



La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

April 2005

“Those Mysterious Etruscans”

by Anna Amelung, Ph.D.

Next Meeting

Wednesday

April 20th

Cocktails– 6:30p.m.

**Dinner– 7:00p.m.
\$20 per person**

RSVP—Dan Viele

(636) 537-5960 or

ItalianClubSTL@aol.com

The foundation of the city of Rome is traditionally dated to 753 BC. But April program speaker Anna Amelung will look far beyond the founding of the city and its people by asking who was there before the Romans and what influence did these peoples have on Roman civilization as we understand it today? Pre-Roman tribal Italy was a quilt of languages and cultures. At least forty languages and dialects have been determined and the peoples included Latini, Oscans, Samnites, Greeks, and Etruscans, among others. These tribes, with the exceptions of the Greeks and the Etruscans, have been determined to have been indigenous to the Italian peninsula. Unquestionably, the Greeks were emigrants, but whether the Etruscans were indigenous or came from outside of Italy is unclear as their provenance is shrouded in the mists of legend, myth, and cryptic inscription. Early sources (Herodotus and Dionysius) are contradictory and the Etruscans

left no written history. Dr. Amelung's presentation will focus on the Etruscans and explore some fundamental questions, e.g. what does recent research tell of the origin of the Etruscans? Why did the Etruscans, who had a written language (unfortunately largely undecipherable) not leave any literature? And perhaps most intriguing of all, to what extent did Etruscan culture influence what is generally perceived to be Roman culture? Or putting it another way, has history given the Romans credit for numerous ideas which they actually got from the Etruscans? (For example, invention of the arch). For a fascinating look at “those mysterious Etruscans”, don't miss the April Program. Anna Amelung received a Laureate from the Università di Bologna and a Ph.D. in French from Washington University and currently teaches French and Latin at University City HS. She is past President of the Classical Club of St. Louis and an active Italian Club member. ***by Gene Mariani***

“The Region of Marche” by Vito Tamboli

“Proud of their heritage, Marchigiani quietly live in their uncrowded cities and towns pedaling their bicycles rather than using their cars, believing that they epitomize the best of Italy's vast expanses of natural splendor.”

Few places in the world are suffused with such a strong sense of historical continuity as Le Marche. From the Etruscan civilization to the very foundation of a united Italy, the past and present are inextricably linked in this beautiful, serene, insolated province that stretches from the Adriatic to the Apennines. The grandeur of its people, the arts, the food, and the glorious wine. With a population of 1,400,000 and a land mass of 3740 square miles, Le Marche ranks 15th among the provinces of Italy in size and 13th in population. It is a province made up of great vistas and towns nestled in verdant valleys that need to be experienced rather than heard or read. As do all Italians, the Marchigiani love their music and art and the role they played in the history of Italy. Pesaro is the birth place of Giochino Rossini and Renata Tibaldi. The city is also famous for its Maiolica, beautiful earthenware pottery. It is said that the marchigians

possess the best traits of the emotions of the south and less of the cool indifference of the north. Proud of their heritage, Marchigiani quietly live in their uncrowded cities and towns pedaling their bicycles rather than using their cars, believing that they epitomize the best of Italy's vast expanses of natural splendor. Locals not afraid of their heritage, their love of good food, music and art...and where even today...in rural hamlets, the would be daughter-in-law must pass muster with her future mother-in-law by laying out a perfect round layer of pasta that is of uniform thinness...and where in places, it seems, time really has stood still and most of the spectacular inland mountain country remains unscathed by the worse excesses of modern times...and the people have a graciousness often lost in the large cities of Europe. Come visit Le marche! You will not be disappointed.

by Vito Tamboli

L'Angolo Del Presidente by James Tognoni

Dear Fellow Members:

Ah, glorious spring has come to St Louis- a time for renewal of the earth and our spirits. There are many exciting things coming up in the weeks and months ahead. Our Italian Film Festival with Washington University was tremendous. The film and opera series in conjunction with the Italia-America Bocce Club kicks off and continues into May. The Young Artists' Competition will be at St Ambrose in April. The tenor, Alberto Fraschina, will be with us again in May. There is a lot to do and participate in, with even more fun things coming up over the summer. Make sure you check this publication or our website to stay current on what

is happening.

At the March meeting I failed to thank Marianne Peri Sack for bringing the St. Joseph's bread to the meeting. She does this for us every year and it is much appreciated. Also thanks again to the elves that brought all the wonderful cookies. The April meeting should be a great time. We have a terrific speaker, Anna Amelung, and we will be presenting our annual awards to two deserving Washington University students. In June, we will be presenting our Italian Heritage award to a deserving individual. If you wish to nominate someone please give me a call or send me an email. We will be making our decision shortly and want

to make sure we entertain all submitted names. Think about who you know that exemplifies the spirit of being an Italian-American.

If you would, please remember in your thoughts and prayers those members of our Club that have had health issues recently. Here is wishing them all the best for a full and speedy recovery. To all of you my dear friends, get out and enjoy the spring weather, be safe, be well and make sure you come to the April meeting. It's just not as much fun without YOU.

Ciao, Jim
jtognoni@earthlink.net

Alberto Fraschina, Encore Performance

Italian tenor, Alberto Fraschino, will be returning to St. Louis for an encore performance at St. Ambrose Church on Sunday, May 22. Fraschina will be joined by Kathryn Thompson Favazza and Gina Galati.

In addition, he will be performing on May 29 at the Herrinfesta Italiana in Herrin, Illinois.

Mark you calendars and look in next month's edition of La Rondine for further details!

The Young Artists' Competition

*sponsored by the
Federation of Italian-American Organizations*
Sunday, April 24th
2:00 p.m.

St. Ambrose Church

Adult tickets: \$5.00 Students: No charge

**For information or to purchase tickets:
(314) 995-1474**

**Don't miss this wonderful opportunity
to hear beautiful Italian music
performed by our string and piano finalists**



Director, Piero Sanna, discussing his film, "Le Destinazione"

St. Louis Italian Film Festival.

Co-sponsored by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura of Chicago, Washington University and the Italian Club

The St. Louis Italian Film Festival, which highlighted the local premier of three Italian films, started on Friday, March 18, with the screening of "La destinazione" (The Destination). The film focuses on a young man who enlists in the state police and is posted to the island of Sardinia, where he encounters a society that seems primitive, ruled by unfamiliar traditions, and, above all, closed to outsiders. This was a rare opportunity to meet the director Piero Sanna, who introduced his film and, with the help of Professor Michael Sherberg acting as interpreter, held a brief question and answer session after the screening. Mr. Sanna came to St. Louis after having recently shown his film at Chicago's European Union Film Festival and at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. The crowd was estimated to be almost 300 people in attendance and many stayed for the question and answer session that lasted for about thirty minutes.

The second film, "La meglio gioventù" (The Best of Youth) by Marco Tullio Giordana, was shown in two parts on March 25 and 26. This film, an enormous box-office and critical success in Italy, follows the lives of two brothers who take diverging paths through 40 years of recent Italian history, one becoming an embittered policeman, the other a politically active psychiatrist. The film was very well received by the crowd estimated to be around 300.

The third film, "Il cuore altrove" (Incantato) by Pupi Avati will be screened on April 1. It is a poignant tale set in Rome and Bologna during the 1920s which tells the story of a timid 35 year old bachelor who comes from a long line of Papal tailors. He meets an exuberant, beautiful young blind girl with whom he falls hopelessly in love but both sets of parents do not approve of the relationship.

A heartfelt "mille grazie" to the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Chicago and Washington University's Program in Film and Media Studies who provided the funding, venue and projectionist for the film series. Special thanks also to Professor Michael Syrimis who organized the festival, Professor Michael Sherberg who interpreted, Piero Sanna for bringing his wonderful film to St. Louis, and to Miramax Films who provided "La meglio gioventù".

by Barbara Klein

TERZA PAGINA

I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein

Giacomo Leopardi (Recanati 1798-Napoli 1837) è stato uno dei più grandi poeti del 19° secolo soprattutto per la profondità, la comprensione psicologica e la forza della sua espressione poetica. L'angoscia esistenziale di Leopardi rifletteva la generale crisi spirituale e filosofica che segnava la fine dell'Illuminismo e la nascita del Romanticismo.

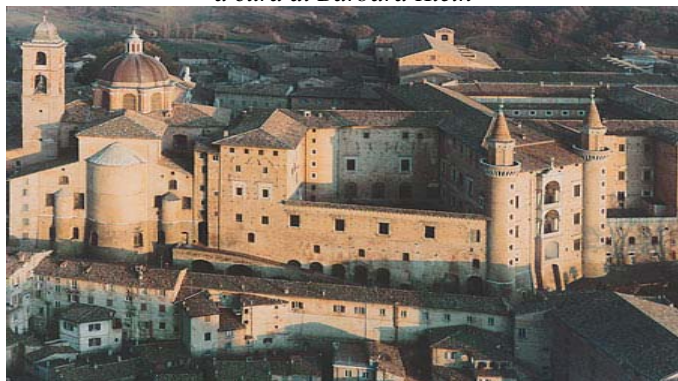
A se stesso

di Giacomo Leopardi

Or poserai per sempre,
Stanco mio cor. Però l'inganno estremo,
Ch'eterno io mi credei. Però. Ben sento,
In noi di cari inganni,
Non che la speme, il desiderio è spento.
Posa per sempre. Assai
Palpitasti. Non val cosa nessuna
I moti tuoi, nè di sospiri è degna
La terra. Amaro e noia
La vita, altro mai nulla; e fango è il mondo
T'acqueta omai. Dispera
L'ultima volta. Al gener nostro il fato
Non donò che il morire. Omai disprezza
Te, la natura, il brutto
Poter che, ascoso, a comun danno impera
E l'infinita vanità del tutto

In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein



Il Palazzo Ducale di Urbino

Il Palazzo Ducale di Urbino fu commissionato dal duca Federico di Montefeltro. L'edificio avrebbe dovuto testimoniare nel tempo l'importanza, la forza e la magnificenza raggiunta dal ducato nel XV secolo. Fu certamente una dimora grandiosa e signorile, complessa e maestosa nell'architettura, ma equilibrata, tanto da poter essere definito "Il Palazzo più bello d'Italia".

Il palazzo ducale è dato dall'unione di diversi edifici con diverse funzioni, le parti più importanti di questa vera e propria "città in forma di palazzo" sono da attribuire a Luciano Laurana, architetto dalmata. Egli creò, infatti, i corpi di raccordo con il "Castellare"

(costruzione medievale posta nella parte occidentale dell'edificio), il Cortile d'onore, lo Scalone, parte degli ambienti interni e soprattutto la "facciata dei Torricini". Nel 1472 il Laurana lasciò Urbino e venne sostituito da un altro famoso architetto: Francesco di Giorgio Martini il cui genio lasciò nella città un'impronta decisiva. Egli completò l'opera del suo predecessore rispettandone sostanzialmente l'impostazione.



Il gioiello dell'interno del palazzo è il piccolo studiolo del duca; è completamente decorato da un 'trompe l'oeil' ligneo, un lavoro di intarsio magistrale, dove è veramente difficile separare il vero dal falso. Gli oggetti, finemente intarsiati con legni di vario tipo, sono di diversa natura: libri, un astrolabio e una sfera armillare svegliarino con la sua campana, e lettere.

L'intarsio dello studiolo

I lavori di costruzione occuparono il duca e i suoi ospiti per più decenni, molti progetti si susseguirono e alla fine la realizzazione del Palazzo e del sottostante Mercatale.

In seguito, dopo la successione della famiglia dei Della Rovere a quella dei Montefeltro e con il successivo passaggio della città di Urbino allo Stato Pontificio, il palazzo Ducale perse la sua rilevante importanza politica e purtroppo i suoi tesori d'arte. Fu solo dopo l'annessione della città al regno d'Italia che questa residenza, ormai in stato d'abbandono, cominciò ad essere rivalutata tanto da essere destinata a diventare, nei primi anni del '900, sede della Galleria Nazionale delle Marche in cui sono custoditi capolavori di Piero della Francesca, Paolo Uccello, Raffaello, e [La città ideale](#) di Luciano Laurana, l'architetto del palazzo.



[La città ideale](#) di Laurana

Per ulteriori informazioni vedi www.urbinonet.net

Buon viaggio in Italia!!!

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LA RONDINE**

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Prossime Manifestazioni

FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS and EVENTS

April 20- *"Those Mysterious Etruscans" by Dr. Anna Amelung
Awards to Washington University Students*

May 18- *"They NEVER get the girl, are usually EVIL, but oh how they can sing! -
Italian Opera" by Susan Wohl*

Italian Films & Operas – Spring Series at the Italia-America Bocce Club

la boheme by giacomo puccini

One of opera's most moving compositions and the world's most popular opera of love, truth, and fate. Follows the tale of six struggling Parisians who live a bohemian existence of love and laughter. A Franco Zeffirelli production. With Gianni Raimondi & Mirella Freni.

friday, april 8

the secret of santa vittoria

Starring international actors: Anthony Quinn; Anna Magnani; Giancarlo Giannini; Sergio Franchi. The townspeople of Santa Vittoria in northern Italy ban together humorously, heroically, cleverly, and defiantly to thwart the Germans' design to confiscate the town's world famous wines.

friday, april 29

stiffelio by giuseppe verdi

High quality but neglected opera due to Italian censors' opposition to the plot. Deals with the plight of a stern Protestant minister who considers divorce and even murder after discovering his wife is unfaithful. Features Jose Carreras & Catherine Malfitano. (123 minutes)

friday, may 6

il marchese del grillo

Alberto Sordi plays the role of an early XIX century prominent Roman historical figure, a dissolute, decadent, cowardly, resourceful prankster who spares no one from bitter ridicule, not even his own aristocratic family, the Papacy, Napoleon, commoners, merchants and artists alike.

friday, may 13

Except for "Santa Vittoria"(which is in English) all programs are in Italian with English subtitles and begin at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. Films are introduced by Dr. Antonio Perrone, and operas by Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips. Sponsored by the Italian Club of St. Louis and the Italia-America Bocce Club. The Bocce Club is located at 2210 Marconi Ave., on the "Hill," St. Louis, Mo. 63110.

For further information contact Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips at (314) 535-9748 or e-mail: dorotearp@aol.com