



tradizioni

NEWSLETTER OF THE ITALIAN FOLK ART FEDERATION OF AMERICA

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WINE FESTIVAL OF MARINO

As told by Lena Chianese to reporter Anna Marie Fiori

Italians require little for them to bring out their foods, their music, and their wine and to proclaim "una festa!"

One such festa is the historical pageant in Marino, a little town just one hour by car outside Rome. "La Festa del Vino" is the principal festival and has caused Marino to be known the world over.

Since the main objective is to emphasize grape growing and wine making (the two basic activities of the local economy), the feast takes place on the first Sunday of October. It is a special time for the townspeople of Marino because it coincides not only with the beginning of the vintage season but also celebrates, Our Lady of the Rosary Day, their victory over the Turks.

The festa begins in the morning with a great pageant attended by large numbers of parishioners and visitors. A statue of Our Lady of the Rosary, mounted on a cart, proceeds along the town's roads followed by the townspeople bedecked in all manner of historical costumes, many bearing huge wooden crosses, umbrellas and banners. The procession ends in St. Barnabas Square, in front of the basilica. The parish priest solemnly blesses the crowd and the grapes and wine laid at the feet of the Virgin's statue.

In early afternoon, after the reading of the public proclamation celebrating the victory over the Turks, the actual feasting begins. Floats parade along the streets while boys, dressed in folk costumes, distribute, to the various spectators, the grapes which had been blessed.

THEN COMES THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL. WINE, INSTEAD OF WATER, IS ALLOWED TO FLOW THROUGH THE FOUNTAINS

TAINS IN PIAZZA MATTEOTTI.

This delectable flow quenches the thirst of the merry revellers. Folk dancers, singers and the town's band add to the fun and merriment, which, by this time, is being felt by everyone. □

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am very excited about the 12th Annual Conference and its import on our upcoming trip to Italy. Jane Ferro has been working very hard to include as much as she can to make it memorable. A lot of time is being devoted to her workshops in this year's conference so that those who attend, will have every opportunity to know what is expected and be able to instruct their members who are not at the conference but will be with in Italy. Remember, everyone, individually or as a group, is invited to be a part of this year's U.S. conference and the 1990 Italy conference. Ciao!

Joseph Maselli
President

"CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE: PAST AND PRESENT"

The American Italian Heritage Association begins a one-day conference immediately following IFAFA's conference on October 29 at the Sheraton Inn & Conference Center. Italian folk art will be among the topics covered.

Joseph Maselli, President of the American Italian Federation of the Southwest and an officer of NIAF will speak at the Tenth Anniversary Banquet.

1990 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

To have a conference in Italy has been a dream that we at IFAFA have had for many years. In 1990, this dream will come true. Arrangements are being outlined by Jane P. Ferro, director of "I Campagnoli" in Pittsburgh, who has been appointed chairperson of the conference.

The focus will be folk dancing, singing, costuming, instruments and other things folkloric. There will be scheduled public performances throughout Italy. These performances are a statement of the Italian-American's determination to preserve that which was brought to this country by their forefathers. Arrangements are also being made with several outstanding folk groups of Italy to video-tape their performances. This documentation will serve as study models when we return. Merchants are being contacted to display and make available for sale various folks instruments.

An optional one-week tour of the beautiful island of Sardinia to coincide with one of their more important folk festivals has been planned. A tour package for non-members who wish to accompany the folk dancers is available.

Brochures are being printed and will be sent to the membership. Non-members or anyone wishing further information, write IFAFA, Attn: Jane P. Ferro.

We hope that you will want to be part of this magnificent tour! □

Conferences

1989 — UTICA, NEW YORK
1990 — ITALY
1992 — COLUMBUS, OHIO

Lugale

True to the folk tradition of oral transmission, the following tale is reported by Anthony Le Pera, Senior Editor, as it was told to him by his parents.

Folk Tale

A local farmer, on his way to work, noticed that lugale was sawing a large branch of a tree while standing on the outer section of the branch. The good farmer suggested to lugale that he stand on the inner section of the branch, otherwise he would surely fall, together with the branch.

Ignoring the friendly advice, lugale kept sawing merrily along, when suddenly the branch gave and both came crashing to the ground. Having regained his bearings, lugale dusted his trousers and reasoned that the farmer was surely a fortune teller. "After all, didn't the farmer see the future in predicting my fall?" Whereupon lugale loaded his donkey and set out to find the wise farmer to ask him more information about the future.

Hurrying up the hill, lugale and his laboring donkey came upon the farmer. "Oh wise man," said lugale, "you who can see into the future, tell me, when am I going to die?"

The farmer, noticing the poor beast huffing and puffing under a heavy load and humoring lugale, responded. "Your time will come when your donkey expels air for the third time."

lugale thanked the kind farmer and continued up the hill with his donkey who was finding it more and more difficult to continue under the heavy load. Halfway up the hill, the donkey expelled air. lugale, somewhat apprehensive, made a mental note. Further up the hill, the donkey expelled air for the second time. This greatly disturbed lugale. He located a cork and raising the donkey's tail, quickly proceeded to close the opening to prevent further escape of air; otherwise his end was near.

FOLK DANCES, COSTUMES AND CUSTOMS OF ITALY

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The poor beast, feeling so stuffed up, let out a blast of air propelling the cork and hitting lugale in the forehead. "This must be it! This must be the end of me! Good-bye my faithful friend," he said to the donkey, and with that, lugale dropped to the ground — arms and legs outstretched, remaining motionless for hours.

That evening, country folks returning from the day's labor and seeing lugale motionless, gently picked him up and carried him through the town to his home.

The word spread fast. lugale had died. The town was in mourning. Tears flowed copiously.

The following morning after the funeral, the makeshift wood box was closed and the procession found its way toward the cemetery on the outskirts of town. They came to a fork in the road, and not sure which way to go, the coachman of the horse-drawn hearse stopped to consult with the others on the best way to proceed.

It was now mid-day. The sun was beaming on the wooden box. Very little air was reaching inside. It was extremely hot. The discussion as to which way to proceed to the cemetery became a long and heated debate. lugale, fully shrouded in black woolen clothes was sweating heavily. He could no longer suffer idly while they debated.

From inside the wooden box came the voice of lugale, "When I was alive, I took the road to the left; now that I am dead, do as you wish but hurry it up."

The wooden box was quickly opened and lugale was helped out. The outrageous laughter of the processional soon became a reverent prayer. A miracle had taken place. lugale was risen from the dead.

That night, the town celebrated as it had not done for a long time.

MORAL OF THE STORY: DO NOT LIVE
YOUR LIFE ACCORDING TO THE ADVICE
OF OTHERS.

1989 CONTRIBUTORS

\$100.00 OR MORE:

Società Cavalieri d'Italia

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FOUNDER'S FUND

The Elba Farabegoli Gurzau Founder's Fund was established as a living memorial to the founder of the Italian Folk Arts Federation of America. Contributions for any intention, i.e., a birthday, anniversary, special occasion, as well as in memoriam are used only for artistic endeavors.

Make donations payable to IFafa-Founder's Fund and mail to IFafa, 1300 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Please provide the following information:

Full name of individual to be honored, identify the occasion, name and address of the contributor, name and address to whom announcement is to be sent.

A special letter announcing the contribution and naming the contributor will be forwarded to the honored person or family, and an acknowledgement will be sent to the contributor.

◆ Choral Songs from Istria and the Alps

During the century following Italian Unification in 1860, national conscription brought together Italians from all regions, and Northern choral folk songs became household familiars throughout the country. The *Alpini* (Alpine military corps) became famous for their courage and steadfastness during World War I, and their songs have since inspired Italians with love of country, nostalgia, and a feeling of unity with other Italians.

Music is perhaps the most telling indicator of the cultural and historical divide between Northern and Southern Italy. The South's music is influenced by the Mediterranean civilizations, including those of the Middle East and North Africa; the North's music is contiguous with the village music traditions of old Central Europe, and is also colored by Western European musical influences of relatively recent origin.

A seminal article on North-South dif-

ferences in Italian folksong styles by Lomax in 1955' showed how in Northern Italy choral singing prevails, and singing voices are open, relaxed and low-pitched, blending easily together in smooth harmony. Melodies are arched, diatonic with some chromatic alteration, and usually unembellished — although in the older styles of singing of Liguria, Piedmont and the Veneto lead singers made beautiful use of vibrato and melisma, falsetto voices and of ornamented solo passages. Songs are usually in strophes of four octosyllabic lines plus a refrain, and texts contain many repetitions and nonsense phrases. The mood of Northern music, as conveyed by both lyrics and style, is relaxed, sweet and joyful; Alpine songs are rather solemn as well. The sheer pleasure of harmony and togetherness in the community of singers is what this music is about.

IN MEZZO AL MARE (In The Middle of the Sea, Istria)

In mezzo al mare,
coro: Evviva il mar! ce un
bastimento,
coro: Evviva il mar!
che aspetta il vento per navigar!
coro: Evviva il mar!
Evviva il mar, son marinaio,
evviva l'amore!

In mezzo al mare,
coro: Evviva il mar! ce una
colonna,
coro: Evviva il mar!
e la Madonna del marinar!
coro: Evviva il mar!
Evviva il mar, son marinaio,
evviva l'amore!

In mezzo al mare,
coro: Evviva il mar! ce una
scarpetta,
coro: Evviva il mar!
e la barchetta del marinar!
coro: Evviva il mar!
Evviva il mar, son marinaio,
evviva l'amore! (2)

In the midst of the sea
chorus: Hurray for the sea!
there is a ship
chorus: Hurray for the sea!
waiting for the wind to sail.
chorus: Hurray for the sea!
Hurray for the sea, I'm a sailor,
hurray for love!

In the midst of the sea
there's a column;
it's the madonna of sailors!
Hurray for the sea, etc.

In the midst of the sea
there's a little shoe;
it's the sailor's little boat!
Hurray for the sea, etc.

Sheet music available. Send
request and \$3.00 to I.F.A.F.A.

Reprinted with permission from "Cantate Con Noi" by Anna L. Chairetakes.

Anna Lomax Chairetakis has done research on Italian culture and traditional music in Italy, the United States and Canada and has worked extensively in public programming in folk arts since 1975. She is the producer of records and television documentaries on Italian and Hispanic music and dance, and holds an M. Phil. in anthropology from Columbia University. In 1982 she was awarded the title of Cavaliere in the Order of Merit by the Italian Government.

Dear Tony:

I'm back home. I've just completed a 14 month study in Italy of the Italian Health Services on a Fulbright Scholarship Program. I began my four case studies in Veneto, then Emilia Romagna, Puglia and Calabria. I fell in love with Lamezia Terme (Prov. Catanzaro) Calabria. The warmth of its people, its culture; wow, what a difference in all aspects of life between the north and south. Say hello to all my friends at IFAFA — see you at the conference.

Karen Buda
R.N.,M.S. doctoral candidate
University of Connecticut

“All Things Considered,” National Radio Broadcasting, Washington, D.C., recently reported that the accordion, the tambourine, the Jew's harp and other folk musical instruments are making a comeback. They are being used more and more in contemporary music for movies, latino, jazz and rock groups, among others are Neil Diamond, Bruce Springstein, and the Rolling Stones. There is a National American Accordion Association which sponsors an Annual National Competition event. Students from every state can enter and qualify according to their ability. In 1988, China sold four (4) million accordians. The accordion is very popular in New Zealand.

N.B. Anyone having more information, please notify us at IFAFA, Attn: Editor's Desk.

Earlier this year, the Smithsonian Institution completed arrangements to make the Folkways record collection available again to the general public through the Birch Tree Music Group. Subsequently, Birch Tree delegated the task of distribution to Rounder Records in Massachusetts. The collection will include the full body of recordings released by Moe Asch during Folkways' forty-plus years.

Rounder Records, which has itself released countless excellent folk recordings, now has the existing stock of Folkways LP's (more than 150,000 records, including most of Folkways' 2,000 releases).

These records are now available through Rounder's distribution affiliate: Roundup Records, P.O. Box 154, North Cambridge, MA 02140.

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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.

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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ SELECTED FOLK DANCE
- ✓ REFERRAL SERVICE UPDATE

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