks apart. After the death of Giovanni, rumors immediately began spreading that Garcia had stabbed his brother, and he was later impaled on a sword wielded by his enraged father. Their mother, Eleonora of Toledo, died soon afterward, her death attributed to a broken heart. But scientists who recently exhumed the remains of the Medicis say the stories are bogus. The skeletons of the sons, scientists, show no signs of cut marks. Instead, the family members apparently all died of malaria, Gino Fornaciari of the University of Pisa tells *Discover.com*. He notes that malaria would be consistent with accounts from the time reporting that the brothers both suffered high fevers before they died. "The murder story was probably spread by the Medici rivals, who accused the family of the most horrible crimes," say Fornaciari. "We can now put this murder theory to rest." October 29, 2004 page 26 News Health & Science submitted by Rosalie Saputo

TERZA PAGINA

I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

Vincenzo Cardarelli (Corneto, oggi Tarquinia, Viterbo 1887-Roma 1959) inizia la sua carriera letteraria a Roma come giornalista politico e ben presto entra dell'ambiente vociano. Nel 1919 fonda, insieme ad altri, la rivista "La Ronda". Tra le opere principali sono Il sole a picco, 1928 e Prologhi - Viaggi - Favole, 1929.

Alla morte

di Vincenzo Cardarelli

Morire sì, non essere aggrediti dalla morte. Morire persuasi che un siffatto viaggio sia il migliore. E in quell'ultimo istante essere allegri come quando si contano i minuti dell'orologio della stazione e ognuno vale un secolo. Poi che la morte è la sposa fedele che subentra all'amante traditrice, non vogliamo riceverla da intrusa, né fuggire con lei. Troppo volte partimmo senza commiato! Sul punto di varcare in un attimo il tempo, quando pur la memoria di noi s'involerà, lasciaci, o Morte, dire al mondo addio, concedici ancora un indugio. L'immane passo non sia precipitoso. Al pensier della morte repentina il sangue mi si gela. Morte non mi ghermire ma da lontano annùnciati e da amica mi prendi come l'estrema delle mie abitudini.

In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

Ceverteri: le necropoli etrusche

L'odierna Cerveteri (Caere), posta a 45 km da Roma, fu la più importante città dell'Etruria meridionale tra il VII e il IV secolo a.C. Assieme a Tarquinia e a Veio, Cerveteri fu una delle città della dodecapoli (ossia una lega tra le più importanti città etrusche, 12 per la precisione), il principale nodo commerciale etrusco e del mar Tirreno, il centro dello sviluppo dell'architettura e dell'arte etrusca.

Cerveteri rappresenta un'attrattiva mondiale soprattutto per le necropoli che costituiscono il più importante sepolcreto etrusco ed uno dei massimi complessi archeologici del mondo classico. La necropoli più importante è senza dubbio quella della Banditaccia che si sviluppa su circa 80 dei 450 ettari di necropoli circostanti l'abitato (è recintata solo in parte, circa 10 ettari).

Caratteristica principale della Necropoli è la presenza di numerosi sepolcri a tumulo, alcuni dei quali ancora oggi ben conservati. I tumuli, veri propri monumenti funebri sono costituiti da una grande base circolare, scavata nel tufo o costruita, che sostiene un cumulo di terra.



Nell'interno sono ricavate una o più tombe che fanno sempre riferimento all'architettura della casa. E' l'esempio più evidente di come si trovino nella "città dei morti" elementi urbanistico-architettonici propri della "città dei vivi".

Anche nella disposizione dei tumuli si esegue un "progetto" ben preciso. L'intera necropoli è, infatti, attraversata da una lunga via, detta oggi Via degli Inferi, dalla quale si dirama una fitta rete di sepolcrali minori. Sia nella via principale sia in quelle secondarie i tumuli sono allineati in maniera ordinata lungo i bordi.

Al suo interno troviamo diversi tipi di tombe anche di diversi periodi; le più antiche sono quelle del VII sec a.C. che si presentano generalmente così: un dromos (corridoio), due piccole celle laterali, un ambiente più ampio disposto longitudinalmente (che in genere riproduce la casa arcaica etrusca) con ai lati letti di deposizione.

Le tombe più belle sono: la Tomba dei Rilievi che presenta sopra e sotto i loculi che ospitavano le spoglie della nobile famiglia Matuna, bassorilievi in stucco colorato con scene e oggetti della vita quotidiana di una famiglia etrusca; la Tomba dei Capitelli che, oltre alle colonne che le danno il nome, ci offre la riproduzione in tufo del soffitto ligneo, a cassettone, di una vera casa; e poi le Tombe dei Leoni dipinti, dell'Alcova, delle Cinque Sedie, il Tumulo degli Scudi. Ogni tomba è una scoperta nuova, sempre meravigliosa per gusto artistico ed effetti architettonici. Gli oggetti che gli Etruschi seppellivano con i loro morti si possono ammirare nel Museo di Cerveteri, situato nella rocca medioevale, e nel Museo Nazionale di Villa Giulia, a Roma.

Durante il 2004, l'UNESCO ha iscritto le necropoli etrusche di Cerveteri (e anche Tarquinia) nella lista del patrimonio Mondiale dell'Umanità. Con questo riconoscimento, l'Italia vanta ben 38 siti iscritti nella lista diventando così paese leader per numero di iscrizioni.

Per ulteriori informazioni vedi

http://www.archeologia.beniculturali.it/pages/atlante/S160.html

Buon viaggio in Italia!!!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS LA RONDINE

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FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS

November 17

Humanitas and Religion Machiavelli's "La Mandragola" (The Mandrake) The Mariani Awards given to St. Louis University students

December 1—January 6 Hill Nativity Walk

December 15

Christmas Celebration with gourmet dinner and sketches from "Pinocchio" by Carlo Collodi, performed by the Panettone Players

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.

Italian Film Series at the St. Louis Art Museum
Passion and Defiance: Silent Divas of Italian Cinema
Friday, December 3rd—St. Louis Art Museum Auditorium
\$5 for the general public

(\$3 for members of the St. Louis Art Museum or Italian Club)

Join us for a rare glimpse at the deadly, daring, and divine Divas of silent Italian cinema. The New Music Circle provides thrilling live accompaniment for these timeless masterpieces tracing the early history of female stardom in the arts and in popular culture. This film series is presented in collaboration with the St. Louis Art Museum, New Music Circle and the Italian Club of St. Louis.

1:30 pm- Cenere (1917; 38 minutes)

Set in Sardinia, *Cenere* is the tale of Rosalie (the legendary stage actress Eleonora Duse in her only screen performance), a poor unwed mother who entrusts her son to the natural father and his wife. Following years of misery, Rosalie's son returns home to find her and invite her to his wedding.

4:00 pm- Rapsodia Satanica (1917; 40 minutes)

Rapsodia Satanica was the last film directed by Nino Oxilia and undoubtedly one of the finest achievements of early Italian cinema. Lyda Borelli lights up the screen as the aging aristocrat Alba D'Oltrevita who makes a pact with the devil: she will be forever young but will never fall in love again.

7:00 pm- Assunta Spina (1915; 62 minutes)

Italian silent screen goddess Francesca Bertini appears in her most famous role as a beautiful young laundress engaged to a jealous lover who cannot control his passion or hers. An operatic tale of love and sacrifice, *Assunta Spina* captures precious glimpses of life on the streets of Naples presaging the rise of Italian Neorealist directors from DeSica to Fellini.