



La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

September 2004

"The Enemy Among Us" - by David Fiedler

Next Meeting

Wednesday

September 15th

Cocktails- 6:30p.m.

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

RSVP-Dan Viele

(636) 537-5960 or

ItalianClubSTL@aol.com

Most people don't realize that during WWII the United States government brought over 400,000 POWs to the United States. Beginning in 1942, more than 15,000 of these enemy soldiers were sent to Missouri and held in 30 camps around the state. Contrary to common expectations, the camps were relatively pleasant places, and in fact the government was criticized for treating the prisoners too well.

In St. Louis, the men stayed at Jefferson Barracks; at a camp in the Chesterfield Valley; in the Baden neighborhood near the Calvary and Bellefontaine Cemeteries; and on floating "houseboat" camps in Ches-

terfield and in St. Louis near Arsenal Street. Additionally, a camp in Ste. Genevieve County housed more than 5,000 Italian POWs, making it one of the largest camps in the United States.

The POWs had a great deal of freedom and opportunities for recreation. They worked (for pay!) on local farms, sometimes completely unguarded. Many friendships grew out of this interaction between prisoners and residents, some of which lasted decades after the war.

Italian-Americans on the Hill were especially welcoming and intentional in reaching out to the Italian POWs around them. They arranged social events, tours of the

city, Mass at St. Ambrose and dinners with area families for the men.

Through photographs and stories from those who experienced it firsthand, David Fiedler tells of the fascinating, yet little-known story of when the POWs came to Missouri, and how residents reacted when they came face-to-face with the enemy.

About Dave: David Fiedler has written for a number of newspapers and magazines as well as the Associated Press, the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times Syndicate. "The Enemy Among Us" is Dave's first book. He lives in St. Louis.

by Pete Puleo

A Tale of Two Cities - "I Sassi di Matera e i Trulli di Alberobello" *by Pete Puleo*

**"Matera...
The historic old town, built on the side of a mountain, consisted of houses, churches and other structures carved into the rock, called TUFO, to form caves."**

"Alberobello, famous for its circular houses with conical stone roofs called trulli."

At our August 18th Italian Club meeting we enjoyed a wonderful dinner prepared by Baldo. His wife, Madda, was recovering from recent surgery, but doing well. We all hope she returns for next month's meeting and we wish her "Buon salute."

Pete Puleo gave the evening's presentation on the two unique Italian cities and World Heritage Sites of Matera and Alberobello. Pete was introduced by Gene Mariani, President Emeritus.

In 1987 Pete and his wife, Evie, while traveling in southern Italy came upon the city of Matera, which is the second largest city in the region of Basilicata and has a popu-

lation of about 58,000. The historic old town, built on the side of a mountain, consisted of houses, churches and other structures carved into the rock, called TUFO, to form caves. Facades are built outwards from the rock. The occupants of these structures called them "I sassi di Matera", i sassi meaning stones. The occupants, naturally, were called "I sassioli." Pete showed us many pictures of these dwellings and described how they felt this was a haunting experience, and they had stepped back into history thousands of years. In fact, people lived in these caves from Neolithic times (10,000

years B.C.) until the early 1950's, when a law was passed to evacuate the sassi because of overcrowding and unhealthy conditions. Pete showed us slides of how, in recent years, many of these structures have been restored and updated. Currently, about 800 people live in the caves. Mel Gibson shot his movie "The Passion of Christ" there.

Thirty five miles to the east in the region of Puglia sits the picturesque town of Alberobello, famous for its circular houses with conical stone roofs called trulli. The name "trullo" is derived from the Greek word "tholos"

(Continued on page 2)

L'Angolo Del Presidente *by James Tognoni*

Dear Fellow Members:

It won't be long until we can start to pick up the scent of fall in the air. Hard to believe that summer is almost over. The good news is that there are a lot of fun things happening in our Club and in the Italian community. Make sure to read over this edition carefully to get all the details. There are many opportunities for entertainment, banquets (let's do our best to support the other clubs with our presence. It unifies the community) language classes, etc. The program committee has been busy and has a fine layout for 2005. Dorotea Ros-

somanno-Phillips, Tony Perrone and Gene Mariani have put together a great film and opera series. So, there is lots of stuff to do!

Don't forget that October is an important meeting. In this edition you will see a list of the candidates for various offices. If you wish to nominate someone or wish to run yourself, please let Pete Puleo or me know. The night of the October meeting, candidates can be nominated from the floor.

Additionally, on October 10th we will participate in the Columbus Day Parade and festivities at Berra Park. Please join us on that day.

I want to welcome our new members. We are pleased and honored that you have selected our organization as the one you wanted to be part of. Get involved and join in on the activities and volunteer opportunities.

As always, if you have suggestions for programs, ways to make the meetings more enjoyable, ideas for road trips or complaints please send me an email or give me a call. I would love to hear from you.

Ciao,

Jim

jtognoni@earthlink.net

Nominating Committee Presents Slate for October Elections

The Nominating Committee presents:

James Tognoni for President

Marie Cuccia-Brand for Vice-President

Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips for Secretary

Dan Viele for Treasurer

Tony DiPaulo for Director

Additional nominees will be accepted in writing or nominations may be taken from the floor at the election at our October 20th Italian Club meeting.

Columbus Day Corporation Annual Recognition Dinner Sunday, September 19th

Grand Marshals:

John, Bart, Jr., Michael & Chris Saracino

Spirit of Columbus Award— Valerio Bianco

Miss Italian St. Louis—Katherine Antonacci

Christy's Banquet Hall

Cocktails— 5:30p.m. Dinner— 6:00p.m.

For reservations: Marianne Peri Sack

mperisack@sbcglobal.net or (314) 837-8830

Columbus Day Parade and Festival Sunday, October 10th Berra Park

The Italian Club will have a booth at the Columbus Day Festival at Berra Park. We will be selling Baldo's famous gelato. Volunteers are needed.

Please contact Gloria DiMartino Etling if you can help. (314) 965-6972 or gloandcho@hotmail.com

A Tale of Two Cities - "I Sassi di Matera e i Trulli di Alberobello", cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

meaning dome. This supports a theory that the dry stone architectural style may have been imported from the east. Similar domed structures have been found in Greece, Turkey and Iraq dating back 3,000 years. Harran, Turkey is the only other city with domed dwellings. It has thousands, but they are made of brick. Pete's slides showed that the trullo is quite small when compared to a modern house. Sometimes to increase living space several trulli are linked together. Today a trullo sells for \$50,000-70,000.

By Roy DeBellis

FIAO Italian Language Program Fall 2004

The Italian Language Program will begin its fall term the week of September 13th. Adult classes will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at the Missouri Botanical Garden's Commerce Bank Education Center located at Shaw Avenue and Kingshighway Blvd. The 10-week program is \$65 for Levels I-VI and \$85 for the conversational course. Children's classes will be held on Saturday mornings and begin on Saturday, September 18. The 10-week program for children is \$30 per course. *For additional information, visit their website: www.fiao-stl.org or call: (314) 259-2242*

Concert and Dinner with James Goettsche Official Papal Organist

Organ music with virtuoso, James Goettsche, on Sunday, September 19, at 2:30p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. Following the concert, you will have the opportunity to meet Mr. Goettsche at Favazza's Rose of the Hill Banquet Center while enjoying a wonderful Italian Family Style Dinner.

General Concert Seating: \$10; Reserved Seating and Dinner: \$45.

For tickets and reservations call (314) 533-7662.

www.stlcathedralconcerts.org

TERZA PAGINA

I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

Salvatore Quasimodo (Modica (Ragusa)1901 - Napoli 1968)
fu poeta ermetico, grande traduttore dei lirici greci, e vincitore
del Premio Nobel di 1959.

Strada di Agrigentum

di Salvatore Quasimodo

Là dura un vento che ricordo acceso
nelle criniere dei cavalli obliqui
in corsa lungo le pianure, vento
che macchia e rode l'arenaria e il cuore
dei telamoni lugubri, riversi
sopra l'erba. Anima antica, grigia
di rancori, torni a quel vento, annusi
il delicato muschio che riveste
i giganti sospinti giù dal cielo.
Come sola nello spazio che ti resta!
E più t'accori s'odi ancora il suono
che s'allontana verso il mare
dove Espero già striscia mattutino
il marranzano tristemente vibra
nella gola del carraio che risale
il colle nitido di luna, lento
tra il murmure d'ulivi saraceni.

In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

Agrigento, "la valle dei templi"

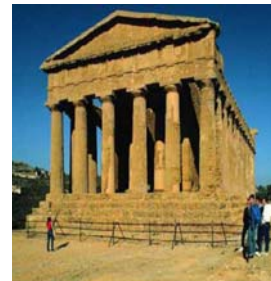
Uno dei siti archeologici più rappresentativi della civiltà greca classica, inserito nel 1998 dall'Unesco nell'elenco del Patrimonio Mondiale, è la Valle dei Templi di Agrigento. Lungo un crinale, impropriamente chiamato valle, vengono eretti nell'arco di un secolo (V sec. a.C.) numerosi templi a testimonianza della prosperità della città. Incendiati dai Cartaginesi nel 406 a.C., vengono restaurati dai Romani (I sec. a.C.) che rispettano l'originale stile dorico. Sono forse gli eventi sismici, o la furia distruttrice dei cristiani avallati da un editto dell'imperatore d'Oriente Teodosio (IV sec.), a determinare il crollo dei templi. Durante il Medioevo i materiali di costruzione vengono saccheggiate e poi utilizzati per innalzare altri edifici. In particolare il Tempio di Zeus Olimpio viene familiarmente chiamato Cava dei Giganti e fornisce materiale per la Chiesa di S. Nicola e per il braccio settecentesco del molo di Porto Empedocle.

Tutti gli edifici sono orientati verso est, per rispettare il criterio classico (sia greco che romano) che l'ingresso alla cella che ospitava la statua della divinità fosse illuminato dal sole nascente, fonte e principio di vita. Costruiti in tufo calcareo, i templi offrono una vista particolarmente suggestiva all'alba e soprattutto al tramonto, quando assumono una calda colorazione dorata.

Il nome dato ai templi è quello greco, tra parentesi viene dato il nome latino delle divinità (nel caso sia differente).

Tempio di Hera Lacinia (Giunone) - Si trova sull'estremità della collina ed è tradizionalmente attribuito alla dea protettrice del matrimonio e del parto. Costruito intorno alla metà del V sec. a.C., il tempio conserva il colonnato, parzialmente risollevato nel '900, ed ad oriente l'altare del tempio.

Tempio della Concordia - E' uno dei templi meglio conservati dell'antichità e questo permette di apprezzare appieno la sua eleganza e imponenza. Il fatto che sia giunto integro fino a noi è da attribuire alla sua trasformazione in chiesa nel VI sec. della quale si possono ancora intravedere, all'interno del colonnato, le arcate praticate nell'originario muro della cella del tempio classico. E' stato costruito, si suppone, intorno all'anno 430 a.C., ma non si sa a chi fosse dedicato. Il nome Concordia deriva da un'iscrizione latina trovata nelle vicinanze.



Tempio di Eracle (Ercole) - In stile dorico arcaico, è il più antico della serie. Le vestigia ci permettono di indovinare l'eleganza di questo tempio, che oggi presenta in posizione eretta un allineamento di 8 colonne rastremate, rialzate nella prima metà del '900.

Tempio di Zeus Olimpio (Giove) - Completamente raso al suolo, venne eretto in seguito alla vittoria degli agrigentini sui Cartaginesi ad Himera, avvenuta intorno al 480 a.C., come forma di ringraziamento a Zeus. Era uno dei più grandi templi dell'antichità con i suoi 113 m di lunghezza e 56 m di larghezza, e si suppone non sia mai stato terminato. La trabeazione era sostenuta da semicolonne alte 20 m a cui probabilmente si alternavano i telamoni, colossali statue delle quali una si trova al Museo Archeologico Regionale. Una sua riproduzione giace al centro del tempio e dà un'idea delle dimensioni che l'edificio doveva avere. Il tempio non era circondato dal classico colonnato aperto, ma da un paramento continuo che chiudeva gli spazi tra le colonne che, all'interno, divenivano pilastri squadrate.

Tempio di Castore e Polluce (Dioscuri) - E' il simbolo di Agrigento. Costruito negli ultimi decenni del V sec. a.C. è attribuito ai due gemelli nati dall'unione di Leda e Zeus, tramutato in cigno. Del tempio restano solo quattro colonne ed una parte della trabeazione, rialzate nel XIX sec. Sotto uno spigolo della cornice si può ancora ammirare una rosetta, tipico elemento decorativo.



Tempio di Efesto (Vulcano) - E' l'ultimo sulla linea immaginaria che collega tutti i templi della valle. Ne rimangono pochi resti. La leggenda racconta che il dio del fuoco avesse un'officina sotto l'Etna dove fabbricava i fulmini di Zeus aiutato dai ciclopi. I templi della valle di Agrigento sono una eccezionale testimonianza della colonizzazione greca in Sicilia. Per ulteriori informazioni vedi: <http://sicilyweb.com/valledeitempli/>

Buon viaggio in Italia!!!

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

c/o Marie Cuccia-Brand
2115 North Ballas Road
St. Louis, MO 63131
Fax: 314-993-8096
e-mail: mcucciasbj@aol.com

***Celebrating over
80 years of
Italian Culture
and Heritage***

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.ITALYSTL.COM/
ITALIANCLUB**

Prossime Manifestazioni

FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS

September 15-
The Enemy Among Us
by David Fiedler

October 20 -
Italian Music
(more details to follow)

***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.***

**Please note our new dinner
price of \$20.00/person**

ITALIAN CLUB FALL 2004 FILM AND OPERA SERIES

L'ARMATA DI BRANCALEONE(1965)	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT BY GAETANO DONIZETTI	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1
AMARCORD (1974)	FRIDAY OCTOBER 15
MANON LESCAUT BY GIACOMO PUCCINI	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

***All programs are in Italian with English sub-titles and begin at 7:30 p.m.
at the Italia-America Bocce Club. Admission is free. Films are introduced
by Dr. Antonio Perrone and operas by Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips.***

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.