January, 2012 Vol. XXIX, No. 5

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 (except this January and February), September thru May, at the Friendship Heights Village Center, 4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD (See map on back cover)

Sunday, January 22: ***(Note the date) Davide Prete, sculptor/architect/jewelry designer, will speak and exhibit his jewelry creations. See: page 10 and www.davideprete.com/eng/main/62/jewlery.html , also brief presentation by Guido Adelfio of Bethesda Travel on the 2012 ICS trip to Italy. See page 7.***

Sunday, February 12: (Note the date) CARNEVALE!!

Movie of the Month on January 22 at 1:00 PM: Sciuscia' (Shoeshine) 1946 (see page 10)

Italian Lessons and Conversation on January 22 at 2:00 PM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Adrianna Sgarlata highlighted the musical part of our annual Festa di Natale with arias and sing-along caroling. Olga Mancuso with help from our friends of Le Dive guided the children to make colorful paper presepi. Nick and Brenda Monaco prepared pasta con pesto and Bellini punch to augment the delicious foods brought by you, our members. Glenn Burkevich decorated the Christmas tree. Joe Onofrietti oversaw the preparations for the event, Paolo Vidoli was a general factotum in several areas, and Luigi De Luca set up his wondrous presepio with so many figurines of the nativity scene that has provided such fascination for our children. This year Babbo Natale (Arrigo Mongini, carefully explaining in broken English his relationship as 'BRODER' to Santa Claus) showered the children with gifts along with La Befana (Sabrina Munaò) with her little bags of coal and the ever-helpful folletti (Tony Macri and Elio Grandi). And we all had a grand time. By now we hope you have all enjoyed the year-end holidays, and we move on to 2012. Our January meeting will be graced with a presentation by local jewelry artist Davide Prete. February will feature our annual Carnevale party. In March we have planned a very special presentation featuring live physics demonstrations by NIST Nobelist William Philips. We will have an article about that in the next issue of Poche Parole. So, dear members, there is a lot to look forward to!

Ron Cappelletti, **president**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2. Pictures from the Festa di Natale
4. Welcome new ICS members
5. Cesare Pavese
7. Local Events of Interest, and ICS Trip to Italy
7. The Return of Mike Bongiorno (his corpse, that is)
8. The Birth of Modern Mathematics in Italy
10. Movie of the Month
10. January 22 Program
11. ITALO, and the New High Speed Train Company

PICTURES FROM THE FESTA DI NATALE

"O mio babbino caro"

Le Canzoni di Natale

Santa's Workshop

The Product of Santa's Workshop

Il Presepio di Monte De Luca

I Folletti

Babbo ise de broder of de Santi Clos

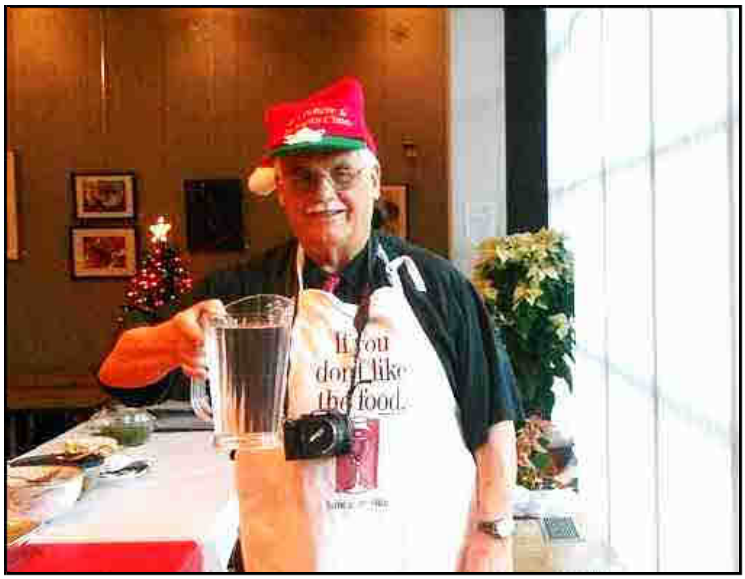
Attenzione bambini!

Mi raccomando…..il carbone!

Che carino !!

Che bel sorriso!

Cheese! Is this a toothpaste ad?



Nothing like a little glass of vodka after a long day!

Come on boys, pay attention to Babbo Natale!!

CONSULAR SECTION
ITALIAN EMBASSY

3000 Whitehaven Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Information: 202-612-4400

Serves residents of Washington, DC, Montgomery & Prince George's Counties,MD; Arlington & Fairfax Counties, VA

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:

Antonio Bianchini, Sabrina & Riccardo Cannavo, Terry Baker

Benvenuti ! *Cesarina Horing, Membership Chair*

ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

4827 Rugby Avenue, Suite 301
Bethesda, MD 20814

Winter Session Begins January 9

Day, Evening and Weekend Classes for Adults and Children

Serving Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC

www.italianculturalsociety.org

301-215-7885

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

ITALIAN GOURMET MARKET

12169 Darnestown Road (Rt.28)
Gaithersburg, MD
Darnestown Rd & Quince Orchard Rd
Tel: 301-926-9236

FELICE ANNO NUOVO !!

Gourmet deli and catering

Featuring an extensive line of Italian foodfavorites, wines and beers!
Italian deli products, panini, subs and sandwiches, fresh mozzarella, & home made delicious Italian meals to go!

Seasonal Specialties Available

Panettone • Pandoro • Panforte
Torrone • Perugina Chocolates

****

Bring this Poche Parole ad for a 10% discount from Mark! (except for beer wine, and other beverages)

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

ICS Board of Directors and their Responsibilities

Ron Cappelletti, *President & Webmaster*
Olga Mancuso, *Vice President*
Cesarina Horing, *Membership, Treasurer & Italian Language Program*
Cecilia Fiermonte, *Secretary*
Arrigo Mongini, *Editor of Poche Parole*
Joe Onofrietti, *Film & Hospitality*
Nick Monaco, *Outside Events*
Luigi De Luca, *At large (Past President)*
Paolo Vidoli, *At large*
Anthony Sinopoli, *At large*
Romeo Segnan, *At large,*
Monica Lapenta, *At large*
Maria Wilmeth, *Historian*
Elio Grandi, *Emeritus*

Ai nostri lettori: Questo saggio e' il lavoro di uno studente in una classe avanzata di italiano di Camilla Presti Russell dell' Italian Language Program della ICS.

CESARE PAVESE

di Karin Karp

Cesare Pavese era scrittore di romanzi, di racconti e di poesia, saggista e traduttore . Nacque nel 1908 a Santo Stefano Belbo, un piccolo paese nelle Langhe; dopo la morte del padre, quando Pavese aveva sei anni la famiglia viveva a Torino ma ritornava a Santo Stefano Belbo per le vacanze.

Dopo la maturita' liceale Pavese s'iscrive alla facolta' di lettere dell'Universita' di Torino, studia con gran fervore l'inglese e s'appassiona alla letteratura di Walt Whitman. Nel 1930 si laurea con la tesi "Sulla interpretazione della poesia di Walt Whitman" che il suo professore rifiuta come troppo progressista per l'eta' fascista. Fortunatamente Leone Ginzburg interviene e Pavese puo' laurearsi. In quest'anni fino al 1947 traduce molti scrittori americani che erano nuovi per gli italiani.

Nel 1932 per insistenza della sorella s'iscrive al partito fascista per poter insegnare nelle scuole pubbliche. Piu' tardi le rimproverera' " ….ho fatto una prima cosa contro la mia coscienza".

Nel 1935 Pavese e' accusato di antifascismo, arrestato ed incarcerato dapprima a Torino poi' a Roma. In seguito al processo e' condannato a tre' anni di confino in Calabria – come Carlo Levi ed altri. In realta' Pavese era innocente per il fatto che la lettera incriminatoria trovata su lui era di Tina, la "donna dalla voce rauca" della quale era inamorato.

Ritorna dopo un anno a Torino, comincia a lavorare per la casa Einaudi per cui va a Roma dove' e' arruolato nell'esercito fascista. Ma poiche' soffriva di asma fin dall'infanzia e' stato ricoverato a un ospedale militare dove' e' rimasto per sei mese.

Quando ritorna a Torino la maggior parte dei suoi amici ha lasciato la citta' per combattere con i partigiani. Pavese sfugge in campagna, non prende parte alla lotta contro i fascisti.

Dopo la guerra Pavese si unisce al partito comunista e scrive per *L' Unita'*, il giornale del partito. Nel 1946 viva alcuni mesi a Roma ma considera questo periodo come un tempo d'esilio. Gli mancano l'ambiente torinese, la nuova attivita' politica e gli amici.

In quest'anni la maggior parte dell'opera sua e' pubblicata.

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.

CESAREPAVESE

by Karin Karp

Cesare Pavese was a novelist, a writer of short stories and poetry, an essayist and translator. He was born in 1908 in Santo Stefano Belbo, a small town in the Langhe part of Piemonte. After his father's death, when Pavese was six, the family lived in Torino, but returned to Santo Stefano Belbo for vacations.

Vineyards at Santo Stefano Belbo

After his graduation from high school, Pavese enrolls in the faculty of literature of the University of Torino, studies English with great zeal and becomes a fan of the works of Walt Whitman. In 1930 he graduates with the thesis "On the interpretation of the literature of Walt Whitman." Which his professor rejects as too progressive for the fascist era. Fortunately, Leone Ginzburg intervenes and Pavese is able to get his degree. In those years, until 1947 he translates many American writers who were new to the Italians.

In 1932, at his insistence of his sister he becomes a member of the fascist party in order to be able to teach in the public schools. Later he would blame them "… I did a first thing against my conscience."

In 1935 Pavese is accused of antifascism, is arrested and is jailed, first in Torino, then in Rome. After the trial he is sentenced to three years of confinement in Calabria, like Carlo Levi and others. In reality Pavese was innocent because of the fact that the incriminating letter found on him was Tina's "the woman with the hoarse voice", with whom he was in love.

After a year he returns to Torino, starts working for the Einaudi firm, for which he goes to Rome, where he is drafted into the fascist army. But since he suffered from asthma since infancy, he was sent to a military hospital, where he remained for six months.

When he returns to Torino, most of his friends have left the city to fight with the partisans. Pavese escapes to the to the country side, and does not participate in the fight against the fascists.

After the war Pavese joins the communist party and writes

Nel 1950 riceve il "Premio Strega" per *La Bella Estate*. Ma e' terribilmente depresso, la sua relazione con l'attrice Constance Dowling a cui ha dedicato il suo ultimo romanzo, finisce, e il 27 agosto 1950 si suicida con un sonnifero in una camera dell'albergo Roma a Torino.

Nelle Langhe, l'area dove era nato e ha passato molte vacanze quando era ragazzo, Pavese si sentiva a proprio agio', nella sua opera descrive le colline coperte di vigne, la bellezza del paesaggio ma lui vede anche come la vita era dura per i contadini.

Nella vita personale non era felice. L'infanzia era triste; una sorella e due fratelli muoiono ancora piccoli, il padre muore quando Pavese aveva soltanto sei anni, e la madre alleva i figli con rigidezza contribuendo ad accentuare il carattere gia introverso e instabile di lui.

Certamente non aveva fortuna con le donne. Si e' inamorato alcune volte ma le donne lo hanno respinto. Una si 'e sposata quando lui era al confino in Calabria, un' altra, Fernanda Piovene, ha rifiutato due volte la sua domanda di matrimonio. E l'attrice Constance Dowling, l'ultimo amore di Pavese preferisce andare a Hollywood per una carriera nel cinema e lascia lo scrittore amareggiato ed infelice.

Pavese ha scritto a un' amica: "*E che sono al mondo da quarantadue anni? Non si puo' bruciare la candela dalle due parti – nel mio caso l'ho bruciata da una parte sola e la cenere e' i libri che ho scritto".*

Non fu solamente importante come' scrittore ma' la sua attivita' come traduttore della letteratura americana ebbe un profondo impatto nel mondo culturale italiano. Ha fatto conoscere autori americani come Herman Melvile con la traduzione di *Moby Dick*, Sherwood Anderson, F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Saroyan, William Faulkner, John Steinbeck, John Dos Passos, ed Ernest Hemingway che ora fanno parte delle letture in Italia.

Pavese era fascinato con l' America perche' era un paese vitale, giovane, senza costrizioni contrario all'Italia nel periodo fascista. Ha scritto un' antologia *Americana* corredata di varie note di commento ma appena stampata nell'aprile del 1941 fu sequestrata dalla censura fascista che non accettava l'immagine positiva che vi si dava della realta' e della cultura americana. E' stata pubblicata nel 1968.

Sue principali opere:

Lavora Stanca, 1936, Paesi Tuoi, 1941, La Spiaggia, 1941,
Feria d'Agosto, 1946, Il Compagno, 1947,
Dialoghi con Leuco', 1947, Prima che il gallo canti, con La Casa in Collina, Il Carcere, 1949, La Bella Estate, 1949,
*La Luna e il Falo', 1950, Verra' la morte e avra' I tuoi occhi (*poesia), *Il Mestiere di Vivere,* Diaro*, 1952, Saggi Letterari,*
Racconti, Lettere 1926 – 1950

for *L' Unita'* , the party's newspaper. In 1946, he lives in Rome for several months, but he considers this period as a time of exile. He misses the Torino scene, the new political activity, and his friends.

During these years the greater part of his work is published. In 1950 he receives the "Strega Prize" for *La Bella Estate,* but he is terribly depressed, his relationship with Constance Dowling, to whom he has dedicated his last novel, ends, and on August 27, 1950 he commits suicide with sleeping pills in a room of the Roma hotel in Torino.

In the Langhe, the area where he was born and spent many vacations as a boy, Pavese felt really at ease; in his work he describes the hills covered with vineyards, the beauty of the landscape, but he also sees how tough life was for the farm workers.

In his personal life he was not happy. His infancy was sad; a sister and two brothers die as small children, his father dies when Pavese was only six years old, his mother raises the children very strictly, contributing to and accentuating his already introverted and unstable character.

He certainly did not have luck with women. He fell in love several times but the women rejected him. One of them got married while he was in confinement in Calabria, another, Fernanda Piovene, twice turned down his marriage proposal. And the actress Constance Dowling, Pavese's last love preferred going to Hollywood for a career in the movies and leaves the writer in a state of grief and unhappiness.

Pavese wrote to a woman friend: *"Is it that I have been in this world for forty two years? One can't burn the candle at both ends – in my case I have burned it from only one end, and the ashes are the books that I have written."*

He was important not only as a writer, but his activity as a translator of American literature had a profound impact on the Italian world of culture. He introduced authors like Herman Melville with his translation of Moby Dick, Sherwood Anderson, F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Saroyan, William Faulkner, John Steinbeck, John Dos Passos, and Ernest Hemingway, that now are part of literature in Italy.

Pavese was fascinated with America because it was a vital country, young and without constraints, different from the Italy of the fascist period.. He wrote an anthology America, accompanied by various notes of commentary, but as soon as it was printed in April of 1941, it was sequestered by fascist censorship, that did not accept the positive image it gave of American reality and culture. It was published in 1968.

His principal works:

Work Tired, 1936; Your Lands, 1941; The Beach, 1941; August Vacation, 1946; The Companion, 1947; Dialogs with Leuco', 1947; Before the Rooster Crows, with the House in the Hills, the Jail, 1949; the Beautiful Summer, 1949; The night will come and it will have your eyes (poetry*), The Craft of Living,* (diary), *Literary Essays, Stories, Letters 1926-1950.*

ICS is endorsing another fantastic trip to Italy organized by Bethesda Travel! (See above ad) After the success of the 2010 trip to Puglia, Bethesda Travel has designed a unique itinerary open to all ICS members, families, and friends.

The Road Less Traveled: Scenery, Culture, Gourmet Food & Wines of Central Italy itinerary will include Tivoli, with stops in Lazio, Abruzzo and Le Marche, as well as exploration of Umbria. Fine foods, excellent wines, fabulous scenery! Cultural events include, the Mastrogiurato festival in Lanciano, a detailed visit to Assisi and much more!

An excellent value (buon mercato) offered at $4,375 p/p includes: air travel, all accommodations, charter transportation in Italy, most meals, wine tastings, sightseeing & special visits, local guides, and all current taxes and fuel surcharges. Make it more than a vacation; make it an experience!

Itinerary and details are posted on www.bethesdatravel.com under Upcoming Group Trips. Guido Adelfio, of Bethesda Travel Center, will give a short presentation and answer questions at our January 22 meeting.

SKIING ANYBODY?

Get ready and in shape for the forthcoming snow season. . Are you looking for partners for weekday trips to the slopes? We are forming a group of skiers of any level to hit the slopes when the snow is abundant and the prices low. If you want to join us, please contact Paolo Vidoli at pvidoli@verizon.net

LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

National Gallery of Art: guided tours of the Italian renaissance collection, West Building, main floor rotunda Mon.- Sat. 2:30, Sun. 1:30

Italian Language guided tours: West Building, Jan. 10, & 14, 12:00 PM and East Building, Jan. 10 & 14 2 PM. **Call 202-842-6247 for RSVP**

"Antico: the Golded Age of Renaissance Bronzes", East Building, ground floor, thru April 8, 2012

More details on these events and exhibits can be found on the National Gallery website www.nga.gov .

Italian Cultural Institute: "Basilicata Coast to Coast"" film (no English subtitles) Cineforum con Italians in DC Wednesday, January 18 at the Embassy of Italy, 3000 Whitehaven St, NW, 6:00 PM , see http://www.iicwashington.esteri.it/IIC_Washington/webform/SchedaEvento.aspx?id=364&citta=Washington RSVP to be announced

Millennium Stage: Free concert by the Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino at the Kennedy Center. January 6 at 6 PM. This has not been widely advertised yet, and, as of press time was not yet on the Millennium Stage website, but the NY promoter has assured us that he has signed the contract. . http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/schedule.html

Holy Rosary Church: New Year's Eve Celebration in Casa Italiana 7:00 PM December 31 to 12:30 AM January 1, catered dinner by Tesoro Restaurant and music by Sergio Fresco and "Luciano, European DJ" reservations must be made in advance, call 202-638-0165, $60 per adult and $30 for children under 12.

La Befana comes to Holy Rosary Church in Casa Italiana on Sunday, January 8 after the Children's Mass at noon. All are invited.

MIKE BONGIORNO'S CORPSE RECOVERED !

Readers of Poche Parole will recall our report in the February 2011 issue that the casket containing iconic TV personality Mike Bongiorno's body was stolen on the night of January 25 from a cemetary near Arona on Lago Maggiore in Piemonte. You will be happy to know that, as reported in *Il Corriere della Sera* the casket was discovered by a passerby in early December near a canal in Vittuono, near Milano. The casket, which had not been opened, and the corpse were transported to Torino, where it was verified that the body was indeed Mike's. The family decided to cremate the body and his two sons have taken the ashes to Monte Cervino, where they have been dispersed, putting an end to this bizarre episode.. Mike was a passionate skier and mountaineer and had once done a testimonial for a brand of grappa, in which he yelled from the summit of Monte Cervino "sempre piu' in alto".

THE BIRTH OF MODERN MATHEMATICS IN ITALY

Part One: Fibonacci

by

Luciano Mangiafico

Modern mathematics, the foundation of most scientific endeavors, owes its birth to the Arabic world. The Arabs, in turn had been influenced by the much older cultures to their east, China and India. Most of the mathematicians, both in the East and in Europe, did not view their science as abstract and applied their mathematical knowledge to resolve problems in architecture, geography, physics, astronomy, and other fields.

Among the precursors of European mathematical developments, we must mention **Mohammed ibn-Musa al-Khwarizmi** (died before 850), who in his books - written when he was on the faculty of the Baghdad House of Wisdom - described the Hindu system of numerals (our Arabic numbers), developed algebra and worked on some trigonometrical functions. Another of these giants, **Thabit ibn-Qurra** (826-901) worked on the development of trigonometry, while Ibn-Sina, known to us as **Avicenna** (980-1037) translated Euclid into Arabic and applied mathematics to astronomy and physics investigation Avicenna's contemporary, **Al- Biruni** (973-1048) also used his vast knowledge of mathematics to solve such weighty problems as gravity, fractions, reckoning time by the shadow of the sun, and the rotation of the earth on its axis. **Alhazen** (c. 965-1039) added to this knowledge with his studies of mathematics and optics and investigated such issues as reflection, refraction, the structure of the human eye, and the apparent increase in the size of the moon when close to the horizon. The last really great Persian mathematician was the Persian **Omar Khayyam** (c.1050-1123), who is much better known to us as a poet and the author of the *Rubaiyat*, popularized in the Western world in Edward Fitzgerald 19th century translation. Khayyam solved the cubic equation and in 1170 published the book *Demonstration of Problems of Algebra*. Applying his mathematical skills to astronomy, he was also able to calculate the length of the solar year as 365.24 days, much nearer to the correct answer than the Gregorian calendar used in the West.

Hindu-Arabic numerals were a definite improvement over Roman numerals and other numbering systems. The Roman numerals were useful to add and subtract but useless to multiply or divide and did not include the number 0, decimals, or symbols for fractions.

The Arabic numerals were used in Spain when it was under Arab rule and were introduced in France by Gerbert of Aurillac (946-1003; later Pope Sylvester II) after a visit to Islamic Spain in 967-970. A prominent man of science, Gerbert introduced the abacus in France ,but without the use of the zero. With it, he could perform speedy calculations and many people thought that he used magic in doing it. Thus, the device and the new math did not gain too many adherents.

One of the first to advocate the advantages of the new numerical system was **Leonardo da Pisa** (c.1175-1250), better known as **Fibonacci** (son of Bonaccio) During his lifetime, Leonardo sometimes called himself "Bigollo", an old

LA NASCITA DELLA MATEMATICA MODERNA IN ITALIA

Prima Parte: Fibonacci

di

Luciano Mangiafico

La matematica moderna, fondamento della maggior parte della speculazione scientifica, deve la sua nascita al mondo arabo e persiano. Gli arabi ed i persiani, a loro volta, furono influenzati dalle culture molto piu' antiche dell'est, la Cina e l'India. La maggioranza dei matematici, sia all'est che in Europa non vedevano la loro scienza come astratta, e applicarono la loro conoscenza matamatica per risolvere problemi di architettura, geografia, fisica, astronomia, ed **in** altri campi.

Fra i precursori degli sviluppi europei di matematica dobbiamo menzionare **Mohammed ibn-Musa al- Khwarizmi** (morto prima dell' 850), il quale,nei suoi libri,-- scritti quando **si trovava alla** facolta' della Casa della Sapienza di Baghdad – descrisse il sistema indiano di numeri (i nostri numeri arabi), sviluppo' l'algebra, e si occupo' di alcune funzioni trigonometriche. Un altro di questi giganti, **Thabit ibn-Qurra** (826-901), si occupo' dello sviluppo della trigonometria, mentre Ibn Sina, conosciuto come **Avicenna** (980-1037) tradusse Euclide in arabo ed applico' la matematica alle **ricerche** astronomiche e fisiche. Anche il **Al-Biruni** (973-1048), contemporaneo di Avicenna, uso' la sua vasta conoscenza della matematica per risolvere problemi difficili come la gravita', le frazioni, il calcolo dell'ora guardando l'ombra del sole, e la rotazione della terra sul suo asse. **Alhazen** (c. 965-1039) aumento' questa conoscenza con i suoi studi di matematica e di ottica, e fece ricerche su argomenti quali la reflessione, la refrazione, la struttura dell'occhio umano, e l'apparente crescita dell' immagine della luna quando si trova vicino all'orizzonte. L' ultimo **grande** matematico persiano fu **Omar Khayyam** (c.1050-1123), piu' conosciuto da noi come poeta ed autore del Rubaiyat, reso noto nel mondo occidentale dalla traduzione di Edward Fitzgerald nell'ottocento. Khayyam risolse l' equazione cubica e nel 1170 pubblico' il libro *Dimostrazioni di Problemi dell' Algebra.* Applicando le sue conoscenze matematiche all'astronomia, pote' calcolare che la lunghezza dell' anno solare era di 365.24 giorni, molto piu' vicino alla risposta corretta di quanto non fosse il calendario gregoriano usato nell' occidente.

I numeri indo-arabi erano un definitivo miglioramento rispetto ai numeri romani ed altri sistemi numerici. I numeri romani erano utili per addizioni e sottrazioni ma inutili per moltiplicazioni e divisioni e non comprendevano il numero zero, i decimali, o i simboli per le frazioni.

I numeri arabi si usavano in Spagna quando era sotto la dominazione araba e furono introdotti in Francia da Gerbert d' Aurillac (946-1003; piu' tardi divenuto Papa Silvestro II) dopo una visita alla Spagna islamica negli anni 967-970. Gerbert, uomo prominente della scienza, introdusse l' abaco in Francia, ma non l' uso dello zero, Con quello, pote' fare calcoli rapidi, e molti pensavano che per farli usasse la magia. Cosi', l'abaco e la nuova matematica non guadagnarono molti seguaci

Uno dei primi a proporre i vantaggi del nuovo sistema di numeri fu **Leonardo da Pisa** (c. 1175-1250), meglio noto

Tuscan dialect word for “traveler” or for “simple-minded”.

About 1192 his father, Guglielmo Bonaccio was sent as Pisan representative to the seaport of Bugia, in current day Algeria. Pisa was then an independent republic and had significant trading interests in North Africa. Leonardo traveled in the area with his father and alone to such places as Egypt, Sicily, Syria, and Greece, and observed how useful the numbering system used by Arab traders was in keeping their account books.

Back in Pisa around 1200, Leonardo started to write a number of books concerning the Arabic numbering system and applications in solving mathematical problems. The first book he finished, *Liber Abaci* (Book of Calculations) came out in 1202. In the introduction, Fibonacci wrote: “*When my father, who had been appointed by his country as public notary in the customs at Bugia acting for the Pisan merchants going there, was in charge, he summoned me to him while I was still a child, and having an eye to usefulness and future convenience, desired me to stay there and receive instruction in the school of accounting. There, when I had been introduced to the art of the Indians' nine symbols through remarkable teaching, knowledge of the art very soon pleased me above all else and I came to understand it, for whatever was studied by the art in Egypt, Syria, Greece, Sicily and Provence, in all its various forms”*

In the book Fibonacci introduced the so-called *modus Indorum* (method of the Indians), and advocated use of digits 0 to 9. He also showed the practical applications of the system for keeping accounts, calculating rate of interest and monetary exchange, and other applications. He also posed practical problems and the mathematical techniques used for their solution. One such problem posed in the third section of the book was as follows:

“A certain man put a pair of rabbits in a place surrounded on all sides by a wall. How many pairs of rabbits can be produced from that pair in a year if it is supposed that every month each pair begets a new pair which from the second month on becomes productive?” By charting how the populations of rabbits increased Fibonacci discovered a systemic number series, which has been called the Fibonacci series.

Apparently, a few years later, in 1228, Fibonacci revised his work. Twelve manuscript copies of the *Liber Abaci*, dated from the 13th to the 15th century, are known to be extant.

He also wrote a simpler, shorter version, *Liber Minoris Guise* (A smaller Compendium) targeted to those who had need to conduct frequent calculations, money traders and merchants. In it the problem of the rabbits’ multiplication was retold, but this time the animals cited were pigeons, another prolific species. A copy of this manuscript book, dated around 1290, is in the *Laurentian Library* in Florence. Fibonacci’s contribution was recognized by the Republic of Pisa in 1240 when by law *“the serious and learned Master Leonardo Bigollo”* was awarded money for his services to his country and its citizens.

Change to the new numeration was not rapid, although many merchants adopted it using it in secret. Those contrary to its adoption included specialists hired to perform calculations the old way, traditionalists, the Church (in 1299, a Conclave of Cardinals prohibited the use of Arabic numerals). In the

come Fibonacci (figlio di Bonaccio). Durante la sua vita, Leonardo a volte si faceva chiamare “Bigollo” una parola del vecchio dialetto toscano per “viaggiatore” o “ingenuo”.

Verso il 1192 suo padre, Guglielmo Bonaccio, fu inviato come rappresentante di Pisa al porto di Bugia, nell’ attuale Algeria. Pisa allora era una repubblica indipendente ed aveva importanti interessi commerciali nel Nord-Africa. Leonardo viaggio’ nella zona con suo padre e da solo in posti come l’ Egitto, la Sicilia, la Siria, e la Grecia ed osservo’ come era utile il sistema numerico usato dai commercianti arabi per la loro contabilita’.

Tornato a Pisa circa nel 1200, Leonardo comincio’ a scrivere libri sul sistema numerico arabo e le sue applicazioni per risolvere problemi di matematica. Il primo libro che completo’, Liber Abaci, (Libro dei Calcoli) usci’ nel1202. Nella prefazione, Fibonacci scrisse: “Quando mio padre, che era stato nominato notaio del suo paese presso la dogana di Bugia, agendo per i mercanti di Pisa che andavano laggiu', e ne era il responsabile, mi chiamo' da lui quando io ero ancora bambino, e con un occhio all’utile ed uno alla convenienza, volle che io rimanessi la’ e che venissi istruito nella scienza della contabilita’. La', un insegnante straordinario mi introdusse nell' arte dei nove simboli indiani, e molto presto la conoscenza dell’ arte mi piacque piu’ di ogni altra cosa, e cominciai a capire la ragione per la quale si studiava quell'arte in tutte le sue varie forme in Egitto, in Siria, nella Grecia, nella Sicilia, e nella Provenza.”

Nel libro Fibonacci presento’ il cosidetto modus Indorum (metodo degli Indiani) e sostenne l’uso dei numeri da 0 a 9. Inoltre dimostro’ le applicazioni pratiche per la contabilita’, per calcolare il tasso d’ interesse, il cambio delle monete ed altre applicazioni. Inoltre propose problemi pratici ed i metodi matematici per le soluzioni. Un tale problema, proposto nella terza sezione del libro, era il seguente:

una persona mette una coppia di conigli in un posto chiuso su tutti i lati da una parete. Quante paia di conigli verrebbero generate da quella coppia se si suppone che ogni mese ogni coppia genera un nuovo paio che dal secondo mese in poi diventa fertile? Sviluppando la progressione dell'aumento di conigli, Fibonacci scopri' una serie sistematica di numeri, nominata la successione di Fibonacci.

Apparentemente, pochi anni dopo, nel 1228, Fibonacci revisono' il suo lavoro. Si conosce l'esistenza di dodici copie manoscritte del Liber Abaci, datate dal tredicesimo al quindicesimo secolo.

Taluni attribuiscono a lui anche una versione piu’ semplice e piu’ corta, Liber Minoris Guise (libro in forma minore) indirizzato a coloro che che avevano bisogno di fare calcoli frequenti, cambiavalute e mercanti. In questo libro fu ripreso il problema della moltiplicazione dei conigli ma questa volta gli animali citati erano piccioni, un'altra specie prolifica. Una copia di questo manoscritto, datata circa al 1290 si trova nella Laurentian Library a Firenze. I contributi di Fibonacci furono riconosciuti dalla Repubblica di Pisa nel 1240 quando, diede per decreto un premio in denaro al “serio ed erudito Maestro Leonardo Bigollo” per i suoi servizi alla sua patria ed ai suoi cittadini.

Il cambiamento alla nuova numerazione non fu rapido, sebbene molti mercanti l’adottassero, usandola in segreto. Fra coloro che erano contrari alla sua adozione c'erano gli

same year even the *Arte della Calimala*, the cloth finishers and foreign cloth merchants trade guild of Florence, and the bankers' guild, *Arte del Cambio*, did the same as the Church. Even Dante in his writing appears to have ignored the new numbering system, continuing to use the Roman numerals, and as late as 1348, the University of Padua, dictated that lists of books for sale show their prices, *"not per cifra sed per literas claras"* (Not in numbers but in clear letters). Nevertheless, the Fibonacci innovations continued to make inroads and his methods came to be used by teachers in all schools until the late Renaissance.

The new numbering system was adopted in Italy quicker and more widely than abroad, and in other European countries the use of Roman numerals continued in use until the advent of printing and the more rapid spread of knowledge.

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

MOVIE OF THE MONTH

The Italian Cultural Society January film of the month is Sciuscia', or Shoeshine (1946). Giuseppe Filippucci (Rinaldo Smordini) and his orphan friend Pasquale Maggi (Franco Interlenghi) work the streets of post war Rome shining shoes and training horses hoping to purchase Bersagliere - a prime thoroughbred stallion. Some con artists find out about their dream and use the unsuspecting pair as a front. The boys jump at a seemingly innocent 3,000 lira job offer to sell a fortune teller two fine American blankets. When the con goes bad, Giuseppe and Pasquale are sentenced to a juvenile detention center. Inside they meet Arcangeli (Bruno Ortenzi), a fellow inmate returning from solitary confinement with an escape plan. Will they be free to ride away on their beloved horse?

Director Vittorio De Sica completed this on a $20,000 budget. De Sica couldn't afford lighting, so the famous night scene was actually filmed at the crack of dawn capturing footage in between the occasional police car, garbage truck and milkman driving down the street. There was no sound equipment either, so all background voices heard in this movie are dubbed. Shoeshine was shot on location until the final scene, because they had run out of money, so the climax had to be completed in a Cinecitta' studio. A neorealist style like this means non professional actors are used, but how could producers overcome the challenge of getting untrained children to perform? De Sica himself made his screen debut at just 16. Therefore, both on and off set, De Sica had the ability to clearly relate to his adolescent stars. All the hard work paid off as Shoeshine remains universally regarded as a landmark cinematic classic. Shoeshine won the Nastro D'Agento Award and is the first Italian motion picture to win the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film. Italian with English subtitles.

specialisti remunerati per fare calcoli nella vecchia maniera, i tradizionalisti, la Chiesa (nel 1299 un conclave di Cardinali proibi' l'uso di numeri Arabi). Nello stesso anno anche l' Arte della Calimala, la confraternita dei lavoratori di tela e dei mercanti di tela estera di Firenze, e L' Arte del Cambio, la confraternita dei banchieri, fecero come la Chiesa. Persino Dante, nei suoi scritti sembra aver ignorato il nuovo sistema numerico, continuando ad usare i numeri romani, e fino al 1348, l' Universita' di Padova, prescriveva che le liste dei libri in vendita dovessero mostrare i prezzi "not per cifra sed per literas claras" (non per numeri ma a chiare lettere). Tuttavia, le innovazioni di Fibonacci continuarono a circolare e i suoi metodi vennero usati da insegnanti in tutte le scuole fino al tardo Rinascimento.

Il nuovo sistema di numeri fu adottato in Italia piu' rapidamente e piu' largamente che all' estero mentre in altri paesi europei l' uso dei numeri romani continuo' fino all' arrivo della tipografia ed alla diffusione piu' rapida della conoscenza.

Luciano Mangiafico E' un ex diplomatico degli S. U. Fra I suoi incarichi servi' da Console a Milano e Console Generale a Palermo

---

JANUARY 22 PROGRAM

Davide Prete, architect, sculptor and jewelry designer, will speak on the subject: "From Geometric to Organic: a Creative Journey of an Italian Artist" He will explain how his Italian background in Metalsmithing and Architecture is now mixing with his American studies in Fine Arts, creating sculptures, product design and jewelry. He will talk about several of his recent projects as examples and and show how he mixes. traditional craftsmanship and new technology to create pieces of art. He will show some of his work including sculptures, jewelry and furniture and some of it will be for sale. An example is shown below.

Mr. Prete is currently doing graduate work in Art/Sculpture at the Fontbonne University in St. Louis and has studied architecture at the Universita' IAUV di Venezia. He has practiced architecture at architectural design studios, including his own, in Treviso and has worked as an artistic blacksmith and metalworker there on furniture, sculpture and jewelry at Alessandro Prete SNC.

NTV PRESENTA "ITALO". NUOVO SERVIZIO TRENI IN CONCORRENZA CON IL TAV DI TRENITALIA

(tratto principalmente da articoli nel numero del 13 dicembre del Corriere Della Sera online e del 14 dicembre della Stampa

"Entro la fine di mar zo ci saremo anche noi. Per i passeggeri parte finalmente la competizione ferroviaria". Così il presidente di Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori (Ntv) Luca Cordero di Montezemolo ha presentato il nuovo convoglio ad alta velocità Italo, a Nola, la base di manutenzione del nuovo servizio. "C'è stata qualche resistenza e anche qualche problema di troppo, ma credo che per i cittadini si apra finalmente una nuova stagione di competizione, potranno finalmente scegliere", ha aggiunto Montezemolo.

"Le prove di omologazione sono terminate", ha aggiunto l'amministratore delegato di Ntv Giuseppe Sciarrone, precisando anche lui che il servizio partirà "non più tardi" di marzo. "Tutti i documenti sono stati consegnati all'agenzia nazionale per la sicurezza ferroviaria, che li sta valutando, e la valutazione porterà all'omologazione del treno", ha spiegato Sciarrone, sottolineando che "per rispetto verso il lavoro fondamentale dell'agenzia non daremo alcuna data: la data di avvio la annunceremo il giorno dopo che l'Agenzia ci avrà dato l'omologazione, e questo annuncio arriverà molto, molto presto". Dall' omologazione servirà "massimo un mese, un mese e mezzo" per poter partire.

Una partenza quella di Ntv che avverrà inizialmente sulla tratta dell'alta velocità Napoli-Milano (la stessa del TAV) con 8 treni iniziali e poi una ventina a settembre quando i collegamenti saranno 51. Pretende essere l' unico servizio di alta velocita' in Europs. E presto potrebbe aggiungersi la concorrenza a Trenitalia anche sul fronte dei treni regionali. "L'auspicio è che questa liberalizzazione, questa concorrenza possa applicarsi anche alle tappe regionali, noi siamo pronti anche da subito. Abbiamo apprezzato la decisione del governo di nominare un'Authority dei Trasporti perché qualunque liberalizzazione - ha concluso Montezemolo - ha bisogno di un arbitro". "La concorrenza sulle tratte regionali - sottolinea Sciarrone- in Germania è un esperimento che ha avuto incredibile successo, con la concorrenza la pubblica amministrazione può risparmiare fino al 30%".

Intanto guardiamo i servizi di Italo on board sui treni di 11 carrozze proiettate dal francese ALSTOM, designer del famoso TGV di alta velocita': wifi gratuito e tv satellitare, proiezione di film di prima visione nellla carrozza cinema, tre classi di viaggio (Club per un massimo di 19 passeggeri, Prima, Smart) poltrone in pelle, salottino e vestibolo per diversamente abili, servizio ristorazione, carrozza «relax» per chi vuole un ambiente dove non squillano i cellulari e non si usa il laptop. Una scoperta anche per l'azionista Diego Della Valle: "Finalmente - ha detto - si parte. Godiamoci il treno. Non l'ho ancora mai visto. Finalmente viaggeremo bene".

THE NTV PRESENTS "ITALO" A NEW HIGH SPEED TRAIN SERVICE IN COMPETITION WITH TRENITALIA

(drawn primarily from articles in the December 13 online issue of Il Corriere della Sera and from the December 14 print edition of La Stampa)

"By the end of March we will be there too. Finally railroad competition for passengers will start" said the president ot NTV, or Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori (www.ntvspa.it) , Luca Cordero di Montezemolo as he introduced the new high speed train, known as ITALO at Nola, the maintenance base of the new service. "We had some resistance and some problems, but I think that for the public finally a new season of competition is opening up. They will finally be able to choose.", added Montezemolo.

"The acceptance tests are done", added the NTV deputy chief, Giuseppe Sciarrone, as he too specified that the service would start "no later than" March. "All the documents have been turned over to the national agency for rail safety , which is evaluating them, and the evaluation will lead to the approval of the train." explained Sciarrone. He did not give a date, out of respect for the work of the approving agency, but he assured those present that the announcement would come very quickly and that service could start at most a month or month and a half after approval is given.

The first trains would operate on the route of Napoli –Milano, (the same as that of the TAV) initially with 8 trains, and with about 20 trains by September, when there will be 51 departures. It claims to be the only completely private sector high speed train service in Europe. And soon we could also see competition with Trenitalia (owned by the Italian State Railways) with regard to regional trains. "We look forward to this liberalization of competition applying also to the regional services, we are ready even right away. We appreciate the decision of the government to designate a Transport Authority, because any liberalization will need an arbitrator" Montezemolo concluded . "Competition on regional routes, emphasized Sciarrone, is an experiment that has met with incredible success in Germany, and, with competition, the public can save as much as 30%".

Meanwhile, let's look at the services on board ITALO's eleven car trains designed by the French ALSTOM, designer of the famous TGV high speed train: free wifi and satellite TV, showing of newly released films in the cinema car, three classes of service (Club, for a maximum of 19 persons, First Class, and "Smart Class) leather seats, lounge and vestibule for handicapped persons, restaurant service, special quiet coaches for people wanting an environment without cell phones and laptops. This was also a novelty for one of the NTV investors, Diego Della Valle "Finally, he said, we take off. Let's enjoy the train. I have never seen this. Finally we will travel well"

Montezemolo is an aristocratic businessman, former race car driver, former chairman of Fiat, now chairman of Ferrari as well as the new NTV, a completely private corporation.. Some see a lot of Ferrari in the ITALO train, including its Burgundy red color. Della Valle is chair of Tod, the Italian shoe and leather goods manufacturer, and a major investor in NTV..

ICS membership application

Name _____ Occupation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Address change ☐ New member ☐ Renewal ☐

Email: _____ Ph.: _____

Mail application to:

c/o ICS Treasurer
4827 Rugby Avenue
Suite #301
Bethesda, MD 20814

Please make check payable to:
The Italian Cultural Society

Type of membership

☐ Single	$ 35.00
☐ Family	$ 50.00
☐ Student, full time	$ 20.00
☐ Platinum Sponsor	$ 1,000
☐ Gold Sponsor	$ 500.00
☐ Silver Sponsor	$ 250.00

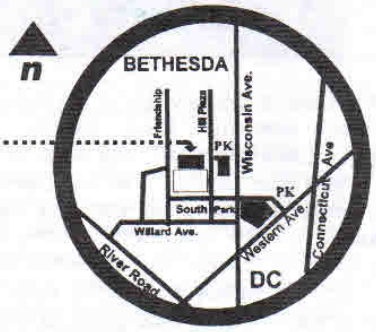
Interest group

☐ Theater	☐ Incontri a cena
☐ Literature	☐ Conversation
☐ Opera	☐ Travelling
☐ 20-40s	☐ Dancing
☐ Children (3-13)	☐ Cultural progr.
☐ Museums	☐ Fund Raising
☐ Outdoor activities	

Please mark the group you are interested in

meeting location

friendship heights village center
4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815



ICS *the italian cultural society of washington, dc., inc.*
(202) 333-CIAO
www.ItalianCulturalSociety.org

4827 Rugby Avenue, Suite #301
Bethesda, MD 20814
Return Service Requested

The expiration date of your membership is shown on the address label. Please renew using the form at top of this page.