



tradizioni

NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA

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NATIVITÀ DEL SIGNORE, 25 DICEMBRE
Ci è nato un Bambino e c'è stato dato un Figlio;
il cui impero poggia sugli omeri suoi; il suo
nome sarà Angelo Del Gran Consiglio...Isai 9.



BUON NATALE E FELICE CAPODANNO

REPORT ON EIGHTH IFAFA CONFERENCE

Enthusiastic lovers of Italian folk dances, costumes and music met in Monroeville, Pa. October 25-27. All concluded that it was an enjoyable, educational and informative three days. I Campagnoli, under the dynamic leadership of Jane Ferro, Director, excelled as our host group. Pittsburgh hospitality was never any better. Some highlights were:

- *The life size and hand made costumes of various regions of Italy, the product of the creative hands of Anna Marie Fiori.
- *Dance workshops under the inspiring guidance of Elba Gurzau.
- *Italian Sing Along, direction and accompaniment of Jane Ferro.
- *Bobbin Lace Instruction, Virginia Suplee.
- *Dance Workshop, Rose Grieco
- *Folk Songs and Dances for Children, Mary Ferro Salopek, Blaise Panizzi
- *Christmas Music From Sicily, Dr. Patricia Bentivegna
- *Staging & Presentation of Folklore, Nick Jordanoff
- *Festa Folcloristica; Don Castronova's Regional Banners

*Italian Festival Music Heritage Society, presentation by Edward George

One of the written comments we received came from Filomena Cicora and Lucy Cesari, Elmira, NY.

"When we read about the conference in *TRADIZIONI*, we realized we might be too late to register for the meeting. We were hesitant about traveling such a distance for our initial session of Italian Folk Art.

"From our first phone call to Pa. to our last goodbye, there was no mistaking the warmth and enthusiasm that filled the air surrounding the IFAFA members.

"Our host group "I Campagnoli" were absolutely dynamic! All the other groups that participated in the workshops, demonstrations, exhibits and the wearing of costumes created a feast for the eyes and ears for all those present. (Especially the NEW members).

"We urge anyone even remotely considering the idea of joining IFAFA - do it! We learned more in two days at the conference than we could have ever learned studying months on our own. Thank you IFAFA for this most wonderful heritage encounter."

1986 IFAFA CONFERENCE

Plan now to attend our next annual conference. It has been tentatively scheduled for October 24-27. We were very happy when our Canadian cohorts volunteered to make their resources and facilities available for the conference. Canada gives a high priority to the fostering of ethnic identity and we look forward to sharing in the unforgettable Italian Canadian hospitality. The pro-temp coordinator is

Felix Pingue, 6440 Montrose Road, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada L2H 1L9. Home phone 357-4631. At this time the plan is to conduct the conference in Niagara Falls, Canada. Please mark it now in your calendar. If you have any suggestions about the program or if you wish to lead a workshop please call Felix Pingue.

1985 CONFERENCE CASSETTE AVAILABLE

Both those who were fortunate to attend the conference and those who wished they could, have an opportunity to acquire the cassettes of the various activities. The workshops included are those presented on dances,

singing and teaching folk activities. No doubt those who attended would want a copy. To order your cassette send \$10.95 to Jane Ferro, 28 Warren St., Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

MUSIC AND SONG OF ITALY

The tradition of Italian folk music turns out to be the least spoiled, most vigorous and most varied of all Western Europe. A number of factors have brought this about. The land is broken up by mountain chains into a number of natural regions, which have retained a remarkable degree of cultural autonomy.

After the fall of ancient Rome, scores of invasions swept Italy from the North and South. German, Frank, Slav, Moor, Norman - have all left their musical traces in villages lost in the Italian hills. In the Middle Ages the rise of city states created scores of strong centers round which these local cultures could coalesce. Even today Italy has no national music which can match or overshadow its variegated folk song pattern. I pray that it never will. Each province has a distinctive song style, and within this, scores of small regions each with its own tradition of songs and ceremonies.

The swift rise of high culture in Italian cities during the Renaissance erected barriers between the habits of town and country-side. The city folk based their culture on the fine traditions of Greece and Rome, while the peasants continued undisturbed in their even more ancient ways.

The gap between city and country widened until they spoke different musical languages. Thus, Italy is a 20th century museum, not only of art and architecture, but of musical antiquities as well - of important trends that have affected the folk music of Europe for the last 2000 years. In the tangled wastelands of Northern Sardinia we found a system of folk harmony unrelated to and probably antedating the earliest church polyphony. Indeed, the many forms of folk polyphony in Italy indicate that the practice of singing chords is an ancient European folk trait which preceded the development of fine art music in the Middle Ages.

Alan Lomax and Diego Carpitella, Tradition Records - TPL 1030

FOUNDER'S FUND

The Elba Farabegoli Gurzau Founder's Fund was established as a living memorial to the founder of the Italian Folk Art Federation of America. It is a repository for contributions to be used only for artistic endeavors. Contributions may be made by intention, i. e., in honor of a birthday, an anniversary, a wedding, a get-well wish, or any special occasion, as well as in memoriam.

Contributions may be made at any time; make checks payable to IFAFA - FOUNDER'S

FUND, and mail to IFAFA, 1300 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140. Be sure to include the full name of the individual being honored and the occasion, also the name and address to which the announcement is to be sent. A special letter announcing the contribution and the contributor will be forwarded to the honored person or family, and an acknowledgement copy will be mailed to the contributor.

ITALIAN FOLK COSTUMES SLIDES AVAILABLE

There is just one comprehensive book on Authentic Italian Folk Costumes. This was verified by Elba Gurzau when she visited the "Biblioteca delle Tradizioni Popolari" in Rome.

That book is *IL COSTUME POPOLARE IN ITALIA* by Emma Calderini. It has 200 large color plates and it was published in 1950 by Sperling and Kupfer in Milano.

The book is available in some of our public libraries in the United States.

From this book seventy slides were made of the most striking costumes of each region of Italy. It is accompanied by a description of each costume compiled by Elba Gurzau.

The collection is available to IFAFA members and friends. The cost is \$45.00 plus \$3.00 for mailing cost. If interested please contact:

**Elba Farabegoli Gurzau, 1325 W. Roosevelt Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19140 - Phone 1-215-324-1250**

We are grateful to Don Castronovo of BALLI D'ITALIA of Baltimore and to Adrian Gurzau of Philadelphia for photographing the color plates in the Calderini book.

PICTURES ARE WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Professor Jean Scarpaci of Towson State University in Baltimore, Maryland is compiling a picture book depicting the history of Italians in America from the early explorers to the present. She would like to show the many activities of the immigrants and their children at work, at play, at home, as well as the more public events and individual achievements. The lives of grandparents who cultivated zucchini and tomatoes in small back yard plots in Brooklyn, Pittsburgh and Cleveland reflect the drama of the ethnic experience as much as the more famous sports, arts and business figures.

She also expects to include Italians throughout America, not just the concentrations in the northeast and midwest. The Italians in Louisiana who worked in the sugar fields, miners in Utah, Colorado and Arizona, the steel workers in Birmingham and stone cutters in Vermont represent variations on the general theme of

construction and factory workers and artisan skills.

In order to cover such a broad spectrum, Dr. Scarpaci hopes to collect materials from private individuals and organizations that will show the personal side of the Italian experience. She can make copies of the originals and then return the originals to the owners. Full credit to those who donate such material will appear in the book. Ultimately the photos will be deposited in an archival collection where they may be used for public displays and provide illustrations for other studies of Italians. Anyone wishing to participate in this project may contact Dr. Scarpaci at the History Department at Towson State University in Baltimore, Md. 21204. She would appreciate information relating to pictures, letters and printed materials that would lend themselves to a book that illustrates the history of Italians in America.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

FIRST: Inform us if you have changed residency. Send us your new address. We would like to know if you receive more than one copy of **TRADIZIONI**.

SECOND: If you are not already a member of IFAFA we invite you to join our fast growing association. Learning Italian folk songs and dances is a productive act of preserving our heritage.

THIRD: To produce this Newsletter and to conduct IFAFA activities we assume considerable expenses. We ask that you make a donation to assist us. We feel a strong commitment to promoting a positive image as we seek to conduct our heritage-oriented activities.

RECENT CONTRIBUTORS



\$100 OR MORE

Dr. Anthony F. LePera



OTHERS

D&M Associates, Dean Dentino, Dr. Francis LePera, Dr. Anthony Schiano, Mary M. Shaw, Salvatore J. Spalla, James Ventola.



Please Make It Possible For Us To List Your Name As A Contributor In The Next **TRADIZIONI**.

FROM THE EDITOR

INPUT FROM EDUCATORS NEEDED

IFafa, as part of its commitment to promoting Italian folk dance and music is happy to make special arrangements to send Tradizioni to more than 2000 educators, predominantly teachers of Italian in institutions of higher education. We welcome the opportunity to develop a dialog with those receiving our newsletter. We solicit assistance as we seek to compile and disseminate material which will be of interest to our readers.

In anticipation of future newsletters we would appreciate receiving the following information:

1. A copy of Italian courses, as they appear in catalogs, i.e., language, civilization, music, art, archeology, etc.
2. A copy of publication announcements, relative to Italian Studies.
3. The name of your Italian Club and material describing its activities.
4. Bibliographical listings of Italian American publications.
5. Sources of information pertaining to the folk dance and music of Italy.
6. Dissertations, past or present, on the Italian American Experience.

Please address material to Dr. J.J. Bentivegna, 26 College Heights, Loretto, Pa. 15940. If you prefer to phone, the number is 814-472-8612.

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The Italian Folk 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.

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