



poche parole

The Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C.
Preserving and Promoting Italian Culture for All

www.italianculturalsociety.org

ICS EVENTS

Social meetings start at 3:00 PM on the third Sunday of the month, September thru May, at the Friendship Heights Village Center, 4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD (See map on back cover)

Sunday, April 17: Prof. Anna Lawton will speak on "Magic Moments in Italian Cinema" (see page 6) Viewing the Movie of the Month will add to your appreciation of Prof. Lawton's talk.

Sunday, May 15: Photographer/Artist Richard Lasner, who has done extensive work in Italy, will be our guest speaker.

ITALIAN LESSONS on April 17 at 2:00 PM

Movie of the Month: "C' Eravamo Tanto Amati" (We all Loved Each Other So Much) 1:00 PM (page 6)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On a lovely Sunday afternoon filled with the light of spring...and as I write this redoubtable winter is reminding us that it is not quite done with us yet...we were treated to a lecture on the unique virtues of that Italian with an Irish mother (appropriate for the proximity of our Sunday to St. Patty's day), Guglielmo Marconi, who not only was a very successful inventor, but, like Bill Gates and Steve Jobs today, was a very successful manufacturer and businessman. And like our American Thomas Edison, Marconi was a "practical man", not given to much fussing with those "mathematical fellows", as Edison used to call us scientists, with ill-hidden contempt. Marconi just kept trying new methods, and slowly but surely was able to transmit wireless electrical signals across a few meters (when he was a lad) to eventually across the Atlantic. Sometimes we think of him as the father of "radio", but as Cam Trowbridge reminded us in a vivid lecture at our March meeting, he is really the father of "wireless transmission", the technique by which radio waves are broadcast. An amusing aside, provided by board member Tony Macri-Sinopoli, is that there is a kind of bean, a Marconi, that is noted for being "stringless" (*sensa fili*-wireless).

Very well. Marconi represents the "empirical" tradition. But now we turn again to science. The Italian Cultural Society, in collaboration with SMATCH and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura at the Embassy of Italy is pleased to bring to the Washington community chemistry Professor Piero Baglioni of the *Università degli studi di Firenze* who, on **Monday April 4th at 6:30 pm** will present a lecture on his very inventive application of soft nano-chemical techniques to the conservation and restoration of paintings, frescos, paper and wooden objects, that constitute such an important part of our cultural heritage and for which he has gained world-renown. We hope that you, dear members, and many in this area's richly talented Conservation Community will be able to come to hear him. His lecture is entitled "**Chemistry for the Conservation of our Cultural Heritage: Preserving ►►►**

our Past for a Better Future", and he has some spectacular images to show. Since seating is limited in the Embassy's auditorium, you must make a reservation. Either visit http://www.iicwashington.info/events/20110404/20110404_baqlioni.html or call (202) 518 0998 to reserve a seat

Oh, and there is more: in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Italian Unification, a performance of the Verdi Requiem by the National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale will take place on Saturday, May 21, 8:00pm, at the Strathmore Music Center, and our members will be able to attend at a discount. (Information will be provided at a later date.)

Finally, at our April social meeting, please come to hear Prof. Anna Lawton talk about "Magic Moments in Italian Cinema". (See p. 6 in this issue for details.) It should be another beautiful spring day! **Ron Cappelletti, president**

ICS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 20

Applications are being sought for the following Awards:

Except for the Moriggi/Palumbo award, applicants should be no more than 25 years of age as of Friday, May 20th, 2011, the post-marked date for receipt of applications.

1) The Maria Guarrera Wilmeth Award of \$500 for outstanding high-school students of the Italian language. Two, of \$500 each will be awarded.

2) The Elena and Antonio De Luca Award of \$1000, to be given to an undergraduate or graduate student who has excelled in the study of Latin and/or Greek.

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ICS SCHOLARSHIPS (Continued from page 1)

3) **The Luciana Montanari-Mendola** award of \$1000 for an undergraduate or conservatory student showing promise in music performance, including voice. Examples of recordings must accompany your application.

4) **The Candida Pitassi Di Croce Italian Language Award** of \$1000, to be given to a university scholar who has excelled in learning the Italian Language and shows promise of continued commitment to excel in the language and culture of Italy.

5) **The Ruggiero Moriggi /Vincenzo Palumbo Artisan Award** of \$500, to be given to a person who has excelled in the fine arts (exclusive of music), or to an artisan who has excelled in a traditional Italian craft (such as ceramics, jewelry, leather-working, furniture-making, musical instruments, lace work, fine fabrics, etc.). Written reviews and/or photographs, etc. of your work must be submitted to the Awards Committee. Age restriction does not apply to this award.

6) **The Young Scientist Award** of \$1,000, to be given to a young person who has excelled in the physical or biological sciences.

7) **The Fred La Marca Award** of \$1000, to be given to a young person who has excelled in studies of the Humanities.

Materials to be included in the application are:

1. College transcripts when appropriate and High School transcripts for no. 1 (These are not required for award no. 5. That person should submit photographs or other examples of their work.)
2. Three letters of recommendation
3. An essay describing why the applicant is a valid contender for the award.
4. A short biographical presentation of the candidate (curriculum vitae).
5. Anything that would demonstrate the ability of the candidate, including publications by and/or about the candidate, photographs, CDs etc.

Selection will occur during the last week of May and awards will be presented at the ICS gala dinner, which will take place during the weekend of June 11,12, as will be advertised in our newsletter Poche Parole. **Attendance at the dinner is required** and awards will be reassigned if the winner is unable to attend, except for exceptional circumstances as determined by the Awards Committee. The winner of the Luciana Montanari-Mendola award may be asked to perform at the gala dinner.

Application materials postmarked no later than **Friday, May 20th, 2010** should be sent to:

**The Italian Cultural Society, Awards section
4827 Rugby Ave., Suite #301
Bethesda, MD 20814**

Per Article 6 of the ICS bylaws, the slate of ICS board nominations is (continuing service): Ronald Cappelletti, Olga Mancuso, Nick Monaco, Romeo Segnan. These and possibly others are to be voted on at the April 17 meeting

Gaetano Filangieri, a Neapolitan political philosophy author may have influenced the drafting of the U.S. Constitution through his writings and his friendship with Benjamin Franklin



Prince **Gaetano Filangieri** (1752-1788) was born at Vico Equense near Naples. At a young age he became an advisor to Neapolitan Prime Minister Bernardo Tanucci and King Ferdinand IV. Still in his twenties, he then quit his worldly activities, retiring to his father's castle to write a multi-volume work, *The Science of*

Legislation, the first volume of which came out in 1780. By the time of his death of tuberculosis, at the young age of thirty-five, Filangieri had completed the fourth volume and was working on the fifth. In this work, Filangieri advanced, in a systematic fashion, his ideas for the reformation of society to bring about a more just and egalitarian government. His proposals, considered abstract and somewhat utopian but revolutionary at the time, and his books were banned in some places.

The Science of Legislation was to be a comprehensive work detailing the procedure necessary for creating a just society based on reason. Inspired by the philosophers of French Enlightenment, it set as a measuring standard of a society's worth the way in which it dealt in a non-violent, legal fashion with the problem of redistribution of wealth from the few rich to the many poor. He advocated the formation of a prosperous middle class, free trade, universal public education, equality before the law, freedom of the press and social tolerance, the abolition of feudal obligations, the state confiscation of church lands, and the taxation of large feudal estates. These were revolutionary ideas and landed his work on the Roman Catholic Church *Index* of banned books.

The Science of Legislation was, however an immediate hit abroad, and was quickly translated in French and German. Although it proposed gradual, non-violent reforms, it soon became the must-read work for the budding revolutionaries who a few years later fueled both the French Revolution and the Neapolitan Revolution of 1799

Our own **Benjamin Franklin** (1706-90) was very familiar with Filangieri's work and the two corresponded between 1782 and 1788. In 1782 Filangieri, for personal reasons, thought of immigrating to the United States, a country that he admired. He was in love with Caroline de Frenkel, a Hungarian countess who worked as a governess for the King of Naples, but his meager income made entering in marriage difficult. On December 2, 1782, he wrote to Franklin, then

E' possibile che Gaetano Filangieri, autore napoletano di filosofia politica, abbia influenzato la stesura della Costituzione degli Stati Uniti con i suoi scritti e grazie alla sua amicizia con Benjamin Franklin.

Il Principe **Gaetano Filangieri** (1752-1788) nacque a Vico Equense vicino a Napoli. Era ancora molto giovane quando diventò consigliere del primo ministro Bernardo Tanucci, e del re Ferdinando IV. Ancora ventenne, abbandonò le sue attività mondane, ritirandosi nel castello di suo padre per scrivere *La Scienza della Legislazione*, un'opera in molti volumi di cui il primo uscì nel 1780. Quando, alla giovane età di trentacinque anni morì di tubercolosi, aveva finito il quarto volume e stava lavorando sul quinto. In quest'opera Filangieri presentava in modo sistematico le sue idee per una riforma della società che portasse ad un governo più giusto ed egualitario. Le sue proposte, furono considerate in quei tempi astratte ed un po' utopistiche ma rivoluzionarie, e in certi luoghi i suoi libri furono proibiti.

La Scienza della Legislazione doveva essere un lavoro onnicomprensivo, che delineava i passi necessari per creare una società giusta e basata sulla ragione. Ispirato dai filosofi dell'Illuminismo francese, il libro pose come misura del valore di una società il modo di trattare in maniera non-violenta e legale il problema della redistribuzione dei beni, dai pochi ricchi ai numerosi poveri. Filangieri propose la formazione di una borghesia prospera, il libero scambio, la pubblica istruzione aperta a tutti, l'uguaglianza davanti alla legge, la libertà di stampa, la tolleranza sociale, l'abolizione degli obblighi feudali, la confisca da parte dello stato dei terreni della Chiesa, e le imposte sui grandi patrimoni. Queste erano idee rivoluzionarie che finirono per far includere il suo lavoro nell'Indice dei libri proibiti dalla Chiesa Cattolica.

Ciò nonostante *La Scienza della Legislazione* ebbe un successo immediato all'estero e fu tradotto rapidamente in francese ed in tedesco. Sebbene proponesse riforme graduali e non-violente, divenne presto un'opera d'obbligo per i rivoluzionari di prima leva, che dopo pochi anni fomentarono sia la rivoluzione francese che la rivoluzione napoletana del 1799.

Il nostro Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) conosceva bene il lavoro di Filangieri e i due si mantennero in contatto epistolare dal 1782 al 1788. Nel 1782 Filangieri, per ragioni personali, stava pensando di immigrare negli Stati Uniti, un paese che ammirava. Era innamorato di Caroline de Frenkel, una contessa ungherese che lavorava come governante per il re di Napoli, ma il suo scarso reddito gli rendeva difficile pensare ad un matrimonio. Il 12 dicembre scrisse a Franklin, in quel tempo ambasciatore a Parigi, per informarsi sulle possibilità di emigrare e trovare impiego a Filadelfia, dicendo: "Fin dall'infanzia Filadelfia ha richiamato i miei sguardi. Io mi sono così abituato a considerarla come il solo paese ove io possa essere felice, che la mia immaginazione non può più disfarsi di questa idea" Filangieri continuò con i seguenti sentimenti: *Ma come posso lasciare la mia patria? Non potrebbero i miei lavori sulla legge persuadervi a considerare di invitarmi ad aiutare*

envoy in Paris, to inquire about emigrating and potential employment in Philadelphia saying: "Even as a child, my eyes were drawn to Philadelphia. I have become so used to viewing it as the only place where I might be happy, that I can no longer get that idea out of my head" Filangieri continued with the following sentiments: "But how can I leave my country?" "Might not my own works on the law lead you to consider inviting me to help draw up the new legal code you are preparing for the United Provinces of America? ... Once I got to America, who could ever convince me to return to Europe! How could I ever then leave that haven of virtue, that land of heroes and city of brothers, all to return to a nation corrupted by vice and degraded by servitude? ... Having known a society of citizens, could I ever again desire the company of courtesans and slaves?" He continued saying that he planned to move to the United States with "a lady whose virtues would bring distinction even to Philadelphia."

The two initiated an exchange of letters and Filangieri sent Franklin a draft copy of the first portions of *The Science of Legislation*, at which point Franklin ordered copies of the remaining volumes as they would be published, and sent Filangieri copies of the constitutions of various states of the Union. Franklin replied that perhaps he should strive to obtain a diplomatic or trading assignment in the United States from the Kingdom of Naples. Franklin had also placed a standard order for multiple copies of Filangieri's volumes with the banker he had used in Paris while there as U.S. Minister and had plans to have them translated into English (someone else did so in 1806).

Filangieri was finally able to marry Caroline de Frenzel in 1783 and the couple moved to Cava dei Tirreni, some 7 miles north of Salerno, where they did not have to worry about expenses to maintain the standard of life necessary for a prince living in Naples and when he died in 1788 not yet 36 years of age, his widow sent her late husband's last writings to Franklin, saying in her letter that Filangieri had died "with no fortune, except the memory of his virtues and reputation." Some of Filangieri's writings no doubt influenced Franklin and other founding fathers to whom they were circulated and may have been used in the drafting the U.S. Constitution (May 25-September 17, 1787).

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3. Pace, Antonio. *Benjamin Franklin and Italy*. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1958.
4. Ruggiero, Bernardo. *Gaetano Filangieri*. Napoli: Guida Editore, 1999

Luciano Mangiafico is a retired US diplomat. Among his many foreign postings, he was Consul in Milan and Consul General in Palermo

a comporre il nuovo codice che state preparando per le Provincie Unite d' America? Una volta arrivato in America chi potrebbe mai convincermi di tornare in Europa ! Come mai potrei lasciare quel rifugio della virtu', quella terra di eroi e la citta' di fratelli, tutto per tornare ad una nazione corrotta dal vizio e degradata dalla servitu'? Avendo conosciuto una societa' di cittadini , come potrei mai desiderare la compagnia di cortigiani e di schiavi? Continuo' dicendo che intendeva traslocare agli Stati Uniti "con una signora le cui virtu' porterebbero distinzione persino a Filadelfia."

I due iniziarono uno scambio di lettere e Filangieri mando' a Franklin una bozza delle prime parti di *La Scienza della Legislazione*. Prontamente Franklin ordino' copie dei volumi successivi, per quando verrebbero pubblicati, e mando' a Filangieri copie degli statuti di vari stati dell' Unione americana. Franklin anche rispose che forse Filangieri avrebbe dovuto cercare di ottenere dal Regno di Napoli un posto diplomatico o commerciale negli Stati Uniti. Franklin fece anche un ordine permanente per svariate copie dei volumi di Filangieri con il banchiere che uso' quando era a Parigi come ministro degli Stati Uniti, e aveva intenzione di farli tradurre in inglese. (Un altro l' poi lo fece nel 1806).

Finalmente Filangieri pote' sposare Caroline de Frenzel nel 1783 e la coppia si sposto' a Cava de' Tirreni, circa 10 chilometri a nord di Salerno, dove non dovevano preoccuparsi delle spese necessarie a mantenere il livello di vita adatto ad un principe residente a Napoli. Quando mori' nel 1788, a neanche 36 anni di eta', la sua vedova spedi' i suoi ultimi scritti a Franklin, dicendo nella sua lettera che Filangieri era morto "senza fortuna, salvo la memoria delle sue virtu' e della sua reputazione". Senza dubbio, alcuni degli scritti di Filangieri influenzarono Franklin ed altri "padri fondatori" degli Stati Uniti a cui erano stati distribuiti, e forse vennero usati nella stesura della Costituzione degli Stati Uniti (25 maggio – 17 settembre del 1787)

Luciano Mangiafico e' un ex diplomatico degli Stati Uniti e vive a McLean, VA. Fra i suoi incarichi servi' da Console degli USA a Milano e Console Generale a Palermo.

Editor's Note: In the February issue of Poche Parole, where Filangieri was briefly mentioned, it was speculated that he may have been responsible for including the "the pursuit of happiness" as a basic right in our Declaration of Independence. Those words do appear in that document, but this seems unlikely, as he did not begin corresponding with Franklin until 1782, six years after the Declaration.



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**FESTA ITALIANA, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9
11:30 AM – 5:30 PM
NOW IS THE TIME TO VOLUNTEER !!!**

At one time, Washington, D.C., had its very own Little Italy! The area around Holy Rosary Church, at 3rd and F Streets N.W., was once home to a thriving Italian neighborhood, complete with frequent *feste* – street festivals. In 1999, Washington’s active and growing Italian community came together to revive the traditions of their ancestors, and Festa Italiana, DC was born and has continued every year.

Our Society, the Holy Rosary Church Council, The Abruzzo Molise Heritage Society, and the Lido Civic Club are organizing and staging the Festa during the Columbus Day weekend. ICS board members Joe Onofrietti, Ron Cappelletti, Nick Monaco, Cecilia Fiemonte, Anthony Sinopoli, and Arrigo Mongini are already working on the Festa and even though the event is not until October, now would be a good time for other ICS members to get in on the planning. This year our theme is **IL RISORGIMENTO** (150th anniversary of Italian Unification)

Festa is now seeking volunteers from all the sponsoring organizations. ICS members interested in volunteering are requested to complete the following information and either bring this form to an ICS Social meeting to hand in at the front table or mail it to:

Arrigo Mongini, 5541 Mohican Rd. , Bethesda. MD 20816 or just call him at 301-229-1653, or send an email to arrigo.mongini@verizon.net

FESTA ITALIANA 2010 VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

Name _____ E-mail _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

_____ I would like to help with the regional cultural displays

_____ I would like to help with publicity and getting organizations to participate

_____ I know some vendors who might be willing to donate raffle or silent auction prizes and I will contact them.

_____ I would like to help with the layout of the various components in and outside Casa Italiana

_____ I would like to help put together the printed program, deal with advertisers, printer, etc.

_____ I would like to help with any number of jobs on the day of the Festa

_____ I would like to help to organize other volunteers

You will find volunteering to stage this colorful and lively Festa to be very rewarding and a means by which to show your pride in our shared heritage and/or your love of Italian Culture

APRIL 17 PROGRAM

Professor Anna Lawton teaches courses in visual culture and film studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. In her early career, she was an Associate Professor at Purdue University.

She has published extensively in scholarly journals and contributed to collections of essays. Her books include *Imaging Russia 2000: Film and Facts*, which has received the CHOICE award as Outstanding Academic Title 2005. This book includes film criticism, journalism and fiction to conjure a live picture of contemporary Russia.

Besides her academic activities, Professor Lawton served on the National Gallery of Art Advisory Film Committee for ten years. She was also Deputy Director of Public Information and Media Outreach with the US Information Service at the American Embassy in Moscow, and Editor of the journal *Connections*; and she worked at the World Bank for 12 years as Managing Editor of the magazine *Development Outreach*.

Recently, she founded an academic press, New Academia Publishing, which has currently a title list of about one hundred books. And she has published her first novel, in Italian, *Album di Famiglia*.

Her illustrated presentation, *Magic Moments in Italian Cinema*, will cover the history of Italian cinema in general, and focus on three important periods: early cinema (briefly), Neorealism, and the 1960s-70s.

Viewing the Movie of the Month will add to your appreciation of Prof. Lawton's presentation.

MOVIE OF THE MONTH

"C' Eravamo Tanto Amati"

(We all loved each other so much)

This film, released in 1977, was directed by Ettore Scola and written by Scola and the screenwriter duo of Age and Scarpelli. It stars Nino Manfredi, Vittorio Gassman, Satta Flores, and Stefania Sandrelli.

In the first part (shot in black-and-white) the friends Gianni (Gassman), Antonio (Manfredi) and Nicola (Satta Flores) are partisans who fight for the liberation of Italy from the yoke of Nazi occupation and the fascist collaborationists aiding in it. After the end of World War II, the three go for different lives: Nicola in Nocera Inferiore (southern Italy), Antonio in Rome and Gianni in Pavia.

Later, both Antonio and Gianni fall in love with young Luciana (Sandrelli), and through their relationships go back through a thirty year period of the history of post-war Italy, along with the related hopes and disappointments.

In addition to freely quoting from La Dolce Vita, director Ettore Scola also evokes memories of Fellini's I Vitelloni. As a bonus, the film offers affectionate homages to several other neorealist filmmakers, including Rossellini and de Sica. In fact, de Sica, Fellini, and Mastroianni all appear briefly in the film.

Antenna Italia

is now on the **AMICO** website. Get news from Italy and information on Italian and Italian-American events as well as music & commentary in streaming audio. **Log on any time** at Pino Cicala's web site

www.italianamericancommunications.org

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WELCOME TO NEW ICS MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that I introduce those Members who have joined us recently. As I welcome them I hope that they will take advantage of all that the Society has to offer and that they will contribute with their knowledge and expertise to the success of the Society's mission:

Christian & Patti Rojas, Vanessa Strauss
Elizabeth Pirola Delehanty, Marilyn Mayerfield

Benvenuti! *Cesarina Horing, Membership Chair*

LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

National Gallery of Art: Canaletto and his rivals: A 60 minute talk at the Canaletto exhibition on various dates in March and April <http://www.nga.gov/programs/qaltalks/>

Italian Cultural Institute: The Heirs of Canaletto : Paintings by Fabio Mauroner and Sebastiano Brugnoli until April 18. To view the exhibit 10 AM to 12 PM or 2 PM to 4 PM email iicwashington@esteri.it

Chemistry for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage: Preserving our Past for a Better Future Physical chemist Piero Baglioni will give a presentation on the application of nanoscience in the restoration of art. Monday, April 4, 6:30 PM at the Italian Embassy, 3000 Whitehaven St. NW, DC. RSVP required.

For more on the above two events see http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/IIC_Washington/Menu/GliEventi/Calendario/

Holy Rosary Church: Annual Lasagna Dinner, Sunday, April 10, 11:30-4:00 PM, Casa Italiana. To Reserve, 443-718-9562 <http://www.holyrosarychurchdc.org/upload/Lasagna.pdf>

Piazza Italia, Washington DC Italian Language & Culture Meetup Group: Social gatherings every Monday & Friday at Vapiano restaurant. See www.meetup.com/DCItalian

The Washington DC Italian Language Meetup Group: Helping people with an interest in Italian language and culture connect with one another, both online and in person. See www.meetup.com/italiano



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ICS Poche Parole Publication

Arrigo Mongini, Editor

Nick Monaco, Assistant Editor

Romeo Segnan, Paolo Vidoli, Italian Editors

Poche Parole is published each month from January through May and September through December. The deadline for the submission of all articles and ads for a newsletter issue is the 25th of the month preceding publication of the issue. Please send submissions via the Internet to e-mail address: icspoparole@verizon.net or on a computer diskette/CD to:

Editor, Poche Parole

4827 Rugby Avenue, Suite 301

Bethesda, MD 20814

Publication notice: The ICS Board reserves sole discretion for accepting any material, including advertisements, for inclusion in Poche Parole, pursuant to its established Publication Policy. A copy of this policy is available upon request by contacting the Editor. Advertisers appearing in Poche Parole have paid a fee or provided services in kind to ICS for publishing their respective advertisements. Publication of any advertisement in Poche Parole does not reflect ICS endorsement or guarantee of the advertisers' services, products or statements. Material contained in articles published is the sole responsibility of the author and does not indicate ICS endorsement

MORE ON THE SAGA OF MIKE BONGIORNO'S BODY

For our readers who have been following the case of Mike Bongiorno's stolen corpse, as studiously reported in the last two issues of Poche Parole, via Corriere della Sera, we have some important news, although by now it is already over three weeks old.

The March 4 issue of the Corriere reported that two men from Cerignola, in the Province of Foggia, who had previously been convicted of various crimes, were overheard via a phone tap attempting to extort money from the Bongiorno family in return for bringing back the corpse. There were apparently several phone calls during which the ransom demands were reduced from 350,000 euros to 200,000 euros. The two men, Luigi Spera, 53, and Pasquale Cianci, 62, were interrogated and admitted the ransom attempt but denied actually having the corpse. They admitted to doing a "bravata", a brazen and risky attempt because they needed the money. There was still some doubt about the possibility that they might have been part of a wider conspiracy, and merely acting as telephone contact persons on behalf of the rest of the crew.

Mike's widow, informed of the arrest, expressed happiness about the fact. "Finally, something is moving; certainly there is extortion and I hope there will also be punishment".

Poche Parole will keep readers informed of further developments,

Ai Nostri Lettori: Questo saggio e' il lavoro di uno studente in un corso avanzato di italiano di Camilla Presti Russell dell' Italian Language Program dell' ICS.

UNA GITA A VITERBO E TARQUINIA *di Susan Absher*

Quando ho deciso di passare una settimana a Viterbo due anni fa, era difficile trovare una guida con informazioni sulla citta' ed i suoi dintorni. Frommer e Fodor non hanno libri dedicati al Lazio, e la maggior parte delle guide su Roma contengono un capitolo solo dedicato ai dintorni della citta'. Sembra che tutte le strade vadano a Roma e che pochi turisti raggiungano il resto della regione pur cosi' ricca di bellezze.



Viterbo: Palazzo dei Papi

Tuttavia, su internet, mio marito ed io abbiamo trovato un appartamento nel quartiere medioevale di Viterbo. E, con l'aiuto di internet e l'ufficio del Turismo locale abbiamo scoperto un sacco di luoghi da visitare.

Viterbo e' ben situata per visitare il nord del Lazio. La citta' e' a circa 100 chilometri da Roma; ci vogliono due ore per raggiungerla in macchina o in treno. Viterbo era al centro della civiltà etrusca, pero' la citta' non era di grande importanza fino al periodo medioevale. Nei secoli dodicesimo e tredicesimo Viterbo era un rifugio per i papi romani. Ci risiedevano prima di andarsene ad Avignone. La maggior parte della sua bella architettura e' di questo periodo.

Dopo l'epoca medioevale, Viterbo e' decaduta d'importanza. Percio' adesso il centro e' uno dei migliori centri conservati medioevali d' Italia. E' molto utilizzato dall'industria cinematografica. Romeo and Juliet di Zeffirelli e' stato girato in questa citta'.

Passiamo ora a Tarquinia. Tarquinia e' ad ovest di Viterbo, 5 chilometri dal mare. La citta' antica era una delle citta' piu' importanti degli etruschi. Oggi Tarquinia e' una citta' moderna, ma vicino c'e' una collina che e' il sito di un enorme necropoli etrusca. Circa 6.000 tombe, scavate nella roccia, coprono praticamente tutto il colle.

Ero molto sorpresa di vedere i contadini lavorare i campi in mezzo a queste tombe che sono state dichiarate dall'UNESCO Patrimonio dell'Umanità! Delle 6.000 tombe, 200 hanno affreschi sulle pareti ed i soffitti. E' per questo

To Our Readers: This essay is the work of a student in an Advanced Italian course of Camilla Presti Russell of the ICS Italian Language Program.

A TRIP TO VITERBO AND TARQUINIA *by Susan Absher*

When I decided to spend a week in Viterbo two years ago it was difficult to find a guidebook with information on the city and its surroundings. Former and Fodor do not have books dedicated to Lazio, and most of the guides on Rome contain just one chapter dedicated to the surroundings of the city. It seems that all roads lead to Rome and that few tourists reach the rest of the region though so rich in charming places.



Viterbo: Medieval Quarter

Anyhow, on the internet, my husband and I found an apartment in the medieval quarter of Viterbo. And, with the help of internet and the local tourism office we discovered many places to visit.

Viterbo is well situated for visiting the north of Lazio. The city is about 100 kilometers from Rome; it takes two hours to get there by car or by train. Viterbo was in the center of Etruscan civilization but the city was not of great importance until the middle ages. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries Viterbo was a refuge for the Roman Popes. They stayed there before going off to Sauvignon. Most of its beautiful architecture is of this period.

After the middle ages Viterbo declined in importance. For that reason, its center is one of the best conserved medieval centers of Italy. It is heavily utilized by the film industry. Romeo and Juliet, by Zeffirelli was filmed in this city.

Let's go on to Tarquinia. Tarquinia is to the west of Viterbo, five kilometers from the sea. The ancient city is one of the most important cities of the Etruscans. Today Tarquinia is a modern city but nearby there is hill that is the site of an enormous Etruscan necropolis. About 6,000 tombs, excavated in the rock, cover practically the entire hill.

I was very surprised to see farmers working the fields among these tombs that have been declared a Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO! Of the 6,999 tombs, 200 have frescos on their

che I turisti vengono a visitarle.



Tarquinia: protective canopy over a tomb

Mentre le tombe di Tarquinia non sono le sole tombe dipinte dagli Etruschi, sono considerate le più importanti del Mediterraneo a causa del loro grande numero e il lungo periodo di tempo nel quale sono state dipinte (dal VII al II a.C). Ogni giorno circa 15 tombe dipinte sono aperte al pubblico in modo che il pubblico possa vedere gli affreschi.

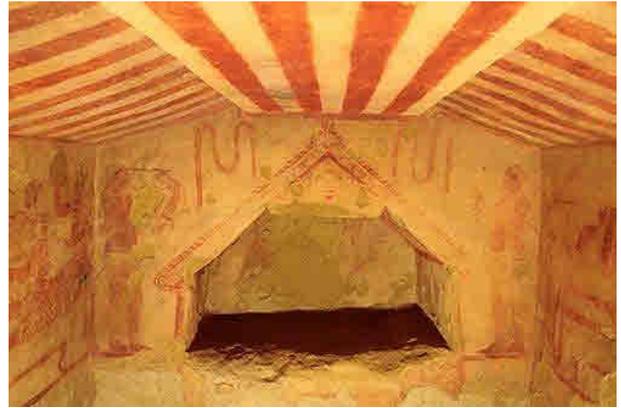
Le tombe sono coperte da una piccola capanna per proteggerle. Si scende una scala per guardare I dipinti attraverso un vetro. Una famosa tomba si chiama "La Pulcella" con strisce rosse e delle figure. Un'altra tomba raffigura una scena di banchetto. I colori sono ancora notevoli. Ancora un'altra tomba raffigura una famiglia etrusca e come si vestivano. A Tarquinia moderna c'è un buon museo archeologico con molti artefatti dalle tombe e vale la pena di visitarlo.



Tarquinia: banquet scene inside a tomb

Se si va a Tarquinia, forse si avrà bisogno di riposarsi prima di tornare a Viterbo. Non c'è problema. Le terme di Bulicame sono sulla via del ritorno verso la città. Indossa il costume da bagno e scegli una delle piscine create da questa sorgente calda. La stessa sorgente è chiusa da un recinto perché l'acqua è bollente. Però, un canale porta l'acqua a 4 piscine con temperature varie. Si mette il fango terapeutico sulla pelle e ci si rilassa nell'acqua calda. Dopo, la pelle sarà meravigliosamente liscia, ma avrà l'odore di zolfo! E, si sa perché Dante ha confrontato le terme di Viterbo con l'inferno!

walls and ceilings. It is for this reason that tourists come to visit them.



Tarquinia: interior of: "The Maiden" tomb

While the tombs of Tarquinia are not the only painted tombs of the Etruscans, they are considered the most important in the Mediterranean because of their large number and the long period of time over which they were painted (from the seventh to the second century BCE) Every day, 15 painted tombs are open to the public so that the public can see the frescos.

The tombs are covered with a small canopy in order to protect them. One descends a stairway to look at the paintings through a pane of glass. One famous tomb is called "The Maiden", with red stripes and images. Another depicts a banquet scene. The colors are still remarkable. Yet another tomb depicts an Etruscan family and how they dressed. In modern Tarquinia there is a good archeological museum with many artifacts from the tombs and it is well worth visiting.



Bulicame hot springs

If you go to Tarquinia, maybe you will need to take a rest before returning to Viterbo. No problem. The Bulicame hot springs are on the way back towards the city. Put on your bathing suit and pick one of the pools created by this hot spring. This same springs enclosed within a fence because the water is boiling hot. However a channel brings the water to 4 pools with various temperatures. You put the therapeutic mud on your skin and you relax in the warm water. Afterwards, your skin will be marvelously smooth, but it will smell of sulfur! And you will know why Dante compared the hot springs of Viterbo to hell.

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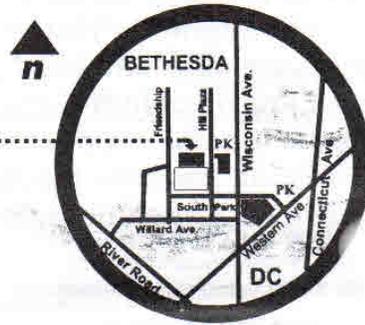
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