



tradizioni

NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA

Editor: Jackie Capurro

IFAFa Website: www.italian-american.com/ifafa/

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NO. 1

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope that this issue of Tradizioni finds everyone in good health and full of Italian folk art passion!

Thank you to everyone in *I Gagliardi* for hosting a wonderful conference this past September in Canton, Ohio. I am always sad at the end of our conferences because they are never long enough!

Mark your Calendars! The 2004 IFAFA Conference will be held in Philadelphia, PA, November 5-7. Workshops will be outlined in the next issue of Tradizioni.

Please do not forget to pay your dues. Everyone should have received a dues notice recently. Remember IFAFA membership is a bargain! Individual dues are equal to the cost of a large Pizza. Take a slice!

I would like to end this letter with a **challenge**. Everyone in IFAFA has a lot of contacts in their respective Italian communities. Let's each find 10 new IFAFA members by the 2004 Conference! Make some phone calls and send out a copy of this newsletter to prospective members. We can announce new members at the business meeting. Get involved!

Paul



The Palm Weaving Team! Front row: Maria Alioto, Laura Cozzarelli Wood, Aaron DeSanctis, Linda DeSanctis. Back row: Rita Tonitto, Patrick Capurro, Gene Fedeli. The staff can be seen between Rita and Patrick

2003 IFAFA Conference in Canton, Ohio

Tom Cunningham and all the members of *I Gagliardi Italiani* of Canton, Ohio, are to be commended for their hard work in presenting a lively and interesting conference in September, 2003! Festivities began the evening of Friday, September 26, with the opening meeting and social dancing in the ballroom.

Several dance workshops drew large crowds. Paolina Bosco Kavanaugh taught two lovely dances: a mazurka and a waltz. Tom Cunningham led the participants in a lively quadrille. Mark DeSanctis recapped instructions for the *Laccio d'Amore* pole dance he had taught in San Francisco in 2002. Blaise Panizzi also taught an impromptu dance session of the Sicilian Whip Dance he had previously taught in Pittsburgh in 2000.

Saturday, participants could drop into the craft workshops any time throughout the day. In these workshops, Maria Reiter taught everyone to make lovely beaded rosaries, and JoAnn Krantz assisted people in creating painted canvas bags. Also in the craft room, Gene Fedeli demonstrated the intricacies of palm weaving. The palm-weavers created a six-foot staff which was used to lead the Banner Parade at Saturday evening's Festa Folcloristica and also

for the opening of Sunday Mass. Additional concurrent workshops included a demonstration of the St. Joseph's Altar led by Patricia Civitate, Conversational Italian classes taught by Liliana Colage, and a discussion about the Sistine Chapel led by Albert Albesetti.

The *Festa Folcloristica* began with a delicious dinner. The folkloric presentation began with the presentation of Regional Banners of Italy, carried by dancers in authentic regional costumes, described by Shirley Martignoni Fedeli. Beautiful performances were presented by *Il Trattenimento Italiano* of Des Moines, Iowa; *Tradizione Vivente* of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; the IFAFA Choir, led by Tom Cunningham; and the host group, *I Gagliardi Italiani*. Following the folkloric presentation, the Gene Fiocca Band played to finish off the evening.

Sunday morning, Mass was celebrated by Father Nicholas J. Mancini of Canton's St. Paul's Catholic Church. Participants spent the remainder of the morning saying their farewells and looking forward to the next conference in Philadelphia!

IFAFa Conference in Italy?

At the 2003 IFAFA Conference in Canton, Ohio, a suggestion was made to the general membership that IFAFA might be interested in taking a trip to Italy for the 2006 or 2007 Conference. Please think this over carefully and ask members of your group what they would like to do. Some ideas to consider are:

- Do we want to perform as a group? (Everyone would need to learn several songs and dances to perform together.)
- Do we want to find Italian instructors to teach us songs and dances?
- Do we want to travel to different regions or stay in one location (and possibly have instructors come to us)?
- How much sightseeing do we want to do? Or do we just want instruction? Etc.

As an example of possible costs, earlier this year, a 13-day stay in Italy and Sicily, including all meals and sightseeing, would cost approximately \$2,400.00 per person, including a round trip flight from the midwest.

If you have suggestions for a possible IFAFA-to-Italy trip, contact Tom Cunningham by phone at 330-923-0636, by e-mail at terc@neo.rr.com, or you may mail suggestions to: Tom Cunningham, 1627 Broad Blvd., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223.

Sharing Table at 2004 Conference.

At a recent garage sale I found sheet music for *La Furlana* dated 1939 and printed in Italy. It has dance instructions in Italian, French and German. My first thought was, "This is the type of thing I should be sharing with other members of IFAFA!" I will. Let's have a sharing table at the 2004 conference.

This is how it will work. Everyone brings copies of something related to Italian folk arts. It could be:

- * sheet music
- * excerpt from a book describing a craft, dance, tradition
- * dance steps
- * photo of something related to folk arts
- * costume post cards
- * history of something that interests you, or something you have researched
- * blank forms that your group uses that could be useful to other groups

At the conference, we'll lay these out on a table and everyone can take one copy. Of course this will not work if we get too many takers and too few sharers. Everyone must participate to make it work!

Make sure your name and phone number is located on your copies. Also include known source(s), if applicable. Bring 100 copies. We can exchange Friday night after the meeting. 100 copies at approximately 5 cents per page would be a \$5 dollar donation on your part. If everyone participates, think of how much information we can share! A lot of information at little cost!

-- Paul

Call for Italian American Family Photos

Vincenza Scarpaci, author of *A Portrait of Italians in America*, is producing a new and revised book for Pelican Publishing Company (publication date November 2005).

The book will document the story of Italians in America with photo memories of the immigrants themselves. Often, photos from family albums tell the personal story more expressively than photos in official archives. Scarpaci welcomes the participation of fellow Italian-Americans who would like to share family pictures and any home movies that have been transferred to videotape. Scarpaci is particularly interested in images showing daily family life, work and Italian settlements across the United States.

All donors whose photos are selected will receive credit in the book. Photos will be copied and returned to the donors. Please contact Scarpaci at «scarpaci@uoregon.edu» or write to Vincenza Scarpaci, History Dept., University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403.

--NIAF News, vol. 20, #1

In Memorium: Marvin Nicchio

Marvin Nicchio of El Paso, TX, passed away January 28, 2004 after encountering health complications while waiting for a liver transplant at the VA Medical Center in Portland, OR. Nicchio had been a member of IFAFA for many years.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens, NY, Nicchio founded the Italian American Cultural Society of El Paso, TX, in 1994 and he served as its president for eight years, watching the organization grow from 50 members to over 400 members. Nicchio was a retired paralegal and guardian specialist. He also served the National Italian American Foundation as area coordinator for the Southwest region. A disabled veteran, Nicchio started the Catholic War Veterans Association and was recently inducted into the El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame.

Seven Rabbits on a Pole

For our readers who live near or who may soon visit New York City, *Seven Rabbits on a Pole*, by Italian-American playwright John C. Picardi, will be produced by Urban Stages in NYC now through May 9th, 2004. Set in the mid 1930s during the depression, the play is one of a series of plays by Picardi chronicling the Italian American experience.

In *Seven Rabbits on a Pole*, love, lust, opera and art occupy the lives of an Italian immigrant family living on a vegetable farm south of Boston. Emotion and comedy soar when a meddling neighbor and a stranger selling rabbits arrive, revealing secrets which alter lives.

The play is performed in English, by a great cast, and includes a nice blend of Italian expressions, mannerisms, and traditions that tap into common experiences of Italian American life and is sure to touch the audience.

The play, directed by Frances Hill, runs Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. Performances are at Urban Stages, 259 West 30th Street (between 7th and 8th Avenues). Tickets are \$35.00 (\$25 if you use the code "ITALY"), available through Smarttix at 1-212-868-4444, or visit www.urbanstages.org.



photo by Pavel Antonov

IFABA CONFERENCE -- NOVEMBER 5, 6, and 7, 2004

Holiday Inn Hotel
 Philadelphia Stadium
 900 Packer Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19148
 Information: 1-215-755-9500
 Reservations: 1-800-HOLIDAY (465-4329)
 website: www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/l

The 2004 IFABA Conference will take place at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Hotel reservations should be made before October 5, 2004. Please contact the hotel directly for your room reservation(s).

GIVE THE OPERATOR THE THREE-LETTER CODE "IFA" WHEN YOU RESERVE YOUR ROOM. FOR THESE RATES, YOU MUST MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BEFORE OCTOBER 5!

One to two people per room	\$95.00
Three people per room	\$105.00
Four people per room	\$112.00

You will be given the choice of a king bed or two double beds. These rates include a full breakfast and are good for pre/post-conference days you decide to stay at the hotel. Rates will not apply if reserved after October 5, 2004.

The hotel is next to four stadiums/arenas. Parking is free, except that there may be a fee on "game days" since the hotel sub-leases the parking lot.

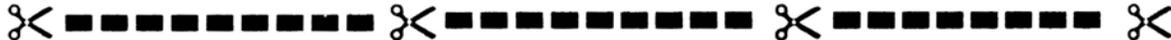
The hotel is a 5- to 10-minute drive from the Philadelphia International Airport. There is no free shuttle from airport to hotel, however fees for the shuttle are reasonable.

Activities

We are still working on workshops and banquet food choices. More complete information will appear in the next *Tradizioni*.

For anyone arriving early, we are planning to have some activities for Thursday and Friday prior to the conference. Hopefully, these will include the following: guided tour of Italian art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, tour of the Roman/Etruscan/Greek exhibit at the University of Pennsylvania Archaeology Museum, and a Thursday night dinner at an Italian restaurant, Victor Cafe, where the waitresses sing opera. Let me know if you might be interested. Costs for these tourism activities would **not** be included in the conference registration fee.

For information, contact Conference Coordinator Paul Torna by phone at 215-487-3229 or by email at «PTORNA@erols.com».



Please cut your registration form here (or photocopy it), and mail it to:

Paul Torna, 289 Hermitage Street, Philadelphia, PA 19127
Phone: 1-215-487-3229
Email: PTorna@erols.com

Include your check (made out to IFABA). List one participant per form, or attach a list of attendees (with address & phone number).

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____ Performance Group Name (if applicable) _____

The deadline for early conference reservations is October 5, 2004. Please indicate the number of tickets needed in each category, and carry out the dollar amount:

Entire Conference:			
IFABA Member (adults)	\$90	X _____	= \$ _____
IFABA Member (students through high school age)	\$70	X _____	= \$ _____
Non-Member	\$105	X _____	= \$ _____
Late Registration (after October 5, 2004)	\$125	X _____	= \$ _____
Saturday Festa Folcloristica Only (for guests of IFABA members)	\$50	X _____	= \$ _____
Saturday Festa Folcloristica Only (for Non-IFABA Guests)	\$70	X _____	= \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED			\$ _____

Shirley Fedeli Honored

Last fall, Shirley Martignoni Fedeli of Rockford, IL, was honored with the "Studs" Terkel Humanitarian Award for the Arts. A beautiful bronze cast medal and reception in Springfield, IL, was very exciting. Shirley was nominated by Rockford Mayor Doug Scott.

Shirley was later nominated for the Excalibur Award and became one of the five finalists. There was a huge reception at Cliffbreakers and half of the city attended.

In addition to their involvement with *Amici Italiani* folk dance troupe, Shirley and Gene have led and participated in numerous activities in the Italian American community of greater Rockford. For example, each December, Shirley and Gene attend masses at St. Anthony of Padua Church to talk about St. Lucy (Santa Lucia). For the past several years, the Fedelis have used this opportunity to explain the legend of Saint Lucy and to distribute 100 pounds of traditional Sicilian "cuccia" pastries.

Well-deserved recognition; congratulations, Shirley!

Celebrating the Tarantella! Video Vol 3

Learn the origin and story of *Pizzica Tarantata*, the mother of all Tarantellas. Listen to the exciting frame drums (tambourines) of Roberto Catalano (Sicily) and Enzo Fina (Puglia) as they sing and play the fascinating sounds of the Southern Italian rhythms. Dance the *Pizzica de Core*. Learn how men dealt with disagreements with the *Knife Dance* instead of fighting. Learn the simple secrets of flirting in the Neopolitan-style Tarantella.

This video (approximately 60 minutes in length) provides the story, frame drum music, four variations of the Tarantella, and simple ways to add props, costume pieces, and color to your fun social event.

The price of the video is \$24.95 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. WA state residents, add 8.8% tax.

For more information, contact Tina Carrioula at 1-800-601-6888, or write to:

Tina Carriuolo
Folk Dance video Vol 3
5929 149th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

A Tribute to Italian American Grandmothers

To Grandma

by Patricia Martorana Maggio

A tribute to "Dona Lisa," Elizabeth Dangelo (1892-1979)

I imagine the moon-drenched rocks
jagged beneath your dainty feet
and the smell of the sea air,
the Sicilian wind wafting off the Mediterranean
just to touch your face when you were twelve
and always a haze that winds through groves of lemon
and orange trees
and blankets the land at night – dreamlike.

Grandma, for this whole life you've been a mystery –
eating your lunch of bread and cheese, or bread and
olives,
or bread and tomatoes, or bread and watermelon.

You tied your coins in a handkerchief and,
while we walked down Montague Street to Mack's store,
you told me about the fellow born with a tail.

You told me about your children who died –
about how you held a feverish infant's hand through the
night
and when morning came, the hand was cold;

About patching holes in your stove with bread dough;
About your mother – a seamstress stitching trousseaus
for wealthy maidens.

You taught me about the hidden riches in being poor;
the sacredness of a slice of bread;
about lighting candles during storms.

Grandma, you gave this land to me.
A pioneer at fourteen, you sailed alone
to marry a man your father had chosen.
You learned the language for us
and we were born Americans.

You taught us inner maps too –
without a pattern you crocheted miles
of the most intricate, delicate webs of lace –
tablecloths, doilies, bedspreads,
In summer, they would be hung
starched and wet tacked on wooden stretchers
spread across the backyard to dry.

A long trail of memories leads me to where you are:
pulsing through me, a rhythmic, steady undercurrent –
continuing.

Sometimes when it storms, I light a candle.
I know what kind of oil to buy.
On Sundays, my kitchen smells like yours.
I cook my pasta al dente and
I crochet the most intricate patterns
with my dreams, web upon web, later upon layer,
like the lace that spilled off your fingertips from a
pattern inside you.

In my dream, I see you, Dona Lisa,
beneath an olive tree, or a pomegranate,
or an oleander that never ceases to bloom
under Lucca's hazy, hot sun.

Regional Italian Folk Costumes

We continue the series of descriptions of folk costumes taken from the book, now out of print, *Il Costume popolare in Italia*, by Emma Calderini, published by Sperling & Kupfer, Milano. In this issue, we highlight two costumes from the region of Le Marche.



Country Woman of Ancona

Cotton blouse with full sleeves, gathered at the neck and at the wrist and finished with delicate lace edging. Cotton corset with stays, laced in front. [Red] head scarf and [blue] shoulder shawl of cotton prints in vivid colors. The skirt, gathered at the waist, is of heavy cotton of a coordinating color or with a pattern. It is practically covered by an apron of lightweight [beige and brown] striped cotton with two large pockets. Earrings of coral and gold.

Peasant of Loreto in Work Clothes

Shirt of homespun linen, decorated on the chest with narrow pleats and embroidery with tight stitches and a scalloped edging. Over that is a fitted waistcoat of [red, yellow, blue] striped wool with brass buttons. Long dark pants of thick homespun wool. Over these, a type of large skirt-like apron of homespun linen. Shoes of natural leather, laced up high with beribboned tassel. On the head, a [red] knit stocking cap, decorated with embroidery and tassels.



Ethnographic Museums in Italy

Continuing our listing of Italy's "ethnographic" museums which may contain folk materials for research purposes, we continue with the list of places of interest in the region of Lombardia. Please feel free to send in any additions or corrections that you discover in your travels.

Bergamo

Museo etnografico 24020 SCHILPARIO (BG) 0346 - 55393

Museo Etnografico di Oneta 24020 ONETA (BG) 035-707117

Brescia

Museo Etnografico 25082 BOTTICINO SAN GALLO (BS)

Ossimo ieri Museo etnografico Via Marconi, 1 25050 OSSIMO SUPERIORE (BS) 0364/310344

Como

Museo Etnografico Comunale Via Roma 22050 PREMANA (CO) 0341 - 890175

Museo civico storico ed etnografico P.zza della Chiesa 22040 PRIMALUNA (CO) 0341 - 980368

Museo della Valle Via Caduti sul Lavoro, 57 22010 CAVARGNA (CO) 0344 - 63261

Cremona

Museo della civiltà contadina di Valpadana Casc. Cambonino - via Castelleone 26100 CREMONA 0372 - 21411

Museo Etnografico Palazzo Benvenuti 26010 MONTODINE (CR) 0373 - 66236

Lega di Cultura di Piadena Via Piave, 35 26034 DRIZZONA (CR)

Milano

Museo dell'Abbigliamento Infantile Via Borromei 1/A 20123 MILANO (MI) 02 - 72010038/86452748

Mantova

Museo della cultura popolare padana c/o Abbazia di Pollrone 46027 SAN BENEDETTO PO (MN) 0376 - 615977

Sondrio

Museo Etnografico Tiranese piazza Basilica 23030 MADONNA DI TIRANO (SO)

Museo della Valchiavenna Via Maurizio Quadrio 23022 CHIAVENNA (SO)

Museo Etnografico 23026 PONTE IN VALTELLINA (SO) 0342-202222

Pavia

Museo contadino della Bassa Pavese via Roma 27013 PAVIA (PV) 0321-241111

Two Summer Festivals in Liguria

La festa della barca takes place in June on Pentecost Sunday, in the village of Baiardo, in the mountains near San Remo (Liguria). A small pine tree is affixed to the top of a huge tree trunk brought to the central *piazza* from the nearby woods. During the celebration, people sing and dance around it, providing the opportunity to see authentic folk dancing in its traditional setting.

The celebration is said to have Medieval origins. A sailor looking to buy wood in Baiardo fell in love and eloped with the daughter of a local lord. The offended father followed the fleeing lovers, found them and cut off their heads. The small pine on the tree trunk symbolizes the small boat in which the sailor arrived and in which he tried to flee with his lover.

La festa della Maddalena is celebrated on the third Sunday in July, in the town of Taggia in western Liguria. Members of a religious confraternity devoted to Mary Magdalen [there is a legend that she visited Taggia] wear red headdresses and carry sprigs of lavender, while two men perform a rite known as the Dance of Death, a pantomime in which Mary Magdalen (played by a man as in Medieval times) dies and is resuscitated by the magical powers of lavender. The peasants of Taggia have cultivated lavender for centuries. Medieval tradition decreed that paying homage to the powers of lavender guaranteed abundant crops and therefore the continued existence of the people of Taggia.

Italian Folk Troupe Touring in U.S. This Summer

Terra di Calabria, a traditional folk group from Calabria, will be touring in the United States in July, 2004. If you are interested in contacting them for a possible performance, please visit their website or contact their president, Orlando Vescio, by email at «info@terradicalabria.net».

Here is some information from their website at «www.terradicalabria.net », first in Italian, then English:

Il gruppo nasce ufficialmente nel giugno 2003 con lo scopo di riunire artisti di grande esperienza innamorati della musica e delle danze popolari calabresi. Anche se Terra di Calabria è un gruppo giovane, porta la tradizione più vera e autentica in tutto il mondo. Una fisarmonica, una chitarra e un tamburello, si rincorrono nell'accompagnare una pacchiana e un picuraru d'amore, canti di sdegno e



Abruzzese Morality Folk Tale

This brief folk tale is told in the Abruzzi to teach children the importance of earning your way to the top and becoming the best you can be at whatever you do:

A crow was sitting on a tree, doing nothing all day. A small rabbit saw the crow and asked him, "Can I also sit like you and do nothing all day long?"

The crow answered, "Sure, why not." So, the rabbit sat on the ground below the crow, and rested.

All of a sudden, a fox appeared, jumped on the rabbit and ate it.

The moral of the story is: *To be sitting and doing nothing, you must be sitting very, very high up.*

Folk moot USA Folk Festival

Cultural heritage is demonstrated through colorful authentic and original reproduced costumes, lively dance and beautiful music at the renowned *Folk moot USA Folk Festival*. Over the years the festival has hosted more than 200 groups representing 95 countries, including Italy.

The two-week long festival takes place in and around Waynesville, N.C. This year it kicks off with the Parade of Nations on July 16.

For a brochure or additional information, call toll-free 1-877-365-5872, email «folk moot@pobox.com», or visit «<http://www.folk moot.com>».

canti in meravigliose serenate pieni di ritmo e allegria. Essi duettano con il calore che solo le voci mediterranee possono regalare. Un maestro di tarantella è sempre presente per le esibizioni. Questo affascinante gruppo è impreziosito da costumi popolari di sgargiante bellezza, provenienti dalle più autentiche e originali tradizioni calabresi. Infine il pubblico, sempre autentico protagonista nei spettacoli, canta e balla insieme al gruppo!

The group started officially in June 2003 with the purpose of gathering very experienced artists who love popular Calabrian music and dances. Although *Terra di Calabria* is a young group, it has carried its truly authentic traditions throughout the world. An accordion, a guitar and a tambourine accompany a "pacchiana" (a young lady in traditional costume) and a shepherd in wonderful love serenades, scornful songs and songs characterized by rhythm and happiness. The two make music with a fervor that only Mediterranean voices can give. A tarantella expert is also present during performances. This fascinating group dresses in popular costumes of colorful beauty, coming from the most authentic and original Calabrian traditions. At the end, the public, the true star in our presentations, sings and dances with the group.

Here is additional contact information for the group:

Orlando (Dino) Vescio

Gruppo di Tradizioni Popolari Terra di Calabria
via Romeo Saladini, 10

88046 – Lamezia Terme (Cz)

Tel: 0968 22830-338-8673431

Email: info@terradicalabria.net

How We Mourned Our Dead

by Prof./Cav. Philip J. DiNovo

I am old enough to remember how we used to mourn our dead in the Italian-American community. It seems so quick and antiseptic how we bury our loved ones today. Before, the dead were laid out in their homes and mourned for two nights and three days, with the burial on the third day. The family kept a constant vigil near the coffin, and friends and relatives kept the family company. The family went without sleep during this time.

Relatives and friends brought food over to the home, and there was always coffee on the stove. Conversation was hushed, but not always somber. Older people recalled memories of their past, and sometimes even a joke was interspersed in their story-telling. Wakes meant seeing relatives and friends you might not see often.

The family who lost a loved one went into strict mourning for at least one year. All the women of the family wore black dresses and stockings. During this period, floral arrangements from relatives and friends were found throughout the home of the grieving family.

I was too young to recall old ladies mournfully singing to the dead person, or the wailing and pulling of the hair by grief-stricken women. I have been told that it was a sight that made especially children shudder. Some women never gave up mourning the loss of their husband, son or daughter. They wore black for the rest of their lives.

When a relative of mine died in Italy, the women all wore black. I think today in small towns in southern Italy, this custom is still carried on. The grief of yesterday was

so strong. If the bread winner died young, just think of how difficult it was for the widow with children! Most Mutual Aid Societies were started to help pay funeral expenses. Since most families didn't have insurance, the family had to borrow or to take out a mortgage on their home to cover the funeral expenses.

It seems strange today, but there are a number of photos in families of a loved one in a coffin. If the family didn't have a photograph at death, it was the time one would be taken. The other reason was to send a photo of a loved one in a coffin to relatives in Italy. During a wake, there was no singing or listening to music and, of course, no laughter. I even recall no TV on Good Friday!

The funeral Mass was very somber. The clergy wore black and the music was very sad. It was the custom, in some places, for an Italian band to play music in the church and at the cemetery. A black hearse or a black carriage drawn by five dark horses were used in a funeral procession to the church and cemetery. After the funeral, food would be served which had been brought to the house by family members and friends.

Look at any cemetery where a large number of Italians or Italian Americans are buried and you will notice their monuments are elaborate works of art. The old ways of mourning our dead were very hard on the family, but it seems to me that they were more therapeutic. Today, in no time you're buried. Thank God, I believe that the best is yet to come after death.

La Trombettina

—da Corrado Govoni

Ecco che cosa resta
di tutta la magia della fiera:
quella trombettina,
di latta azzurra e verde,
che suona una bambina
camminando, scalza, per i campi.
Ma, in quella nota smorzata,
ci son dentro i pagliacci bianchi e rossi,
c'è la banda d'oro rumoroso.
la giostra coi cavalli, l'organo, i lumini.
Come, nel sgocciolare della gronda,
c'è tutto lo spavento della bufera,
la bellezza dei lampi e dell'arcobaleno;
ne' umido cerino d'una lucciola
che si sfa su una foglia di brughiera,
tutta la meraviglia della primavera.

The Little Trumpet

—by Corrado Govoni

All that is left
of the magic of the fair
is that little trumpet
of blue and green tin,
blown by a girl
walking, barefoot, through the fields.
But in its forced note
are found within, all the white and red clowns,
there's the band in loud gold tones,
the merry-go-round, the organ, the lights,
Just as, in the dripping of the gutter,
is found all the fearfulness of the storm,
the beauty of the lightning and the rainbow;
and in the damp candle of a firefly
whose light dissolves on a leaf of heather,
is all the wonderment of Spring.

My History is America's History

Tracing family origins, discovering details about family history, and creating family trees in order to pass this precious information to the next generation has become one of America's most popular pastimes. To help families in this area, the National Endowment for Humanities has launched a new project to mark the new millennium.

The project, called *My History is America's History*, outlines 15 steps people can take to save America's stories. The *My History* guidebook gives tips on preserving family photographs, furniture or videotapes. It also provides a list of local resources, such as exhibits, historical societies or genealogical groups to help with family research.

At the *My History* website, families exchange stories, post photographs, create family trees and discover their family's place in history, as well as look at other families' stories and trees.

Download the *My History is America's History* guidebook from the project website at «<http://www.myhistory.org>», or you may order it by calling 1-877-NEH-HISTORY.

This Issue's Contributors

The editor would like to thank the following people for contributing articles and/or information for this issue:

Tina Carriuolo	Anna Marie Fiori
Geoffrey Claroni, Esq.	Rita Tonitto
Tom Cunningham	Paul Torna
Prof./Cav. Philip J. DiNovo	NIAF News

The purpose of the ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA (IFafa) is to preserve and foster interest in Italian folk art; to research Italian folklore, traditions, customs, costumes, dances, songs, instruments, etc.. to act as a center for gathering, storing, and disseminating the information; and to bring together Italian folk performing groups and other interested individuals.

FOLK DANCES, COSTUMES AND CUSTOMS OF ITALY

by Elba Farabegoli Gurzau

Softcover book, 128 pages, which includes black-and-white and color illustrations, 17 dances with description and notated music, information about Italy, costumes, customs, etc. Comes with recorded music to accompany the dances, your choice of audiocassette or CD.

Price: \$25.00, plus \$3.95 for handling and postage.
Be sure to specify CD or cassette.

Please make check or money order payable to IFafa and mail to:
IFafa Treasurer
P.O. Box 1192
Rockford, IL 61105

IFafa is an outgrowth of the Italian Folk Art Project initiated at the Nationalities Service Center (NSC) of Philadelphia in 1977. With the assistance of NSC and the leadership and dedication of Cav. Elba Farabegoli Gurzau, IFafa was incorporated May 7, 1979, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a non-profit cultural and educational organization.

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