



February 2006

Next Meeting

Wednesday

February 15th

Cocktails – 6:30p.m.

Dinner – 7:00 p.m.
\$20 per person

RSVP
Dan and Jan Viele

(636) 537-5960
or

ItalianClubSTL@aol.com
by noon
Tuesday February 14

Reminder:

Please send in your dues for 2006. The amount is \$30.00. If you would like to make an additional donation to help defray the costs of our special events and scholarships, we would sincerely appreciate it. Please send your dues to:

Dan Viele, Treasurer
1931 Schoettler Valley
Chesterfield, MO 63017

La Rondine

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

MULTI-MEDIA VISIONS OF HELL

*Selections from a silent film of Dante's l'Inferno, drawings by Gustave Doré, and music by Tangerine Dream
by Eugene Mariani, Ph.D.*

In 1321, Dante Alighieri completed the Divine Comedy (La Divina Commedia) one of the greatest epic poems in the history of world literature. The Commedia consisted of three "books": or cantiche; l'Inferno (Hell), Purgatorio (Purgatory,) and Paradiso (Heaven). In 1861, French artist Gustave Doré, the most successful book illustrator of his time, published a series of magnificent woodcut drawings depicting scenes from the best known of the three books, the famous l'Inferno. In 1911, Director Giuseppe de Liguoro produced a silent film of the l'Inferno which required over three years to make and was the first full length Italian feature film ever made. It was a huge success taking more than \$2 million in the United States alone. In 2004, a remake of the original 1911 film was brought out on DVD with background music by the German group, Tangerine Dream.

So what will the February program be all about –film,

drawings, poetry, music? In a sense, all of those, but actually the objective will be to discuss one basic question: "if, in 1911, you were going to make a silent film of one of the greatest poems ever written, how would you go about doing it?" This is a difficult question to answer. First, although Dante described many events, how would you have decided how to portray them in film? Secondly, the poem sounds best when read aloud, but your medium is silent film – so how would you have expressed the poem's passion? And lastly, in 1911 there was limited cinematic technology – no artificial lighting, no camera platforms, few special effects. So given that, how do you convey the drama of Hell?

The presentation will not be able to cover the l'Inferno in full detail. The approach will be to show certain scenes from the DVD, to compare them with selections of Doré drawings, and to discuss both from the perspectives outlined above. *by Gene Mariani*

Annales for MMV - Looking at the Past to Prepare for the Future

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President- James Tognoni; Vice-President- Marie Cuccia-Brand; Secretary- Debbie Torpea Monolo
Treasurers- Roger Gennari and Daniel Viele
Board of Directors: Carlo Giordano, Tony DiPaolo, Barbara Klein (until resignation in November)
President Emeritus: Eugene Mariani

STANDING COMMITTEES

La Rondine—Editor: Marie Cuccia-Brand. Contributors: La Terza Pagina: Barbara Klein. Program Previews and Recaps: Roy DeBellis, Gene Mariani, Marianne Perisack, Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips, Peter Puleo and Vito Tamboli. Mailing: Joann Arpiani.
Program Committee: Gene Mariani, Pete Puleo, Tony DiPaolo and Roy DeBellis
Italian Club website- IC Webmaster Franco Giannotti
Classic Films and Operas at the Italia-America Bocce Club- Committee Members: Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips, Tony Perrone and Gene Mariani. Film introductions were by Tony Perrone. Opera introductions by Dorotea Rossomanno-Phillips.

Panettone Players presented a dramatization of an original work, "A Christmas Dinner in Rome" written and directed by Roy DeBellis, translated by Tony Perrone, enacted by Roger Genarri, Carlo Giordano, Gloria Grifero, Gene Mariani, and Tony Perrone

PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2005

January- "Annales for 2004." : February- "Pope Julius II and Michelangelo's Vault of the Sistine Chapel: Power, Theology, Genius" by Gene Mariani: March- "The Region of Le Marche" by Vito Tamboli : April- "Those Mysterious Etruscans" by Dr. Anna Amelung: May- "Basses and Baritones - Italian Opera" by Susan Wohl : June- Annual Report from the Italian Vice Consul- Joseph Colagiovanni: July- "The Miraculous Canals of Venice" documentary with a buffet dinner: August- "The Coliseum- A Symbol of Roman Culture" by Roy DeBellis: September - "Italian Trivia" organized by Pete Puleo: October- "National Italian American Heritage Month" by Tony DiPaolo: November- "Art Patronage in Renaissance Rome" by Dr. Cynthia Stollhans: December- " A Christmas Dinner in Rome" by the Panettone Players

(Continued on page 2)

L'angolo del Presidente by James Tognoni

My Fellow Members and Friends:

It's hard to believe that 1/12 of the New Year is over. This is going to be a busy year for the Italian Club. Our program committee has done a great job pulling together terrific presentations for the coming year. They have focused on bringing us monthly programs that inform, entertain and make you think. A bit more about this team... many thanks to Gene Mariani who developed and headed up this committee for the past several years. Gino has stepped aside to tend to personal matters, his guidance and

thoughts will be missed. Right now the committee consists of Pete Puleo, Tony DiPaolo and Roy DeBellis. They are looking for 2 additional members to join them. Your job would be to meet with these delightful gentlemen and help plan for the Club's future programs. This is one of the single most important committees within our organization. PLEASE CONTACT PETE PULEO TO DISCUSS YOUR INVOLVEMENT. Speaking of committees, the Board of Directors will be holding a 6 hour workshop on February the 18th. Our objective is to get all the commit-

tees formed and guidelines for each written up. It will not have an effect on the monthly meetings but it will allow the organization to run more smoothly and be easier to manage. We will report our conclusions in next month's *La Rondine*. Let me hear from you if you have questions, suggestions, complaints or wish to volunteer your help. Be well! See you at the February meeting.

Ciao, Jim

(314) 865-1005 jtognoni@earthlink.net

Annales for MMV...

(Continued from page 1)

FILM AND OPERA SERIES 2005 Spring- LA BOHEME BY GIACOMO: THE SECRET OF SANTA VITTORIA : STIFFELIO BY GIUSEPPE VERDI : IL MARCHESE DEL GRILLO; **2005 FALL-**STORY OF BOYS AND GIRLS; FEAST FOR LOVERS (1992): THE BARBER OF SEVILLE BY GIOACCHINO ROSSINI: MALENA (2002) ; THE MASKED BALL BY GIUSEPPE VERDI

SPECIAL EVENTS - Concert by Alberto Frascina- Committee Members: Barbara Klein, Carolyn Stelzer, Debbie Monolo, Tony DiPaolo and Marie Cuccia-Brand.

Italian Film Festival at Washington University- *LA DESTINAZIONE 2003, Piero Sanna; LA MEGLIO GIOVENTÙ 2003, Marco Tullio Giordana; IL CUORE ALTROVE;* The St. Louis Italian Film Festival was sponsored by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Chicago, Washington University's Program in Film and Media Studies, and the Italian Club of St. Louis.

Columbus Day Booth at Berra Park: Chair Gloria Etling and member volunteers. The Italian Club sold gelato and made a small profit. **The Hill Nativity Walk:** Third annual presepio display and contest. Co-sponsored by Italian Club of St. Louis and the Hill Business Association. Total of 26?? presepi entered the contest. Prize for best presepio by an individual won by Gloria Griffero; Award for best presepio by an organization won by St. Ambrose Catholic School 8th grade girl's art class. Award for best presepio by children won by the Booth Family. \$25 prizes were awarded.

PROMOTION OF ITALIAN STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS- Promotion of the Italian Student Organizations by the Italian Club has been an ongoing process during 2005. Our goal is to engage the Italian program/language students from Washington University, St. Louis University and Southern Illinois University. We will be hosting a variety of social events at which we will get to know each other better. By uniting these young adults we hope to advance our mission of enhancing and preserving their interest and respect of their Italian heritage.

SCHOLASTIC AWARDS FOR 2005

Washington University Awards: IC Italian Language Award in memory of Past President Frank Lopiccolo and matching Southwest Bank Award in memory of Fred Giacoma were made to WU students Giancarlo Colon received the Fred Giacomo Award from Southwest Bank and Nikhil Angelo received the Frank LoPiccolo and Mario Pertici Award from the Italian Club of St. Louis.

Saint Louis University Awards: IC Italian Language Award in honor of

President-Emeritus, Eugene Mariani and matching Mariani family and Southwest Bank Awards. These awards are used by SLU's Italian language program to assist students to spend a semester of study in Italy and to sponsor an annual lecture at the University. Awards were made to SLU students Anne Mueller and Brendan Kottenstete. **Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville Award:** IC Italian Language Award of \$100 is given to a student each May

St. Ambrose Catholic School- An award of an Italian dictionary was given to two 8th grade students who had shown excellence in Italian Language. The recipients were: Allison Kremer and Margaret Gambaro.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS- As of January 1, 2005, there were 147 regular members of the Italian Club. During the year 11 new members were elected to the Club and XX memberships were cancelled due to death, resignation, or non-payment of dues. As of December 31, there were 146 regular members. This does not include Honorary Members. **New members for 2005:** Pinuccia Alemani, Rick Altilio, Annunciata Buzzai, Tiziano Cembali, Carol Faenzi, Grace Ann Lucido-McGahan, Anthony Pope, Kevin Roach, Sandra Savarese, Floyd Taddeucci, & Kathleen Tuhill. **FINANCIAL STATUS-** As of January 1, 2005, the Club's cash balance was \$5280.30. During the year, cash receipts were \$11,057.75 and cash disbursements were \$12,745.59 leaving a cash balance as of December 31, 2005 of \$3592.48. In addition, the Club has 6 CDs at the Southwest Bank totaling \$22,500.

ITALIAN CLUB OF ST. LOUIS AND THE FIAO-The Italian Club is a member of the Federation of Italian American Organizations (FIAO). The Club is represented on the FIAO Board by President, James Tognoni. The FIAO has two major programs, both of which actively supported by IC members. These are the annual Young Artists Competition which recognizes outstanding young musicians in both piano and strings. Italian Club members Marie Cuccia-Brand, Patricia Merlo and Eleanore Berra Marfisi are members of the FIAO/Young Artists committee. Another major initiative is the FIAO/Italian Language Program for study of the Italian language. Italian Club members Gene Mariani and Sam DiGirolamo.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS AT THE MEETING: *PROMOTE MORE OF OUR EVENTS VIA INTERNET AND OUR WEBSITE; ADVERTISE OUR FILM AND OPERA SERIES TO OTHER ITALIAN-AMERICAN CLUBS AND IN THE PENSIERO; PLAN AN EVENT FOR THE FAMILIES; HAVE OUR MEMBERS TELL THEIR STORY ABOUT COMING TO THE UNITED STATES, THEIR FAMILIES, ETC.; PLAN A TRIP, E.G. ROSATI WINERY, RUMA, ILLINOIS, LINCOLN MUSEUM; CHECK THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT THE ITALIAN INSTITUTE IN CHICAGO; AND, CHECK THE SYMPHONY SCHEDULE FOR CONCERTS WITH ITALIAN MUSIC. SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO JIM TOGNONI - jtognoni@earthlink.net*

TERZA PAGINA

I capolavori della poesia italiana

a cura di Barbara Klein



Vittoria Colonna (Marino 1490 - Roma 1547) fu figlia di Fabrizio Colonna, uno dei più grandi capitani del suo tempo, e di Agnese di Montefeltro, di una delle più antiche famiglie principesche d'Italia. A cinque anni fu promessa a Francesco d'Avalos, figlio del marchese di Pescara. I due si sposarono nella Cattedrale del Castello di Ischia senza praticamente essersi mai visti: ciò nonostante, tra di essi nacque

un grande amore. Risiedero ad Ischia nel Castello Aragonese (la signoria dell'isola fu il loro dono di nozze da parte del re di Napoli Ferdinando III d'Aragona) fino alla morte del marito, quando Vittoria si ritirò in un convento a scrivere poesie. Entrò in rapporti di amicizia con diversi ecclesiastici, che premevano per la riforma della Chiesa. A Roma conobbe e diventò grande amica di Michelangelo Buonarroti che, ebbe una vera passione spirituale per lei e le dedicò diversi suoi sonetti e disegni. Vorrei proporre ai lettori la rima VII di Vittoria Colonna.

Per cagion d' un profondo alto pensiero

di Vittoria Colonna

Per cagion d' un profondo alto pensiero
Scorgo il mio vago oggetto ognor presente,
Scolpito il tiene il cor, vivo la mente,
Tal che l' occhio il vedea quasi men vero.

Lo spirito acceso poi, veloce, altiero
Con la scorta gentil del raggio ardente
Sciolto dal mondo al Ciel vola sovente,
D' ogni cura mortal scarco e leggiero.

Quel colpo, che troncò lo stame degno,
Ch' attorcea insieme l' una e l' altra vita,
In lui l' oprar, in me gli affetti estinse.

Fu al desir primo; e fia l' ultimo segno
La bella luce al sommo Sol gradita,
Che sovra i sensi la ragion sospinse.

In giro per l'Italia

a cura di Barbara Klein

Ischia: Castello Aragonese

Il Castello Aragonese sorge su un isolotto di roccia trachitica collegato al versante orientale dell'isola d'Ischia dal *Ponte Aragonese*, lungo 228 m. Il *Castello* fu denominato anche *Castrum Ieronis* o Castel Gerone dal nome del tiranno di Siracusa che per primo eresse una fortezza.

Alfonso d'Aragona nel 1425, nell'ambito dei lavori di trasformazione della fortezza fece costruire cinta muraria e, al posto di una precedente scala esterna, fece scavare nella roccia una galleria per accedere con maggiore sicurezza agli edifici posti sulla scogliera. Usciti all'aperto si sale lungo gli spalti da cui sono raggiungibili la Chiesa dell'Immacolata e la Cattedrale.



La Chiesa dell'Immacolata, costruita nel 1737, fu abbandonata insieme al convento delle Clarisse annesso alla chiesa; dal terrazzo si gode di una bellissima vista; in un locale sotterraneo si può visitare il macabro cimitero delle monache dove è collocato l'ossario delle religiose.

La Cattedrale, dedicata all'Assunta, fu costruita nel 1301 dalla famiglia Cossa. La Cattedrale fu rovinata dal cannoneggiamento inglese del 1809 nella battaglia vinta da Gioacchino Murat. Ricchissima di storia, al suo interno vi furono celebrate le nozze di Vittoria Colonna con Ferrante d'Avalos. L'interno è a tre navate con cupola; all'inizio della navata c'è il fonte battesimale, con vasca del tardo Rinascimento. Sotto la chiesa si estende una vasta cripta ipogea di struttura gotica a pianta rettangolare con volte a crociera, con cappelle gentilizie, decorata da affreschi di varie epoche di cui i più antichi sono del XIV secolo, vicini ai maestri giotteschi che operavano a Napoli in quegli anni. Più in alto ci sono le antiche Carceri: un basso atrio immette in un primo ambiente suddiviso da un profondo arcone nel quale sono ben visibili i fori dei cancelli; di qui si passa all'ambiente adiacente, con volte a botte e strette finestre con inferriate; questi ambienti furono realizzati nel XV secolo, ma la funzione di carcere seguì il decreto di Ferdinando I con cui fu deciso di concederlo al demanio; dal 1851 al 1860 vi furono rinchiusi alcuni patrioti del Risorgimento, quali Luigi Settembrini, Carlo Poerio, Nicola Nisco, Michele Pironti, Silvio Spaventa, Filippo Agresti, Vito Purcaro, Gaetano Errichiello e altri.

Nel punto più alto domina il mastio con le sue poderose mura, rafforzate da 4 torrioni cilindrici.

Soltanto ai primi del Novecento è iniziata una campagna sistematica di restauri, ancora in corso, che ha restituito e continua a restituire una dignità architettonica a questo imponente complesso monumentale. Per ulteriori informazioni vedi:

www.letteratour.it/letin/K02colonV03.htm

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
83 years of
Italian Culture
and Heritage***

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

Prossime manifestazioni

FUTURE ITALIAN CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS

February 15- MULTI-MEDIA VISIONS OF HELL: Selections from a silent film of Dante's *l'Inferno*, drawings by Gustave Doré, and music by Tangerine Dream *by Gene Mariani*

March 15- "The Stonecutter's Aria" *by Carol Faenzi*

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

Cocktails—6:30p.m.

Dinner- 7:00p.m.

\$20.00 per person

Pirandello's "Henry IV"

The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis

February 8—March 10, 2006

Pirandello's play is a masterpiece of love and jealousy, psychosis and self-awareness, brought to new life with flair and humor by Tom Stoppard. An Italian nobleman falls from his horse during a historical re-enactment, awakening to believe he actually is his character, the medieval German emperor King Henry IV. For two decades, everyone indulges his "madness". He lives in a fantasy world, an illusion engineered by his family, complete with an 11th century castle and a retinue of costumed courtiers. But his family now believes they can cure him and have come to shock him into the 21st century, only to receive a shock of their own.

Puccini's "LaBoheme"

The Blanche M. Touhill Center at University of Missouri— St. Louis

February 10, 2006 at 8:00p.m.

Furthering its reputation for presenting exquisite opera, Teatro Lirico d'Europa returns in a fourth appearance at the Touhill with Puccini's "La Boheme". Chicago Heights' The Star exclaimed, "Teatro Lirico D'Europa had a stunning success Saturday evening with a production of Puccini's La Boheme that would have satisfied the most ardent opera fan. Here was a production in a classic style with solid acting and depth of sound which stirred the musical of an audience that was intensely satisfied." Presented with a full orchestra and chorus in original Italian with English subtitles.

For addition information: www.touhillpac.umsi.edu