



tradizioni

NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA

VOLUME 10

1990

SPRING, NO. 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the years we have come across a great deal of information that may be of interest to our readers which we would like to share. For those of you publishing newsletters, add the following to your mailing list to receive complimentary copies: (A) Library of Congress, Exchange & Gift Division, 10 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, and (B) The Balch Institute, 18 South Seventh Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. By collecting newspapers, newsletters, etc., they act as repositories of America's heritage. The material and facilities are available to researchers, scholars, historians and interested individuals.

The Utica conference was a great success. We were pleased for the opportunity to share with and learn about our friends and their activities in central NY State. We were specially impressed to learn of the Auburn, NY, Italian Festival (July 14-15) emphasizing Italian arts and culture -- not food and rides. There will be continuous entertainment by Italian folk dance and choral groups, old-time Italian bands; cultural exhibits (including memorabilia) and demonstrations by artisans and craftsmen. Contact Prof. Joseph Comardo, 206 Genesee Street, Auburn 13021 (315) 252-0776.

We are looking forward to Pittsburgh in November 1990 where innovative planning is being directed for the young people -- our hope for the future.


Rita Tonitto
President

1990 CONFERENCE ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 13th Annual Conference will be held in Pittsburgh November 9, 10, 11, at the Warrendale-Sheraton.

ISDA's I Campagnoli will be hosting and Director Jane Ferro promises challenging and informative workshops. An essay contest, along with workshops just for those 18 and under, are among the events. More details will be forthcoming. "Try to come early on Friday and leave later on Sunday," says Jane. "An early arrival and late departure will give us more time and make the conference more meaningful."

John Castellano 1917 - 1989

It is with a deep sense of loss that we record the death of John Castellano on October 22nd, 1989.

A man of great warmth and charm, he brought his considerable talents to bear on whatever he undertook.

A folk singer and dancer, sometimes choreographer and administrator, John was with the Coro d'Italia, N.Y.C. for over forty years. More recently he was active with the Italian Folk Ensemble, Ricordi d'Italia, Fort Lee, N.J.

He suffered a heart attack while rehearsing a new dance he choreographed for presentation at the 1989 IFAFA National Conference.

1991 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ITALY TRIP POSTPONED TO 1991 due to circumstances which we were unable to overcome; however, the delay is proving advantageous. Work continues on this project.

1991 will be the year to remember, for IFAFA will hold its 14th Annual Conference in PESCARA, ITALY. Under the auspices of Nick Romano and CVTS, Chairman Jane P. Ferro is dealing admirably with the challenge of this "gradioso" event.

JUNE 17 to 24, 1991, will find us in Pescara, the ABRUZZO region, where the Annual Conference will be conducted much differently, as we will be traveling to view the various folk groups in their own locales. After watching their performances, there will be give-and-take time with these experts. Present also will be home-town artisans with instructions on instruments, costumes, and all that comes under the heading of folklore and the arts. Brochures outlining all activities are forthcoming and will be mailed to all members and interested parties. Please remember that separate itineraries are available for travelers not interested in the folk art aspects of the trip.

JUNE 24 to JULY 1, 1991, will be an optional week in SARDEGNA. Every effort is being made to ensure an enjoyable and fruitful week on this island of beauty and enchantment.

We are hoping that this will prove to be one of those lifetime events we can all look back on and say, "That was the best ever!" □

CONFERENCE REVIEW OCTOBER 1989

As the sun shone on the last vestiges of color clinging to the landscape, participants from California, Canada, Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin, as well as New Yorkers from Buffalo, Elmira, Jamestown and Rochester rejoiced in the warm and gracious welcome accorded by Prof. Di Novo and the Italian Heritage Dancers of Utica, New York.

Friday afternoon activities centered around a reception at the Central New York Italian Cultural Center and Museum. Prof. Di Novo showed slides on Italian costumes and personally conducted tours of the Museum.

Saturday's program was a full one. Mary La Porte, Editorial Assistant at the Utica Observer Dispatch, conducted a PR workshop on "How to Market Your Group."

Mary and Vincent Racitano taught variations on the Quadriglia that even some of our veterans had never known. (Mary learned these from her father, Carlo Reale, who called and led the dance for more than 65 years. "His whole life centered around Quadriglia dancing," says Mary, "and, he literally died while calling the dance at an Italian wedding." Mr. Reale was founder/director of the Italian Quadriglia Dancers in Jamestown, N.Y., and he would be proud that his daughter and son-in-law are not only keeping up the tradition but are sharing it with others all over the country.)

David and Marge Valentine, directors of the Folcloristica Italiana of Rochester, N.Y., taught dances of the South Tyrol, including Zoccolitantz from Ticino, as taught to them by Karen P. Gottier, internationally known folk dance instructor and researcher. (See TRADIZIONI, Vol. 10, 1987, No. 2) A discussion on the costume of this area followed.

Jane P. Ferro, director of I Campagnoli, Pittsburgh, PA, combined staging and rehearsing techniques into her Songshop, as well as rehearsing the songs to be performed in Italy. Among these is "Abballati," which will accompany a dance choreographed by John

Castellano. Rita Tonitto and David Valentine taught the dance following the sad announcement that John had died the Sunday before. It was unanimously decided that the piece be performed in Italy in John's memory, recognizing his fifty years of devotion to Italian folk art.

Prof. Di Novo discussed Italian



FOLK DANCES, COSTUMES AND CUSTOMS OF ITALY

128 pages include illustration, 17 dances with description and music, information about Italy, costumes, customs, etc. \$10.00. An educational tape with music is available for the dance — \$5.00.

Add \$1.50 for handling and postage for first book and tape; add 50 cents for each additional book.

Please make check or money order payable to:

**Elba F. Gurzau — 1325 West
Roosevelt Blvd. Philadelphia, PA
19140 — (215) 324-1250.**



Customs and Traditions in America, while Anna Marie Fiori, Pittsburgh, talked about Italian Festivals in Italy. Anna Marie's exhibit featured an artichoke tree, symbol of the Artichoke Festival celebrated in a town just outside Rome. With the assistance of members of the AIHA, Prof. Di Novo had an extensive display of antique and modern items including lace, embroidery, sculpture, urns, vases, photographs, books, palm-woven items and breads. The breads were baked in all sizes and shapes, many highly decorated. There was an exhibit and hands on learning session on Il Tombolo (bobbin lacemaking)

with Florence Bell of Auburn, N.Y. Of particular note was the "Cep po'" made by Lucy Cesari and her group, the AIHA, Cuore d'Italia, Elmira, NY.

About 250 person joined in the festivities of the Festa Folcloristica honoring Prof. Di Novo. Among the guests was the Mayor, Louis D. Lapolla, who issued a proclamation declaring October 28, 1989, IFAFA Day in Utica; Assemblyman Ralph Eannace who welcomed IFAFA's first conference in New York State; and Joseph Maselli, Sr. Vice President of NIAF, who was heard to remark, "I never stay the whole night at these affairs, but I did this time and enjoyed every minute." There were miniperformances by the Italian Heritage Dancers directed by Tangey Rezie, the Italian Quadriglia Dancers, and the Folcloristica Italiana who performed the dances of the South Tyrol in their colorful costumes of the region, right down to the Zoccoli - wooden shoes!

It was an outstanding weekend; thank you to all who helped make it so. R.T.

CONFERENCE VIDEO TAPES

Unedited tapes available for purchase. Use form below (or provide identical information on white paper). Each tape: \$40 Members, \$45 Non members (includes postage and handling).

Make check payable to IFAFA and mail to IFAFA, c/o Patricia Civitate, 2200 South Union, Des Moines, Iowa 50315. Designate VHS or BETA.

1989 Utica, N.Y.	\$ _____
1988 Des Monies. Ia.	\$ _____
1987 Philadelphia, Pa.	\$ _____
1986 Niagara Falls, Ont.	\$ _____
1985 Pittsburgh, Pa.	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Name _____
 Address _____ Apt. No. _____
 _____ Zip Code _____
 Tele. No. (____) _____

Dances of South Tyrol

“Zoccolitanz” from Ticino

As taught by
Karen P. Gottier

Presented by
David A. Valentine

Meter: 2/4

Steps: Step-close steps, walking steps.

Formation: Partners side by side in a circle, facing
CCW.

Ballroom position with bodies slightly
turned in LOD.

Fig. I

With arms pointing LOD couple takes 4 short light steps fwd. Stamp in place 3x (men l,r,l; Ladies r,l,r) Without changing position, couples repeat the above pattern in opposite direction. Arms are bent at elbow pointing in direction of movement.

Repeat all of the above one more time.

End the above sequence that the men are facing CCW, the ladies, CW and joined hands are pointing twd. center.

Dance 2 step-close steps twd. center, men begin l, ladies r. In place, stamp three times.

Repeat away from center, and stamp three times.

Repeat 2 step-close steps twd. center and 3 stamps. 2 step-close steps away from center and release mans right hand and ladies left hand. Raise joined man's left and ladies right hand and turn lady under once CW with 3 steps.

Fig. II

All couples end side-by side facing center. Joined hands are held shoulder high. Beginning right, take 2 step-close steps, stamp 3 times in place r,l,r. Repeat the above in opposite direction. All make 1/4 turn CW and end facing CCW around the ring. Man stands behind his partner with his hands on her hips. Beginning right, all take 4 small, light walking steps forward (he pushes her a little) stamp three times in place. Repeat this pattern beginning left.

Open up and close the circle. Repeat the same pattern from the beginning of Fig. II: two step-close steps to the right, stamp 3x in place, Do the two step-close steps again and the 3 stamps. Make 1/4 turn CW, man is now behind lady and pushes her with 4 steps and 3 stamps in place. Push four more steps and instead of stamping, make one turn away from each other with 4 steps (men turn CCW, ladies CW)

Fig. III

As in Fig. I, take ballroom position and walk 4 steps in LOD, stamp 3 times.

Zoccolitanz

Vorspiel: Takte 13-16 / Introduction: mes. 13-16

A - B - A - B

Repeat in opposite direction.

End facing each other, men left shoulder to center, ladies right shoulder to center, hands on hips. Each moving to his own left, beginning left foot take two step-close steps and three stamps in place, l,r,l. With the same footwork as above, move twd. each other, beginning r. Stamp three times, r,l,r. Repeat the entire pattern, but moving to the right and beginning right.

Dance the entire figure one more time, moving left. However, instead of stamping in place, take ballroom position and turn with three steps once CW.

Fig. IV

Repeat all of Fig. II

Zoccolitanz notated July 1940 by Klara Stern from verbal descriptions and demonstrations by Mrs. Gina Valsecchi, nee Grassi, Roveredo-Misox, Tession, Switzerland. Mr. Santino Valsecchi, a member of the village band, furnished music. Taught by Karin p. Gottier, IFAFA Conference 1986, David A. Valentine 1989. □

In Brief....

St. Valentine update: "Under orders from Pope Leone XII, the body of Saint Valentine was transported on November 18, 1824 from Rome to Palmoli, a small town near Chieti in Abbruzzi, Italy. The body lays in the church of Santa Maria Delle Grazie, encased in a glass and gold coffin, elevated on a magnificent tomb ornated with fine marbles." (Marie Di Ninni-Auroch, Glastonbury, CT)

Experience your heritage and the enchantment of 75 ethnic groups presenting their authentic food, music, dancing, exhibits, folk art demonstrations and an international bazaar. April 27, 28, 29, 1990, St. Paul Civic Center, Minn. Call 612-647-0191.

At the quarterly board meeting of the Italian Folk Art Federation of America, it was unanimously voted to become an affiliate of the National Italian American Foundation.

Michael C. Raimone, legal advisor and member of IFAFA, as well as president of the Columbus Civic Association of Pennsylvania reports that after many years of

negotiations the City Council for the City of Philadelphia has unanimously adapted a resolution to change the name of Delaware Avenue to Christopher Columbus Boulevard.

Under the expert direction of Jane Ferro, the IFAFA Chorus made its debut at the 1989 Festa Folcloristica. It was a tremendous success. If it is any indication, what we will do in Italy promises to be incredible!

All those going to Italy in 1991 are invited to be a part of the Chorus. For particulars, call/write Jane P. Ferro, 28 Warren Street, Pittsburgh 15205; (412) 921-6304.

Mayor of Utica, Louis D. Lapolla, presented IFAFA with the Key to the City and extended a very cordial invitation to return. Rita Tonitto, President, accepted for the Federation, noting, "This is the first time we have been so honored and we sincerely believe we will return. Our welcome has been gracious. The interaction with the people of Utica and nearby communities was exhilarating and is opening up a whole new avenue of activity between us."

The Italian Folk Art Federation of America, Inc. is a non-profit, educational federation. Its purpose is to research, preserve and foster interest in the various aspects of Italian folklore.

TRADIZIONI is published two times a year. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily endorsed by I.F.A.F.A. All correspondence should be addressed to: I.F.A.F.A., c/o N.S.C., 1300 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107

IN FUTURE ISSUES:

- ✓ INTERVIEW WITH ALAN LOMAX — one of the greatest international folk music collectors and authorities.
- ✓ VINCENZO DE PRETORE — Folk Tale by the famous Neapolitan actor and writer, Eduardo de Filippo.
- ✓ SELECTED FOLK DANCE
- ✓ CONFERENCE NEWS

I am interested in:

- Membership
 - Performing Folk Group \$25.00 (send for application)
 - Supporting Organization \$25.00 (nonperforming)
 - Individual \$10.00
 - Student/Sr. Citizen \$5.00

Contributing to the work of I.F.A.F.A. \$_____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Phone _____

Make checks payable to I.F.A.F.A.
Contributions are tax deductible.

Vol. 10 No. 1
I.F.A.F.A. c/o N.S.C.
1300 SPRUCE STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

Non-Profit Org.
Bulk Rate
PAID
Ft. Lee, N.J.
Permit #431